

# The Decree

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## Symposium offered lots of wise counsel

The recent symposium sponsored by Centura Bank, the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce, and North Carolina Wesleyan College was one of the best opportunities the college has had for learning this semester, and perhaps even this full year.

The various speakers, who represented several different interests in the growth of the region, spoke of the chances that had to be taken and what steps could further the cause of economic growth.

George Gilder, the keynote speaker, drove home the point that by taking hold of the new technologies available in communications and the development of networks, the region could grow and provide an even better life for all of its residents.

He wisely noted that the

formula for success is to look for the future, not trying to focus on the past.

"Don't solve problems," he said. "Pursue opportunities."

By pursuing the opportunities, the economy will grow so as to avoid the very problems that could hold up growth if we focus on solving them alone.

If the government could get over the fears of allowing unregulated utilities and the dreaded monopoly that might occur from allowing cable companies and telephone companies to merge, the access to information available to all citizens would be so magnificent as to boggle the mind.

Indeed, this is one of the greatest events of NCWC's schedule. It would be good if more people could pay attention to Gilder's kind of logic about the economy.



### Censorship can't change world

## Beware any thought police

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

I was recently puzzling through an article about why banning certain books from high school libraries was a good idea and why Halloween should be banned because it promotes witchcraft when I suddenly fell into a daydream about being Censorship Czar (or Ban Boss). What a feeling of power even the daydream way.

Everywhere we listen lately we hear a lot of talk about banning. We want to solve whatever problem we detect by ridding ourselves of its signs. Banning *Penthouse* would lessen the rapes; censoring gay writers from reading lists would...what? Make "fewer" homosexuals?

And, of course, like everyone else — especially us "good" Americans — if I agree that the object under scrutiny is somehow offensive (handguns, hate-inspir-

### Dr. Steve Muses

ing pamphlets), I agree with the ban. If I don't, it's a left/right wing plot to destroy my rights and the world as I pretend it is or used to be before it was infected by the "other." And then I will censor your right to speak out against me because I know I am right.... er, I mean "correct."

But I cannot help but wonder how I could make the world a better place if I was given the power to re-make it in my own image (which is what many censorship sponsors want to do).

Here are some of the "problems" I would eliminate if I were Censorship Czar:

All advertising containing the words "new," "improved," or

"Try ME!" All exclamation points in advertising. Near-naked women in ads for automobiles; near-naked men in ads for cologne or screwdrivers.

Advertisements in which the product does not appear; and this will include political advertisements without the candidate appearing and talking about "the issues." All advertisements at the movies. Let's go back to news reels and serials.

All of those tear-out inserts in magazines, and those perfumed "scratch me" inserts especially.

All statements by politicians with the phrase "The American people know." Religious show hosts with hair-dos requiring a wide-angle lens or more than a pint of hair-dye per show. Sentences with more than four hyphenated words.

"Access," "impact," and "net-

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## Americans must overcome differences

By PATRICK BRANNAN

Why do we continue to break our society into groups? Why do these divisions become so imbedded in our society that we are unable to rise above them when we need to? It only ends up hurting us in the long run.

Our American society is a diverse group of different ethnic backgrounds. As Ross Perot states in his book, *United We*

*Stand*, "the melting pot is our strength, not our weakness. Our culture is dynamic because it is varied. Our nation became the envy of the world because it is a unique tapestry woven of many strands drawn from every part of the globe."

Yet our society likes to form groups that have a common interest or goal in mind. Think about the way we divide ourselves: politically, socially, etc. We also

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break the nation apart in regions. I recently attended a convention in Dallas and in a pamphlet I picked up there were a number of pages orienting one on how to understand a different form of English spoken in Texas.

Why is it that our society must

create such lines of separation? I can understand the fact that belonging to a club or social group helps people gain a feeling of togetherness. The basic forms of this are such social groups as fraternities and sororities, the following of a sports team, and other smaller groups.

It becomes unfortunate when we, as a society, are not able to put these differences aside and work together. There comes a

point when we must do just that. It is a hard thing to accomplish this in America, as the divisions run deep in our culture.

We must be able to get past the differences when it becomes necessary to work together to accomplish a goal. This is not just true in America but globally as well. All people of the world must unite to achieve certain goals. It takes a complete effort to accomplish a set goal.