

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Editors — Dhana Chesson and John Pernel

Staff — Jamie Stump, James Oakley,
Alan Felton, Trey Davis

The Decree is located in the Student Union, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Wesleyan College Station, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Policy is determined by the Editorial Board of *The Decree*. Re-publication of any matter herein without the express consent of the Editorial Board is strictly forbidden. *The Decree* is composed and printed by Ripley Newspapers of Spring Hope.

Opinions published do not necessarily reflect those of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Wesleyan needs major in theatre

The North Carolina Wesleyan College charter states that the "liberal arts are the foundation of its degree program." The absence of a major in the theatrical arts causes the college to be unable to fulfill the purpose of providing a well balanced liberal arts education. The installment of a theatre major will benefit the student body, faculty, and the entire Rocky Mount community.

Ten students currently enrolled at NCWC are interested in pursuing a degree in theatre. These students will be forced to leave the college over the next year in order to study theatre unless the administration of NCWC moves to institute the theatre major. In addition to students currently enrolled, the college would be able to attract a number of prospective students with the introduction of a theatrical arts major. Hence, installing this

program would help with student retention as well as increase prospective enrollment.

The entire community of Rocky Mount would benefit from the theatre major. NCWC would be able to offer an important and culturally significant addition to the fine arts facilities of the area. NCWC is already a leader in the growth of eastern North Carolina and instituting a theatre major would add to this leadership. NCWC would be recognized as a true center for the pursuit of the liberal arts and therefore would be in accordance with its charter.

A theatre major is necessary at NCWC. Student interest in the program is great and faculty support is growing. The editors of *The Decree* wish to add their voices to the increasing movement in favor of this much needed field of study.

George Bush's Top Ten Reasons For Going to War With Iraq

1. Latest census information showed that 90% of the Iraqi population enjoyed broccoli
2. Saddam said his missiles were bigger
3. Hoped Dan Quayle would be drafted
4. The Yule Log told him that Saddam murdered Laura Palmer
5. Was bored with his Nintendo
6. Oil, oil, and more oil
7. Charles Keating said Iraq had investment potential
8. Bet Gorbachev that he could kill more people in the month of January
9. Israel adopted new zoning laws
10. Tired of Iraqi rumors that he wore Barbara's underwear

A richness of differences

Human diversity special

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

Once I was in Miami at a conference. I was talking to a woman from South Africa about Nadine Gordimer's novel *July's People*. We suddenly noticed that we were surrounded by Miss Teenage America contestants and their mothers discussing proper breast positions for the stage show. This incident has become one of my favorite examples of ironic juxtaposition.

Do some migrating geese want to fly south instead of north? Do polar bears suddenly decide to try Jamaica? Do preying mantis wives throw off evolution and *not* eat their husbands? Does a daffodil indulge in a desire to dye itself blue?

Certainly other creatures of nature have options and must make changes in order to adapt, and surely we all know that animals (and some of us know that

plants) have personalities which distinguish them from one another.

But the human being? Good grief, what a boiling cauldron of irreconcilable disparities we humans be.

Contrast Jesse Helms with Harvey Gantt. Pro-lifers with pro-choicers. Donald Trump with Ralph Nader.

Well, all this preambing is by way of telling you about my weekend. I spent Saturday listening to people gathered together to figure out how to make AIDS research and drug experimentation more available. The wildly mismatched proposals left me despairing of any immediate

progress. But the variety of people is what I went away thinking about.

I met a mother who has lost both her daughters to AIDS. They left three HIV-positive children. The medical bills have destroyed her life; her husband committed suicide. She and the three grandkids lived on the street for almost a year.

Greg is a gay man who has been sick with AIDS for seven years, an extraordinarily long time. He has a list of several drugs that the government is blocking; he has in his other hand a list of steroids used for body building that the government approved during the time he has been sick.

Patrick is a lawyer who lives in a fancy condominium and spends most of his professional life pushing the legal system to protect AIDS patients and urging the medical profession to experi-

(Continued on Page 3)

No one language should be superior to another

Dear Editor:

In a recent article (the Triangle's Independent Weekly, Jan. 23), Hal Crowther wrote, "I have to assume that each human being with the gift of language loves and values his native tongue as much as I do... Language isn't some dispassionate choice, a neutral tool you can trade up for advantage like an automobile. It's your lifeline, the umbilical cord that connects you to everything around you and everything that came before; it's in your blood." I think this relates to one of the

issues raised in the English language controversy in your columns.

Whether or not the use of Standard English empowers minority speakers, the "authority" of Standard English should be very carefully advanced. I suspect some of the defensiveness of English instructors derives from the tenuous nature of the language. All academics watch in horror as "doing good" replaces "doing well" in common speech, as in an earlier time "due to" was allowed to be used for "because

Letters to the Editor

of." It is hard to stand guard over so fickle a treasure as language.

I must agree with Margee Morrison that instead of condemning non-standard usage in an authoritarian manner it would be better to teach how the "error" correlates to the minority language just as all teachers of sec-

ond languages explain the structural differences between the two tongues.

The use of clear and coherent Standard English is not hurt by accepting the validity of other forms of English — Hispanic, Cockney, Black, Pidgen, Welsh, or Appalachian. These languages are often the artful, poetic expression of peoples deprived of a wealth of creative expression. Similarly, one recognizes the riches Native Americans and African-Americans have added to present American English.

It is essential in our time of growing bigotry, patriotism, and other excluding processes to assert an equality of all language. Suzanne Langer made much of the power of language as that which makes us human. However imperfect or diverse, all language is the natural achievement of our species. Unlike Mortimer Adler who asserts that non-western peoples have not as yet produced any literature worthy of entering the canon as "great literature," we are able to appreciate the influ-

(Continued on Page 3)