

# The Decree

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## Wesleyan should dispense condoms

We have heard the argument before. Selling condoms to school students encourages promiscuity. Now, Wesleyan College is taking the same stance.

Dean Marron decided that the school nurse would not dispense condoms on campus this year. He claims that the college is somehow more liable for student health if condoms are dispensed than if they are not.

That argument just does not make sense. Dispensing condoms shows that the college cares about its students. Not dispensing them shows negligence.

Whatever Marron says, it is hard to believe that liability is really the issue. The issue is morality. Does dispensing condoms

really encourage promiscuity? More important, does refraining from dispensing condoms discourage promiscuity. The answer to both questions is a resounding "pro." Otherwise, there would not be so many cases of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies outside of marriage.

The question of school policy still remains. Students have said that they want condoms dispensed on campus. They will continue to have sexual intercourse whether or not they have condoms easily available.

The school, therefore, should dispense condoms, but the administration should also educate its students about sex, encouraging restraint.

## Condom education a wise investment

By STEVE FEREBEE

A fourteen-year-old stays home from school and spends the day watching TV. In an afternoon soap he sees two naked adults cavorting in bed. A news blurb informs him that single-parent households among teenage black women flourish. During the evening shows, guns blaze, beds blaze, ethics blaze; murder, sex, and greed blaze. Much of United States' entertainment and advertisement tells us that we have the right and the means to satisfy every passing appetite.

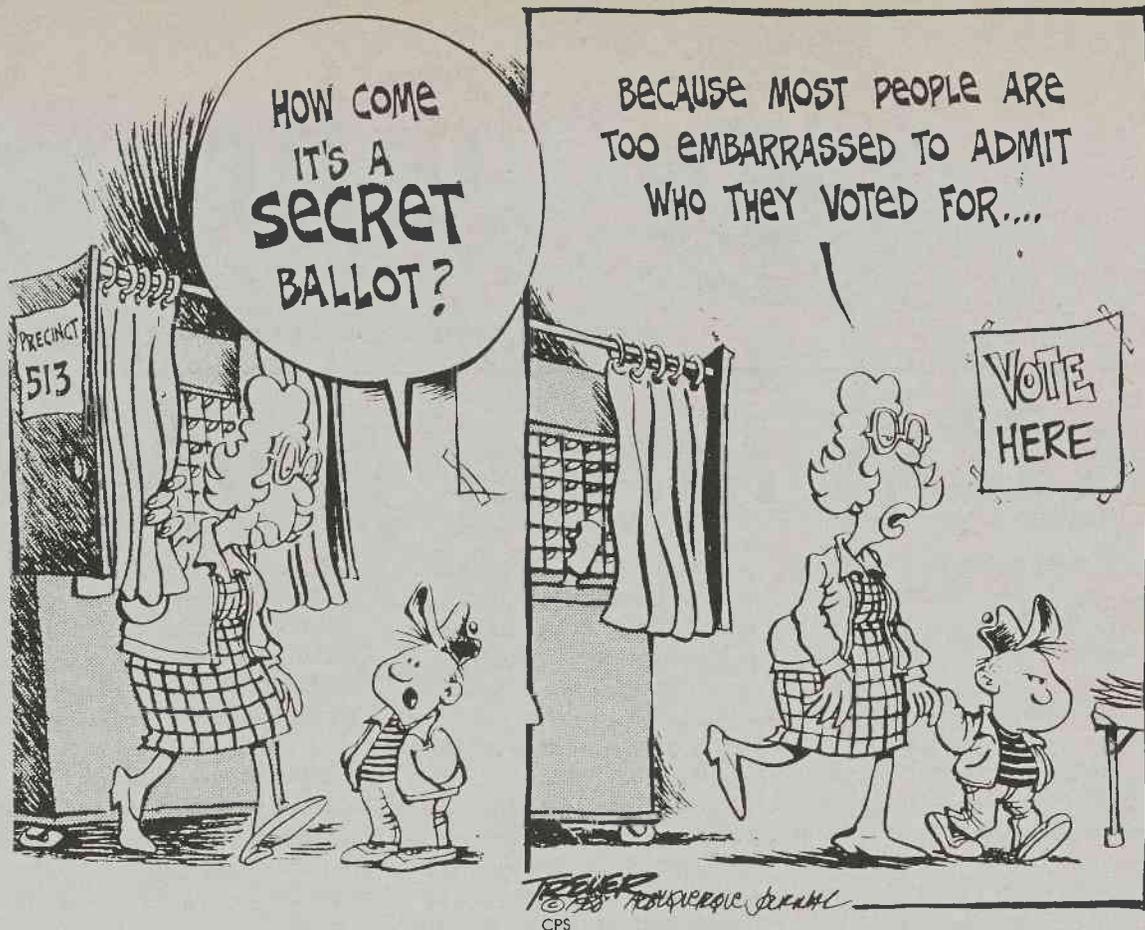
Then a commercial comes on and a handsome young man talks about the importance of putting on socks before going out. The letters AIDS appears at the end, so evidently the man was talking about prevention of a deadly disease which the boy heard about on the news. Socks, it seems, are a metaphor for condoms. In their wisdom, Madison Avenue advertisement executives have decided that the teenager who has seen violent and passionate sex acts, murders, robber-

