

EDITOR'S CORNER

THE
DECREE

Since 1960
"of, by, and for the Wesleyan Community"

Meetings are held every Monday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, at the Decree office in the Hartness Center and are open to anyone interested in having a voice in the content of The Decree.

If you can't make it to the meetings, you can stop by the Decree office Tuesday - Friday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. (Wednesday till 5:00 pm) If you are unable to come by the office, please contact the Decree staff at 252-454-1681 or e-mail at ncwcdecree@journalist.com or ncwcdecree2@journalist.com

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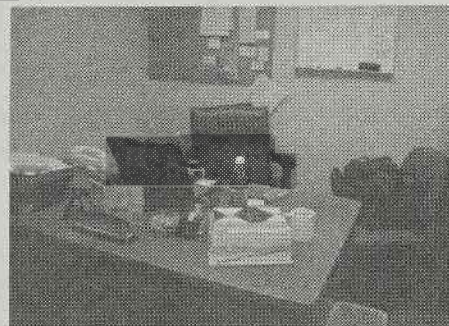
FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Dear Reader,

Lately I have been so caught up in the problems on campus that I lost sight of the world. I was brought back to reality on April 25th when I read that, Pat Tillman, a former pro-football player for the Arizona Cardinals, who left professional sports to become an Army Ranger, had died during a combat operation in Afghanistan. What first drew me to the story was that Tillman was a member of the US Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, which is my son's unit. However, it was Tillman's story that affected me.

Tillman was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington and deployed overseas in 2003. His brother, Kevin, is also an Army Ranger serving in Afghanistan and also was a professional athlete and had played for the Cleveland Indians. The brothers had decided after the attacks of 9-11 that they wanted to give back to the country that had allowed them to become wealthy and successful in their chosen sports and joined the Army.

Tillman was living his dream in the NFL. After graduating from Arizona State University with a 3.84 GPA, a

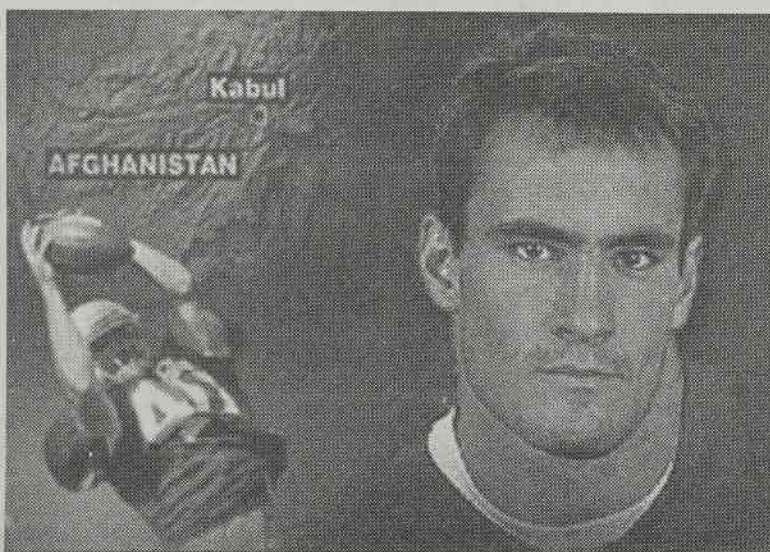


Marketing Degree and being named the PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year in 1997, he was drafted by the Cardinals and played four seasons with them earning a career high 224 tackles in his final season with the team.

Placing his convictions ahead of his 3.6 million dollar salary Tillman, along with his brother, joined the Army as enlisted men when they could have entered as Officers. He asked for no special favors or treatment based on his prior athletic stardom and just wanted to be another soldier, and a Ranger. Arizona Cardinals Head Coach Dave MacGinnis said Tillman was "very serious" about his decision, "It's very personal, and I honor that. I honor the integrity of that. It was not a snap decision he woke up and made yesterday."

Tillman's agent, Frank Bauer, called the decision consistent with his client's contemplative, non-materialistic nature.

Arizona Republican, Senator John McCain, said in a statement Friday, "There is in Pat Tillman's example,



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in his unexpected choice of duty to his country over the riches and other comforts of celebrity, and in his humility, such an inspiration to all of us to reclaim the essential public-spiritedness of Americans that many of us, in low moments, had worried was no longer our common distinguishing trait,"

What I find in the sacrifice of Pat Tillman is the sadness of a world that has not learned to live together. A world that makes the sacrifice of Pat Tillman and that of every other soldier, sailor, airman and marine of all nations is a fact of life that shows no end.

Keep reading,

Ron

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Random Thoughts

"University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small."

- Henry Kissinger

"Let me tell you something about the newspaper, if a newspaper, if the media gets 50% of a story right your ahead of the game. I've had lots of experience with that. They always get it wrong."

- Ian D.C. Newbould

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens."

- Jimi Hendrix

DECREE Editing Statement

The Copy Editor is responsible for ensuring adherence to the AP Stylebook in editing, proofreading, and checking of facts and sources in every submission except editorial (opinion) columns. Opinions may, however, be checked for the truth of any assertions made or facts cited and may be proofread for consistent grammar.