On Campus

White

health care, yet 35 million people have no health care insurance of any kind. West Germany and Japan spend less that half of that amount per person. White stated that medical inflation runs about twice that of general inflation. 40% of medical costs spent on the aging is spent during the last year of life. The issue of AIDS, according to White, threatens to swamp these other issues. For example, the state of Florida is spending 10% of its annual $35 million health care budget this year on AIDS alone. This $35 mil-lion will increase to $2 to $2.5 billion in the next five years.

Computer models show that by 1994 10% of the population will be infected with the AIDS virus, according to statistics provided by the conference. As many heterosexuals are expected to contract the disease as homosexuals. Statistics show that the number of AIDS cases has doubled every 12-13 months. BY the year 1993, AIDS is expected to be the number one cause of death in the United States for persons 17-55 years of age. there will be more deaths from AIDS annually than the total number of casualties in the Vietnam War, and more from AIDS than from automobile accidents, suicides, and ho-mocides. "The possibility of getting AIDS may sound remote to a student at St. Andrews, but statistics show that 3 out of every 1,000 college students tested are HIV positive," said White. "Who gets what health care, at what cost, and who will pay for it will be the responsibility of everyone, and this is important to realize," he said.

Dr. White, a nationally recognized authority in the field of Biomedical Ethics, stated that the purpose of the conference was to get as much input as possible from as many diversified groups as possible. Although there are no clear-cut answers to many of the issues discussed at the conference, White stated that several applied conclusions were reached. The first conclusion is that the crisis is the cost of health care is not a media event, but a major problem of public policy. The second is than an attempt to reach a public consensus on these policies will have to take place, or the powerful ones in our society will make these crucial decisions. A third conclusion is that the states alone can no longer deal with these issues, and therefore a federal policy must be shaped.

White stated that he was impressed by the overwhelming complexity of the problems discussed at the conference. "I feel good however that we have knowledgeable people giving their opinions and seriously talking about the problems that are facing us as a society," said White.

Gordon Weaver, head of the Creative Writing Department at Oklahoma University will appear at the Fortner Writers' Forum

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The Fortner Writers' Forum
St. Andrews Presbyterian College
Spring Term, 1990...Our 21st year!

Readings are Thursday nights at 8:00 in Mecklenburg Lounge, unless otherwise advertised. Open Mike will follow guest readings, time permitting, and there will be several non-Thursday Open Mikes. All readings are free and open to the public.

February 8: Jackson Norton of Washington, DC
                    Tom Patterson of Winston-Salem
February 15: Don Mager & Johnson C. Smith Poets
                    of Charlotte
February 22: Bobby G. Price of Goldsboro
                    author of *Visualize*
March 1:   Rebecca McClannahan of Charlotte
                    author of *Mrs. Houdini*
March 8: Grace Gibson of Laurinburg
                    author of *Drakes Beach*
March 15: Robert Malloy & Martha Gibson of Laurinburg
March 22: Spring Break (No Forum)
March 29: Gordon Weaver of Oklahoma State U.
                    creator of Neddie Hacke
April 5: Marie Gilbert of Winston-Salem
                    author of *Myrtle Beach Back When*
April 12: Marty Silverthorne of Williamston
                    author of *Dry Skin Messiah*
April 19: Brainerd Chapman of Chapel Hill
                    author of *Dreamcruise*
April 26: Gladys Hughes of Elon
                    author of *A Cell: A Door*
May 3: 1990 Chapbook Winners
May 10: Senior Reading

Ingrid Scholz, Director
Robert Dempster & Dan Auman, Associates
Ron Bayes, Writer-in-Residence