

The Hilltop



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Dramatic Carter Win Ends Unique Campaign

No matter what one's personal preference, the 1976 presidential election will have to be seen as one of the classics in modern American political history. It was not only one of the closest elections, not being settled until nearly 4am the following day, but also one of the most unique. The precipitous rise of Jimmy Carter, once practically unknown outside of his native Georgia, to capture the Democratic convention decisively was perhaps the biggest surprise. But that would have probably meant little if Gerald Ford had succeeded in pulling off the second great miracle of the campaign--that being, catching Jimmy Carter. It was also an unpredictable election with masses of voters finally making up their minds only the

day before the election. It was a return to tradition in some aspects, Jimmy Carter bringing an almost solid South back into the Democratic fold, and a break from tradition in others, the candidacy of Jimmy Carter itself breaking the norm.

What did it mean for Mars Hill students, though? Though only a few probably stayed up until the decision was certain, sentiments on the campus for both candidates were relatively strong. Especially before the week of the election, the green of Carter buttons and the red of President Ford's could be seen on numerous lapels all over campus. Students even got a chance to express their views concretely by casting votes November 1 in a

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Energy Conference Held

\$137,000 Deficit Necessitates Energy Cutbacks

With what Dr. Donald Gehring termed "problems common to all members of the college community," a special Energy Conservation Conference was called into session on Wednesday, October 30. Various members of the Student Government Association, communications media, housing, security and physical plant staffs attended the Conference in a concerted effort to find economical ways in which to cut back on the rising costs of energy consumption on campus.

With a deficit of \$137,000 in the college budget due to a \$60,000 loss from summer school and projected \$72,000 for commuting students (50 of the anticipated commuters did not show up this fall), Dr. Fred Bentley has asked Dean

Gehring and other members of the college community to make needed cutbacks so as to compensate for this \$137,000 budget deficit. Thus, after passing this message along, members of the Energy Conservation Conference "brainstormed" ideas that might lead to savings from energy cutbacks. Gehring cited figures from the 1975-76 school term that clearly pointed to the need for cutbacks by both students and faculty alike. These figures included: \$73,000 spent for electricity used in the residence halls alone last year; \$95,000 for electrical use in other buildings (the cafeteria using \$37,000 of the \$95,000); \$34,000 for the use of a telephone system and local calls,

\$26,000 spent for long distance calls; \$14,500 spent for dorm repairs (uncollectable dorm damage); and maintenance in classroom and dorm cost of \$40,700. Many of the above expenses came directly out of student tuition. Thus, as well as cutting down on energy to make up for the \$137,000 deficit, it was noted that energy savings would result in direct savings to students.

Numerous ways were suggested by members of the conference to cut back and thus save money. Cutting off lights in classrooms and dorm rooms when not in the rooms, turning off heaters instead of opening windows and letting the heat escape, using electrical appliances after the "peak"

hours in which electrical costs are higher (such as the middle of the day or late at night), cutting off campus security lights during the day (such as around Moore), and cutting back on lights in the dorm hallways late at night were only a few of the suggestions made. Costs of replacing stolen fire extinguishers alone has proved an unnecessary, costly expense this year, with approximately 50 extinguishers having been discharged already.

In an all out effort to make both students and faculty aware of the necessity of cutting back on wasteful uses of energy, Dean Gehring and the Energy Conference members

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