

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Support your paper

The main point *Decree* editors learned at an annual journalism convention held in New Orleans on Nov. 16-19, was that for a newspaper to be produced it takes the support of a number of people, not just a few.

While *The Decree* does have the support of the Wesleyan community in the amount of people who read and comment on the paper, it lacks the support of students willing to work on the staff.

Why is it that out of approximately 350 resident students, only five people can devote a few hours of their time each week or even every other week to help produce a newspaper that most of the Wesleyan community reads?

Of the 250 or so day commuters, only one works on the paper. We would enjoy the commuter students' input into the paper because they are just as an important part of the

Wesleyan community as resident students. Don't any of them want stories in the paper that concern commuters' interests?

The Public Relations Department has been extremely helpful in providing us general information about the Wesleyan campus. With more reporters, these stories could have been covered and written by student staff reporters, not employees of the college.

Newsriting I is being offered fourth period next semester. This is a good way to help support *The Decree* while earning credit for your work. While not all class assignments can be used for the newspaper, most of them can be used in *The Decree*.

This should be a student newspaper, written by the students. Without more student involvement, a newspaper should not exist on the North Carolina Wesleyan campus.



A victim's perspective

Fight rape with education

As a victim of rape, I would like to make people aware of its effects on the victim and the victim's family and friends.

From personal experience, I can tell you it literally destroys the lives of not only the victim but also their family and friends. It is a needless crime that no one asks for and no one deserves. It is not only a sexual crime as many people believe it to be. Rape is a crime of violence, assault and battery, kidnapping, and attempted murder. Most importantly, it is a mental crime.

Men and women need to be educated about rape. If that were to occur, the result would be less rapes. If education on this subject was available and widespread, more rape victims would know

what to do when they were raped. Many victims do not tell anyone for years, and some never tell anyone. A reason for this is the fear that friends, family members, or the police will not believe them. Many rape victims simply do not wish to go through the judicial court process. They choose to deal with their problem in other ways.

The most important step a rape victim can take is to go to the hospital immediately after the rape has occurred. Police will respond to the hospital and tests will be taken to gather evidence which should hold up in court if the victim decides to press charges.

Rape victims also need to seek professional counseling to learn

how to deal with the rape. If this is not done, the victims will never learn to deal with being raped and it may affect them at any time. It is never too late to seek counseling.

Steps that women can take to reduce the likelihood that they will be raped include becoming aware of what is around them at all times, being careful and cautious at all times, learning self defense maneuvers, and being smart by not putting themselves into risky situations.

A rape victim lives with being raped for the rest of her life. With professional counseling rape victims can learn to deal with what has happened to them, but it is something that becomes a part of them they will never forget.

If you know anyone who has been raped, or if you yourself have been raped, and have never told anyone or had professional counseling, I urge you go seek help now. Remember, it is never too late to seek counseling but the longer you wait, the harder it is.

If people were made more aware of what rape is really all about and educated on this subject, less rapes would occur. Rape victims would also feel more comfortable knowing that more people knew and understood what rape is all about.

In recent years, rape has been discussed and dealt with more than in the past. In years to come, I hope most people will be educated and more understanding of the subject of rape and the effects it caused its victims.

— Name withheld

Q: Which person most deserves a "training wage" until he masters the complexities of his job?

