

1991-92 Budget Proposed For MC

by Rhonda Hall

For the past several months, the Methodist College Administrative Committee has been hard at work on the 1991-92 proposed school budget. With an expected decrease in enrollment, and an expected decline in support from both the state and the church, this was a challenging budget year.

"We hope our enrollment is going to be larger," President Elton Hendricks stated. "We want to grow and we hope to grow. However, we know that the number of high school graduates is going to continue to decline over the next five years and we expect twenty students less for next year than we had this year." This is the first time in eight years the Administrative Committee has had to plan for a reduction in enrollment. In fact, over the past six years the Metho-

dist College enrollment has almost doubled.

Mr. Gene Clayton, Vice President for Business Affairs, explained that the enrollment for each year must be predicted. This prediction is based on the number of students who are currently enrolled, minus the number of students who will graduate and the number of students who are not projected to return to Methodist College for other reasons. This prediction provides the returning account number. The returning account is then added to the projected number of entering freshmen for both semesters. The final total is multiplied by the amount of tuition charged, and the product tells how much money the Administrative Committee has to budget. According to Mr. Clayton, "About 80% of the money we have to operate comes from tuition and fees from our students."

Other sources of revenue for the school come from contributions from the Methodist church and from the community, the Legislative Tuition Grant, and from Auxiliary Income produced by the bookstore, cafeteria, vending machines, athletic gate receipts, and the snack bar.

The Methodist College budget for the 1991-92 school year is approximately \$10 million. According to President Hendricks about \$3 million will be budgeted for academic salaries and expenses, approximately \$400,000 will go toward athletic salaries and expenses, while the remaining funds will be spent on utilities, renovations, insurance, travel, and general operations. "The budget is a planning document," said Mr. Clayton. "We really don't know what our full budget is going to be until school opens."

The students of Methodist College will be affected by next year's budget

when their tuition increases. According to the President, the increase is primarily a response to inflation and reflects the need to provide a staff salary increase. Some faculty members maintain that the President's remarks may be misleading. One faculty member, who asked not to be identified, explained that faculty salaries had not historically kept pace with inflation or tuition increases and that next year's tuition increases would not raise faculty salaries at a rate commensurate with either the rate of inflation or the tuition increase.

"This is my twentieth year to work as an administrator, and tuition has gone up in each of the twenty years," said President Hendricks. He adds that as long as there is inflation tuition will increase. According to Mr. Clayton, rais-

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Students Show Support For Troops

by Caroline F. Kearns

Two Methodist College students who have spouses who took part in Operation Desert Storm held a Tribute to American Troops last month. The patriotic rally was organized by Colleen Witt and Rhonda Hall and was held on Valentine's Day in the bell tower courtyard.

Speakers at the rally included Fayetteville Mayor J. L. Dawkins, College President Elton Hendricks, Army veteran and Director of Financial Aid John Keso, and Student Government Association President Dawn Thompson. The rally was attended by approximately 100 students and faculty members.

Organizer Colleen Witt opened the rally and set the overall mood. "We are not gathered here today to show that we are in support of the war," she said, "nor are we here today to protest the war." Instead, she said the purpose of the rally was to show support for the men and women serving in the Middle East.

Mayor Dawkins expressed the importance of letting the troops know they have public support, and he said he was pleased with how the Fayetteville com-

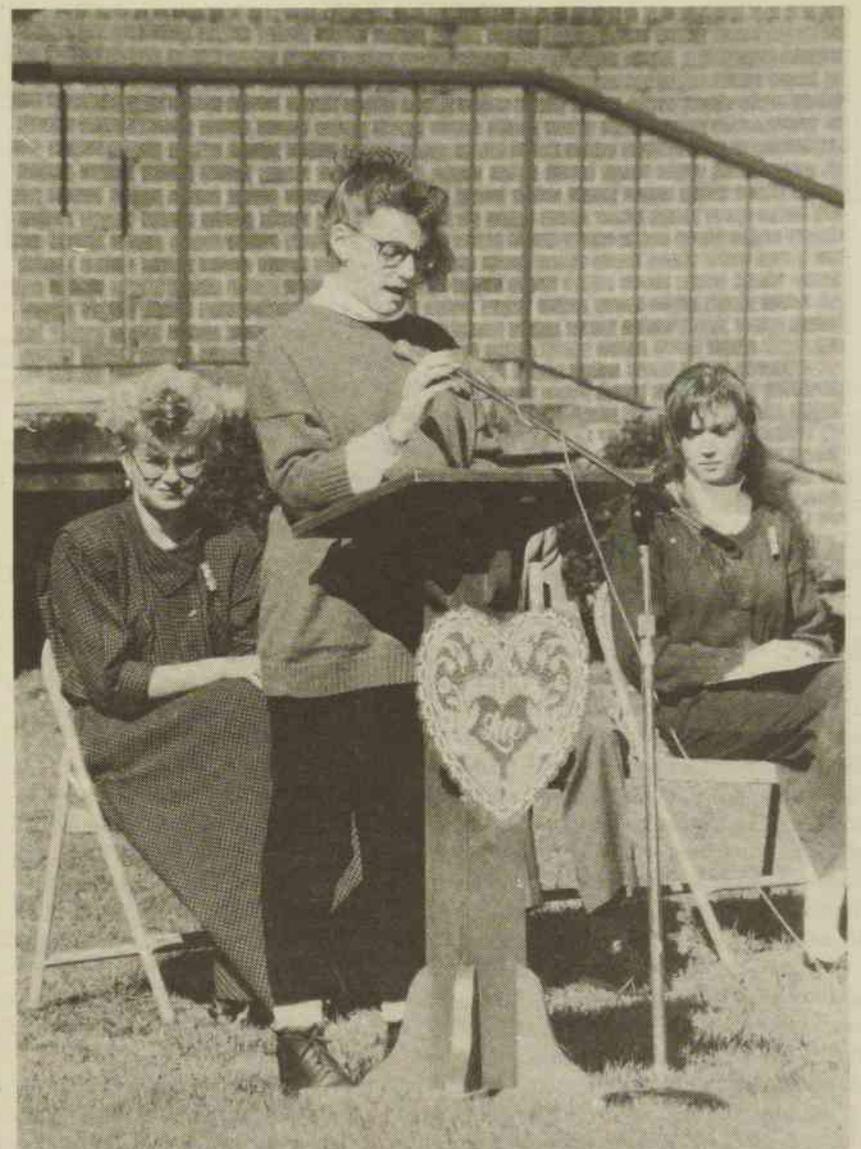
munity has been brought closer together in support of soldiers in the Middle East.

President Hendricks spoke of the effect that the war has had on the college community itself. He reminded the audience that scores of students and at least 10 staff members have family members in the Persian Gulf. "Our loved ones are away because they are at war," he said.

Mr. Keso, a 22-year veteran who served in Vietnam, said that soldiers are very special people because of the fact that they have been selected to serve. "Only the best are selected," he said, "and only the ungrateful would forget their sacrifices."

SGA President Dawn Thompson said she didn't know anyone who is serving in the Persian Gulf. "But I know people here who need to open their eyes and see what is really happening," she said. She said that the troops and their friends and families need our support.

During the rally, Methodist student Stephanie Davison performed the National Anthem and a number of other solos showing support for the troops. Stephanie's husband is also in the Middle East and took part in Operation Desert Storm.



Rally organizers Colleen Witt (left) and Rhonda Hall (right) look on as SGA President Dawn Thompson addresses the crowd at the troop support rally on Feb. 14.