

# Am I Deserving?

## A Guest Editorial

By Michael C. Blackburn

The time quickly approaches for the walk across the stage to receive my diploma from Methodist College. What continues to bother me is whether or not this diploma really means anything, after all, I'm graduating from "evening college," not the "real" Methodist College that operates between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. I started my education with Methodist in 1996 when I applied for evening college, having to work hard to balance my many other commitments. I took on a full-time schedule of classes even though I was expected to fulfill my current responsibilities for "Uncle Sugar" during the day, and sometimes at night, as well as the usual family responsibilities of being the head of my household. My situation is nothing peculiar though, for it is the same for most of my fellow comrades who attend the "evening" Methodist College. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Methodist. The class sizes were small which allowed me to develop personal relationships with my professors, and I can't remember ever sitting in any of my classes with a student who wasn't serious about the task at hand. The unspoken rule was that we all knew we had made hard sacrifices in order to achieve

an education. To this day, I have nothing but admiration for my fellow "evening" students. I worked hard, as we all did, to accomplish every assignment to the best of my ability, but what I'm led to believe by the "day" faculty of Methodist is that I "got over" because I wasn't able to attend the "real" Methodist College during the day hours. Is this true? Am I to believe that sitting in a larger class with younger students, with the attributes associated with youth, that I was not challenged? Did my professors, many of whom teach both day and evening courses, deny me knowledge or challenges they only bestow upon their youthful day masses? I hope not! I realize I did not pay as much for my education as my day contemporaries; however, I did expect the same level of education. When I was required to read (often several books per term) and write papers, were my day counterparts required to read and write more? Were my professors who only teach during the evening hours not as competent as the "day" professors? Why are evening students required to transfer to day classes as if they were coming from F.T.C.C. or a similar institution? I only pray that when I walk across the stage this coming December 18th that the "day" faculty aren't frowning on me, whispering among themselves, "He attended evening college."

# Commuters Taken For A Ride

## A Guest Editorial

By Whitney Larrimore

All Methodist College students pay for parking stickers, but some Methodist students get less braking power for their buck.

You might ask, "How can this be?" It's quite simple. All students pay \$75.00 to park on campus. Resident students get two parking spaces—commuters get one.

I'll explain why residents get two parking spaces and commuters get one.

When students move into the dorms they each get their own personal parking spaces. No one but the assigned student can park in the assigned space. If anyone else parks in that space, two things may happen: 1. You will have one very irate resident student. 2. The offending student can be ticketed.

I think residents should have their own parking places. I'm sure it cuts down on a lot of hassle for residents. It eliminates arguing over who parks where and why. It also ensures that each student will have somewhere to park when they come back from the store or wherever it is that they've been.

The problem does not arise until residents are allowed to park in the academic building parking lots, like Reeves and Trustees'. It is at this point that residents get their second parking space and commuters get shortchanged.

Let's look at it this way. Resident students have *personalized* parking spaces. They also have *optional* parking spaces in any of the academic building parking lots. Commuter students have *one* spot—in an academic building parking lot. Commuters do not have the option to park by the residence halls if it is convenient for them—unless they park in one of the few visitor spots available (even then it's not like commuters can stay parked there all day.) If they park in any other spot they will violate someone's personal parking space. The offending commuter students will then face penalties one and two as described earlier.

We'll look at this again. Resident students get *two* parking spaces—cost, \$75.00. Commuters get *one* parking space—cost, \$75.00. Does this sound fair?

I don't think so. Why should commuters pay the same price and get one less space?

Now, I'm not trying to whine. I can only drive one car to school in the morning so I only need one space. But it still doesn't change the fact that I'm paying the same price as residents, and I get less flexibility in my parking options.

If I need to visit someone who is living in the dorms, I must park in a designated spot. If there aren't any available visitor spots, I must park in a designated lot. I'm not lazy. I can park in another lot and walk to the dorms. But if I can do this, resident students can walk from their rooms to their classes.

Not only does the disparity between commuter and resident parking privileges seem unfair, but convenience problems arise. For example, it is common for portions of the academic parking lots to be reserved for school buses and heavy equipment (like when local schools have field trips or construction is going on.)

When resident students park in these lots during times of limited parking, commuters

have a difficult time finding room to park. Commuters struggle for parking spaces while many spaces, inaccessible to them, lie dormant—at the dorms. Of course, commuters can't park there because they will be under threat of penalties one and two.

Okay, now don't get me wrong. I'm not anti-resident student. Many of my best friends live on campus, and I would never want to hurt them. But the point remains, commuters seem to be getting shortchanged.

So, the next time you park, think about what's going on, and ask yourself, "Is it really fair?"

## METHODIST COLLEGE PRIDE

Cindy Hawkins, Editor  
 Cindy Bridges, Assistant Editor  
 Bethany Helton, Entertainment Editor  
 Steve Vinci, Sports Editor  
 Michael C. Molter, Staff Writer  
 Jeremy Plumley, Staff Writer  
 Deborah Riley, Staff Writer  
 Scott Galayde, Staff Photographer  
 Matt Miller, Staff Photographer  
 Brian Sims, Staff Photographer  
 Joseph E. Mullen, Staff Photographer  
 Caroline F. Kearns, Director of Student Media

The *Pride* is the triweekly student newspaper of Methodist College. The ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views and positions of the faculty and administration of the college.

The *Pride* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and must include the author's address and phone number. Address any correspondence to the Director of Student Media, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28311, or to the editor via campus mail. Questions or information concerning stories should be directed to the Director of Student Media at 630-7292.