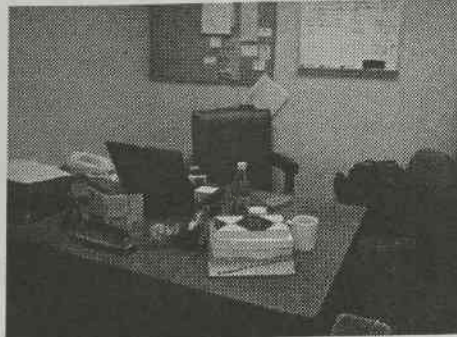


EDITOR'S CORNER

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Reader,

"When the strongest nation in the world can be tied down for years in a war with no end in sight, when the richest nation in the world cannot manage its economy, when the President of the United States cannot travel abroad, then it's time for new leadership for the United States. As we look at America, we see cities enveloped in smoke and flame. We hear sirens in the night. We see Americans dying on distant battlefields abroad. We see Americans hating each other; fighting each other; killing each other at home. And as we see and hear these things, millions of Americans cry out in anguish."

Do these powerful words sound familiar? Do you think you might have heard them on one of the recent Presidential debates, maybe a stump speech, or possibly a campaign ad? They certainly do sound like the type of political spin that there seems to be plenty of lately. However, these words were spoken in 1968, by Republican Presidential nominee Richard Nixon during his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. The war he was referring to was Vietnam, the smoke and fire in the

streets was not a reminder of the 9-11 attacks, but the war protests that were raging across the cities of the country dividing communities and families in ways that still cause hurt and estrangement. My point? Nothing ever really changes. Nixon could easily have been speaking about the current war in Iraq, and as strange as it might sound, from the Democratic side of the argument when he said:

"If the war is not ended when the people choose in November, the choice will be clear. Here it is: For years this administration has had at its disposal, the greatest military and economic advantage that one nation has ever had over another in a war in history. For years, America's fighting men have set a record for courage and sacrifice unsurpassed in our history. For years, this Administration has had the support of the loyal opposition for the objective of seeking an honorable end to the struggle. Never has so much military and economic and diplomatic power been used so ineffectively. And if after all of this time, and all of this sacrifice, and all of this support, there is still no end in sight, then

I say the time has come for the American people to turn to new leadership not tied to the mistakes and policies of the past. That is what we offer to America."

Didn't somebody once say "everything old is new again"?

Very soon now, Americans will step into voting booths and exercise the ultimate right as citizens, the right to choose who will lead this nation for the next four years, and all we have been getting for months now, is a steady diet of slander and Iraq debates.

The end of this election season cannot come soon enough, the tactics exercised by both parties have been disgraceful up to this point, and the sad part is that we the people are the ones who are left trying to figure out where the candidates stand on issues they both refuse to talk about, or at least, at the time of this editorial, have yet to. This is not meant to diminish the importance of the war in Iraq. As the father of three active duty Soldiers and the brother-in-law of a reserve Soldier I have more than a small interest in what happens with the war. However there is more going on for this country than that. So I have been forced to go on line and research the records of all four candidates (because there is always a chance that Cheney or Edwards could wind up with the job) to see where they stand on issues that are important to me. And that, dear reader, is my advice to you.

Before election day gets here, take a little time and go on line, and search out both Bush/Cheney and Kerry/Edwards policy and voting records on domestic programs such as jobs, Welfare reform, taxes, Medicare, Affirmative Action, education, and the deficit, just to name a few. The list is longer, but you get the idea. You will have to do some looking on Texas government sites for President Bush to get a long history, and there is not much out there on Edwards because he has only been in government for 5 years, but there is plenty out there on Cheney and Kerry. You decide what's important to you and research it. The campaigns are sure not telling us.

Look, I'm not telling you how to vote. I just hope that each one of you does vote. But, I want you to make an informed choice. This is too important to be decided on popularity polls and what the spin-doctors on FOX News or MSNBC tell you. This time around if you want to know who the right man is, you're going to have to do the research yourself. Time is short, though. Do it soon.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to all the faculty and students, who worked so hard to register voters on campus this year. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Keep reading,

Ron



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DECREE
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The Copy Editor is responsible for ensuring adherence to the AP Stylebook in editing, proofreading, and checking of facts and sources in every submission except editorial (opinion) columns. Opinions may, however, be checked for the truth of any assertions made or facts cited and may be proofread for consistent grammar.


ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

COMING SOON

Due to the increase of serious incidents on campus this semester, from armed robbery to vandalism, next month in THE DECREE Editor-in-Chief Ron Fitzwater begins a comprehensive look at crime and its effect on the NC Wesleyan community. If you would like to contribute to the topic, contact Ron at ncwcdecreeic@cox.net or call the editor's desk at 454-1681

THE
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Meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, upstairs in the Hartness Center and are open to anyone interested in having a voice in the content of The Decree.

If you can't make it to the meetings, you can stop by the Decree office Wednesday & Friday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. If you are unable to come by the office, please contact the Decree staff at 252-454-1681 or e-mail at ncwcdecree1@cox.net or ncwcdecree2@cox.net

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