

# ARTS & STYLE

## A Memo to the American Film Institute

By James Guy  
Decree Staff Writer

In case you have not heard, the American Film Institute (AFI) will be revisiting its infamous "100 Greatest American Movies of All Time" later this summer. The original list, released in 1997, has attracted both admiration and criticism in subsequent years for its choices. Most film critics, including myself, have disregarded the list, noting that, in dozens of cases, selectors were influenced to an excessive degree by the number of Academy Awards won by the film. In some cases, it appears that AFI selected films because they were infamous in some way (e.g., the seduction scene in "The Graduate").

When such a list is made, it always raises the question "What makes a movie great?" In my opinion, not only should a great film receive positive reviews from critics at the time of its release, it should impact society, and it should stand the test of time.

It's worth remembering that the list includes only "American" films. Every critic, including me, can name over twenty movies that we would place on a list of the "100 Greatest Films" but they're disqualified from the AFI list because they are foreign.

So, here is my list of changes that will occur with the new AFI rankings. Let's begin with films from the last decade with the best chance of making the top 100:

01. "Saving Private Ryan" (1998)
02. "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" (2003)
03. "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (2001)
04. "Titanic" (1997)
05. "The Thin Red Line" (1998)
06. "American Beauty" (2000)
07. "Memento" (2001)
08. "Chicago" (2002)
09. "The Sixth Sense" (1999)
10. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (2004)

Not only will revisiting the list allow for movies from the last decade to be added. It gives AFI members the opportunity to correct their mistakes and add films that were overlooked in 1997. One of the most serious slights, I thought, was in the science fiction category. In the initial list, AFI passed over "The Empire Strikes Back." It was almost as if AFI felt

it had covered its sci-fi base by putting "Star Wars" at number 15.

Here is a list of older films that AFI should give serious consideration to adding:

01. "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994)
  02. "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980)
  03. "The Quiet Man" (1952)
  04. "Beauty and the Beast" (1991)
  05. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966)
  06. "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1938)
  07. "The Exorcist" (1973)
  08. "Babe" (1995)
  09. "Intolerance" (1916)
  10. "In the Heat of the Night" (1967)
- Alternate: "Dog Day Afternoon" (1975)

With the passage of ten years, some listed films have seen their stock rise and should, as a result, ascend in the rankings:

01. "Goodfellas" (1990)
02. "Pulp Fiction" (1994)
03. "Raging Bull" (1980)
04. "Amadeus" (1984)
05. "The Apartment" (1960)
06. "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962)
07. "Fargo" (1996)
08. "Double Indemnity" (1944)
09. "The Godfather Part II" (1974)
10. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968)

By contrast, in the last decade, some honored films have come under increased criticism by film experts. Others, many of them older, will fall into oblivion in the coming years because their subject matter or style will fail to capture the imagination of contemporary audiences. As an aside: AFI should exclude "Lawrence of Arabia," the film ranked number five in the 1997 list; though a fine film, there is nothing "American" about it.

Here then are ten films that may drop in the rankings; some may even fall from the AFI list altogether:

01. "Rocky" (1976)
02. "Tootsie" (1982)
03. "Doctor Zhivago" (1965)
04. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" (1967)
05. "A Place in the Sun" (1951)
06. "The Philadelphia Story" (1940)
07. "The Manchurian Candidate" (1962)

as the low level of student retention—for the lack of involvement in SGA. He believes the primary one is that SGA "lacks a real voice on campus. Even when we follow the system to a T, the administration will override us."

Dr. Phaiah has handled the DSA duties, on top of his responsibilities as dean, since early March.

"I will admit Peter does try," Boyd said, "but he does not understand the student body's wants or needs either."

Dr. Phaiah has been Dean of Students since his arrival from Texas Wesleyan University in September 2003. At NCWC, he finished his Ph.D. while he handled a diverse set of responsibilities. He will leave on May 15.

Junior Kelvin Clark, former president of SGA and a resident advisor, said that Dr. Phaiah has been a positive influence on him as well as many of his peers. During his freshman year, Clark recalled, "a friend described Dr. Phaiah as a man with 'his heart out for the students.' What my friend meant was that Dr. Phaiah would do all in his power to help students, whether it was as simple as opening a closet or as difficult as finding the equipment the students requested at the most affordable price. He has become a friend to me and I will miss him."

Dr. Phaiah had spearheaded the search for a new DSA. He had hoped to involve student leaders—such as the student government president and director of intramurals—in the selection process, but the extent of the student role was unclear as the semester drew to a close.

President Ian Newbould said that Belinda Faulkner, vice president of finance and administration, will oversee Student Life until the college can fill the dean's vacancy.

