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The Belles

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C.

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ST. MARY'S CONDUCTS MOCK ELECTION

With 1984 being an election year, THE BELLES thought it would be very interesting to conduct a school-wide presidential and North Carolina senatorial election. The results were divided into sections according to the following classifications: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, faculty, and administration or staff. The results were somewhat surprising in that there were some amazing differences among the different sections.

In the presidential election, 60 percent of the administration voted for President Reagan and Vice-President Bush, while 21 percent was in favor of former Vice-President Mondale and Congresswoman Ferraro. Only 19 percent was undecided. However, the faculty expressed different preferences. They voted 70 percent in favor of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, while only 25 percent voted for Reagan-Bush. Only 5 percent was undecided.

The senior class voted overwhelmingly for Reagan-Bush with 84 percent. The Mondale-Ferraro ticket accounted for only 9 percent, while 8 percent was undecided. The junior class was in agreement with the seniors because they also supported Reagan-Bush with a 79 percent vote. Again, Mondale-Ferraro were far behind with only 8 percent. A larger percentage of juniors is still undecided concerning this race with 11 percent. Both the sophomore and freshman classes preferred Reagan-Bush over Mondale-Ferraro by very large margins. Eighty-three percent of the sophomores voted for Reagan-Bush, while only 18 percent preferred Mondale-Ferraro. Fifteen percent had yet to decide. The Reagan-Bush ticket won 75 percent of the freshmen vote with Mondale-Ferraro mustering only 10 percent. Many freshmen were undecided with a 16 percent vote. In the overall presidential election at St. Mary's, the Reagan-Bush ticket was the overwhelming favorite, accounting for 73 percent of the votes. Only 16 percent of the people here at St. Mary's preferred Mondale-Ferraro. Thirteen percent was still undecided about who to vote for.

The North Carolina senatorial election between incumbent Jesse Helms and Governor Jim Hunt was a much closer race. The administration vote was divided equally, 35 percent to 35 percent, between Helms and Hunt, while only 18 percent were undecided. However, among the faculty, the clear favorite was Hunt, who accounted for 78 percent of the vote, while Helms was only able to muster 12 percent of the vote. Ten percent of the faculty still has not made their choice. It is evident from the results of the senior class that they are not in agreement with the faculty. The seniors chose Helms over Hunt by a 65 percent to 18 percent margin, which is a rather large spread. Seventeen percent of the senior class was undecided. Again, in the junior class, Helms was the overwhelming favorite. He won by a 74 percent to 22 percent margin over Hunt. However, 20 percent was undecided, and 9 percent would vote for either candidate. The Hunt-Helms race was much closer in the sophomore class. Thirty-six percent preferred Helms, and 30 percent was in favor of Hunt. However, a whopping 42 percent of the sophomore was still undecided. In

the freshman class, 48 percent voted for Helms, and 22 percent was in favor of Hunt. Again, however, an overwhelming 30 percent was undecided. The school-wide results for the senatorial race between Helms and Hunt was a closer campaign. Forty-four percent of the people here at St. Mary's preferred Helms, while 29 percent voted for Hunt. Undecided accounted for 24 percent of the vote, and 3 percent would not vote for either Helms or Hunt.

Because former Vice-President Mondale chose Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate, a first for this country, THE BELLES thought it would be interesting to find out whether people here at SMC would vote for a woman as President of the United States. Naturally, there was some controversy over this particular question. However, it was assumed that the woman running would be just as qualified as her male opponent. Thirty-two percent of the administration were in favor of a woman president, but it was clear that more were against this because a whopping 61 percent voted against choosing a woman as president. Only 4 percent were undecided. A clear majority of 98 percent of the faculty would vote for a woman as president, while only a meager 2 percent would not. Sixty percent of the senior

class members said they would vote for a woman with 40 percent voting against it. Only 27 percent of the junior class was against voting for a woman as president, but 60 percent was in favor of it. Undecided accounted for only 8 percent of the vote. In the sophomore class, 78 percent said they would vote for a woman president, and 25 percent was not in favor of this. Only 25 percent of the freshmen would not vote for a woman as president. However, an overwhelming 73 percent was in favor of a woman as president. Only 2 percent was undecided about this. In the school-wide results, 69 percent would vote for a woman as president, with 26 percent against it. However, only a small percentage of three was still not sure about their decision.

Overall, it seems that people voted

as expected. It was predicted that Reagan and Helms would win because it seems that St. Mary's has Republican tendencies. However, Mondale-Ferraro and Hunt seem to be gaining ground as the election draws close. It was interesting that the administration voted primarily Republican, while the faculty voted Democratic. As predicted, the Hunt-Helms race was very tight. Some indicated, however, on their ballots that they were so disgusted with the race that they would vote for neither. It was interesting to see that many voted for Reagan-Bush, Republicans, and Hunt, a Democrat, but no one voted for Mondale-Ferraro, Democrats, and Helms, a Republican. It was also noticed that many here at St. Mary's were not ready to elect a woman as president.

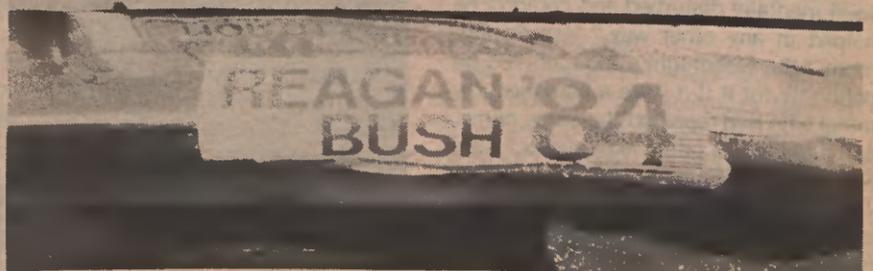
The power to shape
the future of our country
is at your fingertip.



On November 6,
use your power
of choice.

Register and vote.

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Members of the St. Mary's community show their support for candidates through bumper stickers.