

Novelist Visits For Writer's Day

by Sherry L. Overton

On Jan. 21, Methodist College held a Writers' Day program for local high school students. The purpose of this event was to heighten student awareness about the importance of clear written communication. The program included writing workshops targeted for those high school students who are planning to attend college or desire to enter professions that require excellent writing skills. 66 students from Cumberland County and surrounding counties registered for the conference.

The day was filled with workshops, lectures and readings. The honored guest for the program was Jill McCorkle, a North Carolina novelist. To date Ms. McCorkle has had four books published, *July 7th*, *The Cheerleader*, *Tending to Virginia*, and *Ferris Beach*, her latest release. Ms. McCorkle is a Lumberton native who now teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she also received her degree. She read from her most recently published book and then provided information for the students about her personal writing experiences.

Ms. McCorkle's fiction writing deals with adolescence and the sense of insecurity this period brings to young lives. Although her works are fictional she sets them in the 1970's amidst the real life transitions and social tensions of that decade. She said, a professor once told her that most people try to forget adolescence, but she prefers to bring those memories back. She said that she enjoys writing about the young because they possess "an honesty that eventually grows out of us through sophistication

and intellect." In summing up, Ms. McCorkle said with a little laugh that fiction was her "license to lie." The students were obviously amused, and they applauded her.

After Ms. McCorkle's presentation the individual workshops began. These were taught by the Methodist College English and Communications Department faculty. The writing areas that were focused on ranged from short fiction to visual media to business. In each of the workshops students were required to write brief pieces, and, at the end of the day, the best from each class was rewarded with a prize certificate and a check for \$25.00.

At the introduction to the awards ceremony, four Methodist College students read pieces of their own works, several of which had won national awards. Those students who read their works were Kathy Griffith, John Hawkins, Pam Johnson, and Ann Morris. Following these readings, Dr. Sue Kimball talked briefly about the southern writers she has known and told some amusing anecdotes.

The finale for the day's events was the awards presentation. The winners of the individual workshops were Bobby Albert from E.E. Smith in Short Fiction, Cori Carlisle from Terry Sanford in Writing for the Visual Media, Gene Parris of Pine Forest in Literary Essay Writing, Drew Norris of Terry Sanford in Poetry, Marisa Roach from Westover in Business Writing, and Dorimae Endicott from E.E. Smith in Non-Literary Essay Writing.

The day's events were a great success, reflecting the hard work and efforts of the participating students and of the Methodist College English and Communications Departments.



Jill McCorkle reads from one of her novels.

Happenings Around Campus

by Eric Kimbel

The editor and staff of *Small Talk* feel that it is necessary to keep its readers informed of events on campus. This issue of *Small Talk* is the first to include this column. *Small Talk* has always kept the campus community aware of sporting events and other important happenings; now there will be a section devoted to academic events, contests and outstanding achievements. We hope you enjoy and use this column to your benefit.

Dr. R. Wayne Preslar, English Department, is forming a Quiz Bowl team for competition at Elon this semester. The team has financial support for the upcoming 1991-92 school year and is offering scholarships for incoming freshmen. For more information on the tournament and team contact Dr. Preslar, office T-233, ext. 314.

The Theatre Department of Methodist College is holding a playwriting contest this semester. The contest is open to all students, and the deadline for submissions is Feb. 1. For more information contact Dr. John Peyrouse, office R-124, ext. 212.

The Methodist College debate team is planning to compete in two tournaments this semester. It also has the same financial backing for the 1991-92 school year as the Quiz Bowl team. For details, contact Dr. John Sill, department of sociology, office T-118, ext. 292.

There are many writing contests taking place this semester. Contact Dr. Michael Colonnese for information on how to enter these contests.

Tapestry, the art and literary publication of Methodist College, is also accepting student authors' work for consideration in its upcoming edition. *Tapestry* recently won local renown for this year's publication in the Fayetteville *Observer-Times*. For more information, contact John Hawkins or Dr. Michael Colonnese.

If you have any contests or events that should be included in this column, please contact one of the following: Caroline Kearns, editor; Eric Kimbel, and Dr. Robert Perkins, office T-227, ext. 293.

Protest

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administration that students care about the campus ministry. She also said that members of the SGA and the Christian Life Council are sending letters of protest to members of the Board of Trustees and that a petition is being circulated which will also be presented to the Board.

Campus Minister, the Rev. Claire Clyburn, was not present at the demonstration because of a family emergency. However, she said in an earlier interview that her strongest feeling about the elimination of the minister's position was disappointment. "I know what it means to the students that I work with that we have this," she said. "It disappoints me that the administration sees this as expendable."



Dan Covell questions President Hendricks at demonstration.