

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Involve the students in Wesleyan's plans

Wesleyan is being rocked with the winds of change for the second year in a row. Last year, Academic Dean Charles Bennett, who resigned during the summer, proposed numerous changes to the academic agenda.

This year president Dr. Leslie Garner has announced his "Vision of Wesleyan" and "The Wesleyan Advantage."

Once again the students are being left in the dark about what lies ahead for the school. In the past few weeks there has been meeting after meeting dealing with "the future of Wesleyan." On Jan. 27 a meeting open to all students was held to present the future to the student body. This meeting finally brought the students an opportunity to gain information on the proposed changes and, more importantly, to ask questions about the plan.

Still too much of the school's action takes place, or is planned, without the students knowing or being involved.

A prime example is the fact that The Decree has been informed that their advisor will not receive "released

time" for advising the paper.

The problem is that neither the advisor or anyone on the staff of the paper was consulted in this decision. While the school may have some good reasons for cutting the advisor's "released time," the fact that they did not contact any of the students on the staff is a concern. This makes the future of the paper uncertain. This from the school where, "The student comes first."

The administration may have the idea that the students don't care. There are some students that really don't care, but for those students that do care, the opportunity to voice their opinion must be made available. The students have the right to know what is being planned for the school that involves them.

Students are concerned with what the future holds for Wesleyan. If students have this concern they should show it.

The administration should acknowledge this concern by allowing the students more opportunities to voice their opinion.

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 Hardees 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.



Message can overwhelm art

'Philadelphia' flawed but good

By DR. STEVE FEREBE

Picasso's *Guernica*, Sinclair's *The Jungle*, and few other examples illustrate a successful fusion of political fervor and aesthetic genius. But usually didactic messages overwhelm and submerge art.

Such is the case with the movie *Philadelphia*, written by Ron Nyswaner and directed by Jonathan Demme.

Andrew, a successful lawyer (played by an astonishingly convincing Tom Hanks), claims that his firm fired him because he has AIDS. His lawyer Joe, an ambulance chaser advertising on television (played with his usual ear-

Dr. Steve Muses

nest intensity by Denzel Washington), recognizes that Andrew was fired because he is gay. Joe reluctantly and only partially overcomes his own homophobia and wins the case for Andrew, who dies at the end with his lover Miguel by his side.

The movie lacks focus. Nyswaner and Demme try to make too many points: gay people can be good lawyers; gay people love each other and have fami-

lies; homophobia is rampant and hurtful; both AIDS and homosexuality lead to civil rights concerns; AIDS attacks all people, not just promiscuous homosexuals; AIDS is awful, but people live with it. The movie also comes dangerously close to reinforcing the irrational connection some people make between homosexuality and sickness.

The movie has one transcendent cinematic moment. When Andrew, tired and wasting from the trial and the disease, croons and dances with his IV-drip machine to Marla Callas singing "La Mamma Morta" from the opera *Andrea Chenier*, only a stone

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Eligibility policy explained

Dear Editor:

Recently I have received several complaints about the current eligibility policy of the IM-REC office regarding participation of students who have played college basketball in the past. I would like to clear the air about what the policy is and shed some light as to why the policy is in effect.

Before I begin, though, I would like to make it very clear that *NCWC Intramural-Recreational Sports Handbook* is available to any student or faculty/staff member at the IM-REC office located in the Student Activities Center. The handbooks are also distrib-

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uted to the team representative at all organizational meetings.

Eligibility is specifically covered on page 3 of the handbook and is divided into four important sections. I will reiterate the two most controversial regulations: First, Rule 5, section C states that any participant who has received a varsity letter from NCWC or any other college or

university will not be eligible to participate in their respective or related sport that they earned their letter until the completion of a one-year non participation period;

Second, Rule 5, section D translates that varsity athletes who have fulfilled their non-participation period for the given sport are deemed "ringers" with a stipulation of one ringer participating per team.

This means a couple of things. For instance, a player who completed the athletic season last year but does not play for the team

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