Of referenda and races: Election Day ramblings

By Glenn Brownstein

All bets are off. After spending the better part of an hour trying to figure out who will win today's Presidential election, I realized that there are simply too many unknowns and too many down-to-the-wire races to try to discern who the next President will be.

One scenario made South Dakota the key state for the nation-wide. Under that set of computations, a Carter victory in that always-crucial state would have set the stage for another Ford win, which would make it 270-266 the other way. This, of course, involves about six assumptions about other state races that I'd prefer not to have to put out to sea. So I give up. I'm going to have to wait for a long fan-filled night in front of the tubes.

But, that said, there's absolutely no reason not to vote today, unless you really don't care who our next President is. Or, if you're a Massachusetts voter, what sorts of laws you'll have to live with for years to come. Very high stakes here today, and it's not at all due to the Presidential race. Most Congressional battles and the Ted Kennedy Senatorial race don't figure to attract that much attention either. No, the passions that move Bay Staters involve equal rights, taxes, power, guns, bottles, and blue laws.

By William Lasser

The Presidential horsetrace has nearly reached the finish line, and the epitaphs of American politics will decipher the photo finish, declare the results official, and post the parimutual payoffs. The Ford horse, which broke badly from the starting gate, has gained amazingly on its opponent. The Carter horse, off to a big lead, has hit the line, limped and limped him to the home stretch.

If 1976 is remembered for its politics, it will be recalled as a year of political gaffes, mixups and blunders. There has been no shining rhetoric, no dramatics, no moments of real triumph or tragedy.

Both national conventions were anticlimaxes, while the Democratic Convention of 1972 which brought out the McGovern and McGovern left the nation with a collective hangover. The first day was won by a few hundred voters. This is known as the effective usage of television's creative powers.

And yet, there is hope. I sincerely hope that the computers are as lost - as we are in terms of figuring out who won tonight. Better yet, have CBS, say, give Carter the election. Better yet, have a status of the past. How can "Presidential" be voted on? The answer is: by the voters. It is evident that the referendum question possesses, at its core, the real triumph or the real tragedy.

Ford-Carter: no difference

By Rebecca L. Waring '79 - Associate News Editor

The differences between the Carter and Ford candidacies are non-trivial enough to compare with "Win with Wilke,” “I like Ike,” or even Nixon’s “Now more than every!” It is not yet time to give up Roosevelt’s "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" were both part of inauguration addresses.

The famous picture of Harry Truman having a newspaper headline which said “Dewey Defeats Truman” — when the election actually went the other way — is unforgettable.

And this election is far from the great return of a reporter who, told when called upon 1916, had called President Hughes on the morning after the election that “Mr. President, you are elected.” “Well, when he wakes up, tell him he isn’t President any more.” (Please turn to page 31)

The Tech

Nuumber 96, November 2, 1976

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless otherwise noted, the photographs were taken by Julia A. Malakie ’79 - Editor-in-Chief; Rebecca L. Waring ’79 - Managing Editor; John M. Sallay ’77 - Business Manager; Mark J. Mackay ’78 - Executive Editor. Volume 96, Number 42

[Image description] This image is a advertisement for Ford-Carter: no difference. It uses a newspaper headline from 1948 to make a point about the candidates' similarities. The headline reads, "Dewey Defeats Truman," which was incorrect, but the ad implies that the current candidates are so similar that it could be incorrect as well.

The ad contains text that humorously points out the similarities between the Ford and Carter campaigns, suggesting that there is little to distinguish them. The ad uses the phrase "I like Ike," a reference to President Eisenhower, to make a point about the candidates' perceived likeness. The ad also implies that both candidates are perceived as "liberal," despite their differences.

The ad ends with the text: "Ford-Carter: no difference." This statement reflects the central message of the ad, which is that there are few, if any, significant differences between the two candidates, and that voters may not find it worthwhile to differentiate between them.

The Tech is a student newspaper at MIT and is known for its satirical and political content. The ad is consistent with the paper's style, using humor and irony to highlight issues and make points about the candidates.

The ad appears to be a critique of the political system, suggesting that the candidates are so similar that the election is essentially a choice between two nearly identical options. This is a common theme in political satire, where the candidates are portrayed as interchangeable, and the election is seen as a missed opportunity for meaningful change.

The ad's message is likely to resonate with readers who feel disillusioned with the political process or who are critical of the candidates. It may also appeal to those who are looking for a humorous take on the political landscape, enjoying the irony and cleverness of the ad's message.

The ad's use of the newspaper headline "Dewey Defeats Truman" from 1948 is a significant element of the ad's appeal. This headline was widely known to be incorrect, and its reappearance in the ad connects to a long history of misperceptions and misinformation in politics. The ad uses this historic precedence to question the current state of political discourse, implying that the candidates are so similar as to make the election a repetition of past mistakes.

The ad's humor and irony are effective in delivering its message, appealing to a certain audience's sense of humor and critique. It is likely to be shared and talked about, increasing awareness of the issues it raises and potentially influencing how people perceive the candidates and the election.