

## The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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## Contact newspaper directly with gripes

Last week, *The Decree* ran an article about the new Student Activities Building for which it received a lot of flak. At least two people claim that they were misquoted.

*The Decree* certainly understands that being misquoted is a problem. But the central issues here is the way in which the situation was handled.

Instead of contacting *The Decree* staff and informing them of the problem, someone posted the article in the faculty lounge and pointed out what were claimed to be misquotations. If he had a problem, he either should have contacted the staff or written a letter to the editor, or both.

What every faculty and administration member, as well as every student, needs to know is that *The Decree* staff is too small and too constrained by deadline pressure to verify every little piece of

information in our paper.

The major pieces of information, particularly the figures will always be verified. *The Decree* operates as does every newspaper in the country; we trust that our reporters are responsible. Nevertheless, mistakes can and do occur. (We might add here that the reporter in question stands by his story, and we stand by him.)

Perhaps in closing we need to delve into one other issue. The purpose of a school newspaper is to cover the important issues at the school, as well as to ensure that the students are kept abreast of major national issues ranging from politics to education. *The Decree* has done that and more.

In the future, if someone in the Wesleyan community has a problem with an article or an editorial, *The Decree* urges him or her to write a letter to the editor.



*Art speaks for itself*

## Lennon's music sufficient

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

Standing in the grocery line about a month ago, I was chuckling at the headlines on the screamer papers when I noticed John Lennon on *People* magazine. The front-cover blurb was *The True Truth* or some such nonsense, and I rejected a fleeting impulse to read the story.

As it turns out, *People* was running excerpts from the new trash-the-60s-liberal-hedonist-druggie-hippie-madness-days biography of Lennon by Albert Goldman. Since then the deluge has overwhelmed my hesitation and I read the book, looked through a new coffee table extravaganza, and saw *Imagine*, the adulatory movie about Lennon by David Wolper.

Stop for a minute. Remember a popular figure who influenced your formative years. Whoever he or she was, the image created by the music, the movies, the news reports, the books, or other medium remains an integral part of your growth. As you were growing, this person spoke directly to you and helped you under-

### Dr. Steve Muses

stand yourself.

John Lennon is one of those people for me, and I resent the attempt to make him perfectly pleasant as well as the attempt to make him perfectly awful. I never thought John Lennon was perfect. He often behaved boorishly, he neglected his first born, he spoke without thinking, he was intensely egotistical.

But he wrote those songs [Ok, helped whatshisname write some of them], those amazingly personal yet meaningful songs. No other popular figure spoke to me as directly as did Lennon. I was just the right age to move from the love lyrics of "I Saw Her Standing There" to the probing "Fool on the Hill" to the political "Working Class Hero" to the disturbing "Woman Is the Nigger of the World." When he came back, I

cheered his claim to have been thinking as the wheels went round and round for a while without him.

John Lennon the public persona also spoke to me. First he was an exuberantly boyish teenager. Then he was an exploring man. He searched through music, books, writing, religions, drugs, primal scream therapy, peace campaigns, and his love for the oddball Yoko Ono. What was he looking for? Himself. What are any of us looking for it we have any intelligence at all?

I never confused the image with the man. I did not know John Lennon the person. And I don't care if his wife played weird jokes on him, if he made love with a man, if he baked bread, if he loved his son. From my 25 years of listening to his music, reading his books, and considering his public activities, I have evolved my image.

John Lennon savored living, music, and language. He admired honesty and strength. In his words Lennon urged us to love each other, to

(Continued on Page 3)

## Campaigns put style over substance

By CHARLES GEORGES

The televised 1988 presidential debates have exhibited how the office of the presidency has been sought. Each candidates' answers to the questions posed by the panels and the negativism displayed toward each other are the two general tactics of this election. By not answering the questions and by trying to make the other candidate look irresponsible, George Bush and Michael Dukakis leave the voters with a confusing picture.

The purpose of the presidential

debate is to allow the American public a chance to understand where each candidates stand on the issues. Unfortunately, the candidates practice and memorize their lines in anticipation for the questions that were going to be asked.

Once a question was asked, the candidate responded with an answer that covered all aspects from world peace to welfare but did not answer the question itself. The candidates attempt to answer in a style pleasing everyone and offending no one. The vagueness of the candidates' answers shows a lack of confidence in the

American public, for both Bush and Dukakis fear that telling their true intentions would be as disastrous as Walter Mondale's 1984 proclamation to raise taxes if elected. Thus in 1988 there is style over substance.

The prevailing style of this campaign has been negative. Let's take one example of negative campaigning from each camp.

First, Mr. Bush's distortion of the furlough program. Mr. Bush claims that Mr. Dukakis is responsible for the Massachusetts furlough program. In fact, the Massachusetts furlough program was established in 1972 by a

Republican governor.

Mr. Dukakis is responsible for restricting the program and since the Horton incident has outlawed the program. Also furlough programs exist in 45 states, a point Mr. Bush chooses not to mention in his television advertisements and campaign speeches.

Dukakis has also been guilty of negative campaigning by running TV ads depicting Mr. Bush as a package put together by Republicans. The ads suggest that Bush is a puppet, not a capable leader, whose strings are

controlled by others. Mr. Bush is one of the leaders of the Republican party. He did not become head of CIA, vice-president, and the Republican nominee for president solely by being a robot programmed by other people.

It is our job as educated people to look past the mudslinging and over reliance on style. To find out where the candidates stand on the issues. Only then can each of us make an informed choice on Nov. 8. And make sure you go out and vote, for if not, you are allowing someone else to choose your country's leader.