

The Decree

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Co-Editors — John Pernell and Dhana Chesson
Staff — Mark Brett, John Fentress, Teresa Pitts

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Censorship never suitable for adults

What is appropriate? As an adjective the word means "suitable." Now we ask what is suitable? Running down the street naked is not appropriate. Flushing the toilet after use is appropriate.

Now we must define the line between flushing and nakedness. In a nudist colony, walking around naked is appropriate. From time to time, to the men living there, not flushing the toilets in Nash is appropriate. How are the differences and distinctions made? Who has the final say?

Lately, the government has felt it has the right to decide what is appropriate for the American public — with arrest of rock groups such as Gwar and 2 Live Crew and the labeling of rock albums for obscenity. Their reasoning is that the material might not be suitable for children.

Wake up, people! A child

has no business at a Gwar concert. A child has no business in the night club where 2 Live Crew was playing at the time of their now-famous arrest. Finally, by all means, a child has no business listening to a labeled album, such as one by Andrew Dice Clay.

When last we checked, the people making these arrests were adults. The people at the 2 Live Crew concert were adults. Then, why is it that one adult is choosing what material is appropriate for another adult? Why can adults not choose what is appropriate for themselves?

The banning of art, music, and adult choice is not appropriate. Not now, or ever, is it suitable to take away the choice and enjoyment of this entertainment away from the American public. The government officials who feel such action is justified are wrong.

Environmental facts are alarming

By TERESA PITTS

If you are one of the remaining skeptics who doesn't believe an environmental crisis exists, then take a look at the following facts and statistics concerning the destruction of our world.

These facts are enlightening and maybe they will encourage you to be a part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

- If only 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save about 150,000 trees every year. If a million did, we could save some 1.5 million trees.

- During a beach clean-up along 300 miles of Texas shoreline in 1988, 15,600 plastic six-pack rings were found in three hours. Pelicans have sometimes had the rings stuck around their bills while fishing, causing them to starve to death, and young seals and sea lions have caught the rings around their necks, causing suffocation.

- In the U.S., about 70 percent of all metal is used just once — and then discarded.

- If just 25 percent of American homes used 10 fewer plastic bags a month, we'd stop more than 2.5 billion plastic bags a year from



Campaign is educational

Ignorance enslaving us

By STEVE FEREBEE

Doing footwork for a Senate candidate's campaign includes handing out pamphlets to workers sleepily arriving at jobs, interrupting harried mothers who don't have time to talk on the phone, ringing doorbells to ask for a moment during commercials to persuade, and listening to all kinds of people complain about politics.

My main impressions from doing this work during the last few weeks is that most of us are unapologetically ignorant about our politicians and their system. People really believe that Mr. Gantt is a Communist and probably homosexual; others believe that Mr. Helms wants to rid the state of blacks and public librar-

Dr. Steve Muses

ies. Many people don't even know there's about to be an election. Others complain about the misleading TV commercials and then say they believe them anyway.

But I don't have to leave campus to discover ignorance. I heard a Wesleyan student ask another one where Iraq is. "Oh, you know, it's in Europe where everyone is an A-rab." And yet both student staunchly defend our military presence in the area to fight... you guessed it — Communism. Once again, the wrong continent, the wrong enemy.

Maybe the world has always been like this. Did Alexander the Great's soldiers know where they were and why they were fighting? Did the Germans know what they were getting when they elected Hitler?

The comment which bothers me the most and which I hear the most is that elections don't matter because those corrupt politicians will do what they want regardless. So why read my pamphlet or listen to my explanation of Mr. Gantt's tax program or Mr. Helms' votes on foreign policy?

As I'm always telling my students, if we don't know how to analyze other people's rhetoric and how to organize our own, we are enslaved in mediocrity. If we can't understand how politicians' TV commercials manipulate us or what a newspaper article leaves out or how a 15-second radio news spot on "The Middle East Crisis" slants the facts, then we are not in control of our lives. And the politician oozes in to fill that vacuum.

The willful ignorance I am talking about comes down to this question — do you care who you are? If you don't, then neither Gantt nor Helms, Dukakis nor Bush, Fahd nor Hussein will reach you. But if you do, then you might begin to wonder why you are who you are. You might begin to take control of who you are becoming. Like it or not, we are together on this planet in a huge unbreakable spider web of con-

entering our ecosystem.

- At the rate we're generating garbage, we will need 500 new dumps every year.

- Species are now becoming extinct at a rate of 150,000 per year — 17 per hour.

- About 50 percent of all paper in the U.S. is used solely for packaging.

- It takes half a barrel of crude oil to produce the rubber in one truck tire.

- You can easily use more than five gallons of water if you leave a faucet running while you brush your teeth.

- It takes one 15-to-20-year old tree to make enough paper for only 700 grocery bags.

- Americans produce enough Styrofoam cup every year to circle the earth 436 times. Polystyrene foam is completely non-biodegradable. Even 500 years from now, the foam cup that held your beverage will be sitting on the earth's surface.

- Ten years ago, there were 1.5 million elephants in Africa. Today — largely because they're being slaughtered for ivory —

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