Rally supports Professor Morgan

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by Juliet West

Mary Rowe asks a question during yesterday’s Colloquium on AIDS. The panel also included Dr. Alan Brandt and Dr. George Grady.

Famous names vie for office

Analysis

By Juliet West

The departure of a powerful luminary, glamorous names and one of the most liberal electorates in the country — all are reasons for the national attention trained here, the 8th Congressional District, the heart of Massachusetts. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., who has represented the district for 32 years, announced his retirement last week.

The race to fill the prestigious seat — a state senator, several state representatives, as MIT professor, an artist, a state senator, a nephew and a neighbor’s grandson.

For the past 34 years, the 8th District has been the unquestioned domain of Tip O’Neill. In the most recent election, he won 92 percent of the vote, opposed only by a Communist challenger.

The candidates are a different breed. Over a dozen candidates, many with long experience in state politics, mean to contend. Eighteen are running for the Democratic nomination, 30 for the Republican nomination.

Where is the 8th CD?

To understand the race, it is not enough simply to know the candidates. It is also necessary to meet the people whose votes they are courting.

Stand in the middle of the Kennedy Bridge. Look at MIT dominating the north shore of the river and imagine Harvard beyond. You are in the 8th District, home to half a million people and dozens of distinct neighborhoods. Do not overlook the Portuguese in South Boston, or the Irish in Charlestown, for the immigrant communities define the district as much as the great universities. More than 40 percent of the district’s residents are of foreign stock, the highest percentage in New England. Between them, the two communities of ethnic minorities and liberal intellectuals make up one of the most left-leaning electorates in the United States.

Where has the race been?

Massachusetts is one of the most solidly Democratic states in the nation. There is only one Republican among the Commonwealth’s 13 delegates to Congress. Now, the Democratic district in the state. It has long been a stronghold of liberal Democrats and anti-Vietnam War effort. The 8th CD is the only congressional district to have such a distinction.

The president is John F. Kennedy, who returned from World War II in 1945 and entered politics. The young, wealthy Harvard prodigy won the seat in 1946 and held it for three terms. When Kennedy left for the Senate in 1952, Tip O’Neill, the first Democratic Speaker of the Massachusetts House, assumed the seat. Unlike Kennedy, O’Neill was content to remain in the House of Representatives. During his 34 years there, he has made an enormous impact in Congress, particularly since becoming majority leader in 1972 and speaker in 1976. Unlike Kennedy, O’Neill has been a politician of the town. He believes in the tradition of spending public money to help the disadvantaged and has fought heavy spending cuts. He also had a traditional campaign style and knew many of his electorate personally.

His legacy may give us some idea of what the 8th District will do for a high-spending, high-stakes, modern political campaign. When Kennedy announced his candidacy for this seat, he did so in May. Speeches and announcements for the campaign began less than a week after the last candidate had already dropped out of the race. Students supporting several of the candidates have begun to organize at MIT.

Beginning Friday, The Tech will feature interviews with the major candidates of both parties. Whatever the outcome of the election this fall, the 8th District will have a new voice in Washington for the first time in three decades. And the 8th will have a new chance to take a turning point in a long distinguished history.

AIDS history discussed

By Bobbi Silberglatt

The Undergraduate Association’s (UA) Election Commission held an all candidates’ forum Thursday. The forum, which took place in the Student Center Mezzanine Lounge, was attended by all 45 candidates running for office. 26 made short presentations to the audience (of 35 persons, all but three of whom were candidates or members of the press.

Friedmann mentioned Morgan’s work as chairman of the selection committee and as a member of the steering committee of the Shakespeare Ensemble as further examples of his contribution to Institute life.

Marino Tovares Grady, who addressed the medical aspects of AIDS, described the action of the AIDS virus as “creating the cell membrane, allowing forcing it to synthesize and produce viruses.” He described the AIDS virus as “very inefficiently transmitted,” and assured the audience that they could only get AIDS through blood to blood contact or sex.

Kessler, the last speaker, explained that groups like the AIDS council were formed by mainly homosexual organizations in the 1980s when the homosexual community became concerned that the federal government was not reacting fast enough to the AIDS crisis.

Today, more than 100 organizations exist to care for patients, professionals, what is AIDS and safe sex to the homosexual community and the community at large, and to further health care, Kesseler said.

General Rockey, who addressed the community’s response to the needs of AIDS patients, stressed that AIDS is not a death sentence. He expressed concern, as did all the other speakers, for the future political policy questions which a growing number of AIDS patients are facing.