

=====
Date: Wed, 1 Nov 2000 10:21:01 -0500 (EST)
From: Peter Tuckel <ptuckel@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Request for trend data on noncontacts in telephone surveys
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.4.10.10011011016110.12826-100000@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

I would appreciate it greatly if someone could tell me where I might be able to obtain trend data on either noncontact or nonresponse rates in telephone surveys. I just need a few data points spanning the last 15-20 years.

Thank you very much for assisting me with this inquiry.

Peter Tuckel

=====
Date: Wed, 01 Nov 2000 10:27:04 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Request for trend data on noncontacts in telephone surveys
References: <Pine.SOL.4.10.10011011016110.12826-100000@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

If this is available, please share with the entire listserve.

Thanks.

Nick

Peter Tuckel wrote:

> I would appreciate it greatly if someone could tell me where I might
> be able to obtain trend data on either noncontact or nonresponse rates
> in telephone surveys. I just need a few data points spanning the last
> 15-20 years.
>
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>
> Peter Tuckel

=====
Date: Wed, 1 Nov 2000 10:29:57 -0500
From: MSaxon@jup.com
Received: from nyc-ex01.jup.com (nyc-ex01xt.jup.com [209.246.40.30])
by mail.jupmail.com (Build 91 (devel) 8.9.3/NT-8.9.3) with ESMTTP id
KAA13000;

Wed, 01 Nov 2000 10:43:52 -0500
Received: by nyc-ex01.jup.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
id <V0Z7S4ST>; Wed, 1 Nov 2000 10:30:02 -0500
Message-ID: <97F990776A73D31180960090279C181602A42D56@nyc-ex01.jup.com>
To: mkshares@mcs.net, aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Request for trend data on noncontacts in telephone surveys
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

Most recent issue of POQ has a nice paper about reducing nonresponse in RDD surveys...The bibliography looks promising.

-Mike-

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Panagakis [mailto:mkshares@mcs.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 5:27 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Request for trend data on noncontacts in telephone surveys

If this is available, please share with the entire listserve.

Thanks.

Nick

Peter Tuckel wrote:

> I would appreciate it greatly if someone could tell me where I might
> be able to obtain trend data on either noncontact or nonresponse rates
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> 15-20 years.
>
> Thank you very much for assisting me with this inquiry.
>
> Peter Tuckel

=====
Date: Wed, 1 Nov 2000 12:51:18 EDT
From: rhickson@monmouth.com
Received: from 199.20.64.72 (www.monmouth.com [209.191.58.2])
by mail.monmouth.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id MAA00580
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 1 Nov 2000 12:51:18 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <200011011751.MAA00580@mail.monmouth.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Call for Student Papers -- Eastern Evaluation Research Society 2001
competition
X-Mailer: MI-Webmail - Monmouth Internet
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="MailMan_Boundary"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

--MailMan_Boundary

Content-Type: text/plain

Attached is a call for papers for the student paper competition for 2001, sponsored by the Eastern Evaluation Research Society.

Please have a look and see if a student you know might be doing work in applied/evaluation research that would fit with the goal of this award program.

Thank you for your interest.

Rachel
Hickson

This message was sent using MI-Webmail.
No matter where you are, never lose touch.
Get your Email using MI-Webmail.
<http://www.monmouth.com/>

--MailMan_Boundary
Content-Type: application/msword; name="2001 student award announcement.doc"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="2001 student award announcement.doc"

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Subject: Poll Watchers column
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Richard Morin" <morinr@washpost.com>
Message-ID: <OF08355E5A.8AA710CC-ON8525698A.00654498@washpost.com>
X-MIMETrack: Serialize by Router on inetmail1/TWP(Release 5.0.3 |March 21, 2000) at 11/01/2000 01:30:08 PM
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

The latest Poll Watchers column has been posted on Washingtonpost.com. It may be found at

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A56555-2000Nov1.html>

In this week's column:

*Who's Voting for Nader

*Indie Women and Other 'Swingers'

