

# The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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## Athletes deserve personal freedom

Aesthetics in some form or fashion is important to us all. Every morning in every house in America much time and consideration is put into personal appearances.

Hardly anyone wouldn't agree that a good image conveys a positive impression. However, aesthetics should never receive so much attention that the substance it is intended to beautify suffers. Flowers planted along the highway are nice, but it would seem foolish and a waste of money if the same road was covered with potholes. It is sad to note that such misplaced aesthetics are also present in the proverbial potholes of the athletic programs at Wesleyan.

Clearly it is important for every competing team at Wesleyan to convey a positive image at home and while competing at other institutions. However, the bulk of attention should be placed on endurance, strength, and skills relevant to the game. Instead, undue emphasis is being placed on the way an individual chooses to express his individuality.

Clearly a neat personal appearance should be encouraged among all students, athletes included. But it is also strictly a personal decision as to how one wants to cut their hair, wear an ear ring, or to dress. When coaches are allowed to rob athletes of these personal decisions, who is to say what will or will not be mandated next? Just exactly how much control of an athlete's personal life will coaches be allowed to take?

The question is not a matter of how much personal freedom it is considered acceptable to take. This question was answered over 200 years ago in the Bill of Rights and has been reaffirmed by countless people, countries, and organizations through the years.

The personal appearance of an athlete is just that, personal. An athletic competition should be about skill and sportsmanship, not about the length of hair or about holes in an ear. Coaches should concentrate on good sportsmanship, not on suppressing personal freedoms.

**"A man is accepted into a church for what he believes and he is turned out for what he knows."**  
— Mark Twain



### Humans inconsistent

## Rabbits are fine, but not slugs

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a gardener. Anyone who is a gardener this year knows that it's been a terrible summer for slugs.

Slugs. The very word is gross, unpalatable, irritating. But to lift up a pot of petunias and discover the slime-covered, antennae-waving, speckled creature itself transcends irritating. And how can anything that small eat so much? I've lost entire plants overnight to the little monsters. They must be nothing but a digestive system.

And how do you get rid of them? One gardening friend (yes, it's Daisy Thorp) and I hate them so much that we immediately smash them with whatever we have handy. But once you've got

**Dr. Steve Muses**

ten slug guts on your foot or hand, you may hesitate to go at them without skin covering. Rather slug slime on the pot than on me.

Some people, of course, put beer in a shallow pan and wait for the worms from hell to drown themselves. But why waste beer? I say. Sometimes I become so disgusted that I rush out and buy slug poison pellets and ease my problem for a few days while adding another poison to the water table. I've seen "slug hotels" for sale in catalogues, but I don't want them to feel at home.

I bring all this up because of a

rabbit. (How's that for a transition, composition students?) I've also had a rabbit problem this summer. Last spring a cute little bunny ate a whole bed of asters, then having added body weight, ate several beautiful small hollyhocks and all of my nicotianas. Then it was ready for my vegetable garden.

All summer I saw rabbits grazing in people's lawns for the clover. But my rabbit disdains to go for the clover. I think it's now big enough to eat the magnolia tree I recently planted.

I have chased this rabbit. I have built fences, put out traps, and tried enticing neighborhood cats to dine in my yard. One night I actually drove my car into the yard when I saw the rabbit am-

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## Judicial process is not fair

Dear Editor:

North Carolina Wesleyan College has proven, up until recently, to satisfy all of my needs as a philosophy major. Most of the professors have done an outstanding job of keeping both a professional and personal relationship with their students.

However, it is the judicial system that has me confused. I can't seem to figure out the procedure being used in coming to a conclusion of guilty vs. innocent.

The reason for this concern is due to an incident which occurred in my room on Sept. 19. At approximately 1 a.m. there was a knock on my door. I opened it to

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find Sue McKormack, the resident director in Edgecombe Hall, accompanied by four security guards. Sue told me that we were violating quiet hours and that they smelled marijuana outside of my door. She then asked if I was drinking. My reply was "yes," and she entered the room with security guard B.C. to investigate.

Upon entering, she was met by five other students, including

my roommate, sitting around the room which was littered with beer cans. She announced that they were called due to the smell of marijuana outside of the door. Immediately one of the students inquired, "Do you smell it in here?" Sue's response was, "All I can smell is cigarette smoke." The question was asked again, and B.C. said, "Well, you all got the window opened" as he pointed at the air conditioner in the window; one of the two vents was open.

As Sue wrote in the incident up in a five-page report, she stated, "I also told them that since

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