

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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Registration woes can be alleviated

Registration has just passed and has left very many people frustrated.

This is especially true for freshmen who waited in long lines for hours just to find out that 100 level freshmen courses have been filled by upperclassmen; thus, forcing the freshmen to rework already carefully laid out schedules.

What will probably have to happen is that some freshmen who are sure of what their major will be may have to start major classes next semester.

At North Carolina Wesleyan College it has been a common practice to declare a major the second semester freshmen year. Doing this in the past has led some second semester freshmen and sophomores to neglect general requirements and start heavily into their major; this may be mainly due to the advice of the major advisors that a student receives sophomore year.

Now that those freshmen of the past are seniors and juniors they must now take 100 level courses to achieve graduation requirements, which leaves many underclassmen out in the cold.

Retention is one of the largest problems that Wesleyan faces. Maybe the logic of the past was that if we get students into a major early they would be less likely to transfer. Many

schools will only accept general requirement credits from other schools and not very many major credits. A transfer student heavily into their major could lose an academic year.

This tactic may have worked for current upperclassmen, but may have the opposite effect on freshmen who are frustrated because of closed classes.

It is difficult to convince students to stay in a place where they feel they cannot take the classes that are designed for them, forcing them to start into a major they may not be all the sure of anyway. Remember one reason for having general requirements is that they are supposed to give students exposure to many different areas before they decide to specialize in one field.

Here are some ways to make registration and choosing classes easier on students: know your general requirements; plan out a schedule at least a semester ahead; feel free to disagree with an advisor; do not be pushed into classes you don't want to take; do not assume your advisor, especially the major advisor, knows all the classes you need to take to graduate or all the procedures; take time to plan out classes; and make sure you have good back up courses.

Most of all, get in the registration line early.

WHICH COLOR MOST INFLUENCES U.S. JUSTICE?



BLACK



WHITE



GREEN

Bennett out of touch

Talk shows no threat to life

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

The recent rush to condemn trashy TV talk shows amuses me. Even the talk show hosts — at least the ones who are already multi-millionaires — have begun beating their breasts in shame.

William Bennett surfaces once in a while to berate the "American People" (he means heterosexual, Christian, white, married guys) for not defusing a bomb in the plot (cf. Pat Buchanan) to destroy his illusion of a 1950's America.

People like Bennett preach against those disgusting rap lyrics (which they claim must be bad even though they can't understand the words) and welfare-induced single mothers who won't find jobs (even though we don't need Headstart, child care, or battered women centers — "Too Expensive!" our cultural preachers thunder).

Dr. Steve Muses

Anyway, now they are aiming at trashy TV talk shows (even though they like the conservative radio talk shows in which we can learn how to shoot federal officers who are wearing bulletproof vests but not hats). These cultural preachers complain that by watching "Lesbian Moms Who Still Love Their Eighth Grade Science Teachers" or "Latino Men who Need Beans With Every Meal — No Matter What!" we are creating a kind of cultural sewage which threatens to — well, to tell you the truth I'm not sure what it threatens to do. I guess I will want to become a lesbian mom with a yen for beans?

I saw Bennett on a (respect-

able?) TV talk show the other evening. He was very seriously and shiftily looking into the camera. I turned up the volume. He was warning me that civilization was coming to an end. "Oh, lawsy!" I thought. "And I wanted to watch *Masterpiece Theater* tonight."

This week civilization will be reduced to ashes by watching weird people talk about their secrets and expose themselves to ridicule. Trashy TV talk shows, he said, "legitimate (sic) the wrong behavior."

I switched to *Talk Soup*, that program which shows highlights from the day's trash heap. I occasionally pause at *Talk Soup* for a moment, and I know little else about trashy talk shows; sometimes the episode is genuinely funny. That evening older women who actually like older men were

(Continued on Page 3)

'Dissenter' debate well handled

Dear Editor:

The recent controversy about a picture in the *Dissenter* has created many confused and conflicting emotions in me.

I was impressed that a group of students had actually taken steps to assert their feelings and address a perceived affront. This group of students valued the yearbook as a representation of their college experience. They are active students who have invested not only their money but themselves in the life on this campus.

Letters to the Editor

They saw a picture in the yearbook which was symbolic of a racial slur. They expressed their honest feelings. This is a healthy, commendable response.

On the other hand, I think that in no way was this a purposely hurtful act. Circumstances con-

spired to make this picture appear to be an appropriate depiction of a slice of Wesleyan life in 1995. The costume had won a prize at a college-sanctioned event. There was a need for pictures to illustrate events.

Those involved in the selection did not have the benefit of a broadly based group of assistants as reviewers. They chose to use the picture to make the *Dissenter* more interesting and representa-

(Continued on Page 3)