

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Concert fees don't honor liberal arts

On the back of the NCWC Wind Ensemble's program on Oct. 15 there was the following statement:

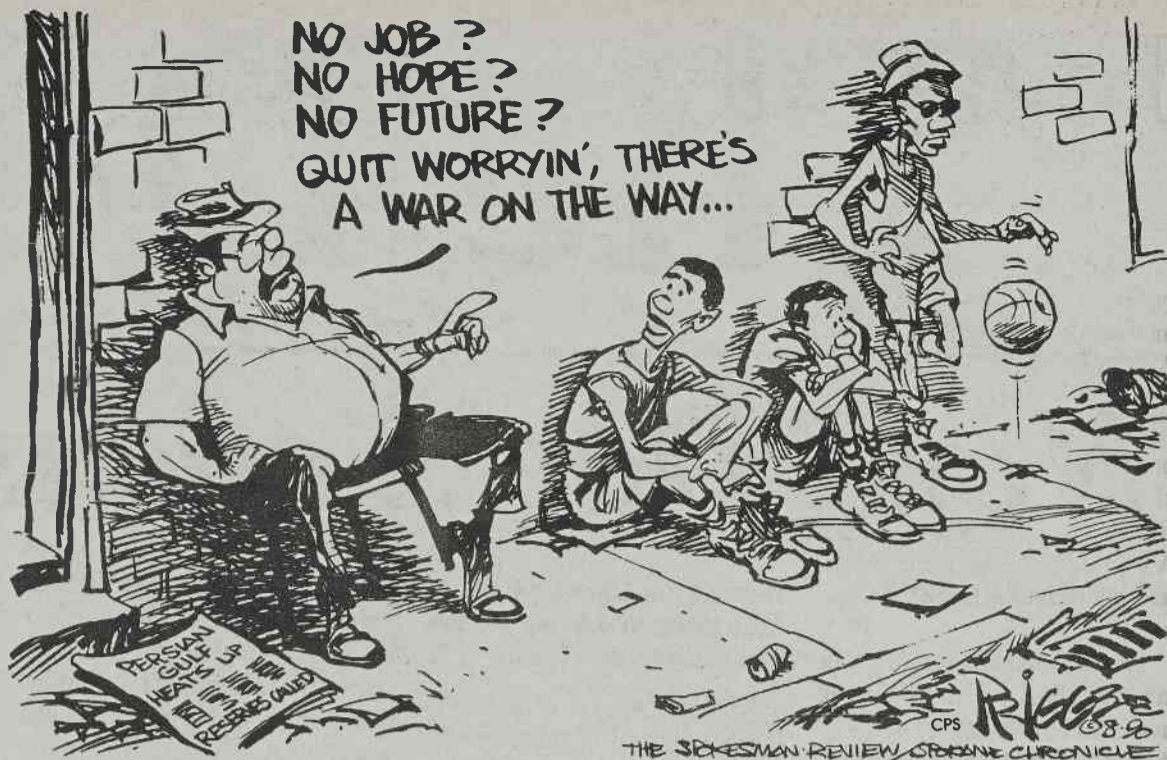
"PVA (Performing and Visual Arts Department) will be charging a small admission fee for all public performances in order to generate enough revenue to cover the rising costs of music and other essentials. We are aware that NCWC students already pay a substantial activities fee to SGA, but SGA does not support our program. Your SGA fee covers the costs of bring rock bands, comedians, and other entertainment to campus.

"We fully intend to keep admission prices as low as possible to encourage attendance and a limited number of complimentary tickets will be available to NCWC students who would be faced with financial hardship because of our admission price."

We are disturbed by this practice of charging students for attending fine arts events. In the past, students didn't have to pay for the admissions to fine arts events other than theater productions. Why is this no longer the case? This suggests either a shift in the college's priorities or a lack of funds.

If it is a shift in priorities, we wonder about Wesleyan's commitment to a liberal arts education. If it is a lack of funds, we wonder what other costs students will have to bear this academic year. Will we have to pay for poetry readings or entrance into the library? Are they selling tickets to Founder's Day? At present, the cost for tuition, fees, room, and board, is \$9,800. Isn't that enough?

The college prides itself on its commitment to the liberal arts. Is charging students to attend programs enhancing a liberal arts education?



Age lays professor low

Get off Dr. Steve's back

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

My back has been hurting for the last couple of weeks. Whenever your normal routine is interrupted, the mundane details of everyday life become throbbing obstacles or they become what they should have been all along — disposable.

Turning over in bed or getting out of a chair takes on entirely new significance. But nursing a large houseplant by carrying it outside every week to hose it off doesn't seem so necessary.

I am also intrigued by how stubbornly we try to ignore potential infirmity. It must be part of the American work ethic that even though my back "is killing me" (an interesting description), I still do what I know will make it worse — including sitting for hours in my office over student papers or mowing the grass or sitting at my computer writing Dr. Steve columns. It took three

Dr. Steve Muses

weeks before I would admit to myself I had better avoid all activity.

You ever tried to avoid all activity? Who carries out the garbage? Who cleans the toilet? Who brings in the newspaper? Who plants the spring bulbs? Who reaches into the back of the refrigerator for the yogurt?

I make bargains with my pain. If you'll just let me get this one task done or get through this one social event, I promise I'll do an extra half an hour with the heating pad. Usually, of course, the muscle continues to cramp, warning me that I'm hurt, that I should be lying flat on the floor.

By far the weirdest part of having a painful back is how

people, when they see me hobbling around campus, delight in telling me their horror stories about their backs or necks or knees. Traction tales, drug debacles, regular recurrences — I've heard more intimate details about suffering survivors than I've ever wanted to hear.

Am I supposed to feel better when I hear that someone else tried to ignore a bad back and ended up under the knife?

People don't even look at me when they tell me these stories. They gaze somewhat wistfully into their own pasts, gloating that they managed to live through their ordeal (maybe there's a medal-awarding ceremony?). They like to describe the sounds chiropractors make as they twist the spine, the snap-crackle-pop of the backbone's life-long attempt to agree with gravity and bend.

They even like to describe how

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Student came to play, stayed to learn

By MICHAEL S. WALSH

People often ask me:

Why did I come to Wesleyan?

What does Wesleyan have to offer me?

Why have I stayed at Wesleyan?

The main reason I came to Wesleyan was to play soccer and to be with a good friend of mine, Mike Bauier. Injuries have stopped

me from playing soccer, but Mike and I are still the best of friends. With soccer gone, I had to look for other outlets.

As a first semester freshman, I had no idea of what Wesleyan had to offer me, but that was because I really wasn't looking. Daisy Thorp, my advisor at that time, gave me the confidence to pursue extra activities. In fact, it was in my LSS class, about two years

ago today, that Daisy asked me to be an usher at opening convocation.

It was after that, that I became slowly aware that Wesleyan had a wealth of interesting and challenging opportunities. I found myself interested in and eventually involved with SGA. I pledged a local fraternity which has now gone national, a Delta Sigma Phi, and have since become president of

that fraternity. I decided to work in the Admissions Office and apply for a position as an Orientation Leader. And all throughout I have participated in the Honor's Program which has been a valuable part of my education.

My decision to get involved added something to my life I had not yet experienced. My involvement with the social, political, and educational areas of the college

has given me the responsibility and confidence I need to achieve the goals I set for myself.

There are many clubs and organizations of which any one of you could become a part. All of these groups are open to anyone who considers joining. However, what you must first look for is what the organization has to offer

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