

# Students reject Goldwater

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If the American Presidential election were held today, with Canadian students enfranchised, 84 per cent would vote for Lyndon Johnson. Only 6 per cent would support Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Republican nominee.

This is the result of a poll taken of a cross section of Canadian university students from across the nation attending Dalhousie University. All faculties, graduate and undergraduate, are well represented in the sample. The Canadian political alignment of those queried reflects recent electoral results indicating that the respondents are truly representative.

Opinions did not vary greatly with the sex of the respondent. Apparently, Goldwater has no sex appeal to Canadians. Girls reacted similarly to almost all questions even when asked what image they had of him. No student could view Goldwater as a "father or family man" or a greying, handsome "sedate senator." On the contrary, several persons had uncomplimentary views of his personality and even his intelligence.

All non-American foreign students queried were staunchly opposed to Goldwater, unanimously naming civil rights and defence policy as their reasons. Very few students had first-hand knowledge of the man and his policies. Fifty-five per cent saw neither party convention. Only six persons had read any of Goldwater's books. This reliance on second-hand information was reflected in the answers of later questions. The students invariably gave the same priority to political issues suggested by the Canadian press. Civil rights, extremism, and Goldwater's foreign policy, favorite topics in Canadian editorial columns, were cited as the major issues. However, at the same time, it becomes clear that the American campaign has not penetrated into Canada. Most students showed little knowledge of Hubert Humphrey and William E. Miller, many were failing to be acquainted with their names. The issues of the moral state of the American nation and the political scandals during the Democratic administration, themes stressed in the Goldwater-Miller campaign, were not accepted as important by 88 per cent of the students questioned. Furthermore, 88 per cent were unaware of the forces and personalities fighting against Goldwater within the Republican party. This reflects an interest in Goldwater as an independent phenomenon rather than as a representative of a political shift of wind in the United States.

Knowledge of Goldwater's religion and political voting record is scanty, 16 per cent thought him to be Jewish. He is Episcopalian. The image of Goldwater is that of an extreme radical south-western right-winger with all that the stereotype implies. Thus, many persons made the mistake of stating that Goldwater voted for the recent tax cut. The Canadian student has a conception of types, not facts.

Most people saw Goldwater as a dangerous extremist. Sixty-seven per cent felt that the chances of war would be enhanced if Goldwater became President. Extremism was mentioned as a political issue by 49 per cent. Seventy-one persons saw Goldwater the man to be either a radical or a reactionary. Some questioned his responsibility and even his intelligence. Only ten students stressed his honesty whereas 20 per cent thought of him as irrational, 25 per cent as an idealist and 30 per cent as self-contradictory and vacillating. Even Goldwater's professed supporters saw the same faults in their

man, classing him as an impulsive and self-contradictory militarist or businessman. The Goldwaterites agreed with the other students on the importance of civil rights and defence policies.

Some of the answers were particularly revealing. A male science student believed that Wallace was Goldwater's running mate. A graduate thought "Senator MacArthur" (McCarthy?) was holding down second position on the Republic ticket. Asking students to name the greatest difference between the two candidates, many people simply replied "sanity" or "brains". Others viewed Johnson as a real liberal (not associated with Kennedy who was distinguished by two students as a "moderate").

Some further reasons may be offered to explain the overwhelming opposition to Goldwater. Canadians, not faced with the racial problem (although there are 7,000 negroes in Halifax) probably objected to Goldwater's civil rights stand on intellectual and moral grounds. Traditionally middle-of-the-road in politics, Canadians can easily reject a man who they regard overwhelmingly as an extremist. The other top issue, defence policy, is also not a domestic American problem and it affects Canadians directly.

On the whole, students appeared interested in the results of the election and were prepared to give serious reasons in support of their choice. However, the poll also reflected a surprising ignorance of the latitude of the problems posed by Goldwater's candidacy. Too many Canadians students have passively and uncritically relied for all other information on incomplete news reports.

\* MORE THAN ONE ANSWER GIVEN IN ASTERISKED QUESTIONS WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR TOTAL PERCENTAGE OVER 100.

