

OPINION

Random Rants: Of Parking Boots, Pizza with President, Gabe's Departure, Etc.

Jessica D. Jones
Decree Opinion Editor
Tickets and Boots...Boots and Tickets ...

NC Wesleyan never seems to let me down. No matter what the situation, money is always made on NCWC's campus. The new scheme—tickets and boots. Students receive a ticket for any parking violation ranging from no parking sticker on their car to parking in yellow zones.

Tickets can range from ten to fifteen dollars; however, they can also get as expensive as one hundred dollars if caught parking in a handicap parking space or any other violation not specifically identified on the ticket. Once a student receives a parking ticket, he/she is given ten days to either appeal the violation with Student Life or pay the fine. After those ten days, a car is immediately booted. It doesn't matter if it is your first ticket, which can range from ten to twenty-five dollars. You must pay a thirty-five-dollar boot-removal fee.

To make sure we are on the same page: please understand that boots are put on students' cars for their very first outstanding ticket, unlike in the "real

world" where you have to have acquired numerous outstanding tickets before your car is booted.

One good thing about the ticket and boot scheme is that NCWC students finally get to see where their tuition money is going. Freshman Tyler Murray had two boots on his car at one time, indicating that there are enough boots to go around.

Personally, I feel like taking a picture of a boot on someone's car and writing "I help buy one of these" right under the picture. I will see if I can get that put in the next issue of *The Decree*. Just playing, I know my tuition pays the bills—so let's just say a school donation allowed us to have yellow boots for everyone—two if needed!

Seriously though, the ticket and boot scheme has already led to a low-speed car chase on campus between a student and security. If they keep trying to ticket and boot every car, God only knows how many more 5-mph car chases will occur on campus. ((Side Note: PARKING STICKERS ARE FREE, I don't see why some people are being stubborn and won't get them. I repeat, PARKING STICKERS ARE FREE!!!!)).

President with a Pizza Campaign or Pizza with the President Campaign

SGA President Tina Sirois said during an interview that the President's Campaigns are coming back! Students, get your questions ready, because the man who gathers donations will allow you time to interview administration, while he grubs on pizza! The president, Dr. Ian David Campbell Newbould, will make his debut at the end of this semester, or maybe next semester. Sirois wasn't sure—after all, the man is so busy. It must be a hard life to purchase an Avalon and never get to ride in it, since he is always handling donation issues in other states.

The President must not have read my article in the May 5 issues of *The Decree*. I clearly suggested that he make an attempt to communicate with students early in the semester; yet, he is still wait-

ing until the last minute. At least we don't have to wait until someone vandalizes Petteway Hall again in order for him to pay attention to the students.

A Community Broken

It's odd, Gabe is gone. For administration and faculty who don't know Gabe Raynor, he is a good guy, and when we say he was the heart of campus life, understand that we meant it.

With Gabe gone, it is like we don't have anyone on our side anymore. It's like organizations were left out to dry and fold up themselves. With the heart of the campus gone, it's like student organizations are trying to mend themselves and still beat to the drum of some miscellaneous rhythm that only we understand.

When it comes to Dr. Peter Phaiah, Dean of Students, it seems as though every program or event is shutting down, or becoming watered down in order to appease the school. Take Homecoming week—or NCWC's lack of a homecoming week. What about the students? To be honest, every program is so watered down that it's no wonder that this campus consists of weekend drunks and weed heads, but—bad English an all—it ain't nothing else to do after you study.

Paperwork isn't "properly" done on students' behalf, so programs and events never see the light of day; they are shut down before they could start up. Has it ever occurred to anyone that maybe some of us are not aware of the proper steps to doing paperwork? Has anyone thought to teach us the proper ways of doing paperwork for NCWC? Student organizations are not dumb and we don't half-tail do things—we merely do things to the best of our knowledge. This problem has recently been addressed, but it is far from solved.

