

THE LANCE

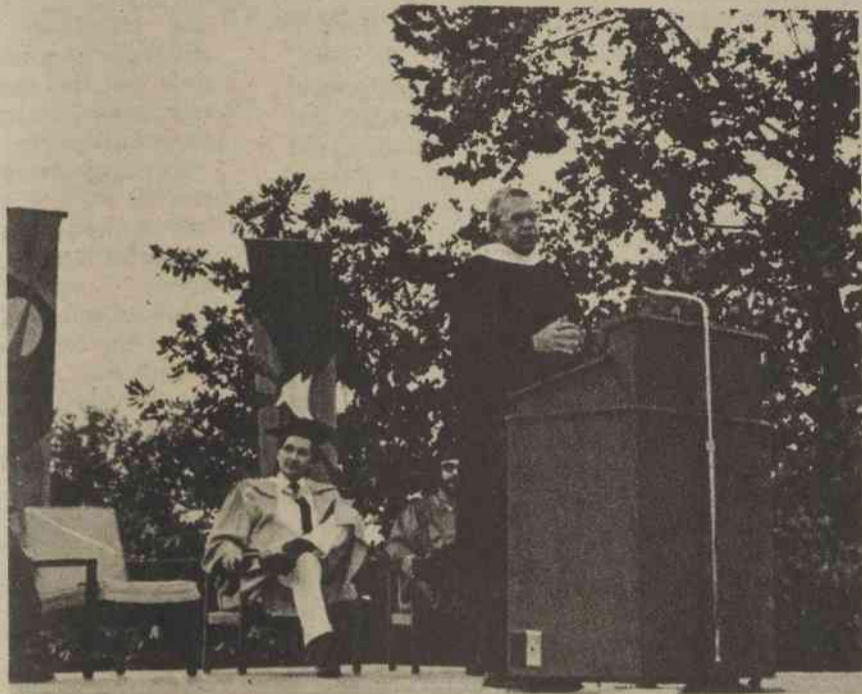
Volume 15, Number 2

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

LAURINBURG, N.C.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

Student Association Budget Passed



President Speaks At Convocation

As the waiting crowd sweltered in the heat and humidity that engulfed DeTamble Terrace last Thursday night, the faculty of the college, in full academic regalia, joined the freshman class in a march across the causewalk from Wilmington Hall for the annual fall convocation.

Led by noted North Carolina bagpiper Harvey Ritch, the assembly moved across the lake in a solemn procession marking, as Dean of Students Malcolm Doubles expressed it in his statement of perspective, "the welcoming of new adherents to the world of higher education."

After an invocation by Dr. Leslie Bullock and remarks by Orientation Committee Chairman Terry Clark, Student

Association President Keith Gribble and Dean of the College Victor Arnold, President Alvin Perkinson delivered his first major address to the college community on the subject of "Potential." Noting that "unrealized potential is one of the tragedies of American society and in the lives of many institutions and individuals." He went on to express his belief that "As a college . . . a community of scholars . . . we have enormous potential" in a number of areas of personal and academic achievement.

With the self-confidence that has set the time of his brief tenure as the college's third president, Perkinson closed with an admonition to his

audience: "Let us assess our strengths," he said, "but let us not indulge in self-congratulation. Let us assess our weaknesses, but let us not fall prey to hand-wringing. Let us assess our purpose, but not become lost in generalities. Let us assess our methods, but avoid making an end out of our means."

To a standing ovation Perkinson left the podium and led the assemblage to a reception in the Vardell Gallery as scores of theories and reactions to the address floated in the evening air. Then the students went back to their rooms, the Senate went to work on their budget figures, and the administration prepared for another day of turning potential into reality.

Beset by a reduced overall budget allocation, escalating funding requests by campus organizations, and a host of lobbyists clamoring for their causes, the Senate met after convocation last Thursday night to draw up the Student Association budget for 1975-76.

Meeting in a double classroom in the Physical Education Building whose folding wall had been drawn back to accommodate the overflow crowd, the Senate was called to order by Student Association vice president Steve Elkins, its presiding officer. Prior to addressing itself to the matter of the budget, though, the body approved two nominations by Attorney General Bill Wilmot - Sharon Hall and Fred Hovey - for the two Assistant Attorney Generalships created by last year's revision of the constitution. They also approved the draft of a letter drawn up by Steve Chasson of Mecklenburg Hall expressing the Senate's disagreement with the recently announced plan to convert the dormitories to a private telephone system. (See related story, page 2). After approving the letter, the Senate then appointed a committee of three-Chasson, Fran Newbold, (Wilmington) and Lin Thompson (Granville) to accompany the letter to the president and discuss with him any possible avenues of compromise in the matter.