ies, greed, amorality, and lots of naked torsos — this child would be corrupted if told explicitly about condoms.

Condoms prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases — including the deadly AIDS virus, called our most important health issue by both candidates in the recent presidential campaign. People participating in sexual intercourse have a responsibility to protect each other from these situations. That is the individual's responsibility. The responsibility of institutions — including the schools — includes education about and availability of effective means of protection.

Unwanted pregnancies and diseases are not moral problems; they

**Dr. Steve Muses**



### Exhibit on display

## Ramesses visits Charlotte

By DELL LEWIS

Ramesses II, Pharaoh of Egypt during the 13th century B.C., ruled Egypt for more than 66 years, building magnificent monuments, temples, and colossal statues to commemorate his reign.

The people of North Carolina now have a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity to experience the gran-

deur of ancient Egypt during the exhibition, "Ramesses the Great: the Pharaoh and His Time," at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, on Oct. 1 through Jan. 31, 1989.

The Ramesses exhibition, on loan from the famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo, is the largest assemblage of 3,000 year old Egyptian treasures to ever visit the United States. This spectacular exhibition of Egyptian

treasures contains more than 70 priceless works of art, including exquisite jewelry, gold objects, colossal statuary and Egyptian funerary items.

The Egyptian Ambassador to Washington, D.C., El Sayed Ardel Raouf El Reedy, said, "The historical importance of Ramesses II is undisputed, as a ruler who has left a legacy of greatness for which he will be eternally remembered. A brave man in war as well as in peace, the first recorded peace treaty in history which he made with the King of the Hittites is a certain tribute to his statesmanship." Ramesses is believed by many historians to have been the pharaoh persuaded by Moses to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt.

Ramesses II was the ideal of generations of Egyptians who followed him. Having lived to the age of 90, he outlived many of his more than 100 children. The exhibit contains a beautiful statue of Meryestamun, daughter and later wife of Ramesses the Great. Her soft round face, slightly protruding eyes highlighted by incised lines, and full sensuous lips characterize the best of Rameside art. His obsession with preserving the royal bloodline resulted in their marriage.

Ramesses did not come from a long line of royal blood, however, his grandfather Ramesse I started out as an army officer and steadily worked his way to the position of Chief Minister of State. As a reward for his loyalty and integrity, he was appointed to the crown by the childless Pharaoh Haremhab.

Ramesses II succeeded his father, Seti, in early June in 12190 B.C. By August the 70 day mummifica-

are social and health issues. Whether or not to participate in a sexual act may or may not be a moral issue, but my assumption is that the health institution recognizes that sexual activity is taking place and is causing these problems. Those who argue that teaching about prevention causes the activity in the first place are dead wrong.

Education about prevention — including limiting sex partners and abstinence — is our only hope against the troublesome rise in single-parent teenage families and the deadly rise in AIDS. The homosexual community's dramatic cuts in the AIDS occurrences resulted from massive education about how the disease is spread and how one can prevent it. This included — most importantly — fewer sex partners and the conscientious use of condoms.

Hiding the disease, its causes, and its preventions behind some moral red herring will kill people.

Please re-read that sentence.

Those who block education and

preventive methods from the public — especially from young people who are beginning their sexual activity — will deepen the disease's roots. Anyone who has done the least amount of research and thinking about AIDS knows that condoms are the single most effective way to prevent its spread. We can urge people to be less promiscuous, but a lot of people will die before contemporary society changes the messages our industries are sending our fourteen-year-olds.

Thus the health institution *must* educate the public about condoms and the medical and manufacturing worlds must make them accessible and the advertising world must explain them. Then we all must use them if we are participating in sexual acts with anyone with whom we have not been monogamous since at least the mid 1970s.

To prevent a medical representative from providing a patient with the preventive information and tools will only create far greater problems later. And not much later.

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