

## EDITORIAL

On the return trip from a weekend, we stopped at an interstate-side comfort station, which, on a long trip goes past being a convenience and becomes a downright necessity. The lines were long and would have moved faster, save for the fact that two of the six stalls had no doors and were not being used. There was water on the floor and the hand blow-driers, as one woman said, "probably don't work either." Several ladies expressed their disgust at the lack of maintenance of the facilities.

I, being my straight-forward self, simply pointed out that things would not get in such a state of disrepair if people did not abuse them. Granted, everything wears out with use, but more than likely at a rate which the maintenance department can handle. The question here, though, is about the willful destruction of property. Does the fund have the financial responsibility to repair and replace articles, public or private, made unusable through abuse?

This is a question St. Mary's girls could ask themselves. I hear many students complaining about conditions on campus, but seldom do they consider reasons behind the conditions. Some people have said they do not like the new containers for salad dressings in the dining hall; they may not have been needed if we had not playfully mixed the condiments for a little harmless fun. Salad bowls would not have ashes stuck in them if the dishes were not used as ashtrays. Likewise, the aesthetic value of our school is our own creation. Writing and chewing gum on walls, peeled wallpaper, litter, trashed bathrooms can all only be blamed on ourselves.

Things we do thoughtlessly have much more impact than we think. Beyond appearances, vandalism (after all, no matter on how small a scale, it is vandalism) costs money. People are paid to clean and repair articles. Individual parts and sometimes the whole object need replacement. It is a waste of time and money, and remember -- somebody is footing the bill. I am not trying to preach, and the examples I have used are mild. I am asking that you think about the effects on others your actions will have.

L.W.J.

### Editorial

## Why St. Mary's needs a Young Democrats Club

What political party do you belong to? At a traditional school like St. Mary's, you can assume that almost everybody will be a Republican. In fact, the College Republicans club has already met this year. Not so the Young Democrats club. One assumes that this club, if it ever existed, has gone the way of old soldiers and just faded away. In the interests of fairness, it is time the Democrats revived their long dead organization and, together with the College Republicans club and the rest of the student body, work to bring greater political awareness to St. Mary's.

A Democratic organization would give liberals a chance to discuss their opinions and become better informed about party activities and views. Furthermore, such a club could try to spread these ideas to the other students, and show them that there are two parties in the U.S. Through the different political clubs, a person can become better informed about the options available, and more aware of political issues as both parties see them. In order to make a well-informed decision, we need to know more than just one side of an issue.

Today, we're faced with many complex problems: a faulty economy, rising unemployment and increasing numbers of deadly nuclear weapons. On November 2, some of us are going to have to decide who we want to elect to deal with these problems. However, regardless of whether or not we vote, we still need to take an interest in politics, even on so small a scale as St. Mary's. By supporting campus political organizations, we will, with luck, keep in touch with the workings of our government.

L.J.

### PRESIDENT REAGAN VISITS RALEIGH

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says that the group opposed to the draft is much larger than men aged eighteen to twenty-two.

A student and former student (I do not know if she is a graduate) of UNC-CH were among the participants in the demonstration. They were concerned with war, not along the lines of the draft, but considered it a result of the economic conditions we are facing. "The solution to creating jobs is to create wars." When businesses expand in other countries, the U.S. profits from using the other countries' resources and manpower. This puts the country in a condition in which it relies more on the mother country and is more in its control. Neither of these demonstrators participated in the past election; nor are they registered to vote.

A press release entitled "Demonstration against Reagan, Helms, and the Congressional Club" listed the various committees represented in the

demonstration: N.C. Federation for Progress, along with Carolina Grass Roots; Black Students Alliance, Duke University; Black United Front; Carolina Resist the Draft; the Communist Workers Party; Carolina Coalition for Justice in Central America; Durham Action Committee on Central America; Durham Tenants Steering Committee; Elliot Woods-Chase Park Tenants Organization; PATCO, RDU local; Raleigh ACORN, Raleigh Committee on Central America; Raleigh Interdenominational Ministerial Workers Union; Triad Citizens Concerned for Central America; Raleigh NAACP; and the Worker's Chronicle, a newspaper at Duke University-Medical Center.

Not all the people outside were protesters. I spoke to many who were registered Republicans. The majority of people listening outside seemed to be in support of Reagan.

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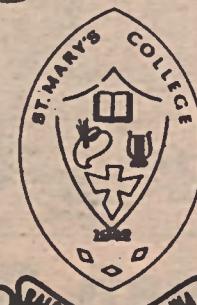
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## Saint Mary's Students Polled

by Ashley Davis and Mary Glenn Barwick

On the twenty-second day of October The Belles distributed a questionnaire to eighty Saint Mary's students. Half of the students were under the age of eighteen, the other half were eighteen or over. The poll was taken from twelve until one p.m. randomly in the cafeteria. Although not many students were polled, the poll is a valid representation that reflects their opinions. Following is the actual poll and the responses.

1. Are you 18 years old? If so, skip to question number 8. If not, answer questions 2-7.
2. Do you plan to register to vote when you reach 18? 100 percent
3. If so, do you think you will participate in elections? Yes - 95 percent. No - 2 percent
4. Which party do you plan to join?
  - a. democratic - 40 percent
  - b. republican - 47.5 percent
  - c. independant - 2.5 percent
  - OTHER - 10 percent.
5. Why do you plan to choose this party?
  - a. my parents are members of that party - 32.5 percent
  - b. I plan to join the party because it best fits my ideas - 45 percent
  - c. OTHER (specify) - 5 percent
  - d. Both A & B - 17.5 percent
6. Do you think you will be an "educated" voter? Yes - 80 percent. No - 20 percent.
7. If not, how do you think St. Mary's can help?

## Age 18 and up

8. Are you a registered voter? Yes - 32 percent. No - 68 percent.

9. If not, why not?

- a. not interested enough - 22.5 percent
- b. don't know enough to vote - 27.5 percent
- c. OTHER (specify) - 47.5 percent

10. If you are a registered voter, which party are you affiliated with? republican - 75 percent. democratic - 20 percent. INDEPENDANT - 5 percent.

11. Why?

- a. my parents are members of that political party - 62.5 percent
- b. being a member of that party allows me to vote in more primaries - 5 percent
- c. the party upholds my ideas - 22.5 percent
- d. OTHER (specify) - 10 percent

12. Do you participate in elections? Yes - 37.5 percent. No - 62.5 percent.

13. Do you tend to vote for your party? Yes - 65 percent. No - 35 percent.

14. Do you consider yourself to be an educated voter? If not, how could St. Mary's help? No - 55 percent. Yes - 45 percent.

Another question asked to each age group was "How could St. Mary's help to educate you better politically?" The answers were; St. Mary's could stress the news more, we could have seminars or assemblies with political figures speaking to us, we could have more current events stressed in the classroom, have a young democrats club, we could have debates and briefings, or a special class or week that would teach the differences between the parties and discuss the beliefs and actions of each party.

The Belles urges students to take politics more seriously. If you are eighteen and not registered to vote please do so in a public library. The most convenient is the library located in Cameron Village. For those of you under eighteen, take politics seriously and remember that WOMEN have only had the vote for sixty-two years. Take advantage of it.