08. "Forrest Gump" (1994)
  09. "Wuthering Heights" (1939)
  10. "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962)
- [Default]

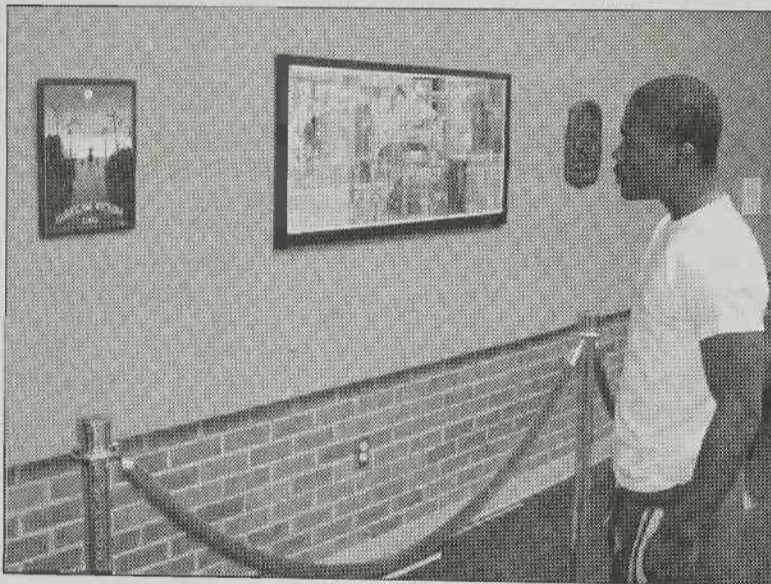
I hope that AFI will make better decisions than it did back in 1997. One reason for optimism is that AFI has granted part of the vote to the American public. Maybe this time, the AFI top 100 will please movie fans and critics alike.

### RETIRE from page 2

Clark believes that Dr. Watson has been an ideal role model. "The man represents history, whether it concerns Africa or Europe," Clark said. "He will be sorely missed by every ardent student of history that he ever instructed."

Kimla Brandt has been a student and Supplemental Instruction Leader for Dr. Watson every semester she has attended NC Wesleyan. She said that Dr. Watson has been "unfailingly supportive of [her] academically as well as personally." Brandt believes that Watson has challenged her to aim higher and strive for more than she thought herself capable of achieving. Brandt said that Dr. Watson has helped her to see the world differently, "with a deeper relevance."

Spending time with his first grandchild and completing a research project are Watson's plans after retirement. "My wife, Kay, and I have our first grandchild in Texas; I plan to be more of a grandpa than I could were I still teaching" said Watson, "And I might teach a course or two here, if they'll have me."

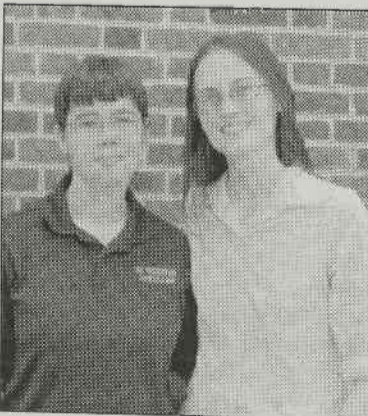


Moses Karnga views the exhibition "and the levee broke: meditations on the power of water," which consists of paintings, drawings and collage reflections in response to Hurricane Katrina. The exhibit is on display in the Mimms Gallery through May 13.

### GSA from pg 1

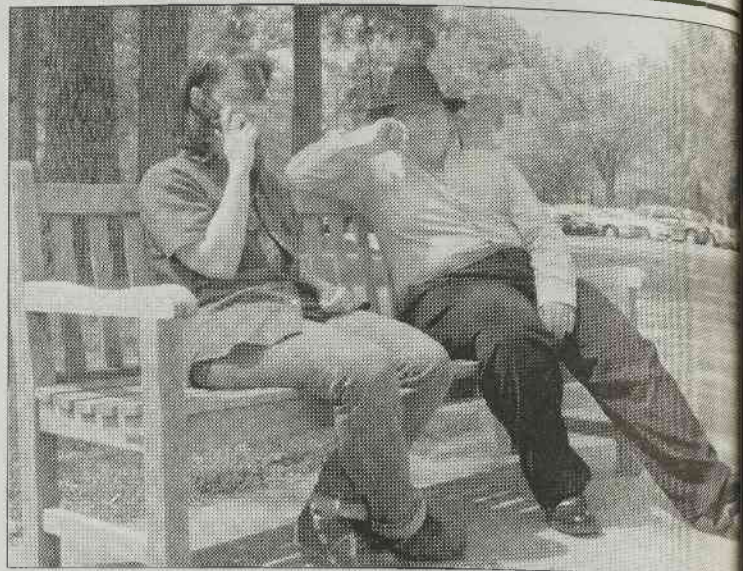
fellowship for this community. I hope that the GSA will promote discussion, information, and respect about gay issues on campus."