*My Biggest Goof III: The Pew Research Center's Andy Kohut

*Why We're Weighting to Party ID

Date: Wed, 01 Nov 2000 10:38:17 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Richard Rands <rrands@cfmc.com>
Subject: Cute Russian reaction to US elections
In-Reply-To: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBMEMGCMAA.mark@bisconti.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

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Publication=4&NrIssue<br>
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Date: Wed, 01 Nov 2000 20:26:19 +0100
To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Edith de Leeuw <edithl@xs4all.nl>
Subject: Re: Request for trend data on noncontacts in telephone surveys
In-Reply-To: <Pine.SOL.4.10.10011011016110.12826-100000@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

At the nonresponse confrenece in Portland last year, Charlotte Steeh presented a paper on NR-trends for telephone surveys. I suggest, contacting her.

Edith

At 10:21 AM 11/1/00 -0500, you wrote:

>I would appreciate it greatly if someone could tell me where I might be
>able to obtain trend data on either noncontact or nonresponse rates in
>telephone surveys. I just need a few data points spanning the last
>15-20 years.

>

>Thank you very much for assisting me with this inquiry.

>

>Peter Tuckel

Dr. Edith D. de Leeuw, Methodika
Plantage Doklaan 40, NL-1018 CN Amsterdam
tel/fax +31.20.6223438 e-mail edithl@xs4all.nl

In God We Trust
Everyone Else Should Bring DATA

=====
Date: Wed, 1 Nov 2000 17:04:36 -0600
From: "Richard Day" <rday@rdresearch.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <4.1.20001013095050.00bdc60@casbah.acns.nwu.edu>
Subject: Re: AAPOR 2001 Call for Participation
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0037_01C04425.D045FBEO"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2314.1300
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2314.1300

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Peter,=20

I had a very useful conversation with Mark Schulman at the CASRO metings = this past week. We would volunteer to host a panel to discuss the = common problems faced by CASRO and AAPOR and to see about

working on the = common problems together rather than
separately. I would be pleased to = flesh this out if you think it would be
useful. It seems to me that we = have much more in
common as it relates to problems (e.g. response rates, = legislative
incursions, internet standards). Let me know what you = think.
=20

Best to you bub.

----- Original Message -----=20
From: Peter Miller=20
To: aapornet@usc.edu=20
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2000 9:15 AM
Subject: AAPOR 2001 Call for Participation

Please forgive redundancy in this posting. I have had some inquiries = on
conference proposal submission procedures following an
earlier = announcement of the Call for Participation. To submit a proposal
for = the conference, go to the AAPOR website and click
on Conference 2001 (in = the pop-up box that appears when you direct your
mouse to Conferences). = Or, you can follow the direct
link to the proposal submission page in = the section on "Proposal Submission
Process" below. Here is the entire = Call for
Participation, in case you did not get it (or if you deleted = it). Look
forward to hearing from you. PM

"MAKING CONNECTIONS - PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH
PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC"
CALL FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

The American Association for Public Opinion Research will hold its = 56th
annual
conference at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure in Montreal, Quebec, May =
17-
20, 2001.

AAPOR's Conference Committee seeks proposals for papers, poster =
presentations,
panels and round tables that will illuminate important research = questions
and promote the
development of our profession.=20

Papers, posters, panels and round table ideas on any topic in public =
opinion and survey
research are welcomed for consideration for next May's conference. We =
encourage
participants to organize panel proposals with common themes.=20

CONFERENCE THEME

=20

AAPOR's annual conference is the place for academic, commercial and =
governmental
public opinion and survey researchers to 'make connections.' The 2001 =
meeting in

Montreal is a particularly good opportunity for researchers from the U.S. and Canada, as well as researchers from other countries, to share experiences, research innovations and comparative data.=20

