



The latest news from Meredith's only course devoted to campaign issues and registering you to vote.

UNCLE SAM AT MEREDITH ON ELECTION DAY

Many Meredith students were startled on election day by an eight-foot-tall Uncle Sam. Local actor Frank Jeffreys climbed on stilts and donned an Uncle Sam costume to encourage members of the Meredith community to go to the polls and vote.

Election day was the culmination of a semester of work for Meredith Votes. Uncle Sam was probably the most surprising thing on campus Tuesday, but he wasn't the only one.

Meredith Votes students gathered at the balloon gallery at 7:30 to decorate the campus with red, white, and blue balloons, and they spent the day canvassing the dorms and manning tables in Cate Center and Belk Dining Hall.

Nationally, turnout was somewhat higher than expected due to so many close races and because

control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate were up for grabs. However, it still didn't pass the 40 percent mark. Final figures aren't yet complete for Meredith's own turnout rate, but it is clear that we did far better than the national average. I Voted stickers and Meredith Votes buttons were visible on pockets and lapels.

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff stopped by the Meredith Votes tables, and in the dorms, many students responded to the election day canvass.

THANK YOU MEREDITH

The Public Leadership class was the heart of the Meredith Votes campaign this semester, but we benefited from the help and support of the entire Meredith community.

Special thanks are due to President Hartford for her enthusiastic support; to Vice President Reichard and Michael Novak, chair

of the history and politics department, who found funds to support Meredith Votes in very tight budgets; to Joni Smith, who made space available in the *Meredith Herald*; to marketing and communications, who designed our logo; to Heidi LeCount and the Residence Hall Staff, who organized hall meetings to register students to vote; to Thad O'Briant, who let us use the dining hall to introduce Meredith students to the candidates; to the students in the Balloon Gallery, who opened up at dawn on election day; to the volunteers, who helped with the dorm canvass; to the Meredith faculty, who took scarce class time to register their students to vote; and last, but not least, to all the members of the Meredith community who registered and voted.



Uncle Sam paid the Meredith Campus a visit on election day.

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Meredith Herald

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against it instead of fearing that an anti-war stance would look unpatriotic, once again they would have swayed more votes to their corner.

Maybe the real issue for the Democratic Party is that they do not have strong enough candidates. When you have to throw Walter Mondale, 74 years young, in a Senate race, it just goes to show that Democrats are hurting in the the nominee department. Like most things in American culture, the Democrats have now opened Pandora's box and started a trend of senior statesmen once again run-

ning for office well past their prime. Does the Democratic Party really want to put the idea in South Carolinians heads that maybe Strom Thurmond has a few good years left in him?

A large factor in the Republican sweep of the elections was the constant campaigning on President Bush's part. He made sure to be seen in all the major hot spots, like our very own Senate race in support of Elizabeth Dole, and Americans remembered this when they went to the poles.

Who did Democrats have to rally support for their candidates? Yes, Al Gore was seen several times, and Bill Clinton even made

some visits to lend his support. First of all, can the Democratic Party not find anyone better? Face it, Clinton is not in office anymore, and his popularity cannot guarantee votes like it used to and Gore just leaves an audience wondering if his robotic gestures means his battery needs to be charged, not who to vote for.

Democrats are looking forward to the elections in 2004 to gain back some of the ground they lost in these last elections.

However, if things within the party keep going the way they have been recently, expect to see Republicans once again doing a victory dance all over Capitol Hill.