

A group of young, local politicians from Russia were warmly received at the rally. The group is



The (mostly) Russian visitors made quite an impression at the rally on November 3.

participating in an educational program on the democratic election process through the Center for Study of Democracy at St. Mary's Col-

lege. Zach Messitte, director of the Center (who also moderated the candidate debates on Channel 10 shortly before the election), accompanied them on their visit.

During the introduction and the (sometimes) brief speeches of candidates these visitors stood at the circle opposite the candidates, watching intently and benefiting from translation into their native language by their interpreter. The quiet translation offered a memorable experience to those in the crowd who grew up during the Cold War—who probably never expected to see the day when Russians would be attending a political rally in the United States as friends.