

OPINION

Here's What's Real: Attack of the Fish-Huggers

By Ron Fitzwater
Decree Editor-at-Large

Well, there's finally something to complain about other than war and politics, and as luck would have it, it's something that in one way or another has been cramping my butt for years.

What could it be, you ask?

PETA. That's right, the only organization, which is more interested in the preservation of every living species on the planet, than the one that won the evolutionary race and holds the top spot of the food chain.

(For those PETA readers: that would be HUMANS)

The most recent antic of the anti-humans is an attack on the family. No, I am not making this up (I don't think I could).

How are they doing this, you ask? Well, let me tell ya'.

They are handing out comic books to kids. Not just any comic book, this is a very special one. The title is *Your Daddy Kills Animals*.

I'll wait a minute and let that sink in. *Your Daddy Kills Animals*.

The publication's cover is adorned with a picture of a psychotic-looking middle-aged white guy in a fishing hat, sneering and drooling,

as he rips the guts out of a fish that is, get this, screaming. But wait, it gets better. Inside, they tell how daddies torture and kill these poor (intelligent?) creatures, which aren't smart enough not to swallow a shiny sharpened piece of steel. Daddies do this simply to satisfy their own bestial lust for murder. PETA informs its target audience—children—that fish are only the beginning of daddy's killing spree, and that they better watch out for their doggies and kitties because they're next for the grill. Again, I want to stress that I am not making this up or exaggerating. This is really happening. The bottom line is that if you fish, you are a murderer. (Remember that, it will be important later).

Now, I don't personally fish. I did when I was a kid, but honestly at this point in my life, it's just too much trouble. So I'm glad somebody else is doing it. Other wise I wouldn't get to eat them.

I love me some fish sticks.

To defend themselves for this attack on the family, PETA is saying the intent was to get kids to eat less fish because, after scrutiny of available data, it has been proven that daily consumption of fish with high doses of mercury will cause neurological damage relating to cognitive thought. Okay, let me get this right. Daily ingestion of small doses of mercury can give you brain damage. No Kidding? If they assume anyone thinks it's healthy to consume

mercury every day, then maybe PETA people need to put down the salmon* and buy some Ginkgo. By the way, don't tell the dolphins.

Of course I don't know anyone who eats fish on a daily basis, unless maybe they're of Inuit culture. I guess PETA thinks the Inuit people are dumber than a box of hammers and need to eat some vegetables. Of course they will have to tunnel through the permafrost to plant, and the growing season is short, but, hey, do you want to raise a garden in the arctic or eat fish and be stupid. Wait? Never mind. You get the idea, unless you're a regular fish eater.

All right, let's put the health issues on hold a minute and return to the moral issue of catching fish. PETA says if you kill fish, you're a murderer. So they're saying that killing a fish is on par with killing a person. If you follow this logic, then Jesus Christ and most, if not all, of his disciples were murderers.

Hey, I didn't create the rule. PETA did. Send them the nasty e-mails for a change.

Finally, PETA needs to remember that humans are the top of the evolutionary food chain, for now anyway. We worked very hard as a species to climb to the top, and that means that we can eat every freakin' thing on this planet, whether it's good for us or not. Thumbs, you know?

So, let's review:

1. Daddies who fish or—and this is only a

guess—hunt, are murderers.

2. When the Daddies kill all the other animals, they will begin to slaughter family pets and eat them.

3. Eating mercury-laden fish every day will make you stupid, unless you're a dolphin.

4. I'm too lazy to fish.

5. Inuit's are dumber than a box of hammers. And

6. Jesus and his followers were stone killers. And that's what's real.

*Salmon was chosen arbitrarily and the use of salmon is in no way a statement either pro or con about salmon in general. By all accounts, they are fine fish, who are friendly and excellent swimmers.

Facebook.com: A New Addictive Drug

By Jessica D. Jones
Decree Staff Writer

You see them every day walking through the hallways on their way to class. They gather at the Hartness Center, the Library, and even at the Cafeteria. Just by looking at them, you wouldn't know that they had a problem. However, I know. I know the symptoms—constant urge to check your Wesleyan e-mail account, neglect of homework, and the need to use someone's computer at the oddest hours of the night.

The new college drug, Facebook.com, took over Wesleyan's campus in many swift strokes of computer keys. All it takes to become an addict is your name and your Wesleyan e-mail account, and soon you're connected to your high school and college friends, who then have you linked to their friends from high school and college. In the end you are trapped in a big web—Internet web—of friends from all ethnicities, cultures, and states. With Facebook, users post a personal profile, with basic information such as marital status, your school and address, as well as tastes and interests (e.g., movies and music). There is a "friend's list" and a photograph album, and a user may advertise upcoming gatherings under "My parties." The Facebook "wall" allows friends—and "potential friends"—to send email messages or give the host "a poke," a brief message designed to check-in with friends or initiate new friendships.