1. By what party was Senator Goldwater nominated as Presidential candidate in the 1964 election?

Republican	89%
Democrat	3%
Didn't Know	8%

2. What state did he represent in the U.S. Senate?

Arizona	74%
Other states	7%
Didn't Know	8%

3 a Who are his Democratic opponents?

i Johnson	89%
ii Humphrey	69%

b What states did they represent in the Senate?

i Texas	69%
ii Minnesota	26%

4. Who do you predict will win the Presidential election?

Johnson	93%
Goldwater	5%
Uncertain	2%

5. Did you see all/part of the Democratic/Republican convention?

Both conventions	23%
Republican convention only	12%
Democratic convention only	10%
Neither	55%

6. Have you heard Goldwater speak? What was your reaction?

Favourable	19%
Unfavourable	46%
Neutral	10%
Have not heard him speak	25%

7. Have you read any of Goldwater's books? What was your reaction?

Favourable	1%
Unfavourable	3%
Neutral	2%
Had not read any of his books	94%

\*8. In your opinion, where does Senator Goldwater stand politically?

a. Anarchist	1%
b. Fascist	6%
c. Militarist	15%
d. Fiscal Conservative	22%
e. Right wing Western radical	47%
f. No political philosophy	4%
g. Typical Southerner	15%

9. What is Goldwater's religion?

Anglican	25%
Jewish	16%
Protestant (Non-Anglican)	41%
No religion	5%
Did not know	13%

10. GOLDWATER OR JOHNSON WHICH MAN WOULD YOU VOTE FOR IF YOU WERE AN AMERICAN?

GOLDWATER	6%
JOHNSON	84%
WOULD NOT VOTE	10%

11. a Who is Goldwater's running mate?

Miller	62%
Someone else	6%
Did not know	32%

b. What was his previous Government position?

New York Congressman	18%
Senator	17%
State Governor	3%
Previous President	1%
Did not know	61%

c Do you approve of Goldwater's choice?

Approved choice	20%
Disapproved choice	9%
Neutral or no opinion	71%

12. Would the election of Goldwater enhance the chance of world war?

Yes	67%
No	23%
Undecided	10%

\*13. What issues will be the deciding factors in the choice of the president?

1. Civil Rights	85%
2. Taxation	12%
3. Social Welfare	21%
4. Defence Strategy	59%
5. Degree of gov't control of economy	21%
6. Moral State of Nation	12%
7. Bobby Baker and other scandals	5%
8. Extremism	49%

14. What parties would you support in a Canadian Federal election?

Liberal	35%
Progressive Conservative	25%
New Democrat	16%
Other	2%
Don't Know	22%

15. What is the most important difference between Johnson and Goldwater?

Extremism	16%
Defense and foreign policy	10%
Philosophical Liberal or Conservative viewpoint	18%
Intelligence and common sense	17%
Civil rights	8%
No answer	22%
Other Differences	9%

\*16. Which of the following bills did Goldwater vote for in the Senate?

Civil Rights	4%
Limited Disarmament agreement with Russia	10%
Tax Cut	36%
Peace Corps	25%
Medical Care to Aged	19%

(NOTE: Goldwater opposed all of these bills. None is correct answer.)

17. Name three prominent Republicans who

a. Opposed Goldwater publicly before the Convention.

Scranton	45%
Eisenhower	16%
Nixon	18%
Rockefeller	53%
Lodge	22%
Didn't Know	23%

b. Do not publicly support Goldwater at present.

