

The Lance

"We will express the thoughts, ideas, and wishes of the entire student body and not the views of a minority."

-Elaine Ward-

First editor of the Lance

Vol. 36, No. 4

St. Andrews Presbyterian College

November 17, 1995

Non-traditional Students: A Growing Minority

BY REGINA HARRINGTON

There is a special strain of student that roams the halls of St. Andrews unnoticed. Many of them transfer in as juniors others start anew as freshmen. In many ways they endure the same ordeals and make the same adjustments as any other student. However, these students are special and are a very important addition to the student body. They are called non-traditional students. The term non-traditional refers to students who generally live off campus (because unfortunately St. Andrews does not accommodate housing for married couples or single parents), are single or married, with or without children and returning to school after a lengthy absence.

Why are they so special? Well, statistics show that non-traditional students do exceptionally well academically and are extremely dedicated students. This is for obvious reasons. The most obvious being that they are paying for their own education. Too, generally these students are much

older and have a variety of life's experiences under their belt. They sometimes bring an extensive knowledge of their field of study with them. For example, Tara Laws has been working within the Southern Pines medical community for a number of years before choosing to return to college for her Bachelor of Science Degree. Another, Dan Parsons, is a military retiree and on the road to a successful future in Law. I myself, completely shifted from a career in environmental engineering with the State of North Carolina's Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources in pursuit of one day becoming a Professor of Ethnic Studies.

Non-traditional students are not bombarded with the distractions of being away from the prying noses of parents for the first time. Many have been independent for a number of years. Some, actually are prying parents. Dan expresses the views of many, he states that he "would have wasted his time and money by going straight to college after graduat-



ing from high school in 1979." He was not ready for the discipline it would have taken at the time. His GPA is exceptional now and he is much more committed.

On the other hand, the picture would not be complete if the negatives of being a non-traditional student were not presented. Along with all that life experience, these students often carry a heavier load of responsibilities. Many are head of households, fa-

thers, mothers and full-time employees -- sometimes all of these roles are combined. Imagine juggling all that and 15 to 19 credits every semester. They do not have the extra time needed to take advantage of study groups or special interest clubs. Natonja Jackson, a single parent, student and part-time employee, states that managing priorities is her biggest challenge. "You have to plan ahead and be very selective about how you utilize your absences. If

Continued on Page 3

Panel Discusses Censorship With SAGE Classes

BY SUE LEWKE

Johnny Cochran's daughter, an aspiring author, and a poetry and short story writer, all speaking about censorship. What more could you ask for? Tiffany Cochran, a television news anchor woman; Betty Hodges, book columnist for the *Duram Herald Sun* and aspiring novelist; and Stephen Smith, editor of the *Sandhills Review*, poet, short story writer, and musician all spoke recently to the SAGE 105 and 409 classes about the evils of censorship.

Ms. Hodges discussed censorship in the book industry and its

effect on both classical and modern literature. She described censorship and a "red flag that is always lurking." When asked how she personally handled censorship in her writing, she said that she pretends every one she knows is dead and writes whatever she feels, holding nothing back.

Stephen Smith dealt with the creative writer and censorship. Mr. Smith performed a song he wrote about Jesse Helms to help get his point across that regardless of what other people think, he should have the right to say or sing

as the case may be, anything he wants, across to the audience. The reactions of people in the audience showed that some were offended by the song and a few got quite upset. However, no one suggested that Mr. Smith stop singing his song.

The final speaker was Tiffany Cochran, who is an anchor woman for the evening news on WPED Channel 15. Ms. Cochran, a graduate of Pepperdine University, felt, like the other panelists, that censorship should not be part of the media. She told several stories of times

when people had tried to censor Channel 15's news but had been unsuccessful. Ms. Cochran believes that, "Every ethical journalist has the right to pursue a story that effects the community."

All the panelists agreed that censorship has absolutely no place in media, and that the media should be a place where the concerns of the community can be voiced and heard freely.