Election Watch

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their constituencies on the important issues. Their success is all the evidence one needs to conclude that such leaders are a great source of strength for the Democratic Party and its future.

Besides race and abortion, a final trend emerges from November's elections. Voters are retreating from their anti-government feelings of the early Reagan years. Pollster Lou Harris reported that over 50% of voters polled said they wanted more government programs to deal with a variety of national problems. This trend is a great boon to Democratic electoral chances, since Democrats have traditionally been seen as the party which best delivers government services. When voters want "less" government, they vote Republican. Paradoxically, the one issue on which voters do express a desire for less government involvement, abortion, also seems to be benefitting Democrats.

The success of all three Democrats provides a great deal of encouragement. Democrats ran tough campaigns, based on the issues, and won. Jim Florio won by a landslide in New Jersey in which the choice was a clear one between a progressive Democrat and a conservative Republican. And on his coattails, the state legislature also fell to Democratic hands. In Virginia and New York, Wilder and Dinkins won because of qualifications and issues, in spite of the lingering electoral handicap of being black.The voters are increasingly in tune with the Democratic program and Democratic candidates. Democrats with hard-hitting, well-run campaigns which speak to the concerns of voters can win. It's only a start, but just the beating of a pulse is a good sign for a party that seemed dead on arrival only a year ago.

The voters are increasingly in tune with the Democratic program and Democratic candidates.

Quotes of Note

"[I have written] to express our extreme gratification that the friendly People's China has restored normal order after the recent incidents."
-Yasir Arafat to Chinese Communist Party secretary in *People's Daily*

"I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with them."
-Dan Quayle, *Time*, May 8, 1989

"If all you have in life is bad choices, crack may not be the most unpleasant of them."
-Jefferson Morley of *The New Republic*

"I don't think kidnapping and violence help the cause of peace."
-George Bush, 7/28/89--when asked about Israeli kidnapping of Lebanese terrorist Sheik Obeid

Everywhere I have sought rest and found it not except sitting apart in a nook with a little book.

Thomas Kempis

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National And Local Abortion Rights

Pro-choice Legislative Update

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wishes of most Pennsylvanians, according to several polls which indicate that residents favor choice by a margin of 2 to 1.

At the national level, the question is one of both financing and individual rights. President Bush, in an attempt to appease conservative supporters, vetoed a spending bill for the Department of Labor and Health and Human Services that included a measure to finance, with Medicaid funds, the abortions of poor women who had been victims of rape or incest. Voting for the measure closely followed partisan lines: in the House, 173 Democrats voted for easing restrictions on federal funds for abortion, while only 71 voted against it--whereas 136 Republicans voted against the measure, and only 39 voiced support for the easing. Only last year abortion rights advocates had, by a margin of 216 to 166, lost the battle to defeat the Hyde amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortions, except in cases where the mother's life is in danger. This shift is seen as evidence by abortion rights advocates that members of Congress are beginning to heed the cries of their constituents, who believe that government should not be the decision-maker in such a personal matter.

The representatives' actions contradict the wishes of most Pennsylvanians, according to several polls which indicate that residents favor choice by a margin of 2 to 1.

Although the House failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority to override Bush's veto, in the end abortion rights advocates actually picked up 19 new supporters. Bush, unable to find what he termed "room for flexibility," decided to galvanize his anti-abortion position despite pleas from within the Republican party to sign the bill. In 1980 Bush said, "I oppose federal funding of abortion except in the case of rape, incest and the life of the mother", but in 1989 Bush has chosen to concentrate on appeasing the conservatives who helped bring him to power. His position's "evolution" may cause the Republican party serious damage in upcoming elections, as the party becomes further associated with anti-abortion groups. As Michael McCurry of the Democratic National Committee puts it, "the Republicans are confronting the reality of a right to life platform."

The New Brown Chapter Of N.O.W.

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"We no longer have to be a single issue group." Numerous task forces have formed under the broader coalition of N.O.W. to work on campus-specific issues--questioning, for instance, Brown's sexual assault policy, the treatment of women in the classroom and the inequitable distribution of financial aid.

Edee Saar '92, coordinator of the task force to improve women's studies, sees the administration's commitment to this concentration as symbolic of the problem. "The devaluing of women's experience, and of the Third World woman's experience as well, is evident if you look at the course catalogue. The attention given to other programs that became concentrations, like American Civilization and Environmental Studies, hasn't been given to women's studies," Saar said. "As a result, there are so few courses offered that most women who take them are already "feminist," and the classes are not as open to men or to women who are still exploring what it means to be a woman." After last semester's pro-choice movement, Brown N.O.W. was the next logical step; seeing the basic right to control over our reproductive lives threatened has made us aware of our status in all the other aspects of our lives.

"I was surprised and enthusiastic about how great the turnout was. It shows that the pro-choice majority is there and is stronger than the anti-choice faction."
--Brown student Nancy Reiter '92 on the recent national march

If you would like to join *The Principle*, leave your name, phone number, and box number in Box 78 in the Student Activities Office.