Keating	15%
Javits	2%
Rockefeller	16%
Others	7%
Didn't Know	60%

18. What do you think immediately, upon hearing the name Goldwater?

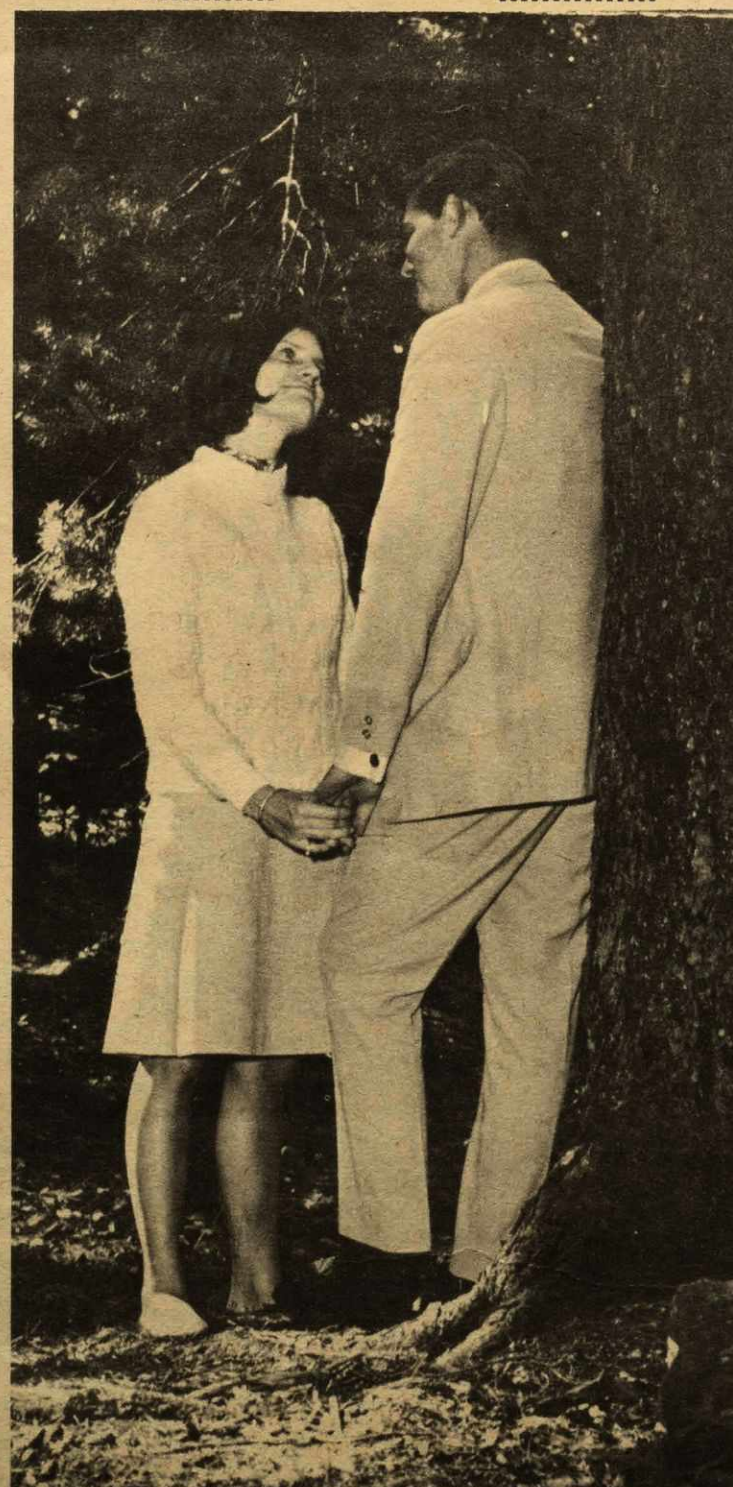
Western cowboy	2%
Businessman	11%
Southerner	11%
Military Man	2%
Fiery radical	54%
Sedate Senator	No One
Father and Family man	No One
None of the above	23%

\*19. Which of the following adjectives would you choose to describe Goldwater.

A Radical	39%
Conservative	26%
Classical-Liberal	2%
Reactionary	32%
Progressive	9%
B Idealist	25%
Pragmatic	7%
Militaristic	32%
Rugged Individual	21%
Moralist	No One
Businesslike	7%
Genius	1%
Simple	7%
C Honest	10%
Crafty	6%
Sincere	15%
Self-Contradictory	30%
Rational	4%
Irrational	20%
Imperturbable	No One
Impulsive	31%

\*20. What particular issues and political ideas come to mind on hearing the name Goldwater?

Civil Rights	51%
War & Defence Policy	45%
Others	less than 6%



'In your heart' are you sure he is right?