It was Dr. Sanborn who enlisted the support of Dr. Steve Ferebee, professor of English, as a sort of co-advisor.



Two founding members of the NCWC Gay-Straight Alliance: Kim McCorkle (left) and Julianne Cyr.

"When I was thinking about the possibility of a GSA at Wesleyan," Dr. Sanborn recalled, "I spoke to Dr. Amy Karnehm-Willis. I knew there had been a GSA at Wesleyan in the past, and she informed me about that and suggested that Dr. Ferebee would be a good



Student poets Amanda Landi and Hannah Smith, a graduating senior

### The Day that Life Ended

By Hannah Smith

*Flickering on and on it goes,  
blinding thoughts that sift into dust.  
Hours pass like seconds when thought collapses  
barren minds like the sands shrivel up.*

*Another cry is brought to life  
another mind to live through strife,  
to see the day grow pale and numb,  
like wars and violence to the subconscious mind.*

*Why and why does this go on?  
The page is turned but not a word read,  
the sound of nature is almost dead,  
and every battle is left un-won.*

*Flickering on and on it goes,  
sorrow drifts to the end of the line  
to await a hundred more years.  
The century will draw the tears,  
only to be sent back again, unknown and  
un-noticed.*

### Innocence That Once Was

By Amanda Landi

*The Life that once was,  
the innocence we once had,  
the happiness that once existed...*

*Gone.*

*Now,  
what do we have?  
Now,  
what do I have to live for?*

*Everything is gone,  
everything feels empty.  
What is right in front of you,  
is not there in my eyes.*

*It's like rain.  
You feel it,  
but I can see right through it.*

*It's like hail.  
You feel it,  
and it hurts bad.*

*Can they see it?  
Can I tell them?  
The pain within,  
will they want to know?*

### PARDS from page 7

Parker felt that Buck deserved what explanation he could offer. "I just didn't know what else to do..."

"I said for you to leave," Buck interrupted again, a slight edge creeping into his voice. "Get out of this office, before I run you in for attempted murder, assaulting an officer of the law, horse thieving, trespassing, and some other charges I'm sure you're guilty of." He somehow managed to keep his voice fairly level, even if it did get slightly louder.

"Buck..." Parker didn't know what else to say. He didn't want that to be the last thing that passed between them.

Buck had gone back to his paperwork, his agitation evident in the harshness of his movements. He opened a desk drawer, and not finding what he wanted, slammed it shut and opened another.

Parker walked over to the door. He stood there a while hand resting on the knob, eyes downcast.

Buck still went about shuffling his papers, bearing the burden of his office. Parker looked around the small, sparsely furnished room. He knew in the back of his mind that he would never see the inside of this building again unless hauled in, in irons, like he had been a few days before. He tried to remember the place as it had been, a warm place to sit, and share a laugh or two over coffee or on a better day, something stronger. It was a difficult task. Those memories, or what was left of them, had been shattered and scattered to the winds.

Parker stepped out into the street. The door closed softly behind him.

A storm was brewing towards the west. I had better ride if I want to beat the rain home, he thought. He started toward the livery, intent on renting a horse this time.

Buck watched Parker through the window that let in just enough light to read by. He sat there a long time after Parker was lost from view.

He sat there a long time after, listening to the rain and the wind and the thunder rumbling across the land like the hooves of wild horses or the distant rattle of gunfire.

### TURMOIL from pg 1

"I think it's essential that Wesleyan hire a DSA who has a stable work history and experience within Student Life," she said. "If administration prefers the college retain a prestigious image, then the hiring process of a new DSA should be given the same effort as it applied to the hiring of a new academic dean. A typical Wesleyan student interacts much more with the DSA of the college as compared to the Academic Dean."

Sirois stated that the college should give the development of student life as much weight as the development of Academic Life. "Students cannot excel in academics if Student Life is inadequate," she argued. "Wesleyan needs a stable DSA who is very effective in multi-tasking and organization. The DSA position includes various responsibilities that require a skilled administrator to handle."

Hill, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, concurred with Sirois' comments. He said that Wesleyan's academics will improve with the enhancement of extracurricular activities. He noted that many view activities as a reward that the college can offer students for strong performance in the classroom. A satisfying out-of-class life can raise student morale and heighten achievement, he said.

Said Hill, "It's ridiculous for the college to go through two DSAs in one year."

Instability has marked SGA's year as well, Sirois noted. First there were the resignations last fall of the treasurer and secretary. This semester it has struggled to attract candidates to head next year's organization. She noted that one student has expressed interest in running for president, but that, as of April 27, a formal slate of candidates had not emerged.

Boyd pointed to many reasons—such