Starewatch

Cardinal’s letter throws local race into national spotlight

(Editor’s note: Starewatch is a new feature of The Tech in which reporters will analyze and summarize events happening on a state-wide level of interest to the MIT community. Other areas will be covered in Collegewatch, Citywatch, Nationwatch, and Worldwatch.)

By Julie Tiao

A letter issued last Thursday by Humberto Cardinal Medeiros has brought national attention upon today’s Massachusetts primary elections.

The letter, addressed to the two million Catholics of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, strongly condemned abortion under any circumstances, calling it “a horrendous crime and deadly sin.” The Cardinal urged Catholic voters to abandon candidates supporting federally-funded abortions and to vote “to save our children, born and unborn.”

According to the Boston Globe, Medeiros’ well-timed letter was intended to influence voters in today’s Bay State primaries, where pro-abortionist, Barney Frank, in the 4th Congressional District, and U.S. Representative James Shannon in the 5th District are favored to win. A result of the Cardinal’s letter has been nationwide interest “to see if the liberalism symbolized by U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and U.S. Representative Robert F. Drinan can be derailed by the hometown archbishop.”

Medeiros’ letter was reportedly the result of his outrage at “the highly visible support Drinan has given Frank in the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress...the seat Father Drinan is vacating on orders from the Vatican.” The distinction between Drinan’s views as a politician and as a priest are difficult - for “unsophisticated Catholics in working class neighborhoods” to make. “When Drinan gives a salute to a guy like Frank, it looks like his giving direct support as a priest.”

Medeiros’ letter was intended to clarify the position of the Catholic Church on abortion. The letter is considered to be a “major breakthrough for political conservatives trying to harness fundamentalist protestants against liberal government programs.” Politicians nationwide will study the outcome of today’s election.

On the beach . . .

MacGregor House held its annual beach picnic last weekend on Cape Cod. As usual, a truckful of hamburgers, hot dogs, beer, soda, and etc. accompanied the busloads of MacGregorites and their guests from the local women’s colleges. (Photo by Lance Rinker)

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