

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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The Decree is located in the Student Union, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Wesleyan College Station, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Policy is determined by the Editorial Board of *The Decree*. Republication of any matter herein without the express consent of the Editorial Board is strictly forbidden. *The Decree* is composed and printed by *The Spring Hope Enterprise*.

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Gates would help increase security

Allied Security joined the Wesleyan Community in late Aug. and for the first few weeks of school, they were doing an admirable job. Recently, however, there have been several incidents which demonstrate that having just one security guard on duty, even if there is somebody here twenty-four hours, is not enough.

Already, some of the cars in the parking lots have been vandalized, and two weeks ago a visitor in one of the dorms had a gun.

The office of Student Life has decided that the best way to handle the situation is to hire students to work in each of the dorm lobbies from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. every night. These students will answer the phones and greet people as they enter the lobby.

This plan, though well-intentioned, will be a dismal failure for several reasons. First, the plan does not begin to address the problems in the parking lots. Are vandals expected to first walk into the dorm lobby before they slash

someone's tires?

Moreover, a student who sits in the lobby and answers the phone will not have the slightest idea how to handle a person who carries a gun into a dorm. What good will it do to have an unarmed student sitting in the lobby? Is he or she expected to jump in the path of the bullet?

Finally, how will a student who sits in the lobby be able to watch every student who walks into the dorm? Any campus resident who has ever tried to enter another dorm after hours knows that the easiest way in is not through the lobby. He will use a side door or a bathroom window.

So what is the solution? If the College Administration is worried about visitors to the campus, then the answer is simple. A gate should be built at both entrances to the campus with security guards posted there at night. When a visitor arrives, the security guard will write down the driver's name and the car's tag number, and then ask who he is going to visit.

Bellefonte cost questioned

Dear Editor:

Scoop, did you see that rotten pile of lumber scurrying across the front lawn a couple of weeks ago? A house, is a house, is a house! Or is it? Wouldn't Dr. Creegan certainly question its existence? I definitely question the appearance of "The House" on campus.

Forty-Thousand dollars is a little much for a house moving party. I am

still wondering when the pool is going to show up on campus. For a brief second I thought maybe the back-hoe out front was going to be used for the purpose of digging a glorious pool. But Scoop, I was fooled again.

I wholeheartedly agree that Daisy does need an art gallery, but we will not be able to afford many collectables once the \$300,00-500,00 is

spent. Oops, that fat cat is out of the bag. That is roughly the cost of a new Fine Arts building. Scoop, you can put two and two together. On a more positive, or should I say negative note, I heard that the faculty had the "Mighty Iceberg" float in on their pay raise. I bet they think the honorable house will turn out to be a real barn burner!

The Archbishop



Labels are unfair

'Liberal' not a dirty word

By Dr. STEVE FEREBEE

I am a liberal. (Why do I feel as if I am admitting an addiction at Liberals Anonymous?)

Remember Orwell's *1984*? What has happened to the word "liberal" in the last ten years in United States politics is a calculated, cynical (ab)use of language to brain wash the people.

The original meaning of "liberal" was, according to the *OED*, "the distinctive epithet of those arts of sciences that were considered 'worthy of a free' people. It also means generous, open-hearted, free in speech or action, favorable to constitutional reforms leading to freedom and democracy. Conservatives preserve, keep intact, maintain existing institutions.

Now, of course, liberal means big government spending, special interest worshipping, anti-American-socialist-Marxist-Leninist subverting, ERA. Conservative means lower taxes, free markets, anti-communist battles, NRA.

And indeed the two do have different spending priorities: social programs vs. weapons programs; foreign

Dr. Steve Muses

aid programs vs. intervention programs; environmental safeguards vs. short-term business gains. Both spend needlessly large chunks of my pay checks, but they spend them for different reasons.

What have liberals done for the country with my money? Social Security. Medicare. Civil Rights programs. Work programs. Studies of employee pay discrimination and harassment and unsafe working conditions. The conservatives can, I guess, boast of Grenada, corporate tax cuts, and a low minimum wage.

Such a combination could be the United States' most admirable trait, except for one problem — too many of us quickly label those who disagree with us as insensitive or unpatriotic. If I am for a compassionate federal government program to house the homeless, educate the jobless, feed the hungry, offer medical care to everyone, I am a knee-jerk bleeding heart and therefore untrustworthy. If I am against CONTRA aid, I am cowardly pro-communist and therefore unworthy of Clint Eastwood.

Ah! Clint Eastwood! The latest tactic is to suggest that the American people's values are closer to those perpetuated by the Dirty Harry outlaw cop than by the Peter Fonda "narcotics-wrapped-up" outlaw hippies in *Easy Rider*. The characters in *Easy Rider* leave the mainstream American dream world to search for an essential American goodness they feel authorities have obscured. They

break laws which seem to them unjust or unnecessary. Because they are different and suggest that a smug definition of America should change, fearful men kill them. Dirty Harry, frustrated by "liberal" courts which protect criminals' rights, breaks laws that seem to him to be unjust or unnecessary. Dirty Harry raises killing to an iconic level each time he massacres those whom he does not recognize as human.

We are all human and thus protected by the Bill of Rights. If the conservative stance is, as former Attorney General Meese often argued, that protection of individual rights is not always important or, as the Iran-CONTRA affair suggests, that the laws do not always matter, then the conservatives, not the liberals, are calling for a radical change in the Constitution. And so the "liberal" American Civil Liberties Union protects Oliver North's right to a fair trial as well as the small-fry employee's right to complain about sexual or racial discrimination. Liberals respect traditions too.

Some liberals do accuse all conservatives who vote against their programs of being inhumane and some conservatives accuse all liberals who vote for them of being anti-American. I regret that tactic. The debate between liberals and conservatives in the United States should make us a better informed people. But when one side attempts to turn the mere mention of the opposition's label into a war cry for blood, no one benefits.

Yes, I am a liberal, firmly behind a generous social program "worthy of a free" people, a people who include conservatives to keep the books and fret about the pace of change and liberals to question the books and spur the pace of progress.