



B. F. Stone Lyceum Sparks Hot Debate

By Michael C. Molter
Assistant Editor

On March 23, Methodist College held its third annual B. F. Stone Endowed Lyceum. Mr. Stone was an Elizabethtown, N.C. pharmacist and philanthropist who actively supported Methodist College, and it is his estate which endows the lyceum.

Dr. Donald Lassiter, Associate Professor of Psychology, presented a paper entitled "Aging and Driving: The Need for Improved Driver's License Testing." His presentation began around 7:30 p.m. and lasted roughly thirty minutes. It was followed by four ten-minute commentaries by experts in the fields of psychology, sociology, gerontology, and the community service of senior citizens. The forum was opened to questions following the arguments, one of which was a commentary by a local AARP representative, and was adjourned shortly after 9:30 p.m.

The evening began with dinner at six in the Alumni Dining Room. President M. Elton Hendricks welcomed the guests to the campus, and Dr. Robert Christian gave the invocation, reading from Psalms and Tennyson. After dinner, the party made its way to the Yarbrough Auditorium in Clark Hall, where President Hendricks welcomed everyone once again, including those who

did not attend dinner. Dr. Michael Potts introduced himself as the moderator for the lyceum, an honor given to the previous year's lyceum presenter. He set the guidelines for the presentations, and introduced the guest speakers: Dr. John Sill, Professor of Sociology at Methodist College; Mr. Bob White, representing Seniors Call to Action of Fayetteville; Dr. Susan Franzblau, Associate Professor of Psychology at Fayetteville State University; and Mr. James A. DePree, a psychologist on the Rehab Team at Cape Fear Valley Health Center.

The phrase "academic and scholarly exchange of ideas" was used more than once to describe what would unfold. Basically it would be a way for scholars to state their opinions, differing as they may be, back them up, and do so without getting personal—and it's a good thing!

An abstract of Dr. Lassiter's paper was included on the many advertisements hanging in the classroom halls before the lyceum, but in case you missed it, I shall summarize his discussion. Dr. Lassiter argued that as we get older, we fall victim to a natural process called "cognitive aging." He defined this to be the changing in conceptual and mental abilities effected by aging. This includes general cognitive slowing and reduced capacity for mental workload (i. e., multi-tasking). There are exceptions, however. A person's individual differences may make them less susceptible to the effects of cognitive aging, whereas some would be more susceptible. Also, people's expertise in an area may help them perform tasks in their area of expertise as well as anyone, yet succumb to cognitive aging in



Dr. Lassiter responds to a question from the audience, flanked by Dr. Potts (left) and Mr. White (right). Photo by C. Kearns.

other tasks.

Dr. Lassiter argued that cognitive aging affects driving ability. Cognitive aging could affect reaction time, visual functions (acuity, depth perception, color perception), timely spatial localization, mental state, mental workload capacity, performance when selective attention is required, and performance when attention is divided.

So the problem is a decrease in visual attention, rather than visual ability. Dr. Lassiter touched on driver's license renewal policies in a handful of states, citing how lax some of them are. When visual tests are administered by the DMV, they only measure a person's visual ability, not vi-

sual attention. Dr. Lassiter offered a way to improve testing to make test results more relevant to their purpose (keeping unsafe drivers off the roads) by testing drivers' "useful field of vision" (UFOV).

Dr. Lassiter explained that the typical field of vision was 180 degrees on the horizontal axis, and about 60 degrees on the vertical. The UFOV is a "subfield" of the field of vision. He defined the UFOV to be "the place where we can rapidly process and use information." Research has shown that the size of the UFOV decreases with age, and that a low UFOV is highly corre-

See Lyceum, page 9

In This Issue

Should You Cheat?
Page 2

Most Wanted, Page 4

Hot Cross Buns, Page 5

Die, Melissa, Die, Page 7

Gone Fishin', Page 10

Pick of the *Pride*, Page 11

Horror Scopes, Page 14

25 Years of Cher, Page 15

The Kosovo Crisis Explained

By Cindy Bridges
Editor

On Monday, March 29, Methodist College held a panel discussion on the situation in the Balkans. Mr. Steve Williams, a geography and earth science professor, covered the geography and history of the area. Dr. Andrew Ziegler, a political science professor, discussed the United States' foreign policy concerning the crisis in Kosovo.

Thirty-five people were in attendance at the seminar. Although many students simply showed up for extra credit points,

Dr. Murray's entire contemporary world history class made an appearance to become more familiar with the explosive situation in this area of the world. Many professors also attended the discussion including: Dr. Carter, Dr. Walsh, Dr. Bitterman, Mrs. Rohrer-Walsh, Dr. Foster, and Dr. Murray.

Mr. Williams spoke first, outlining the geography of the area and explaining the history behind the tensions that have caused this crisis.

He emphasized that this region of the world is very diverse in many aspects. What

was formally known simply as Yugoslavia is now called the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—just remnants of the former state. It consists of two of the six republics that originally composed the country of Yugoslavia. In this region there are five major nationality groups, four languages, three religions, and two alphabets.

Mr. Williams further explained that there are thousands of sacred sites in Kosovo. It is considered the "cradle of Serbian culture." The Serbs want to pre-

See Kosovo, page 11