

BETTINA GREGORY VISITS ST. MARY'S

by Jerri Toland



ABC news correspondent, Bettina Gregory, recently answered questions at an informal discussion held here at St. Mary's.

On October 22, St. Mary's welcomed Bettina Gregory as the Forum speaker. She spoke about several stories she has covered since she joined ABC in 1974 including the Karen Ann Quinlin story, the situation in Northern Ireland, and her big decision to tell the truth about a hostage hold-up on a plane in Atlanta. For the past eight years, she has mostly stayed in Washington to cover stories.

Her main topic, the Presidential Election and the Press, gave an idea about how television perceives people differently from how they truly are. Ms. Gregory pointed out how the current candidates are perceived. Reagan, perceived in 1980 as a strong leader, is now seen as old and tired. Mondale, on the other hand, is perceived as a potential leader now. The press plays a major role in this perception since each coverage of a story points out new and different ideas not found in other stories or speeches by the candidates. The question asked here by reporters is, What did he say or express different from before? This is the key to a good coverage.

In her discussion session, Ms. Gregory talked on the Helms-Hunt race, Press conferences, background briefing, and the mood of the country at the present time. Additionally, she also told how she got her job as a reporter for ABC. Her only comments on the Helms-Hunt race were brief, saying it was a tight race and that negative advertising doesn't help. On discussing press conferences, Ms. Gregory explained that each conference is staged. The President decides when he wants one, and at what time of the day. Most often they are held during prime time. They are always opened and closed by the Associated or United Press who sit on the front row. After several questions from these reporters, the President moves on to the various other journalists from T.V. stations and newspapers. Each person is carefully chosen by the President to ask specific questions he wishes to answer. There is always a rehearsal before it is seen live so the President is prepared for answering these questions.

The present mood of our country, Ms. Gregory said, is one of uncertainty. The pendulum is swinging toward the middle, whereas before it leaned toward the left of the spectrum. Questions in the minds of the people concern the economy - bread or butter, and will the world go to war, or remain at peace?

While Ms. Gregory was training as an actress in London, she was asked to take a radio broadcasting job because of her good speaking voice. She was also asked to be in a soap opera series but turned down both jobs since she did not want to stay and live in England. After she finished training, she returned to the U.S. where she attended Cornell University in New York for graduate school. She was working part time as a waitress when she heard an announcement over the radio concerning a broadcasting job. She jumped at the opportunity and began at 26 years old first as a volunteer. She then became a Cable T.V. reporter, but turned down an offer for a co-anchor job there and concentrated on getting a radio broadcasting job in Long Island. A small radio station accepted her, and she

began at WGBB in 1972. Ms. Gregory's first anchoring experience came at a local network, WCBC, where she worked prime time from 12-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. After a while there, her big break came when ABC offered her a reporting job, and she immediately signed a five-year contract.

Ms. Gregory works many 18 hour days, she said it was hard to plan her life around such a long day. However, she is married and is currently helping her husband run for the 10th district for Congress in Virginia. She commented that she must be flexible since her job is often unpredictable. When asked what keeps her going, Ms. Gregory replies, "That's a tough question. I guess it's my interest."

quences, she replied, "both." She added that "Helms is for equal rights not civil rights, because all of these civil rights movements will give minority groups rights that the majority groups don't have - at the taxpayer's expense." Also, "I am 100 percent behind him voting against the Martin Luther King Holiday Bill". She cited the expense and the fact that MLK was a controversial figure as reasons.

Betsy Smith was unaware of Helms' stance on civil rights, but does not hold his record against him. She points out that "He was representing his constituency. Segregation was terrible, but it has always been that way, a public figure is going to have bad things said against him. Some of the things he says are ridiculous, like his claim that MLK had communist sympathies, but I don't like the way people make MLK an angel of civil rights."

Two of the Helms supporters, Annie Gray Sprunt and Wooten Warner, mentioned that they do not support Helms' position on abortion, since he supports denying women abortions even in the case of incest and rape.

Almost of all his supporters feel more secure with Helms because of his alliance with president Reagan. Kristen Marcin, an active supporter of Reagan, feels that "Helms has more of an ear to the president and would therefore get more done for the state."

Helms supporters were also in agreement in their support of Helms' efforts to lower taxes and their approval of his consistent conservatism. A. D. Bailey supports Helms because "He'll tell you where he stands. He supports the free enterprise system and their right to be competitive. He is for less government intervention - a smaller federal govern-

ment. He will lower taxes."