With Gabe gone, it seems like students are being pushed to their limit and talked down to by grown men—well, at least I have been—who should be leaders, teachers, and advisors to us. SGA: God only knows I never thought I would see the day when SGA would be pushed to its limits—Executive board

Let Those Pencils Dance: November Is National Novel Writing Month

By Jessica Autumn Smith
Decree Columnist

November always promises to be a busy month; people are gearing up for the Christmas season and the semester is winding down. Finals are looming ahead, and more often than not there are a few papers due. But November is more than just the busiest month of the semester; November is also National Novel Writing Month or nanowrimo for short.

The rules are simple. You have exactly thirty days – from 12:00 a.m. Nov. 1 to midnight Nov. 30 – to write a 50,000 word (or 175-page) novel in any genre of your choosing. Sci-fi, mystery/thriller, romance, historical fiction, fantasy and western have been popular genres used by past nanowrimo participants. To take part in this global event, simply go to www.nanowrimo.org and register with a pen/screen name, then start counting down the days and planning your plot line. Outlines and such are welcome, even encouraged, but pre-written text is strictly against the rules.

The website is particularly helpful; it lists the official rules and frequently asked questions by past participants, it provides an online store (nanowrimo.org is a non-profit organization run on donations) and – the best part – there is an official word counter

SGA Seeks To Fill Positions

The Student Government Association has solicited applications for treasurer following the resignation of Amber Huggins.

According to SGA President Tina Sirois, Vice President Martin Hill will handle the treasurer's duties until a replacement is found. Sirois said that she and Hill and others have overseen the

to help you pace yourself.

I know, you all think I'm crazy now. Write a novel? With finals coming up? In only 30 days? But there are countless reasons to participate. Ever get stressed out and need a way to let off some steam? (Who hasn't?) Writing can be a creative, constructive outlet that can help you deal with the stress of school and life in general. Also, have you ever seen a terrible movie, one that probably didn't deserve to be aired on daytime television, let alone in a theatre? Did you think, "Even I can do so much better than this"? Here's your chance to prove it.

By now you're probably thinking, so what if, by some slim chance, I actually consider thinking about trying nanowrimo? Writing is hard; what if I get stuck? Well, that's the beauty of the nanowrimo website; it offers forums where you can bounce ideas off of other stressed-out authors. Any registered member can post a topic on any subject, as long as it's decent and not 'Rated R.' Nanowrimo.org has a very wide audience, pulling participants from nearly every age group; it is quite possible that your posts will be seen by younger eyes. The forums are a great place to get inspiration, get help

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budgeting process, without disruption.

Other openings include the positions of freshmen and senior class presidents, available on a first-come first-served basis for students who meet the requirements. In a recent move, Chris Ochoa has been selected junior class president; Tamayra Villines has been heading the sophomore class.

members resigning, miscommunication within organizations, bad amendments (Did we really think through that last amendment?).

For a minute, personally, I wanted to give up and call it quits. I kept telling myself that NC Wesleyan is not for me. I kept telling myself that NC Wesleyan doesn't care about me; they just need my mother's and grandmother's money to maintain the bills. I felt like NCWC wanted zombies for students—go to class, go to your room, eat, study, then sleep. No activities at all.

And Sarah Ashworth, she is a great woman, but because she took Gabe's job no student (other than those that deal with her on a day-to-day basis) really allows him or herself to know her. We don't see Sarah; we see a young lady who took Gabe's job. We don't see Sarah; we see running back and forth between Sarah and Peter, and Peter and Sarah, because we got questions and nobody seems to have the answers.

The problem is NCWC hires people that don't fit the qualifications for the job as Student Activities Director. But to sum it up, Dr. Phaiah basically told students during the SGA meeting introducing Sarah—she'll have to do. After all, the pickings for other Student Activity Directors were slim, considering it was in the middle of the semester when we needed to replace ours. So what happens to students? I know what happens; we get the short end of the stick. At this point we are learning just like Sarah is learning. Miscommunication is occurring, because again—we are learning just like Sarah is learning.

When you hear elders discuss their college experience and how much fun they had on campus alone, it's depressing and frustrating. When you hear your high school peers tell about their campus life and how events always occur, it's frustrating and depressing. When all you have to offer to these stories is an on-going battle for respect and recognition on a campus that doesn't seem to be built for us—built for students—it's frustrating and depressing.

