Republicans eager to regain White House

Tom Curtis

If there is a real frontrunner among the Republicans, it is Ronald Reagan. Reagan is the unofficial leader of the conservative wing of the party and the polls show that he could beat Carter if the election were held now.

However, Reagan has some big problems. Many people are concerned that he is too old to be able to handle the presidency; he would be the oldest president in the history of the United States if he were elected. Another problem is his conservative views on such things as the Panama Canal, which scare many moderates and liberals.

To win, Reagan must recapture the conservative support which almost got him the Republican nomination last time. That alone could be enough to win the nomination this time around, since the moderates will be hard-pressed to come up with a candidate as strong as Gerald Ford.

In the general election, Reagan must tone down his conservative rhetoric if he is to get the votes from independents and Democrats which he will need to win the election.

Howard Baker

Howard Baker is the most logical choice to lead the moderate wing of the party in the primaries. After all, he is the Senate Minority leader and he does have many years of experience in the Senate.

However, Baker's problem is that he doesn't have the national support of Reagan. He is low in the polls because he is not well known. If another Republican can beat him to the moderate vote, Baker could find himself out of the race very quickly.

Therefore, Baker has a tough campaign ahead in the early primaries; he must at least come close to victory in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. To do this, he must try to capture the moderate votes which got Ford the nomination in '76.

In the general election campaign, Baker must choose his strategy to fit his opponent. Against Carter, he should emphasize his experience in dealing with other Washington leaders. Against Kennedy, he should concentrate his middle-of-the-road positions with Kennedy's more liberal positions.

John Connally

John Connally is a populist candidate who could conceivably capture both the conservatives and moderates. However, Connally has one big problem: his association with Nixon and Watergate.

If the Republicans except possibly Reagan, Connally must make a strong showing in the early races, and to do this, Connally must distance himself with Nixon.

In the Texas primaries, Connally must also attract Democrats into his populist coalition. That shouldn't be too hard considering he was once a Democrat himself.

Gerald Ford

Although he does not appear to be a candidate now, Gerald Ford could enter the race if certain conditions existed. The most likely scenario would be for Reagan to take an early lead over all the moderates. Then Ford might enter the race to keep the Republicans from moving too far to the right.

Ford would then need a strong showing in the late primaries and the support of all other moderate candidates at the convention. He could conceivably pull it off, but he will have to answer to those who point out that he is one of the few incumbent presidents ever voted out of office.

In a general election, Ford will have to run on his past record. Even though that record isn't terribly outstanding, Ford never reached Carter's current depth of unpopularity.

Basically, the Republican race will probably boil down to a race between Reagan and Ford and whichever moderate can most quickly achieve popular backing. The race could be quite similar to Ford-Reagan in 1976, with the nomination not being decided until the convention.

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to an article in The Tech on "Women's R/O activities" which appeared in the Fri., Sept. 14 issue of the paper.

I do not believe there is any direct relationship between a woman's R/O activities and her chances of winning the R/O position. However, it is clear that the Women's R/O activities must be more organized and better publicized in order to encourage women to participate in R/O events.

The objectives of Women's R/O '79

To the Editor:

It has come to our attention, from the "R/O Week Called a Success" article in Friday's (0/10) Tech that some members of the MIT community misunderstood the objectives, intents, and outcomes of the Women's R/O Program '79. In order to resolve this, we would like to briefly outline and discuss the objectives of Women's R/O '79, how it differed from previous years, and what outcomes we have turned out.

The objectives of the Women's R/O Committee

These objectives were formulated at two open meetings of the Women's R/O Committee and Women Students Meetings. The objectives are based on a survey of current R/O activities, and on the desires of women students. The objectives are also based upon a 15.301 survey concerning rush week '78, which showed that a majority of women fell excluded or somewhat excluded from the "rush" part of R/O week.

1) That the Women's R/O Committee should hold enough events so that freshmen are, and feel like they are, active participants in R/O week.

2) That freshmen have more opportunities to be present and participate in the activities.

3) That freshmen have more opportunities to meet and socialize with upperclasswomen.

4) That the group activities aimed towards women should be coordinated, so that they do not conflict and are not redundant.

How This Year's Women's R/O differed from Past Years

Women's R/O '79 started in April with two open meetings, which were publicized by mailings to women students. These meetings were held for, and attended by, living group R/O and living group Women's R/O chairpersons, and other students who were interested in helping out. Approximately 25 students attended each meeting, and all the co-ed and women's dormitories were represented.

At these meetings, we drew up a list of what type of activities we felt were important. What type of budget was required, and how the activities should be run. In addition, we drew up a schedule of living group activities aimed at freshmen (lunches, informal parties etc.).

It was the unanimous consensus that more activities were needed that had been held during previous R/O weeks, and that more food should be served, as eating is a major part of Rush Week activities (Please turn to page 5).

Paul Hubbard

By Kent Massey

I am Brian Platko and I belong to the pure and noble order of the Lord alone...

Philips explains his position

Paul Hubbard

By Kent Massey

Give me your hand and guide me to the Lord above all.