Following the historic voting in Mexico, national elections will have made big news in the U.S. and Canada by next spring. Trade policy (NAFTA), environmental issues, health care delivery and financing, media effects, culture policy and other matters are subjects of continuing debate among North Americans. In the U.S and Canada, regional differences in political attitudes, religion, ethnicity, language, economic well-being and lifestyle are notable. Papers and panels that offer data on public opinion in these and other areas will be part of the conference agenda.=20

The Montreal meeting will explore methodological challenges that cut across national boundaries. Research on response and nonresponse error stemming from questionnaires, interviewers and survey modes, cultural factors that affect response to surveys, and methodological problems presented by multilingual populations are increasingly important topics. The U.S. Census in 2000 and the Canadian Census in 2001 offer many interesting points of comparison. The impact of technology on survey research, including the expanding variety of computer and Internet-based data collection modalities, will be a major focus of the conference.=20

Making connections with respondents is a vital and increasingly difficult part of our business. Presentations on techniques for increasing survey participation and for understanding nonresponse effects are encouraged. And making connections with consumers of poll and survey information has never been more important. We welcome presentations on media coverage of polls and surveys, and innovations in communicating survey findings to general audiences.=20

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposals for the conference should be submitted electronically to www.aapor.org/conference/submission.html by December 11, 2000. A special form has been created on the website to gather information about each proposal.

Please fill in all information requested on the form. You will receive confirmation of your submission automatically by email.=20

The proposal submission form asks for author contact information, the type of presentation (paper, poster, paper or poster, panel/round table), title, keywords describing the content of the presentation, an abstract of no more than 300 words and any special audio-visual equipment requests.=20

Papers are formal presentations of original research that are grouped with other similar papers to constitute a panel. In presenting papers, authors are provided 10-15 minutes during the panel to address an assembled audience. A discussant is assigned to each panel to comment on the papers individually and as a group.=20

Poster presentations are less formal - but not less rigorous or substantive presentations of original research. Rather than delivering an address before an assembled audience, poster authors present their work interactively to groups of interested people with the aid of a visual display that summarizes research findings. Posters are displayed in a central location at specially designated times during the conference so that attendees can peruse the visual displays and converse with the authors.=20

Round Tables are organized discussions of issues that are important to the public opinion research community. The discussion may be led by an individual, or by a group of interested persons. Formal papers are not presented. Round table discussions on ethical aspects of survey research - e.g., human subjects protection, reporting of response rates - have been a prominent part of AAPOR conferences in recent years.=20

Proposals will be accepted for all of these forms of conference participation. The proposal submission form on the AAPOR website asks submitters to designate the type of presentation as part of the proposal.=20

Authors who only wish to have their proposal considered for a formal =
paper
presentation
should select the "Paper" option. Those who only wish to be considered =
for
a poster
presentation should select the "Poster" option. Those who wish to be =
considered for
either a paper or poster presentation should select the "Paper or = Poster"
option.=20

Space on the program is limited. Some excellent proposals for formal =
paper
presentations that cannot be integrated into panels will not be = accepted.
Authors have a
greater chance of participating on the program if they are willing to = be
considered for
either a paper or poster presentation.=20

Panel proposals involve recruiting 3-4 paper presentation proposals = with
a
common
theme. The panel proposal should contain a short statement discussing = the
issues to be
addressed in the panel and their importance, and an abstract for each = of
the papers
proposed. The panel organizer should provide all of this material in a =
single submission.=20

Round Table proposals should detail the topic to be discussed and its =
importance to the
field of public opinion research. The proposal should =
also
provide the names and
affiliations of discussion leader(s).=20

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two reviewers and final =
decisions about the
program will be made by the end of January 2001. You will be notified =
about the status
of your proposal shortly thereafter.=20

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

We will evaluate the proposals for the quality, originality and =
completeness
of the work represented in them. The AAPOR program should include =
cutting-
edge
research and presentations that further the development of the =
profession.
Proposals
should evidence careful preparation and should represent work that is =
well
underway,
rather than research that may not reach an acceptable stage of = completion
by the time

full conference papers are due at the beginning of May, 2001.=20

Multiple proposals may be submitted, but it is unlikely that more than =
one
proposal will
be accepted from any given researcher or research team. Proposals = should
not be
duplicative of one another.=20