Students are constantly shut down because of budgets—heck, student organizations have even been shut down by budgets that apparently don't exist. What's next? When will NCWC start being for the students? This campus is stagnant; there is no school spirit. It's pathetic. It should ring some kind of bell, when Peter Phaiah is able to tell student organizations that we are missing 65 students from last year's roster and that is why programs are not well funded. Well, I am sorry to say this but programs were

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sending e-mails to students in order to make them aware of campus programs and activities. She believes that the more students are involved in school activities and functions, the more well rounded they will be.

NC Wesleyan's staff and students have made Ashworth feel welcome to campus. Her sister, Alexa, informed her about the opening for an assistant coach for the women's lacrosse team. Not long after Ashworth arrived on campus, the director of student activities position was vacated by Raynor, who resigned in mid September. The college hired her for the position and she assumed her duties days after Raynor's departure.

Ashworth likes working in the college setting. She wants NCWC students "to leave having the ultimate college experience."

Before coming to NC Wesleyan, she worked in financial advising but said "I was killing myself studying for tests. And taxes and money really don't get me going."

Ashworth is a 2006 graduate of Saint Mary's College in Maryland, having majored in history and minored in women's studies

poorly funded last year. Give me another excuse as to why nothing occurs on this campus!

Put people in a stagnant environment and they will make fun where there is none. No matter if it is legal or illegal fun—it will happen. The higher-ups don't want to see that. They want to wait until another hall is destroyed and then put the campus on 24-hour no visitation again. That's it—that'll solve the problem. Well, it doesn't! Speaking as a RA, it just makes matters worse.

It's funny, when it comes to recruiting, NCWC aims for a certain population of people, but for some reason they never realized that they need to focus on the needs of that population as well.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR NCWC Administration Slips With Greek Skate Party

Dear Editor:

I am writing you in reference to the Greek Skate Party scheduled for the recent Homecoming week. The event was supposed to be held at Star City and it was to feature giveaways and other events, in addition to skating; in fact, Greek Council had already purchased giveaway items such as a DVD player, limited edition DVDs, a variety of current CDs and gift cards. As part of community service project, The Greek Council was going to host a Hurricane Katrina Drive, collecting donations of clothes, blankets, and non-perishable food items to donate to the victims of last year's hurricane.

Close to 100 students were expected to attend the skate party. One student said that the majority of her dorm was coming to support the event.

Then the night of the skate party, when we arrived at the rink, we were told by the manager that the NCWC administration had not returned a phone call to finalize the contract for the party. Without employees to work the party, he had to cancel the event.

As one might expect, the student population was very upset. This was just another example of the college not supporting student activities.

Martin Hill
SGA Vice President
Homecoming Chair

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"It's a wonderful honor," Ochoa said of his selection to ODK. "I've really worked hard at excelling in my classes."

Professor Mark Stevens has become acquainted with Ochoa in classes and through his work with Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. "Chris freely gives of his time in support of this organization," Stevens said, adding, "He is an excellent student. He asks thoughtful questions, and adds pertinent comments to each class. Chris is a pleasure to teach."

Christina Sirois, a junior who is majoring in English, with minors in accounting and justice studies. "I was really excited" to learn that she had been selected for ODK. "It's a prestigious group. Not many people are selected, and I feel privileged to be one of the few."

A native of White Plains, Maryland, Sirois is current president of SGA and a member of Alpha Phi Sigma. She has been a NCWC cheerleader and president of Habitat for Humanity.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Tina through Habitat," said Dr. Lisa Kirby, assistant professor of English. "She brought a level of energy and professionalism to Habitat that really impressed me. She was always incredibly organized and worked hard to recruit new members and increase Habitat's visibility on campus. I was constantly impressed by Tina's sense of responsibility, her leadership abilities, and her enthusiasm. In short, she was a wonderful president for Habitat and continues to be a strong leader in the Wesleyan community."

THE DECREE

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