

# OPINION

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Reader Takes Issue with 'Random Rants,' 'Ugly' Review

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Brandon G. Cyrus and I am an Admission Counselor here at NC Wesleyan College. More importantly for this article, I am an alumnus of NCWC, Class of 2004. While I was a student here, I was Vice President (2003) and President (2004) of the Campus Activities Board, a member of Club Dramatica, a supplemental instructor (SI) and tutor, and the mascot.

In the last edition of "The Decree" an article was run called "Random Rants." Being a former student from not too long ago, I usually enjoy reading these sorts of articles because it allows me to see what the issues are with the current students. However, I did not appreciate much of what was published in this particular article.

The first "rant" was about "tickets and boots." The writer sounded as if she were surprised when a student would get something like a \$100 fine for parking in a handicap parking spot. The thing is, I'm surprised by it too! I'm surprised it's not MORE! This school already has issues accommodating handicapped students, so if you take away the parking they have on campus, you're taking away a lot! In response to the writer wanting to take a picture of the boot and writing a caption saying "I helped pay for this," if your peers would start being responsible adults, then security wouldn't have to go out and buy boots! And yes, the parking stickers are FREE, people! If all the students are claiming that the college never gives the students anything and is always trying to steal money from the students, then why not take advantage of something that the college IS giving them.

The second rant was regarding Pizza with the President. I personally love this idea. I think there could be more done in this area, but I love the chance to sit down with the "Prez" and other administrators and discuss the issues like adults. I say the students need to come together and invite administrators to a town hall meeting in which all the issues can be discussed in a large setting rather than just doing several

smaller settings. Bring this up to SGA and see if they can talk with administration about setting this up around mid-spring semester—the week before Spring Break maybe—and then have the Pizza with the President at the end of the year. This will give two instances to discuss the issues rather than just one.

The next rant was called "A Community Broken". It was regarding Gabe Raynor and the fact that he was "the heart of campus life." The truth is, Gabe was the heart of campus life, but that doesn't mean he didn't have people, who are still here, helping him behind the scenes. Dean Peter Phaiyah, SGA, and the staff advisors of individual organizations, including myself, will always be here for you guys! If you think that only Peter and Sarah Ashworth are going to be able to help you every time you have a question, you're wrong. First of all, they are only humans. They can only do but so much at one time. Second, this is college. Part of college is learning responsibility and managing an organization and yourself. Don't rely on Peter and Sarah for everything. If you have any issues, you can go to the SGA meetings and bring up issues or you can visit ANY staff advisor, including me, and we'll be able to help you with pretty much anything.

Another part of this article bothered me very much. The editor wrote that the events on campus are so watered down that it basically causes students to stay in their rooms and take part in activities that have no business going on at this campus or any place else, for that matter. I can't believe that the students of this school are essentially blaming student organizations for the inappropriate behavior of our students. If the organizations aren't doing what you want, then DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!

I am the advisor for the brand new Cinematography Club. We started the year having a Pizza Party to generate interest in our organization. The event went well, but many people came to the program and STOLE the pizza and did not stay for the meeting that followed.

I asked one group of girls where they were going with pizza in hand and they said, "To the bathroom." They then let out an immature laugh and exited the building with the club's pizza. Others who stayed seemed like they were interested in what the club was going to be doing this semester. There were about 30 students plus the four executive members at that meeting. Once the club started discussing all the work that would have to go into making the organization work, people started dropping like flies. We now have a solid 10 students, including the executive board, who are willing to help. However, that is nowhere near enough students to get this organization to run effectively.

So you students who are complaining about having nothing to do on campus, you can meet me and the rest of the Cinematography Club in the Carlton Board Room of the Dunn Center at 8 p.m. on Thursdays and actually make a difference on this campus. For those of you not interested in cinematography, there are many other organizations on campus: Visions of Beauty, Club Dramatica, Music Club, FCA, Refuge Club, SGA, CAB, Sisters of Distinction, SAAB, Greek Life, and many others! Stop whining and make a difference!

