

The Decree
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Wesleyan provides plenty of learning

There are many students on campus who have decided to take uninvolved to new heights — or rather lows.

Having decided that they will not waste their precious time at out-of-class events such as the convocations or ceremonies, they have included cultural events, and even clear learning opportunities such as the colloquiums and Symposium.

Why? It would seem that students who complain about the price of tuition at NCWC would at least take some steps toward improving the value for their money.

These programs are of legitimate interest and can teach students some valuable lessons. Some of them

might even help with work within one's major, giving information relating to the degree.

Too many Wesleyan students, though, will never know. When classes are canceled for a major Convocation or Symposium, they decide that this is drinking time or time to catch up on sleep. The idea of learning is apparently far away from these students' minds when they have the chance to take some initiative.

Find something on campus to do. There are many opportunities, even on such a small campus, to find learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Don't waste your money or the time of the faculty and staff who try to help.

Banning guns won't solve problem

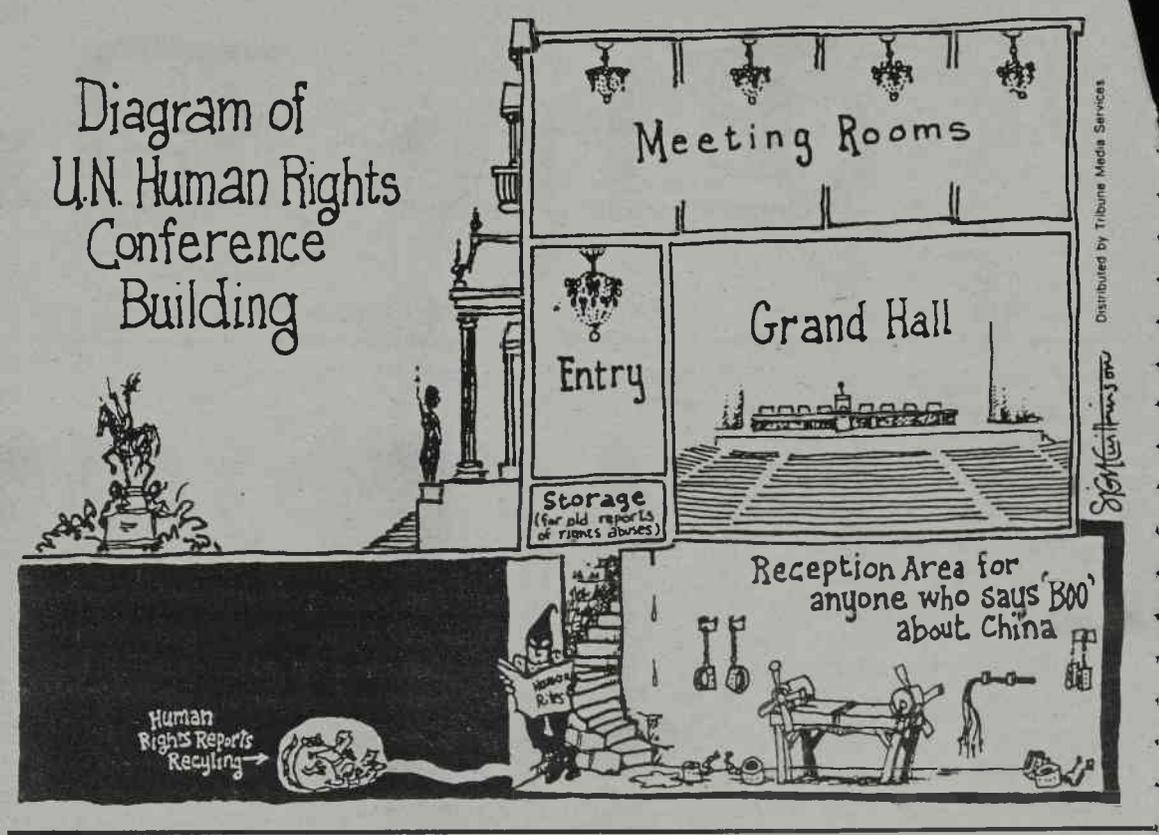
By KEN LEONARD

Yet another professional organization in the United States has decided to prove that they will become a political special interest group and will advance a liberal social agenda.

The American Medical Association has now declared that handgun violence is a medical problem that must be treated as an epidemic. Their solution: banning the weapons. This is an idea whose time never really came, but which is certainly out of date.

In modern society, there are two gleaming examples of why we should not prohibit law-abiding citizens from owning guns. One is Washington, D.C., the other is New York City.

Washington has the strictest gun controls in the nation. To match, it has the highest murder rate per capita of any city in the nation, almost doubling that of second-place Atlanta, according to the Justice Department. New York City is a bastion of lawlessness under its social programs led by a left-wing mayor and liberal



Project recharges mental batteries

Sabbatical is no vacation

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

Some of my students have "accused" me of being on a "paid vacation" this semester (i.e., a sabbatical).

Well, I had no sooner stepped off the plane from England than I agreed to write an essay which will take more than 40 hours a week for the rest of my "vacation."

Sir Leslie Stephen (1832-1904) — most famous during his time for his book about 18th-century British philosophers — was also a busy man. He wrote at least 25 books and probably a thousand essays on topics ranging from climbing the Alps to "Idolatry" (Cornhill Magazine XIX, 689-98 (1869)).

My project is to analyze his

Dr. Steve Muses

contributions to biography. He wrote seven full-length biographies, including a 500-page life of his brother, Sir James Fitzjames Stephen (1895), and eight volumes of biographical essays. Stephen also edited most volumes of the Dictionary of National Biography (1885-1901) and wrote 387 of the entries.

(Dr. Watson reminds me that the reason these Victorian men of letters could get so much work done was that they had favorable course loads — like permanent sabbaticals?)

Stephen was good as well as prolific. Most of his work is about literary figures, with analyses of George Eliot's novel *Middlemarch* and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. His writing is clear, concise, and concrete (not always trademarks of the Victorians); I have had no trouble reading through his prose.

He also wrote on an impressive variety of topics — military battles and political intrigue (Duke of Marlborough); 17th-century philosophical debates (Hobbes); and psychological explanations for unpleasant human behavior (Alexander Pope).

I have raised my shaggy head from time to time to reflect on what Dr. LaLonde reminds me is serendipity.

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governor.

In each of these cities, citizens are prohibited from owning weapons to defend themselves. So, only the criminals — not given to obeying laws anyway — have weapons.

Yet the AMA wants to ban personal defense weapons. The backup plan is to tax the weapons in order to fund trauma centers,

using the logic that guns cause the injuries requiring the centers to be opened.

The problem with both cases is the matter of who is owning the guns. Law-abiding citizens do not usually own the weapons that cause these injuries. The guns are stolen from legitimate owners or purchased illegally. Even if the supply of weapons was cut off at that end, there remains the smuggling efforts — the source of weapons for the gangs using fully-automatic weapons.

Police cannot afford full pro-

tection to all citizens, certainly not when a crisis comes and the police would have to have a one-minute response time in order to save someone's life. People who know how to use their weapons can save their own lives, families, and property. Yet the liberals in America want to nullify our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

The increasing violence in the U.S. is not caused by guns. It is a social phenomenon brought about

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