



INTERVIEWING A PRESIDENT — "President Thomas Jefferson," played by Williamsburg character interpreter Bill Barker (left) answers questions from professional journalists (from left) Ken Ripley, Hal Tarleton, and Rick Stewart during an hour-long interview in Powers Recital Hall.

## 'Jefferson' visits Wesleyan

Fulfilling a historian's fantasy, President Thomas Jefferson fielded tough questions from a panel of professional reporters in a public performance Feb. 21 at N.C. Wesleyan College during his second visit to Nash County.

Sponsored by the *Spring Hope Enterprise* and hosted on campus by the *Decree* student newspaper, the free hour-long "interview" with the author of the Declaration of Independence was held before a tiny crowd in the Powers Recital Hall.

Colonial Williamsburg charac-

ter interpreter Bill Barker, the official "Thomas Jefferson" for both Williamsburg and Independence Hall in Philadelphia, portrayed Jefferson in the year 1809, the last year of his presidency. This allowed the interviewing panelists to ask him questions covering his entire political career.

Three award-winning editors participated in the interview, including Hal Tarleton, editor of the *Wilson Daily Times*; Rick Stewart, editor and publisher of the *Kenly News* weekly newspaper; and Ken Ripley, editor and

publisher of the *Spring Hope Enterprise*, who also acted as moderator.

The evening Jefferson interview was part of a three-day visit by Barker to Nash County. "President Jefferson" held "press conferences" and visited classrooms for three days at Southern Nash and Northern Nash Senior High Schools, Southern Nash Junior High School, and Bailey Elementary School.

The school visits were co-sponsored for the second year by the *Spring Hope Enterprise* and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools.

Ripley said he had the idea for the evening interview when he joined Barker in visiting high school classrooms last year.

"Jefferson appears in character, in the year 1809. The students really enjoyed asking him questions, and occasionally so did I. We would even continue our discussion when the students weren't present," Ripley said. "It occurred to me that it would be entertaining as well as educational to see how Jefferson would react to real, unrehearsed questions from a panel of real veteran reporters."

Ripley said he wanted the format of the evening to be a lively cross between "Meet the Press" and "Crossfire."

"The point was to have a lively exchange of questions and answers that probed into the mind and character of one of America's founders," he said. "I really enjoyed the evening and I hope the few people who showed up did too."

## Zarr appointed center's new technical director

Jan Zarr, one of North Carolina Wesleyan's newest faculty members, is the Dunn Center's new Technical Director.

Zarr will be charge of designing all sets and of arranging the various crews. He is also in charge of booking all events that will take place in the Dunn Center as well as making sure all needs will be met.

In the fall, Zarr will also become an adjunct professor.

Zarr attended college at the University of Southern Colorado where he received his B.A., then received his MFA Degree from Texas Christian College in Fort Worth, Tex. He became interested in the theater while he was acting.

"I like working behind the scenes," he said.



JANN ZARR

# Wake-up call from 'God' annoys college

By MOLLY McCLUSKEY

Clinton King and John Bracken have hung a computer-generated sign on their door in South Hall. On this sign a quote from JFK states, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable."

Revolution is hardly, however, what happened on campus as calls from "God" began mysteriously appearing on campus wide voice mail several times in the early hours of the morning of Feb. 18.

The callers — King, Bracken, Christian Skinner, Jack Herbert, and Marshall Murray — tapped into Nash's study room and sent the messages from there.

The calls themselves, said SGA President Terrell Adgers, were "more of a nuisance than anything else. It wasted my time to hear what they were and delete them, and it wasted their time and energy to call. The fact that they used God's name on the voice mail didn't bother me."

He continued that the only thing which upset him about the situation was "invasion of space. It bothers me to a small degree that there was something there that I didn't want there."

However, it bothered others when they awoke and found "God" reminding them that they were being watched. Grant Long, for one, thought, "Anyone who would use God or religion in context to make it a joking matter needs psychiatric help."

King said the using of God's name wasn't a religious statement but a political one. "It fit," he explained. "It (God) was an all-knowing, all-powerful being, and it was everywhere."

Some people still didn't be-

lieve or accept the explanation. Several answered the voice mail. King admits there were some threats on the answered messages. To this he replied with e-mail messages, calling those who were offended derogatory names and saying they were taking things too seriously. There was an oblique reference on the e-mail message to a "Monday is Writers' Day" reading, but nothing was made clear.

When the e-mail inboxes were deleted, King believed that erasing of the Internet material was a direct response to the God e-mail messages and that it violated FBI codes of e-mail privacy. But Pat Boyd said it did not.

"Any e-mail belongs to the organization which provides the service. We erased the e-mail only as a last resort when someone off campus began sending mail that overloaded the system," he said. "We complied with the North Carolina Wesleyan policy which states we must request permission from the Vice President of Admissions, which was done."

Most students quickly forgot the incident. Mohammed Said said the whole situation was "basically harmless."

The charges will not be pursued? As Christian Skinner explained, "The charges are not being pursued because of the way we presented ourselves as a group and as individuals to Pam Gourley. We realized the seriousness of our actions."

He was careful to point out, however, "Not that we learned our lesson. That sounds infantile."

Adgers said, "For their own safety, I sincerely hope they won't do it again. It may agitate people to do something we may all regret when it's done."

## Very Important...

Graduating seniors need to make sure the Registrar Office has your correct mailing address so graduation information can get to you in a timely manner.