A. G. Sprunt supports Helms "as he is for less government, less free giveaways."

Suzanne West feels that Helms is steadfast in his views.

W. Warner, B. Smith and an anonymous SGA officer lean toward Helms "because he is conservative."

A. G. Sprunt also points out that "Helms is morally upright, has a strong sense of leadership - is a man of principle more than a politician - unafraid to take a stand." She does not, however, agree with him wholeheartedly "but more with him than Hunt."

B. Smith feels that Hunt is too Liberal and that Helms' conservatism will be balanced out in the House."

Another gripe with Hunt includes the newly enacted DWI laws. An anonymous SGA officer dislikes Hunt because he raised the drinking age. Lindy Turner feels that the DWI laws are excessive and that the DWI issue was used by Hunt for publicity.

And then there are the Hunt supporters. In general, those voting for Hunt were voting against Helms. To quote Caro Ealy, an active Democrat, "END THE EMBARRASSMENT"; or as Ellen McCallum stated, "get Helms out of the way." Each of the nine Hunt supporters voiced this sentiment in no uncertain

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WHERE DO YOU STAND -- ST. MARY'S?

by Katherine Walton

Polls never tell the whole story.... Eighteen St. Mary's students were interviewed. Some were chosen randomly but mostly I sought the politically outspoken. The students were asked outright, whom they supported in the senatorial race and then asked to explain their reasons. Those who claimed to support Helms were then asked if they were aware that during the 50's and 60's Helms was an avowed segregationist and that for the past 12 years has voted against every major or civil rights bill introduced.

Of the nine Helms supporters only one was aware of this fact. Anne Duncan Bailey is an active supporter of Senator Helms. She is aware of his record. She commented that "civil rights legislation and desegregation includes busing which is costly." When asked if she was referring to monetary cost or the conse-

ST. MARY'S SPORTS

Swimming

by Tina Ethridge

The beginning Synchronized Swimming class will have a performance of solo and duet routines on Friday, November 30 at 9:00 a.m. The members of the class include: Ashley Bierig, Margaret Dossenbach, Elizabeth Grine, Emily Gunter, Alexandra Rost, and Stacie Sams.

"Adopted Aquatics" training will be offered on November 10th and 11th, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Optimist Pool. The fee is \$20.00. Participants must be current WSI's or BSI's. The course certifies Red Cross Adopted Aquatics Instructor.



BASKETBALL OUTLOOK



by Tina Ethridge

St. Mary's College basketball team has begun practicing for another big season. Coach Mary Lida Alexander is very positive and optimistic about the 1984-85 season. She feels that the team has made quite a bit of progress in the first few practices. In addition, she believes the team has a great deal of potential. The team members include: Jill Hooper, Kathryn Jacobs, Cathy Lee, Ellen Miller, Allison Perry, Jane Ruffin, Katherine Thompson, Chandler Thorpe, and Nicole Turner.

SCHEDULE:

† A. L. Brown	Nov. 12
Hale	Nov. 20
Wake Christian	Nov. 27
† Meredith	Nov. 29
† Bishop McGuinness	Jan. 14
† Fayetteville Academy	Jan. 15
† Warren Academy	Jan. 17
Meredith	Jan. 24
Ravenscroft	Feb. 4
Salem	Feb. 6
Vance	Feb. 14
† Wake	Feb. 18

† Home Games

ENROLLMENT FIGURES CHANGE

by Sara Dowling

There has been a significant change in the enrollment for the 1984-85 school year at St. Mary's. Enrollment has dropped. According to the Admissions office, there are 473 girls enrolled at St. Mary's this year. Last year there were 520 girls. The freshman class has 77 members, which is a decrease of 20 students from last year. The sophomore class increased by 27 to have 126. There was a big decrease of 41 in the junior class, which now has 136 members. There are 134 seniors, which is an increase of 13 girls from last year.

The drop in enrollment should prove to be beneficial to the students for several reasons. First of all, students will receive more special individual attention from faculty members and administration if they need it. Also there will be more of an opportunity for students to get to know one another. Finally, there will be more room in the dorms.

The decrease in enrollment at St. Mary's this year will obviously have an economic effect on the school. However, the slight decrease of a little less than 4 percent has been compensated for in budget adjustments. Although enrollment this year is down, the percentage of returning students is at an all-time high. Overall, the feeling of the administration about the enrollment drop is a good one.