Wanting to learn more about Facebook addiction, I approached some of the junkies. Alisha Nelson, a senior from Upper Marlboro, Md., said, "It's interesting to see how many friends you have on your friend list. Some people just add you as their friend in order to hike their stats" or, in other words, to make it seem like they have a lot of friends, when actually they add people that they don't even talk to. These people are called Facebook Fakers. Shawn Harvey, a senior from Brooklyn, N.Y., has defeated the temptation from the internet drug. "Facebook is like a cult," explained Harvey. "It's real popular and people feel like it's what's happening now and need to be a part of it." Harvey called Facebook.com, "the new Blackplanet.com," another addictive website that numerous people still frequent.

After monitoring NC Wesleyan's junkies, I couldn't help but wonder whether they had any concerns while on Facebook. Homecoming Queen Danielle Davenport, an active addict since early September, said, "I have been hearing that staff members are on Facebook trying to catch individuals" with incriminating evidence. Davenport shook her head, adding "If that is true, that is not right."

Is it true? Have Wesleyan's addicts been deceived by the presence of an imposter? Have school officials been monitoring student behavior on Facebook? Can certain pictures, statements, and friendships and associations be used as incriminating evidence for those under age drinkers and marijuana smokers? Has privacy been taken away from the students? Stay tuned, but in the meantime watch what you post, because you never know who is reading your wall or looking through your photo album...

THE DECREE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decree Reader Disagrees On Cindy Sheehan

I write in response to the November 10th opinion column entitled "Of Iraq and Cindy Sheehan." We are in the midst of a divisive war in which attitudes are polarized and debate heated, but in this tense environment it is more important than ever to keep a constitutional perspective on the proper role of a citizen in wartime. Although the actions of Cindy Sheehan make some people angry, I would respectfully suggest that she is not "pissing on her son's memory" because she is publicly protesting the war. On the contrary, her protest embodies the principles of democracy and human rights enshrined in the Constitution of the United States—the document military recruits swear to defend when they join the service.

Most Americans understand this. According to an August 2005 AP-Ipsos poll, 90% of Americans support the right to protest the Iraq War, even while hostilities are ongoing and US soldiers are under fire. Americans realize that the Constitution does not limit political expression to the ballot box, and that it is not in accordance with the spirit of the Bill of Rights for opponents of the war to "shut up about it." To equate lawful, peaceful antiwar protest with spitting on returning Vietnam veterans, as the author of the opinion piece does, is ludicrous. But what is truly dangerous about this worldview is that it de-legitimizes some political opinions and enshrines others as unassailable. The author of the opinion piece argues that Cindy Sheehan's son died because he was "standing up for people who could not stand up for themselves." That is a political opinion, not a fact. There are alternate theories about the causes and purposes of our Iraq War. But if people who voice alternatives are shouted down and branded as unpatriotic, then we are stifling dissent and mandating that only "acceptable" opinions be voiced in public. That is not the American way.

Even if we disagree with Cindy Sheehan, let us not question her sincerity or try to instruct her on the proper way to grieve her loss. Cindy Sheehan is not "inconsequential to U.S. foreign policy," although the Bush administration would like to make her so. All the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives in this war should be of vital concern to our policymakers, who would rather hide the human costs of this war and dismiss dissenters as disloyal. As for Army Specialist Casey A. Sheehan, let us all agree that his death was tragic and that the democracy

he died serving is strong enough to endure criticism and protest.

—Jonathan Sarris

(Dr. Sarris teaches American history at NC Wesleyan)

NCWC Cafeteria Criticized

While attending NCWC, I have encountered problems with the cafeteria. The issues include hours of operation, food choices, and space. The first problem is the time the cafeteria closes for dinner. Students do not have enough time to eat. The cafeteria opens at 5 p.m. and closes at 7. This is mainly a problem for athletes who practice every day. I play football here at NCWC, and our practices begin at 4 p.m. and, for most of the season, last until 6:30. That gives us 30 minutes to change clothes and get to the cafeteria before 7, or we don't eat. It takes about five to ten minutes to get to the cafeteria from the field house. If we make it, we have to rush and eat before they start cleaning up. Some people eat and some people don't get a chance. I think the cafeteria should be open for an extra hour and a half. This way, it gives the athletes the time to get a shower, eat, and get where we need to be.

The second problem is the choice of food. When the athletes do get a chance to eat, the food selection is horrible. The only items really worth eating are a burger and fries and pizza, and you get tired of eating that every day. This results in students having to buy groceries because they have nothing to eat in the cafeteria. The average college student can't afford to buy groceries every week. I think we should have more of a selection. The cafeteria staff should find out what students like and serve better food. This transition will take a little more money, but if students eat more in the cafeteria this will generate more revenue.

The final problem is limited space. Every day there is a rush around dinner time, and it's hard to find somewhere to sit with such a crowded space. This issue can be solved by adding on to the cafeteria. This will take more money, but it might attract more students to the school. There has got to be some money somewhere, as much as students pay to attend this school.

The cafeteria problems can be fixed. The students have to bring the issue to the school's attention. I don't see why money is an issue because it costs more than \$20,000 a year to attend. Where exactly is the money going?

—Charles Bailey

(Bailey is a freshman at NCWC)