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# small TALK

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## Counselors lend a listening ear



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Picture in your mind a blank sheet of paper. Take a permanent marker, and draw a negative sign on the paper. Make the negative sign into a positive sign on the sheet. Now try to turn the positive back into a negative. You can't, you used a permanent marker.

This theory thought up by peer counselor Rich Lindor is a perfect example of what Methodist College peer counselors are all about.

Spring training for this semester's peer counseling team was held January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Darlene Hopkins, the director of the Center for Personal Development. Fifteen students met for the weekend sessions, which were lead by senior counselors along with guidance from professional staff member Hopkins and Linda Schultz. Their goal was to train themselves on helping others and using teamwork in order to



Photo by Hannah Hamer

Above: Darlene Hopkins, the director of the Center for Personal Development talks with a student.

reach out to students campus wide.

According to counselor Justin Leonard, "the objective of peer counselors is to provide a friendly atmosphere in which students can come to seek guidance on everyday problems." The staffs of counselors are all Methodist students, and they are very diverse in nationality, race, and age.

What do counselors do? They

use active listening techniques to help their peers find their own solutions to problems that might be bothering them. Peer counselors never give advice; instead they provide suggestions to help a problem-seeker find their own solution. Meetings with a counselor are promised to be non-judgmental and always confidential.

This semester, the Center for

Personal Development hopes to post flyers with each counselors name and contact information, since many people on campus do not know where to find help if they may need it. They are also holding an information booth on "The Building Block of Relationships" in February and information on body image in March. They will also hold a "Stress Clinic" in the Student Center during exam week where students can relax during the chaos of finals week.

How can you become a peer counselor? Fill out an application at the Center of Personal Development located in Pearce Hall. Training is held once a semester, openings and work-study positions will be available again next fall.

Where can you find a peer counselor? Anywhere. Most of the peer counselors live on campus, and are available to talk at any time.

To find out how to contact a peer counselor, or for more information, contact Darlene Hopkins at the Center for Personal Development at 630-7150, or Justin Leonard at 482-5624.

## Department rumble causes senior casualties



KRISHANA POLITE  
Staff Writer

To graduate or not to graduate; this is the question. Conflicts between catalogue requirements and advisors' checksheets may stop some seniors from graduating from the Reeves

School of Business as planned.

Seniors have become victims of a conflict between checksheets and catalogue requirements. This problem has become a major concern to all students who look to their advisors for guidance. "I never thought in a million years students would give better advice than advisors," Jamika Robinson said.

Methodist College established a checksheet as a check and balance between advisors and advisees. This system allows both parties to monitor a student's pursuit of a specific major. At the bottom of each checksheet is preprinted "Consult Academic Catalogue and Advisor for specific options." So for the system to work, a joint effort is re-

quired from students and advisors.

This situation is extremely sensitive for all involved, especially graduating seniors. Several seniors were ill advised; as a result, they will not graduate with their degrees of choice. Seniors are altering their goals to graduate in four years.

The college administration  
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