

Editorials

What Is College All About?

by Caroline F. Kearns

We're all a few weeks into the fall semester of 1991 at Methodist College. Many of us have been here before, and some of us have not. For those who are new, Methodist College may seem a frustrating or exciting place. For those who have been here a year or two, college life may seem to often little more than the smooth gray tedium of an unwelcome routine.

For all of us, however, the beginning of the school year is the time for us to take a critical look at why we want an education and to decide what we want to gain from this school year.

When asked why they are here, many students respond almost automatically: "To get a degree." In truth, that's probably the main reason that *all* of us are here, but it's important to remember that a degree means nothing unless we also acquire the knowledge that holding a college degree implies. If a slip of paper were the only thing we were here for, we could all simply line up and pay \$30,800 and walk away with our diplomas. So it's important for all of us to realize that college is about much more than just getting that slip of paper.

God Talk

by Carrie W. Parrish, Campus Minister

God does indeed speak on the Methodist College campus! That Word comes to us in many forms. It may be heard in a class which excites our academic appetites, making us want to know more. Or perhaps it will be heard in a good friend and/or roommate with whom we share problems and celebrations, questions, fears, longings, dreams. Or maybe you will hear God during a quiet morning walk across campus, during laps on the track, or in the cheers at an athletic contest. God speaks!

I am glad to be a part of the Methodist College community. Campus ministry is a new experience for me, but I am having a great time, and I am pleased to have already met many students, faculty and staff persons. Thank you for the truly warm welcome you have given me, and for the support you are showing for our religious life program. Please keep it up!

Our programs this year will grow out of a two-fold foundation: STRONG, MEANINGFUL WORSHIP, and SUPPORTIVE, CARING RELATIONSHIPS. I believe great things will happen! I have been saying to everyone I meet: "Campus ministry here is for the entire community: students, staff, faculty, administration." As your minister, I am here for each of you. Please call on me if I can be of any help.

NOW, let me ask for YOUR help. Worship services will be held each Wednesday in Hensdale Chapel at 1 p.m.. The service will generally be 30 to 35 minutes long. I will do my best to provide leadership that is inclusive and creative. Come to worship; hear God speak to you.

Posters all over campus will be telling you about Wednesday worship. Check each week for the new sermon title; there will be a word there for each of us!

As the year moves along, be on the lookout for other special worship experiences. There will also be an opportunity for you to get involved in a variety of service projects. I have heard good things about the woodcutting that you have done in the past, and we have a number of new invitations to be involved in community service this year. I know you will respond! FCA will get started again very soon as well.

I will close by sharing with the entire community what I said to new students and parents during orientation weekend. "You have learned by now, if you did not already know, that your college education is not free. It costs to go to class; it costs to live in the dorm, to buy books, to eat in the cafeteria, to use the washing machine, to go to a ballgame, to call home on the phone. Nothing about college is free. Yet, there is one thing on the Methodist College campus that IS free, and that is GOD'S GRACE." God speaks that word of grace and love for you in many ways. Listen carefully; you will hear it! Come by the office (in the Student Union building, downstairs beside the cafeteria) and let's talk about it sometime!

Grace and Peace.

Get Involved

by Jeannie Denman

Is apathy dead? Let's hope so. This is your school -- if you don't like it, DO something about it. We don't pay over \$10,000 a year to sit on our rear-ends, do we? WRITE for the paper. Get INVOLVED in Student Government. JOIN a club. GO to the dances and comedy acts and games and activities. WRITE a letter to the administration about a problem or concern (or about something you like, but they don't get many of those letters). CREATE, LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE, BE, ACT, PLAY, DO -- but more importantly, make the most of Methodist and have FUN!!

College is primarily about knowledge--about the scientific and philosophic meanings of the world, about history, about the arts, about our chosen fields, and about ourselves. All knowledge is useful no matter how abstract it may appear to be. And for this reason, we ought to attempt to do more than simply ingest the information our professors feed us only to regurgitate it for an exam and then forget it forever. We should think about what we're learning and ask questions like "why" and "how." For if we think instead of memorize, we may remember what we think.

But don't imagine that college is *only* about reading great books and thinking great thoughts. College is also about relationships--the kinds that you have with your roommate, with the members of your athletic team or academic club, with your professors, and with your classmates. There's a lot to do here besides just going to class. Methodist College has organizations to suit anyone's interests (just check the *Academic Catalogue* or the *Student Handbook*), and new groups are forming all the time. It's through these types of social organizations that we are able to learn the most about ourselves.

College can only be what we choose to make it. So let's all get involved and have a great year!

SMALL TALK

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This year, *Small Talk* will publish articles, editorials, photos, and letters to the editor from outside the staff.

Submissions to the paper must include the name, address, and phone number of the author--submissions lacking this information will be subject to rejection.

Items submitted on floppy disk (5 1/4" or 3 1/2") will receive priority. The following information: type of disk (IBM, Apple, etc.); program used (Word Star, etc.); and file name should be noted on the disk jacket. A printed copy of the article should also be included. Name, address, and phone number of the author are essential to insure the return of your disk.

We are especially interested in well-researched news articles, sports articles, and hard-hitting editorials. All submissions are subject to editing for conciseness, and the editorial staff reserves the right to reject articles which are potentially libelous or simply in poor taste.

We're interested in hearing from you--send your submissions to Caroline Kearns, MC box number 12311.