SPECIAL AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT REQUESTS

All meeting rooms will have overhead projectors, screens and = microphones
as
appropriate. Authors of poster presentations will be provided with = poster
board and an
easel. Special equipment requests -- for 35mm slide projectors, data =
projectors (e.g. for
PowerPoint or on-line presentations), audiotape recorders or VCRs - =
should
be indicated
on the proposal submission form. While we cannot guarantee access to =
these
types of
equipment, we will endeavor to meet special requests within budgetary =
constraints.=20

SUBMISSIONS FROM COMMERCIAL RESEARCHERS

We particularly encourage the submission of proposals by professionals =
working in the
commercial sector. Please feel free to contact the conference chair = with
ideas that may
depart from the normal conference paper format.=20

INQUIRIES

Please contact the conference chair, Peter Miller, at p-miller@nwu.edu =
with any
questions concerning the conference or the proposal submission =
process.=20

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<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV> <DIV><FONT face=3DArial>I had a very useful  
conversation with Mark = Schulman at the=20 CASRO metings this past  
week.&nbsp;</DIV> We would volunteer to host a panel = to=20 discuss  
the common problems faced by CASRO and AAPOR and to see about = working on=20  
the common problems together rather than  
separately.&nbsp;</DIV> I would be = pleased to=20 flesh this out if you think it
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would be useful. It seems to me that we have much more in common as it relates to problems (e.g. response rates, legislative incursions, internet standards). Let me know what you think.

Best to you bub.

----- Original Message -----

From: Peter Miller <p-miller@nwu.edu>

To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2000 9:15 AM

Subject: AAPOR 2001 Call for Participation

Please forgive redundancy in this posting. I have had some inquiries on conference proposal submission procedures following an earlier announcement of the Call for Participation. To submit a proposal for the conference, go to the AAPOR website and click on Conference 2001 (in the pop-up box that appears when you direct your mouse to **Conferences**). Or, you can follow the direct link to the proposal submission page in the section on "Proposal Submission Process" below.

Here is the entire Call for Participation, in case you did not get it (or you deleted it). Look forward to hearing from you.

"MAKING CONNECTIONS - PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC"
CALL FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION
The American Association for Public Opinion Research will hold its 56th annual conference at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure in Montreal, Quebec, May 17-20, 2001. AAPOR's Conference Committee seeks proposals for papers, poster presentations, panels and round tables that will illuminate important research questions and promote the development of our profession. Papers, posters, panels and round table ideas on any topic in public opinion and survey research are welcomed for consideration for next May's conference. We encourage participants to organize

names=20
and
affiliations of discussion leader(s).

Each proposal = will
be=20
evaluated by at least two reviewers and final decisions about =
the
program=20
will be made by the end of January 2001. You will be notified about =
the=20
status
of your proposal shortly thereafter.

PROPOSAL =
EVALUATION=20
CRITERIA

We will evaluate the proposals for the quality, =
originality=20
and completeness
of the work represented in them. The AAPOR program =
should=20
include cutting-edge
research and presentations that further the=20
development of the profession. Proposals
should evidence careful=20
preparation and should represent work that is well underway,
rather =
than=20
research that may not reach an acceptable stage of completion by the=20
time
full conference papers are due at the beginning of May, 2001.=20

Multiple proposals may be submitted, but it is unlikely that = more
than=20
one proposal will
be accepted from any given researcher or research =
team.=20
Proposals should not be
duplicative of one another.

SPECIAL =

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT REQUESTS

All meeting rooms will have =
overhead=20
projectors, screens and microphones as
appropriate. Authors of =
poster=20
presentations will be provided with poster board and an
easel. =
Special=20
equipment requests -- for 35mm slide projectors, data projectors (e.g. =

for
PowerPoint or on-line presentations), audiotape recorders or = VCRs
-
=20
should be indicated
on the proposal submission form. While we =
cannot=20
guarantee access to these types of
equipment, we will endeavor to =
meet=20
special requests within budgetary constraints.