The Senate then turned its attention to the principal item on the evening's agenda—the budget. A working budget drawn up by Treasurer Rob Howard and approved by the Cabinet on September 3 was presented to the group as

Student Association president Keith Gribble discussed why the overall Association budget, which has, for the last few years stood at \$30,000, was reduced to \$27,000.

Each item on the budget was then scrutinized separately, with any representatives of that group making any presentation they wished to explain or clarify the request. The first two items on the list, the budgets of the College Union Board and the College Christian Council, were passed with little or no discussion, as was an appropriation of \$500 for payment on the Association's stock of rental refrigerators. A major snag developed, however, over the Black Student Union's \$2000 request and subsequent allocation of \$700. Out in force, the BSU members argued that by being forced to raise money to supplement their allotment, they could not adequately plan ahead in such areas as invitation of guest speakers for BSU events. "You can't call up someone like Dick Gregory (who spoke at SA last year) and say; 'Well, come on down and maybe by then we'll have enough to pay you'", one person noted. Opponents of the \$2000 figure argued that the BSU had obviously been quite successful in raising funds in the past—over \$2000 last year—and that to grant the full amount from Student Association funds would be an unfair apportionment of funds in relation to the number of blacks on campus. After considerable repetitious debate a compromise was reached under which the BSU was allotted an additional \$300 from the Senate contingency account to give them a total of \$1000.

(Continued On Page 3)

Wilmot Calls New Judicial System An Improvement

One of the most significant aspects of the Student Association constitution approved last spring is its establishment of a centralized judicial system. The new constitution does not include Residence Courts, though, it rather serves to extend the jurisdiction of the popularly elected, seven member Judicial Board to include cases formerly tried by those Residence Courts, as well as continuing the board's jurisdiction over Honor Code Violations.

Another change brought about by the new constitution is the expansion of investigative and prosecutorial forces at the disposal of the Attorney General. In the past, these functions were left exclusively to the Attorney General of the Student Association; the constitution provides for the appointment of two assistant attorneys general and a Judiciary Com-

mittee, which, not to be confused with the Judicial Board, is essentially an investigative entity composed of the Attorney General and one representative of each class. The student members are chosen by the self nomination process employed in the selecting of members of most student Association committees.

"The expansion of the Attorney General office should provide for a more responsive and efficient judicial system this year," said Attorney General Bill Wilmot told THE LANCE. "In the past couple of years the judicial system has been quite stagnant and inactive, with the result that in several cases students were not able to enjoy their guaranteed right to a trial by their peers because of the inefficiency of the system.

"We hope to change that this year. With more in-

vestigators to ascertain the facts of cases that come before us, we should be able to investigate cases more thoroughly. Intend to give any accused person the due process of the system; every charge filed will go to trial. In the past people have initiated charges in a fit of anger, for example, and then withdrawn them before the trial. Innocent people have been slandered and suspected unfairly because of such actions. and were not given the opportunity to vindicate themselves in court. This year we plan to see every charge filed through all the way to a decision, in the hope that it will serve to lessen the number of unfounded accusations.

"At the same time," continued Wilmot, it is always best if disputes can be settled outside the judicial system. I can't stress enough the importance of dorm autonomy;

that is, of the government of the dorm by its elected leaders and suite leaders. Ideally, disagreements and problems should be solved within the suite. If this cannot be accomplished," said Wilmot, "dorm officers should be consulted and should try to mediate the dispute. If nothing can be agreed upon even then, a dorm council should be assembled.

"Only when every avenue of settlement within the dorm have been exhausted should the president of the student association or the attorney general be contacted.

"Of course," said Wilmot, "violations of the Honor Code will be brought directly to me for immediate action."

The Attorney General stressed the importance of an active, efficient and impartial

judicial system. "In a setting like that of St. Andrews," he

noted, "trial by a jury of one's peers can be extremely important. They can be sensitive to the context in which the offense is supposed to have been committed, and weigh it in their decision. Being judged by seven people instead of one gives one a better chance of a fair verdict."

Still one more avenue of action exists, he said, should a defendant be dissatisfied with the decision - an appeal to the Student-Faculty Appellate Board. The Board, consisting of two seniors and one junior, each elected at large, one faculty member and one representative of the dean of students, reviews such cases and either upholds or overturns the decision.