

## Alcohol on Campus Dominates Open Forum

By Cindy Hawkins  
Editor

Amid the constant smack of billiard balls in the Student Union, the 1998 Student Government Association strained to have their voices heard in their first open forum this year. In what president Eddie Price dubbed a "sad turnout," less than 15 students and faculty members showed up for the forum.

After brief introductions of the 1998 officers, Price commented that the SGA has been doing "quite a bit of work this semester to benefit the students." He mentioned a recent retreat during which the group set up target areas that they hoped to achieve this year. The target areas included trying to install a debit card system, setting up a security committee to create a communication link between students and public safety, a self-study committee of the SGA, a spirit committee to enhance school spirit, and a fitness committee to enhance fitness opportunities on campus.

Price opened the floor for discussion explaining that the open forum was "an opportunity for all the students of Methodist College to come out and voice their concerns and questions about all and any affairs that are going on on campus."

The first issue, introduced by student Suzanne Graves, concerned Methodist Col-

lege being a "dry" campus. Price answered that while the foundations of the Methodist church influence Methodist College's nonalcoholic campus policy and would make it very difficult to change that policy, that "if a significant movement was made, then there would probably be some support from the SGA."

Lea Metz addressed the negative side of alcohol on campus by pointing out the dangers of binge drinking and the effect that overindulgence would have on class attendance. Metz also raised the issue of underage drinking and the fact that the majority of the students living on campus are under the age of 21.

Other issues addressed were paving the parking area behind the PAC building, acquiring new billiard tables and equipment, revision of the visitation policy, and starting student movements to form fraternities.

In a brief interview after the forum, Price expressed his hope that the newly-formed security committee would bridge the gap between students and public safety.

"Because parking in front of the dorms has gone to security and resident advisors can no longer give tickets for parking, public safety hasn't been really very proactive on people that are parking in visitor spots and people that are parking in resident students' spots."



SGA holds the first open forum of 1998.

## PGA Sanctions Golf Management Program

The Professional Golfer's Association of America has added Methodist College's Professional Golf Management Program to its list of PGA-sanctioned programs.

In a Nov. 12 announcement issued from its headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., the PGA announced that Methodist's 13-year-old PGM program and programs at three other institutions will be included in the PGA's 600-hour Golf Professional Training Program (GPTP) starting in the fall of 1999. The four-year college program teaches students about the golf industry and management through classroom studies, internship programs and player development.

The PGA announcement states that Methodist College and the three other institutions with newly-sanctioned programs, "offer an excellent academic environment for students interested in pursuing a career in the golf industry." Will Mann, PGA of America President, said the PGA felt that the accreditation of four new programs would increase the talent pool of aspiring PGA Professionals and elevate the standards of the PGA to a new level.

Jerry Hogge, director of Methodist's PGM program since 1987, was delighted

by the PGA announcement. "Heretofore, only four institutions of higher learning -- Ferris State, Mississippi State, New Mexico State and Penn State had PGA-sanctioned golf management programs" he noted, "We are now part of an elite group and we deserve to be there."

"We are very proud of our PGM program, our golf course and practice facilities, and the staff that has worked tirelessly to achieve this recognition, said Dr. Elton Hendricks, president of Methodist College. "We believe the PGA and our PGM graduates will enjoy substantial benefits from this new association."

Methodist's PGM program is a business administration or marketing major with a concentration in professional golf management. It already has the largest enrollment of any academic program at the college -- 301 students. Since 1989, the program has graduated 229 students. Methodist's PGM alumni now work and teach at some of America's finest golf clubs, including Pinehurst, Chevy Chase, Seminole, and Oakmont. Several also work for Titleist Corporation.

### In This Issue

Commuters Shortchanged, Page 3

Conflict of Interest? Pages 4 & 5

The Girl or God? Page 6

Crime Stoppers, Page 9

Circuit Players Connect, Page 11

Final Questions That Suck, Page 13

Sports, Pages 14 & 15

What's Up With That? Page 16