SUBMISSIONS =
FROM=20
COMMERCIAL RESEARCHERS

We particularly encourage the submission =
of=20
proposals by professionals working in the
commercial sector. Please =
feel=20
free to contact the conference chair with ideas that may
depart = from
the=20
normal conference paper format.

INQUIRIES

Please = contact
the=20
conference chair, Peter Miller, at p-miller@nwu.edu with =
any
questions=20
concerning the conference or the proposal submission process.=20
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To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Washingtonpost.com: Is 1888 Casting a Long Shadow?

Is 1888 Casting a Long Shadow?

By David Von Drehle
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday , November 2, 2000 ; Page A19

Imagine a presidential campaign matching two solid but somehow uninspiring men. One boasts a pale power of incumbency; the other--a governor from the nation's midsection--bears the surname of a former president. The skyrocketing cost of old age pensions is an issue, along with the question of what to do with a huge federal surplus.

The race is close--so close that, come Election Day, one man carries the popular vote, while the other wins the Electoral College.

Year 2000? Not yet. This was 1888.

Public opinion in this year's presidential campaign has defied all efforts to stampede it in one direction or the other. Vice President Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush remain essentially deadlocked. In Washington, the world's conventional wisdom capital, the only consensus as the balloting approaches is a nervous uncertainty.

So thoughts turn to fevered speculation. One prime topic: Could we get a split decision for the first time in 112 years? An even juicier subfantasy asks: What if the electoral vote ends in a tie?

Neither result is likely, but a split decision is entirely possible and a tie is within the realm of plausibility. Split decisions tend to arise from deep regional differences, when one candidate wins by huge margins in certain areas, while the other carries a majority of electoral votes by much narrower totals. Because the Electoral College votes are winner-take-all in most states, it doesn't matter whether a candidate wins by one vote or one million.

An Electoral College tie, meanwhile, is unprecedented in U.S. history. But state-by-state polls this year suggest more than one scenario that--if everything goes precisely--would generate a deadlock. Then the president would be chosen by the House of Representatives, with each state delegation receiving one vote.

Typically, the Electoral College makes close elections look less tight, rather than more so. In 1960, for example, John F. Kennedy

edged Richard M. Nixon by a tiny popular vote margin, but the electoral vote spread sounded much bigger: 303 to 212.

Electoral College math is the not-so-secret vice of politics wonks. (Here's a wonk's dream: http://www.avagara.com/e_c/). The last time the game took a wild twist, though, was way back in 1888.

President Grover Cleveland (D) defeated Indiana Gov. Benjamin Harrison (R) by 90,000 votes, thanks to his 3 to 1 advantage in six southern states. But he lost the Electoral College. That was an election, like this one, that found America at peace, moving into a new economy, when issues of character mixed confusedly with issues of money, when one candidate sewed up the Old Confederacy while the other captured the Northeast.

Let's set the stage:

First, it's worth understanding why there is an Electoral College. Most of the Founding Fathers had some pretty serious reservations about direct popular voting. Some were philosophical--worries about mob rule and so forth. Some were pragmatic--the small states worried that a few big, populous states would wind up running everything.

So America got a Senate, in which states large and small have the same representation, and an Electoral College, which filters the popular vote for the White House. It's not one-citizen, one-vote, but both institutions are woven deeply into the Constitution.

No one paid much attention to popular votes until 1824. That year, three strong presidential candidates divided the election so deeply that the matter was thrown into the House. Andrew Jackson won the most votes, and the most electors, but he failed to win a majority. Third-place finisher Henry Clay threw his support to runner-up John Quincy Adams and Jackson was defeated. The Tennessee populist launched a campaign against the injustice of this, and four years later captured the White House.

