

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Good neighbor policy needed

Wesleyan prides itself on being a "community." We have "community" meetings, "community" celebrations, etc., but unfortunately we have no "community" spirit, at least not for resident students. Because one key element of community is missing — neighbors.

When faculty and staff and commuters go home, they have their own communities, with their own neighbors. But for resident students this is it; and regrettably, there are few "neighbors."

It is a shame that most resident students have no idea of how to live in a community or how to be a neighbor. They are so wrapped up in themselves and their own actions that they don't take time to consider how what they do will affect others.

One only needs to look at the staggering amount of community damages levied against residents to realize this point. Because some people don't know how to live in a community, and get their kicks from smashing fire extinguisher covers or

stealing cable boxes, all students have to pay — literally.

And how many times has a resident been awakened by his "neighbor's" music, or heard a "neighbor" yelling to another "neighbor" down the hall, or not been able to get change because a "neighbor" stole the change machine? Or think about times a resident has been trying to sleep when his dorm got serenaded by a group of students, or has slipped on the floor because some "neighbor" decided to suds it with the fire extinguisher?

With the holidays and finals approaching, one hopes that those in the residence halls can be a little more neighborly. Now is the season to be kinder, and think of other people. Let's at least hope that for at least one week people can move from their self-centeredness to put their "neighbor" first.

The community atmosphere is what makes Wesleyan great. Unfortunately, the resident students are ruining it for themselves and their "neighbors."

Letters to the editor policy

The Decree accepts only signed letters to the editors. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters need to be placed in the campus post office and marked "Decree" or placed in the *Decree* office in the Spruill building. Letters must be received by Friday of the week prior to the next issue in order to be printed in that issue. *The Decree* reserves the right to edit or reject letters for grammar, libel, or good taste.



Innocence died with Kennedy

Assassination heralded era

By STEVE FEREBEE

I am writing this on the anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. I was moved by a commentary on the radio to write this column about my memories of that day.

Putting Oliver Stone aside for the moment, why does Kennedy raise such moments of reflection? Why do people stand quietly on a street in Dallas and think about life and death?

I don't think much of Kennedy as a politician and president any more. As a child, the murder of a man who had children and a beautiful wife seemed tragic. When I went to college and read history, I rejected the mythology. And yet

Dr. Steve Muses

I am still moved by someone's melancholy words about the man.

Many murders have subsequently moved me. Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Bobby Kennedy, John Lennon. But when Kennedy died, I was wholly unprepared for the intrusion.

It is trite to say so, but I do of course remember the moment I heard that the president had been shot. I was taking a social studies test in Miss Hatcher's sixth grade class in Albany, Ga. The

principal's secretary came in and told us, and I turned back to the test to finish answering a question about the geography of Africa. Later I worked in the library, shelving books, and heard the librarian say it was about time someone taught those Yankees a lesson. (She didn't say Yankees, but I still can't bring myself to say "Nigger Lover.")

I went home, and my family's house cleaner, a tall black woman who lived on the side of Albany where Martin Luther King was working, sat in stunned silence after I turned on the television.

"Why would anyone want to kill that nice man?" she asked.

(Continued on Page 5)

Attack on slogan was unfair

Dear Editor:

I challenge your Nov. 20 editorial, "Wesleyan slogan little but rhetoric," in which you characterize "Where the student comes first" as a catch phrase used to hide the failings of the college.

Certainly we have failings. We also have policies with which you disagree, and some of our bright ideas later turn out to be mistakes that we wish would go away. And the students are more often than not the people who pay the price.

As editor of *The Decree* you have a responsibility to point out failings and problems. When you find people or policies here that consistently fail to live up to the

Letters to the Editor

motto, rouse the student body and march on the President. I'll come with you.

But your editorial is an all-inclusive accusation of deliberate indifference and misrepresentation, and that's a slap in the face to a lot of good people who don't deserve it.

The next time you walk past the SAC, go in and tell Ms. Stump to her face that she doesn't care

about you. When Dr. Anderson invites her sorority to her house for an overnight, say that she's just doing it to hide the failings of the college. Ask Rev. Oldham to tell you about his abuse of "hollow advertising slogans." Surely Dr. Joplin and Dr. Steed are in it only for the money and social prestige. And these are just the people you see. Most of the staff and what they do on your behalf are behind the scenes and invisible to you.

The college is *us* — every person you encounter here, faculty, administration, staff, or stu-

(Continued on Page 5)