

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Apathy depriving students of voice

Across the board, participation in the Student Government Association by students was distressingly low this year.

One would think that since SGA is local, accessible, and *can* be impacted by a single person, that students would want to get involved. After all, it is *student* government.

But not here at N.C. Wesleyan. Look at the numbers. Only one student sought the office of SGA President, a very powerful position serving as the direct link between students and the administration.

While there was a race for vice president and for secretary, it was only between two people, leaving little room for choice. The incumbent SGA treasurer, who has a great deal of con-

trol over the SGA budget (your student activity fee), ran unopposed. Despite ample publicity, many class officer and other positions either went uncontested or remain vacant.

What is most distressing is that so few students turned out to vote. Throughout the year so few students come to the meetings.

Wesleyan students are allowing a very small, select group of people to control a lot of money and set a lot of policy without a lot of input. The students are allowing this group to decide what student concerns are and what should or should not be brought to the administration.

If SGA does a good job, great! If they don't, the students have no one to blame but themselves.



"THIS COULD BACKFIRE... BY THE TIME THEY GET THROUGH THE LINES THEY JUST WANT TO VOTE AGAINST WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE!"

Legacy of the '60's

Icons keep idealism alive

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

I've been thinking about the cultural phenomena *Star Trek* and *The Grateful Dead*. "Beam Me Up, Scotty" and "Keep on Truckin'" are both colorful parts of American culture.

I speak with some authority because I recently observed a *Dead* concert, and I accompanied a friend to a *Trekkers'* Convention a couple of years ago. I find some common ground between the two phenomena — not only because Jerry Garcia now looks like Security Chief Worf, but also because you either really like them or you don't care at all.

By 1966, when William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy were following the United Federation of Planets' Prime Directive by

Dr. Steve Muses

observing but not interfering with other civilizations and *The Dead* were rifting in the northern California woods with Ken Kesey, the United States Marines (with no homosexuals, presumably) were interfering hourly in another civilization.

If you watch the old *Star Trek* episodes, you will know what I mean when I say Gene Roddenberry infused the show with a kind of optimistic innocence. Those cardboard sets and Mr. Spock's Vulcan ears and mind-melding are endearing. *Star Trek* also had an African-Ameri-

can woman on the bridge with Captain Kirk (Lt. Uhura, played by Nichelle Nichols) and a Japanese man (Sulu, played by George Takei).

The crew did not always like one another (Bones is always picking on Spock's unemotional behavior); but they worked together to spread what is noble in humanity — its desire to learn and help out. I do not think it's a coincidence that while Napalm-stung babies filled the evening news, the *Enterprise* crew's phasers were set on "stun" only.

Star Trek was grounded in February, 1969 (right after Nixon's first inauguration). Its hopeful view of the future, of technology, and of racial harmony account for the movies which be-

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Counselor regrets losing her temper

Dear Editor:

I did not originally plan to attend Mike McHugh's talk March 26. I knew I would not agree with much of what would be said and like most people I prefer to hear things that are compatible with my beliefs.

Circumstances dictated that I should attend. My mission was to be present in case a dispute should arise between those who sponsored the talk and those who planned to protest.

As it turned out all the students involved demonstrated ex-

emplary behavior. I was very proud of the initiative of the students who organized the talk. I was just as proud of the students who attended to voice their protest. I was not so proud of myself. I lost my temper.

This is not something I do very often. This is not to say that I don't disapprove or criticize people and actions, almost daily. I just don't usually lose my cool. So what was it about this event that pushed my button?

Initially, Mr. McHugh was very cordial. He told me about

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his formal education (a B.A. in Marketing and Education from Virginia Tech) and about his membership in a counseling association. His description of the association made me realize that his approach to counseling would be directive.

Even though I'm sure he means well, this is not counseling; it is persuasion. When you

consider the duress and distress of young women who are considering abortion or even those who are reconsidering an abortion, I feel his "counseling" could constitute malpractice.

As I listened to his presentation I became aware of instance after instance after instance in which he presented only his perception of the issues.

The first video which was shown described the actions of the fetus in the same terms one would use about a young child. This video set the audience up to

look at the development of a child as a wonderful, wanted event. In its wake, McHugh's diatribe about abortion and abortionists made them seem even more horrendous.

Much of his ire was directed at the abortion "industry." Since he didn't define this term, I suppose he was talking about Planned Parenthood. This non-profit organization has a noble history of making information about reproductive health and functions and

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