

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Wesleyan once again falls short on classes

Once again class registration has come and gone, and as usual the same classes are being offered.

True to tradition, the majority of courses listed are at the 100 level, and most students are having difficulty finding enough classes to fulfill their requirements for graduation. Because many students have trouble planning a full course load, some end up spending more than the standard four years at Wesleyan.

Why can't a wider variety of courses be offered? Many of the courses listed in the college catalog are only offered every other year, if that often.

Is this the college's way of saving money by having fewer faculty to pay and in turn gaining student's tuition money for an extra semester?

Most people around campus would agree that 100 level courses are necessary to fulfill general requirements.

However, why are the same classes offered every semester? Couldn't they be alternated for a wider variety? Make students aware

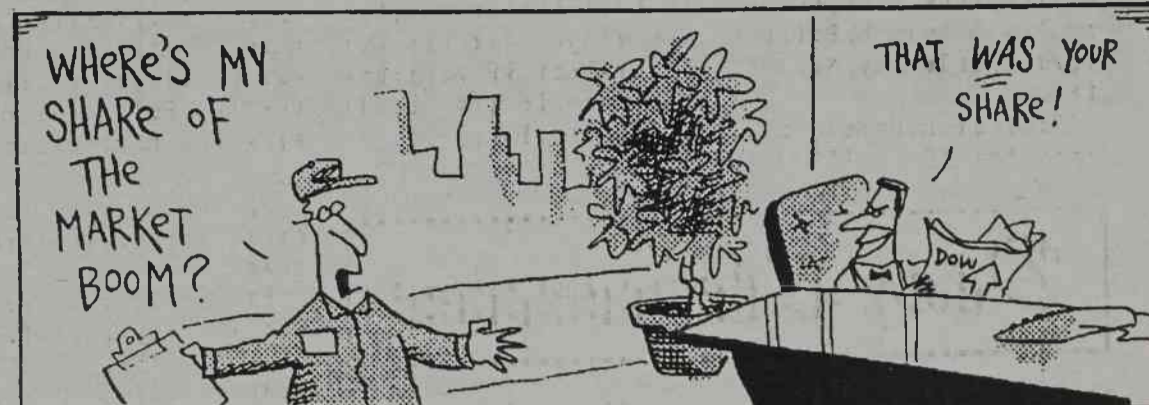
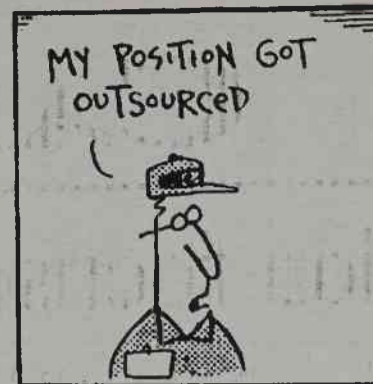
the first day that they enter Wesleyan's doors when each class will be offered over the next four years and then stick to that schedule. This way students could set a strict calendar when they need to take classes, and they could graduate on time.

By alternating the 100 level courses more upper level classes could be offered. Maybe even new courses not in the catalog could be considered.

Also, to help prevent students from wasting another semester in college, student advisors should make sure that students understand what they need in order to graduate. Many students have no idea what is required of them and because of this they will be around much longer than they should.

Not many students on Wesleyan's campus want to spend extra time in college. Because of this problem with scheduling many students transfer to other institutions.

If Wesleyan wishes to retain more students it needs to take a serious look at its course offerings.



Results were our own fault

It was hard to vote this year

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

I almost didn't vote this year. My first election was in 1972 — my summer of disillusionment. I was 20, I was a starry-eyed idealist, and I worked wholeheartedly for George McGovern. When Watergate spilled into the media, we thought we had it made. Ha!

Six presidential elections later, our democracy is mired so deep in voodoo that our choices seem almost pointless.

Politics mattered desperately to me when I was in college. Perhaps because I knew that I might have to face Vietnam or not face it (Jail or Canada?) at any time, I worked hard to understand. I wanted to know what questions to ask.

When my friends and I decided to go to the Democratic convention in 1972, we read all we could on the issues and on the infamous 1968 Chicago convention, which had turned into a battle in the streets.

We were grim. We believed that our government was against us because it assumed to question was to dishonor.

But the three days I spent at that convention changed my life. I met people who had been maimed in Vietnam and people for whom the civil rights movement was a daily reality, not just a news story. I left believing absolutely that people could and would change the government.

What I really assumed, of course, was that people would want to change the government the way I wanted them to.

Dr. Steve Muses

Few of the changes since then have moved us in the direction I would have chosen. What I thought of as progress is demonized as reverse discrimination; what I thought of as a just battle for equality is ridiculed as a political correctness.

But a democracy should take care of its members; it should encourage all voices, no matter how different from the ones it is used to hearing. Hungry, sick, and oppressed people in a country of such natural, technological, and human riches disgrace us all.

To hold these beliefs now is to be a "liberal."

And to be a liberal is to be outrageously naive, stupid, and sinful. That's what you have to conclude if you listen to the political rhetoric of the elections since 1972.

Elections have become obscenely expensive televised battles between people who insist that the opponent wants to

destroy the country. Ironically, we don't believe them. Few believed that Dole would cut taxes and balance the budget; few believed that Clinton tells the truth. Less than half of us even voted.

If our democracy is to improve, we need two ingredients: we need to be educated and we need to be educable. We have no one to blame but ourselves that we are being lied to. If we insisted on realism, if we demanded thoughtful debate, if we expected respect, we might get them.

Instead we are told that the family is falling apart, that the president has caused increased drug use, that the senator will take away veterans' benefits.

We settled for mediocrity at best, and we assume that we can thrive while ignoring real problems — racism, economic disparity, environmental destruction, infrastructure instability.

I admit to having a kind of weird faith in humanity. I think that we will survive despite our ridiculousness. But I'm not always proud of us.

Finally, I did consider my alternatives, I did vote, and I did pay attention to the results.

I wasn't proud.

Letters to the editor policy

The Decree accepts only signed letters to the editors. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters should not exceed 400 words. Letters need to be placed in the campus post office and marked "Decree" or placed in the *Decree* office in the Hardees building. Letters must be received by Friday of the week prior to the next issue in order to be printed in that issue. *The Decree* reserves the right to edit or reject letters for grammar, libel, or good taste.