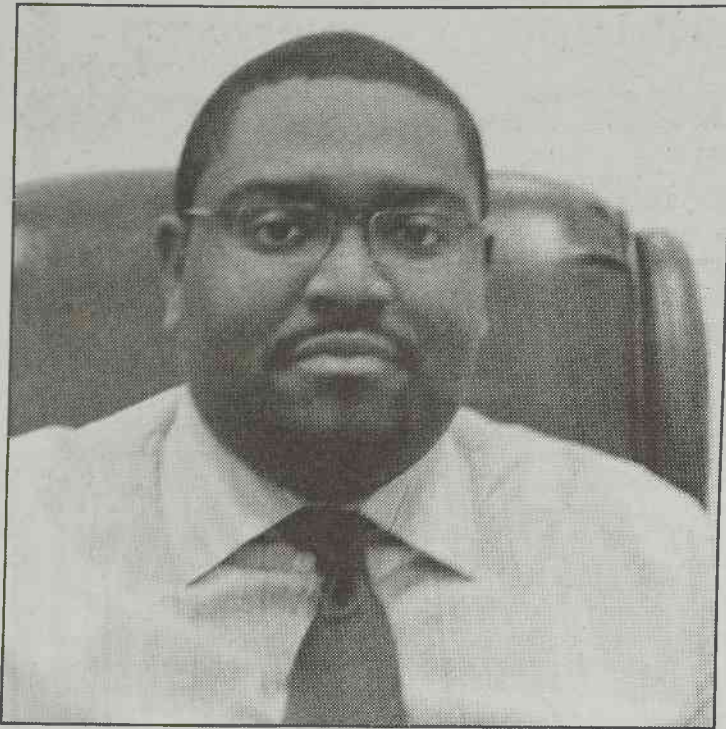
Finally, I would like to express my utter disappointment in the so-called "critic" (Contributor Matthew Esterline) for "The Decree." Every edition of the paper, I start reading his article and get halfway or a fourth of the way through his article before I put it down and complain about how out of touch he is with pop culture. I don't need someone telling me about movies I don't know about or ones that won't even be shown at Rocky Mount's theatre because that is how unpopular his movies are. No one has heard of half the movies he writes good reviews about and if anyone has heard of them, they don't want to see them! Then when he names a "popular" movie (e.g. Saw III), he claims that it's "bad" or is "sucking [his] will to live." In saying those things, he is sucking my will to read his article, thus going against the reason he wrote the article in the first place.

Then, in the last article he wrote, he critiques TV shows. He spoke about a show that I am very fond of — "Ugly Betty." I appreciate that this show has minority representation in it, but the columnist made remarks that were very distasteful. He said things like the show is "helping to reduce the cracker majority on network television" and "at least it's got less whiteness." Now I don't know if this student is white, black, orange, red, blue, or rainbow, but I do know that those comments should have not made it to the press and I am disappointed in all parties involved for letting this guy publish such remarks.

Other than the things I just listed, it was a very good paper. I enjoyed reading about the music program and the NCWC theatre. I also enjoyed reading about my brothers and sisters that have joined me as ODK members and about our new DSA, Sarah Ashworth. Also, the picture of Martha Proctor, to no one's surprise, was absolutely beautiful. Congratulations, Martha!

But, in general, I would appreciate it if the columnists and critics would be more professional in their remarks. If the critic wishes to bash pop-movies and praise movies that no one has heard of, then he can do it, but try to be more professional in his choice of words. I believe whole-heartedly in freedom of speech and freedom of the press, but I also believe in being tasteful and professional. Let's grow up and demand more from ourselves and our peers!

—Brandon G. Cyrus  
NCWC Admission Counselor



Gary Brown has been named Director of the NCWC Student Support Center. He had been interim director since June. Prior to that, Brown served as a pre-major advisor and director of disability services. He holds a BA from North Carolina Central University and an ME in higher education administration from NC State.

## THE DECREE

since 1960 "of, by, and for the Wesleyan community."

### STAFF

#### Contributors

Anthony DeGregorio  
Matthew Esterline  
Ron Fitzwater  
Erika Stallings  
Grace Wallace  
Shannon Williams

#### Staff Writers

Kelvin Clark  
Amanda Landi  
Clyde Peele Jr.  
Sean Riccio  
Hannah Smith  
Jessica Smith

#### Sports Editor

Trevor Seibert

#### Opinion Editor

Jessica D. Jones  
Email: JJ281625@mail.ncwc.edu

#### Asst. Managing Editor

Christine Werfelman

#### Managing Editor

Jessica Bowen  
Email: JB281078@mail.ncwc.edu

#### Faculty Advisor

Dr. William Grattan  
171 Braswell  
Phone: 985-5336  
Email: WJGrattan@ncwc.edu

The Decree office is on the first floor of the Hartness Center.

#### Copyright Policy

The Decree holds the copyright of every article and graphic for one-time and future publication at the discretion of the editorial board. Submission implies agreement with this policy.

