

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Don't play games with alcohol use

Last week was Alcohol Awareness Week, in case you didn't know. You probably enjoyed the movie Sunday along with the mock drinks. You probably had a good laugh when you joked about getting drunk off of the mock drinks.

But alcohol abuse is a major problem in America. Millions of people are affected directly and indirectly by people with alcohol in their system. Barring abstinence from alcohol the only sound alternatives are moderation and having a designated driver.

Most of you have heard this before and maybe you might have done it before too.

But apparently the message has not been a part of your judgement. How many of you went home from homecoming drunk or even buzzed? You're playing Russian roulette with your life and the lives of others.

Here at Wesleyan no serious accidents have happened in the past three years. So next time you plan to go to a party off campus please have the wisdom of designating a person who will stay sober and drive you back. Or if no one wants to stay sober please stay over.

Remember that the risk you're taking also means gambling with other people's lives.

Creative help wanted: all writers and artists

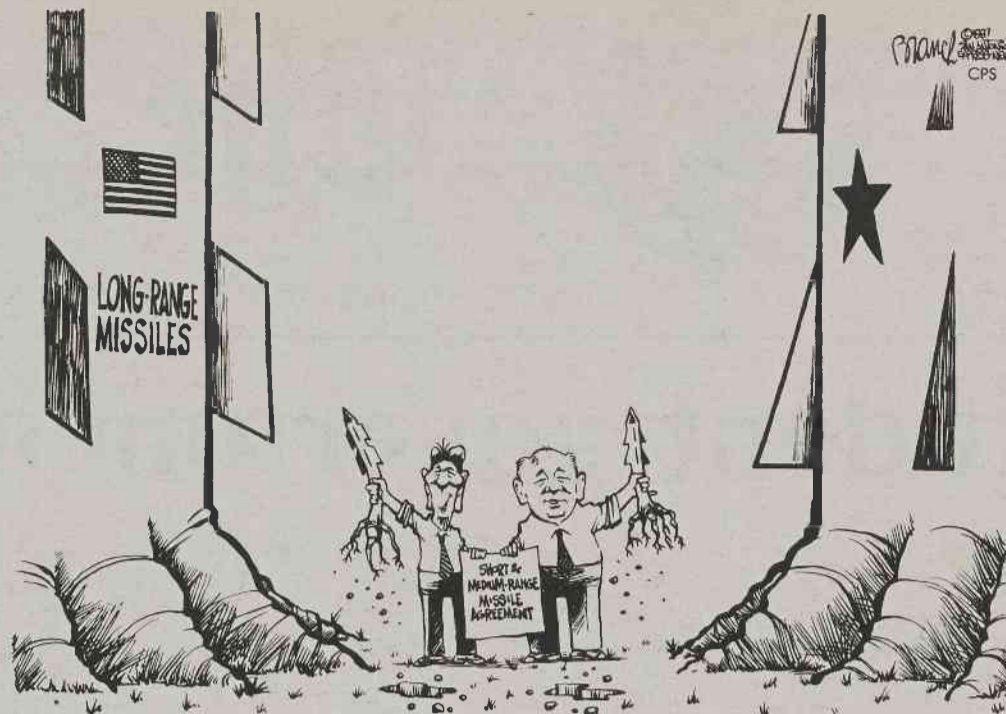
Attention, all you closet writers and artists out there in the real world: Do you have any poems, short stories, essays, or drawings you would like to see in print?

North Carolina Wesleyan College's literary journal *Aspects* is now accepting, nay requesting, works of merit for a winter issue. We invite students, staff, and faculty to submit.

Please give any such works to Steve Ferebee in the English Department. The deadline is Nov. 20, so you have plenty of time to polish.

We also need editorial help and creative minds of all sorts.

Along with the theater and music opportunities, *Aspects* reflects some of the creative energies on your campus. So type them up and let the community know you.



Sergeant serves with pride

Military service has value

(Editor's note: the following is a response to leaflets posted by the War Resisters League.)

By MSG PAUL VARSEL

Ben Franklin said there never was a good war or a bad peace. He also signed the Declaration of Independence and assured that the United States would go to war with Britain. He was an idealistic and courageous man hoping for a better time. He was also a realistic man and recognized that the time had not arrived.

Another group of idealistic people in America — and on the North Carolina Wesleyan campus — still hope for a better time. Like Franklin, they go about their day to day business and try to make this a better world. Unfortunately, some of these Americans are not like Franklin. They lack his ability to see the world as it really is, a place filled with danger and alive with imperfect people. These few lack Franklin's courage of conviction and refuse to sign their declaration. While Franklin boldly faced death, these unknown anti-war/anti-military advocates timidly avoid disfavor from a few fellow citizens. I am not ashamed or embarrassed to sign my declaration. My name is Paul Varsel, I am a Master Sergeant of Infantry in the United States Army, and I teach ROTC at N.C. Wesleyan College. I am proud of my job and I am very good at what I do. It would, however, make me very happy to live in a world where my job was not necessary. I realize that war is the most wasteful exercise that humans indulge in. All humans!

War is not an American phenomenon. We did not invent it and we are not always the best at it. Ever since we started playing at it in 1775 it has been expensive, embarrassing, and opposed by other members of the nation. That opposition, the freedom

to dissent, has always been one of our most cherished liberties. The right of the nation to protect its citizens and its interests around the world has always been another, greater liberty. Exercise of both these liberties is an expensive proposition.

I, and others like me, are the people that make it possible for this great nation to continue to enjoy liberty. I serve in the forces which guard out country and our way of life. Frequently, I am forced to subordinate my own personal liberties to guarantee the freedom of others and rarely do I enjoy the bounty from our way of life. Rather than such up the largesse of a rich country, I am often sent to the frontiers of our affluence to insure that day to day living goes on unimpeded in the United States.

I do this because I realize that every liberty has a responsibility, and I am prepared to take on part of the nation's burden. It is old fashioned but I feel that I owe this country something in return for the freedoms secured for me by others. There are students here at N.C. Wesleyan that

think the same way. I am here to pass on my skills and experience to this new generation of defenders. However, I do not work for free and I admit that it is expensive to keep me on the payroll. Unfortunately, it is cheaper to have me around than to live in this dangerous world without me. But I don't get anywhere near \$300,000,000,000.

If you watched the Iran-Contra hearings this summer you noticed the sheaf of paper held up by Rep. Hyde (R-Ill.) that was a big as an unabridged dictionary. That was the Fiscal Year 85 Appropriations Act which allowed the Federal Government to operate for one year. It is the sort of document that resists being summed up in a single page handbill. Don't take anything at face value when people try to persuade you to their point of view, especially with simple "facts." That last statement also applies to this article. I am willing to talk with anyone, anywhere, at any time in an unofficial capacity. Veritas Vos Liberabit.

Alcohol enforcement policy has not altered

By JASON SHEPPARD

Returning students on N.C. Wesleyan College campus seem to feel that the enforcement of the school's drinking policy is more readily enforced than last year. However, according to the administration, this may not be the case.

Steve Cohen said that the policy, which according to the handbook states, "The purchase, sale, distribution, display, or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in any public area on college premises or at college sponsored activities. Public

intoxication and all forms of parties serving alcoholic beverages are prohibited," is basically unchanged from last year. The notion that the enforcement has been "stepped up" may be due to more strict interpretations by a new administration.

This may seem like bad news to students. However, Cohen said his administration is not running a maximum security prison. "I have no problem with students drinking quietly in their own rooms," Cohen said. It is when this gets out of hand that he is forced to step in and deal with the problem.