Barber gives tips for Presidential election

by Krista Holloman

"Picking A President: Predicting Performance in the White House" was the speech given by James David Barber, Ph.D., at the September Convocation at Meredith College. Barber, a professor from Duke University, gave helpful information on what to consider before voting in the national election in November.

"Barber advised his audience to watch the debate between Michael Dukakis and George Bush on September 25. This debate will last ninety minutes and has no stated subject matter. Three journalists will ask the candidates questions. "We just have to hope they will ask the right questions," Barber said.

Among the tips Barber gave, he cauthioned that viewers of the debate may be fooled by appearance. The candidates may by acting and trying to create a special image for the American public. That image may be used in concealing what the audience needs to look for.

Ethics and morals are also some things to look for. What is his vision of what is going on in the world? While watching the debate, consider how the candidate will handle the responsibility of running a nation.

"Your life is in the hands of that person. He could kill all of us," Barber warned.

Remember that campaigning and being President are two very different jobs. While one candidate is a good campaigner, that does not ensure he will have a successful presidency. Barber believes the public should be aware that candidates often use hypotheticals. "If elected, I **would** do this, **would** do that. Do not trust the subjunctive."

Barber also feels that character is very important. The President must have strength of character and like what he is doing. He has to be able to handle a crisis.

During his speech, Barber offered us his views on the two Presidential candidates. "George Bush is an energetic person who enjoys what he is doing — he has some integrity," Barber believes. He does not think Bush is a wimp. Barber feels Bush would be a good manager because people like to work with him. The problem Barber sees in Bush is that he has a lot of restraint and does not give himself credit for his accomplishments.

About Dukakis, Barber thinks he is "energetic, but not uptight." Even though Dukakis showed a lot of initiative in Massachusetts, can he carry that over to Washington?

Barber advises to watch the debates and to be realistic. "It is very important what kind of President we have."

Meredith Welcomes Bentley

by Kay Jernigan

Welcome Melissa Bentley, the new Associate Campus Minister. Besides working part-time here on campus, she is also working on her Masters of Divinity at Southeastern Theological Seminary.

Bentley applied for the Associate Campus Minister's position because she enjoys working with college students and also to explore an area of ministry. Even though she has been here only a short time, Bentley says the best thing about her position is that everyone has already made her feel at home.

Bentley hopes to make a difference in the lives of individual students on campus. She wants to be a support for students as well as a resource person. Accordingly, she sees the most challenging part of her position as reaching out to all the students in the limited amount of time she has.

Bentley decided to enter the ministry because of her interest in people and her commitment to Christianity's stand on the human condition, especially concerning justice and peace. After graduating from the seminary, she wants to go into pastoral counselling. After being certified by the American Association of Pastoral Counselling, she hopes to work in a church or a professional counselling center.

What advice would Bentley give college students? "Get involved," she says. "Find an outlet where your talents fit and you can use them."