

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Gym is showplace of discrimination

At its conception, North Carolina Wesleyan College was designed to be a segregated institution. The aspects of the college that were designed to be "separate but equal" have now been converted in order to unify the institution rather than to separate. But in certain halls of Wesleyan the spirit of discrimination still hangs heavily in the air.

The hall is Everett Gymnasium. For reasons which remain unknown, the prejudicial policies which were present in the planning of the college still ring true today. Inside there hangs two immense portraits of the men's basketball team. Not two portraits of the current team, but one of the current team and one of the previous team. While the men's team is overly represented, other teams that compete in Everett Gymnasium are denied recognition within its confines.

The women's volley-

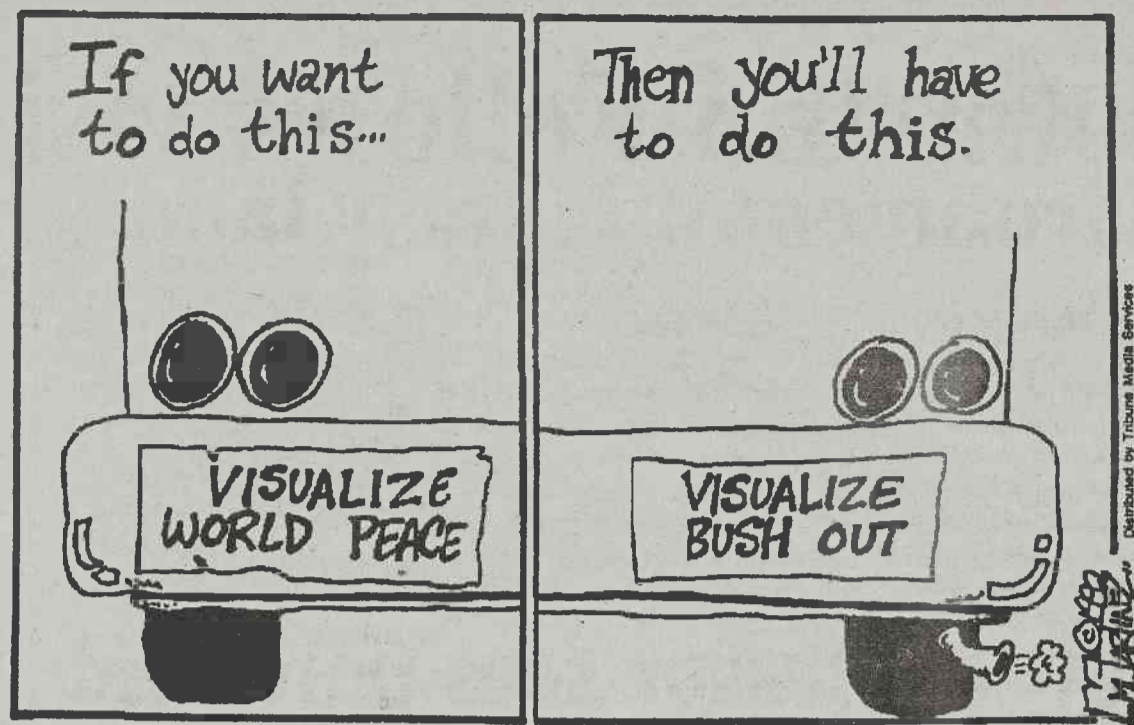
ball and basketball teams are clearly not treated as equal. Their worth is overlooked in the very building to which they call home. The men's team should be on the wall, but not at the price of discriminating against other deserving teams. It should be remembered that Everett Gymnasium is not the exclusive property of the men's basketball program but of the entire Wesleyan community.

Opponents of this equal representation have argued that funding is not available. But surely there is a sponsor who would appreciate the advertising benefits that are currently only enjoyed by the sponsors of the existing portraits.

Space could hardly be a factor, since Everett Gymnasium is quite large. So monetary and space reasons aside, the only limiting factors for equal representation appear to be a simple case of sexism and prejudice.

"Infinity and jelly doughnuts have little to do with each other."

— *Magnum, P.I.*



Ordinary turns extraordinary

Dickens' world was vivid

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

I've been reading an 1,100-page biography of Charles Dickens. I read for an hour or so and then blink in puzzlement at the 20th century, lurking outside the pages.

Dickens knew what he wrote about in *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, and *Hard Times*. The loneliness and degradation of childhood fears and poverty; the heartbreak of love and the wrenching of death; the sentimentality of dreams and the necessity of dreams. These were Dickens' subjects in fiction and his observations on life.

I have also been struck by how ordinary Dickens was. He covered the walls of his houses with mirrors so he could admire himself. He combed his hair obses-

Dr. Steve Muses

sively, even during dinner parties. He precisely arranged the furniture before he could write.

And at the very time Dickens was writing the famous "God bless us, every one!" he was bemoaning his wife's irritating post-natal depression and the new baby's expenses. The spokesperson for family life was not a particularly good husband or father.

He was, no matter how much we study him and pretend otherwise, an average human being living his life the best way he knew how. I like to imagine him sitting at a desk trying to write a scene

he thought the public would like. Dickens had the ability to disappear into created worlds. When he returned, he had the books we read today.

Despite leaving us Scrooge and Fagin and Little Nell, Dickens wanted to be a regular middle-class kind of guy. Despite his talents for plotting, characterization, and setting, his gift really was for noticing and then describing the ordinary and then elevating it to the sublime — beyond the merely ridiculous or sentimental. He was, in other words, a good story teller.

In Peter Ackroyd's *Dickens* (Harper Collins, 1990), we see again and again that talent isn't enough. It was his Victorian work ethic which accounted for the many books which he wrote. He

(Continued on Page 5)

Library is not quiet enough

Dear Editor:

I have a number of complaints. Hopefully, my forthright attitude will not offend you, but it should offend a number of people at this college.

My first complaint is that if the damned "student athletes" must attend mandatory study hall, their coaches should stress that a library is a *quiet* place for them to express the student part of their athleticism. I, too, was once a "student athlete." Now I'm just a student and cannot find a quiet place to do homework.

The library is not a social club. Tell the athletes to expend their energy on the field. This concept

Letter to the Editor

should also be stressed in the College 101 course. The idea behind studying quietly seems to be lost on them, too. Well, to be damned truthful, very few people seem to understand the concept. Save it for the dorms. Please.

I was a writer for this paper at one point and will probably continue to submit articles from time to time. However, here I will speak with candid opinion. The information I am presenting about

the Student Services Center in this letter is true and I urge students to use the facilities.

Tutors Crossing is blossoming. I personally found an excellent internship that may produce a job after graduation. I was also able to begin a high paying part-time job through their services. Kathy Smith directed me to a graduate school forum that proved extremely beneficial. I have also gotten help with resumes and interviews. Go there to check it out.

I am not writing an article about this subject, because I found myself faced with a threat (really

(Continued on Page 5)