



Happy Holiday

# The Belles

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900 HILLSBOROUGH STREET,  
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C.

of  
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## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

by Sara Dowling

With all the excitement of fall, football games, the dance, and the general business, it is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. There are many things going on during the holiday season at St. Mary's. With the pressures of exams there are many activities planned to make the season truly special.

A Christmas concert will be held in the chapel at 8:00 Sunday, December 2. The combined choirs of St. Mary's and the East Carolina University Men's Chorus will perform with the North Carolina Symphony. This special Christmas concert will be directed by Emmett Winham as part of the Smedes Parlor Concert Series.

The "Lighting O' the Green" is planned for Tuesday, December 4 this year. This is a St. Mary's tradition enjoyed by many residents of Raleigh as well as the St. Mary's family. The lighting of the forty foot pine tree in front of the chapel is a gift from St. Mary's to the city for its support of the College. The front campus of the College is decorated with luminaries, one representing each student at the school. The tree will be lit by Martha Stoops. There will be caroling and refreshments served to all.

The annual Circle-Beacon Christmas Party will be held

Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 in Smedes Parlor. The Cold Cuts will perform, and Mr. Tate will read the "The Night Before Christmas". Everyone is invited to come in her night-gown. Refreshments will be served.

These are only a few of the many things going on around campus. There will be exam breaks with refreshments from 9:00 to 9:30 every night during exam week. The week before exams the tradition of "Secret Santas or Peanuts" will be carried on. At the end of the week there will be hall parties where everyone finds out who their "Secret Santa" is. Mr. Murphy has also planned a special Christmas dinner for Thursday, December 13. Many things will be happening, and the holiday season promises to be joyous.



St. Mary's students go to the Writing Center to improve their writing skills.

## Writing Center Aids SMC Students

By Shannon Taylor

It's almost that time again, everyone's favorite time of the year. It is almost the end of the semester and exam time. Everyone has numerous papers and exams, but there is help for one yet. This fall a special Writing Center was created by Professor Charlotte Jones of the Department of English. She will help you with writer's block,

term papers, essay exams, English as a second language, application essays for senior institutions, and personal writings. She works with people who are just seeking help and those referred by other professors.

The Writing Center provides a pleasant environment with space, time and a consultant for talking about ideas, exploring meanings, and en-

gaging in the trial and error of putting ones thoughts into writing. The only materials needed are the student's rough draft or her ideas about the topic to be written about. Some students find they need an audience to clarify their thoughts, and Dr. Jones will be their audience. She will not only listen but also ask the student questions about the topic to help add details to support

arguments or to help generate outlines and break major tasks into small units. The student's writing must accurately reflect their opinions, so to be able to discuss their ideas is very important. Dr. Jones will also help revise and proofread all papers in order to help improve one's skills.

If you would like some help

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## ST. MARY'S SUPPORTS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

An impressive number of St. Mary's students attended the protest-vigil prior to Velma Barfield's lethal injection. The results of the *Belles'* survey lead one to assume that their

interest was simply curiosity. An overwhelming number of students indicated that they support capital punishment. Surveys from 255 were returned; 192 indicated that they

support capital punishment in some cases. Only 66 opposed: do not support the death penalty in any circumstances.

Surprisingly, there is little

correlation between religious preference and opinions involving this issue. The Catholic church supports a pro-life stance, it is opposed to capital punishment. Of the 27 that claimed Catholicism, only 10 are opposed. This percentage (approximately 40 percent) is certainly larger than the percentage of opposition found with students who are Protestant or "other."

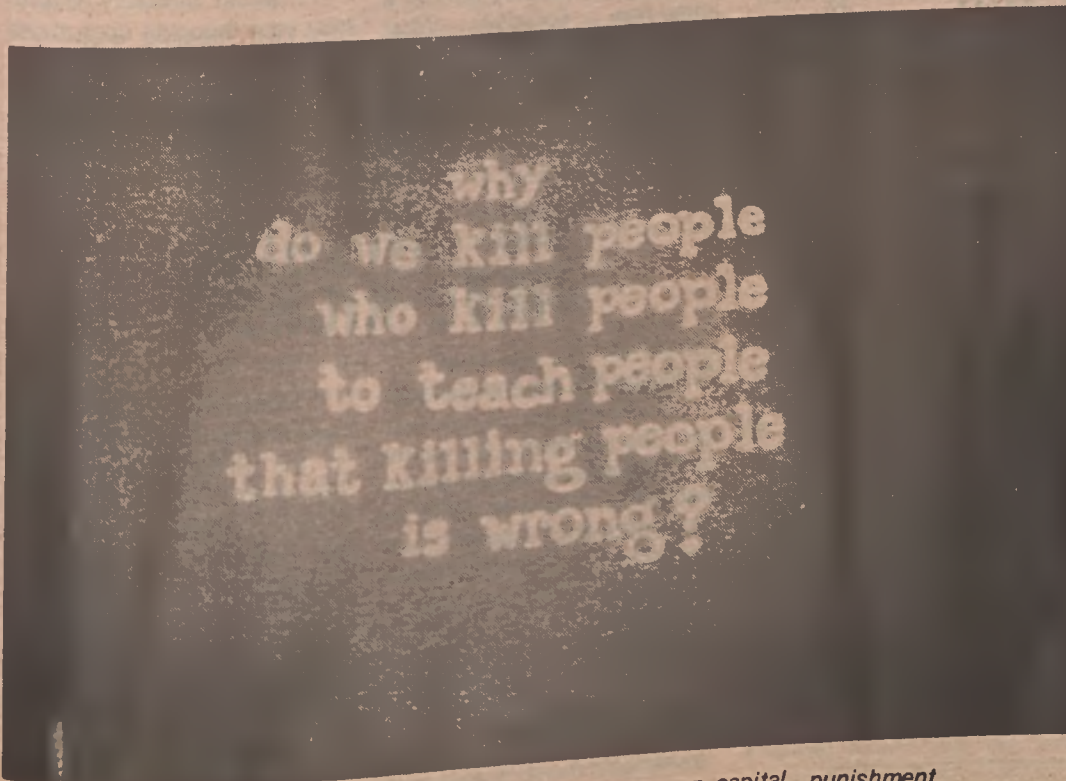
The ratio of student and faculty, opposing vs supporting is essentially similar. The freshmen support capital punishment 37 to 9, the sophomores 40 to 11, the juniors 45 to 11, the seniors 30 to 9, and the administration and staff 28 to 5. The faculty, however, emerged 15 to 12 in opposition to capital punishment. In the *Belles'* mock election the faculty also differed from the rest of the school.

Those supporting capital punishment unanimously supported it in the case of multiple murders. Only 152 of the 192 support it for a convicted murderer. 53 of the 192 support punishing a child abuser with a death sentence. 72 support

capital punishment for convicted rapists.

Those answering the survey found it difficult to choose their reason for supporting a death penalty. The survey provided three common arguments and asked students to indicate which one best expresses his reason. Most (94) feel the death penalty is adequate punishment. The second most popular (80 supporters) explanation was deterrence. 39 support the death penalty because it is cheaper for the state. A considerable number of students indicated that a combination of reasons is responsible for their choice to support.

Among interesting comments: One student cited Numbers 35: 16 as it teaches "a man who murders should be put to death." Several indicated that capital punishment is the only way to protect society since life sentences are never completed. A student opposed to the death penalty noted that capital punishment is just as expensive as life in prison. Another asked "Why do we kill people? To prove that killing people is wrong?"



One of St. Mary's girls expresses her opinion on capital punishment.