

The Decree

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Newgrass Blue thrives at Wesleyan



WESLEYAN STUDENTS FORM NEWGRASS BLUE.

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Staff Reporter

If you can imagine a combination of funk, the blues, and southern rock, you might have an idea about the sound of Newgrass Blue.

If you have ever seen this band play, you may have heard them cover anything from the Allman Brothers to Pearl Jam, from Jimi Hendrix to the Goo-Goo Dolls.

Newgrass Blue consists of three Wesleyan students and their friend: Mike Dixon (vocals, acoustic guitar), Jeremy Gamba (electric guitar, lead and acoustic guitar), Brent Harrell (drums) and Tremayne Coppedge (bass guitar). These four come from entirely different states and musical backgrounds, and it is only North Carolina Wesleyan that has brought them all together.

Mike Dixon came to Rocky

Mount from Bowie, Md. He began playing the guitar in middle school, but never owned one of his own until his first year here at Wesleyan. In fact, he credits Jeremy and another former Wesleyan student, Brad Henderson, with teaching him how to play.

Jeremy Gamba learned the guitar from his father, back home in North Augusta, S.C. He lists his musical influences as blues greats such as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Albert Collins and Robert Johnson, but admires the unconventional song-writing style of Elvis Costello. Both Brent and Tremayne agree Jeremy is the best guitarist they have ever worked with.

"Dazed and Confused," by John Paul Jones, inspired Tremayne Coppedge to begin playing the bass guitar. This was six years ago in Minneapolis, Minn. Tremayne has background

in classical, orchestra, and jazz music.

Brent Harrell is from Rocky Mount and learned to play the drums in Enfield Academy's concert band. He mastered the fundamentals of the drums through the school's instruction, but continued to develop his own style beyond that.

Both Brent and Tremayne are described by the other members of the band as well-trained musicians with expansive musical backgrounds.

Newgrass Blue was formed roughly a year and a half ago. Mike and Jeremy had played together informally, teaching each other songs and sharing a common passion and interest in music. Then Jeremy met Brent through Wesleyan's jazz band, and Brent knew Tremayne. Fi-

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Class in constitutional law holds annual mock protest

For the second spring semester, the students in Dr. Tom O'Conner's Justice Studies 410 class in Constitutional Law staged a mock protest on the steps of the Braswell Administration Building.

Although it is a class project, the grievances set forth were bona fide, not simply tongue in cheek. While this year's group of Justice 410 students may have been less flamboyant in dress than last year's, their list of gripes seemed to be more thoughtful.

Surprisingly, no one diss'd the food, normally a perennial student target. The list included a wide range, from the college's need for more full-time professors to new equipment for the weight room.

The purpose of the mock protest is for these students to learn.

"It's an exercise in putting into action the First Amendment, not just the articulated rights, but also the unarticulated rights," said O'Conner. "The students were

supposed to take real grievances and figure out the most fundamental, most expressive, and most outrageous ways to express them."

Some students had costumes; O'Conner had encouraged them to dress as 60's hippies. The most recognizable element from the 60's were the beads.

The grievances, which were pre-approved by their professor, fell into three categories: academic, facilities, and student life. The class was divided into three groups, each group taking one category. There were eight or nine grievances in each category, and the students spent two class periods refining their ideas, and how they could present them within the confines of the First Amendment. Some of the articulated restrictions included not using obscenities, no fighting words, no rioting or routing.

Among other things, the amendment protects freedom of expression, the right to petition

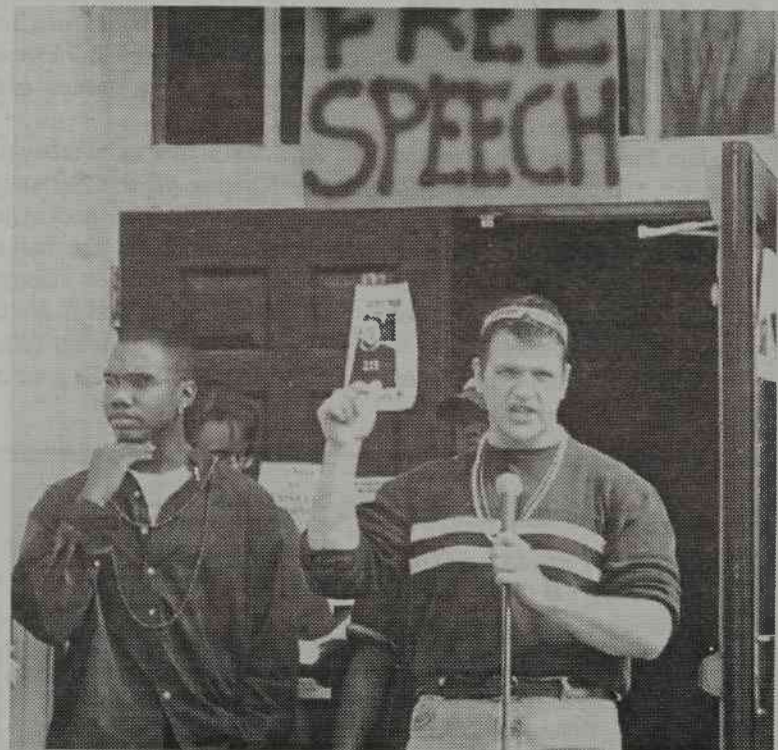
for grievances, and freedom of association.

The students' list of grievances included the old, hard wooden desks, which Cynthia Kent said must have been from the beginning of the school, and she pointed out how hard it was on one's posterior to sit in one of them for two hours. She also complained about the lack of parking close to classroom buildings, making it tough for older non-traditional students to walk so far.

Robert Pike brought a complaint about the current lack of full-time professors. Pike asserted that they weren't enough on campus and they weren't compensated highly enough. He argued that the lack of professors would equal lack of prestige for the school.

"It is more important to have the professors than the facilities," he said, "any kind of money-taking facility."

Another speaker complained there was not enough financial



ROBERT PIKE MAKES POINT AT ANNUAL PROTEST.

aid or academic scholarships, and that the business office doesn't communicate well with students or accommodate them.

Other grievances included the lack of public telephones around the campus, security issues, not enough financial aid, problems in scheduling courses and the lack of variety of courses, and weight room equipment that is too old

and even rusty. Additional grievances were presented about the right to live off campus and lack of communications to off-campus commuter students during the closings of the college during the post-hurricane flooding and the recent snow.

Another speaker indicated there wasn't enough diversity in

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