

Bill Of Rights Forums Held

by Sherry L. Overton

During the month of February, Methodist College hosted a series of forums that examined "The Bill of Rights in Everyday Life." These were held on three consecutive Tuesday nights, Feb. 12, 19, and 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Reeves Auditorium.

The series coordinator, Dr. Suzan Cheek, stated that such issues as artistic freedom, rights of AIDS victims, and drug-fighting tactics needed to be considered. She urged people to "think about the challenges to freedom at home." To closely look at such issues and to make the public more aware of the impact that the Bill of Rights plays in our everyday lives was the purpose of these forums.

During the first of these forums,

there was a roundtable discussion which dealt with "Public Order vs. Individual Freedom." During the course of the discussion, examples were cited and a panel of 20 persons was given the opportunity to comment on and give opinions on these matters concerning everyday challenges to individual freedoms.

The second forum was entitled "Is looking Suspicious a Crime?" Local attorneys and citizens participated in a mock trial which dealt with the fourth amendment and the laws of search and seizure. The jury was randomly chosen from the audience of students, faculty, and local community members. While the jury retired for deliberation after hearing the evidence involved in the case, the participating judge and attorneys answered questions from the audi-

ence about issues concerned with the Bill of Rights that pertained to the incident presented that evening.

The last forum in the series was presented by a public defender from Robeson County. The topic which he spoke about was "Living With the Bill of Rights In the 1990's." Afterwards, those in attendance were asked to stay for a reception to top off this series and to help in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

The co-sponsors of The Bill of Rights Forums were: the Cumberland County Board of Education, the Cumberland County Bar Association, the Southeast Region office of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the Museum of the Cape Fear, and the Cumberland County Library.

Elimination Of Minister's Position Reexamined

by Caroline F. Kearns

Recently, because of budget problems at Methodist College, President Elton Hendricks made the decision to eliminate the position of full-time campus minister at the end of this fiscal year in June. The decision created a protest movement among a small group of students who staged a highly publicized protest rally.

Protest organizer Pamela Johnson attended the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees and presented her case to the Board Members. Ms. Johnson said that she told the Board that North Carolina Wesleyan a school that has never had a full-time campus minister has recently decided to institute a full-time campus minister's position. She said she told the Board that Methodist College should continue to have a full-time campus minister.

President Elton Hendricks said in a recent interview that the Board of Trustees told him that he should "study the matter further." He said that Methodist College should offer the best campus ministry program in the most cost-efficient manner. He said that a study is being conducted and that he would report the findings to the Board of Trustees in May.



"Is looking a crime?" — Mock trial held in Reeves Auditorium.

Budget from page 1

ing tuition for the summer and evening school programs is still under consideration, but has not yet been changed. The new tuition increase will be published in an upcoming March newsletter.

The Administrative Committee has made no plans to cut academic programs. "The reason we exist as a college is because of our academic program," said President Hendricks. In fact, a number of academic programs have been added. The Social Work department will be expanded by one staff member, and is moving towards accreditation. Also added for next year is funding for a college bowl and debate team, funding for new science equipment, funding for the Southern Writers' Symposium, funding for a new computer lab for the Business Department, and funding for the Teacher Education Program as they approach an upcoming NCATE accreditation. "There was never any real discussion about eliminating any academic programs, academic faculty, or funding for our faculty areas," said Mr. Clayton.

The 1991-92 budget does include cuts for at least one program. The maintenance department will suffer a small reduction in staff, but the college expects

no reduction in beautification or maintenance operations. Both President Hendricks and Mr. Clayton stated that Methodist College is in need of renovations, and every effort is being made to include these in the budget. Dorm roofs need to be replaced, underground electrical cables need to be repaired, and the air conditioning and heating systems need to be maintained. Starting this year, one dorm roof per year will be replaced. "It's not so much that budgets are being cut," explained President Hendricks, "but many budgets are not being increased."

The President also stated that he primarily wanted to ensure a salary increase for the Methodist College staff, and to maintain the quality of the academic program. He admitted he was not satisfied with the proposed salary increase, adding that our faculty and staff are not well paid. Some of the long term goals that President Hendricks said he would like to see incorporated into future budgets include moving the maintenance staff program into the old gym and converting the current maintenance facility into a drama theater. He stated he would also like to have a new road built to the current maintenance building, a project which

could cost as much as \$40,000.

Mr. Clayton said he was satisfied with the total outcome of the budget preparation. He admitted that he was disappointed that some of the maintenance items are being deferred. "You can only delay maintenance so long before things eventually stop functioning and you have to replace them," he explained. He also stated that he would liked to have seen a larger salary increase for the staff and more funding for academic equipment. Mr. Clayton added that a variety of new programs are being considered. Plans for renovating the bookstore into a more marketing-oriented business, relocating the Post Office, and determining new operating hours for the snack bar are under way.

Mr. Clayton also explained that better supervision would be needed to reduce expenses in some areas, such as eliminating abuse of long distance telephone calls by incorporating new accounting procedures. This change is expected to decrease the long distance telephone bill by 20%. Also, a new telephone system is being installed for the dorm students so that every dorm room will be equipped with a telephone. These

telephones will be connected to the main campus telephone system and will allow the students to call any office on campus by dialing a four-digit number. A fee will be added to dorm student bills and all telephone connections will be handled through the school.

The Administrative Committee consists of the President of Methodist College, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Student Life, the Vice President for Church Relations, the Vice President for Business Affairs, the Vice President for Development, the Director of Admissions, the Athletic Director, and a Faculty Representative. Each department is also invited to present requests that reflect that individual program's needs. Mr. Clayton said, "The budget is not a one-person show." Although every program need cannot be met, students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to submit any needs they feel will make the education process more effective. President Hendricks added that any faculty member or student is free to see any part of the budget at the college except for the list of individual salaries.