#### Editorial Statement

Commentary/opinion and letters to the editor represent the individual author's views, and not necessarily those of North Carolina Wesleyan College, the Decree staff or the Decree advisor.

#### Submissions

To suggest an article, or submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor, send an email attachment (Microsoft Word) to: WJGrattan@ncwc.edu. Note that the Decree staff checks all submissions for accuracy and edits in accordance with acceptable grammar and punctuation as well as AP Style.

#### Corrections

The Decree corrects mistakes of substance. If you would like to request a correction, send an email to WJGrattan@ncwc.edu, or call 985-5336

#### DRIVE from page 1

As a result of the drive, added fellow sorority member Krystal Mitchell, "I'm encouraged to do more for others in need."

Barnes and Mitchell expressed their gratitude to members of the NCWC community who made contributions, which Greek Council will send to the Bassett Center, a family shelter located in Rocky Mount.

During the drive, conducted in November, donated coats were taken to pink and green collection boxes, made by Barnes and Mitchell, that were located at the library, Hartness Center and Hardees Building

#### "Take It Off"

By Amanda Landi

*Don't run from me,  
Stop hiding from me,  
I know what you see.  
Take off your mask.*

*All alone,  
You feel all alone.  
Don't hide from me,  
I've felt that way before.  
Take off your mask.*

*Take it off,  
Show your face.  
You can't be alone with me by your side.  
I know your secrets,  
I know your pain.*

*Let me untie the rope,  
Pull off the mask.  
As it falls to the floor  
And breaks in two,  
I see you,  
I see me.*

*The mask hides all  
the secrets.  
The mask hides all your talents.  
Don't hide,  
Take off the mask.  
The secret will come out,  
Slipping through  
the cracks of your mask.*

*I will be by your side  
when your world falls apart.  
I will help you get up.  
Take off the mask,  
Get it all over with now.*

*Let me untie the thread,  
And throw the mask aside.  
As you watch it crack in two,  
I see you,  
I see me.*

*All alone is what I'll be,  
Standing beside me.  
I feel what you feel  
because we are one and the same.  
When your mask comes off,  
I saw the real me.*

#### "Active Shooter"

By B.R. Carlton

*Bang! Bang! Rang the school bell of sorrow,  
For you will never hear the sound of tomorrow.*

*Shots echo through the halls of knowledge,  
So sad, you will never attend college.*

*Helpless, huddled looking for cover,  
Look over there! The shooter's Matt Glover.  
O My God! He just shot his brother.*

*Copy cat killer showed no sign,  
Plotting his grid like Columbine.*

*Blue, brown, gray called to action,  
Lives on the line, no satisfaction.*

*Bang! Bang! Rang the school bell for dismissal,  
Another child—the active shooter ignited a missile.*

#### "Reality in Illusion"

By Hannah Smith

*The sound of silence: overwhelming  
the sound of screaming fills my head  
I run in circles around my mind: no way out  
I keep repeating that it's okay  
I keep repeating that life's okay  
I keep repeating that I'm okay  
but convincing is one thing, I'm not good at  
It feels so real, and I'm scared to death  
sweating bullets and crying for help  
running but not gaining steps  
falling but never reaching the ground.  
Then a sound, not silence or a scream  
growing louder and louder  
I open my eyes and here I am  
lying down in a pool of sweat  
safely inside the comfort of my home.*

#### "Time/The path of life"

By Brandon Jones

*The path of life leads in so many directions  
This way and that is all we ever know  
Some people race to get ahead  
But where's the fun in that?*

*Others go with the flow  
Some fight the waves  
The torrent of time comes crashing upon us  
No one knows where we will come out*

*We crash and burn so often  
One begins to wonder if we should ever get  
up again  
Don't lose hope now  
The journey is not yet over*

*We lie to ourselves everyday  
We build walls around our hearts  
Put up false faces for everyone to see  
When will the falsehood cease?*

*We are so scared to even try  
That we fail before the attempt  
Whether it's concerning love  
Or the path of life to go down next*

*Sometimes I wish I had courage  
To face my fears and defeat them  
To find that strength I lack  
To find my center; my reason for being*

*It scares me to think that I'll never leave this  
circular path I am on  
To find the center to straighten my path and  
lead me home  
Time can only be seen after passing  
And by then, it's too late*

*Many people seek the truth  
Through God  
Wisdom  
Or the frailties of Man*

*One cannot know who is right  
Until time has passed  
And it's too late  
So live whichever way you see fit, reach for  
the stars*