After that, the 12th Amendment was ratified to fine-tune the system, and now it works this way: When citizens cast votes for president, they are really choosing electors pledged to one ticket or the other. On occasion, electors abandon their pledges, but in the vast majority of cases, the team that wins a state's popular vote, no matter how narrowly, gets all the state's electors, which equal the number of the state's congressional representatives in the House and Senate. (This number ranges from three electoral votes in sparsely populated places such as Wyoming to 54 in California. The District of Columbia gets three electors. The electoral total is 538, so in theory there could be a 269 to 269 tie.)

Enough civics. On to history:

When Abraham Lincoln won the Civil War, it was a triumph for the entire Republican Party. From 1860 to 1884, the GOP won every presidential election, despite scandal, assassination and frequently weak

candidates. But as the South dug out from under Reconstruction, the Democrats gathered strength.

In 1884, Democrats shrewdly nominated the reformist governor of New York, a rotund New Jersey native named Cleveland. With an Indiana man as vice president, Cleveland leveraged a tiny 20,000-vote popular vote victory into a decisive Electoral College win. By the skin of his teeth, Cleveland added New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Connecticut to the Democratic base in the South.

Four years later, same dynamic, different result. The Tammany Hall bosses of New York City harbored a deep grudge against Cleveland, who was known above all for his integrity. The big man was bad news for political patronage. Tammany shifted New York, barely, to Harrison, a small man with a big voice whose grandfather had briefly served as the ninth president.

The choice of an Indiana governor to carry the GOP standard tipped Indiana away from Cleveland. These two changes gave Harrison his edge.

Neither man fired the imagination. The white-bearded Harrison was "a machine guy . . . probably most famous for impersonating Santa Claus for his children," says Cleveland biographer H. Paul Jeffers. Cleveland, on the other hand, virtually refused to campaign.

The issues were arcane. Cleveland had resisted the explosion of special pensions voted by Congress for Civil War veterans. His cost-consciousness on this emotional issue was controversial. So was his centerpiece idea: cutting tariffs on imported goods. This was popular with rural consumers who paid high prices, but anathema to the industrial giants of the north who enjoyed the tariff protection.

It was wrong, Cleveland argued, to run big budget surpluses thanks to high tariffs, when the money ought to go back to the people. If Congress had extra money, he warned, Congress would spend it.

Sound familiar?

The split decision in 1888 provoked no outcry against the Electoral College system, perhaps because the country had recently swallowed a far more inflammatory result. In 1876, Republicans brokered a deal with the South to end Reconstruction in exchange for the votes to elect Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel Tilden, the popular-vote winner.

Cleveland narrowly won his rematch with the lackluster Harrison in 1892. He took office in time to endure a devastating depression and a bout of labor unrest. After Cleveland, the GOP owned the White House for 28 of the next 36 years, and might have won them all had it not been for an intramural squabble in 1912.

Perhaps there's a lesson to be drawn from the wild years of the 1870s and 1880s. The struggle for the White House was a recurrent chaos, but the country itself used those years to move from war-torn desperation to continent-spanning power.

If America could handle the rogue and jumbled elections of those years, the barn-burner of 2000 surely is no big deal. Maybe that's why Washington finds this idle speculation more fun than frightening.

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Last night's polling shows Bush holding steady with a 5 point advantage = over Gore, 48% to 43%, respectively.

The latest results from the IBD/CSM/TIPP tracking poll are attached. The = files are in Adobe Acrobat format, if you need any assistance, have any = questions, please call me.

The topline results for Thursday, Nov. 2, are:

Gore:	42.7
Bush:	48.3
Buchanan:	0.4
Nader:	2.9
Browne:	0.3
Other:	0.7
Not Sure:	4.7 =20

Of 1,842 adults surveyed nationwide by telephone, 1,186 were classified = as

"likely voters". The results are presented for likely voters only, = with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.=20

TIPP uses the traditional telephone methodology. An RDD (Random Digit = Dial) sample is used, randomly generated by computer to include = published and non-published telephone numbers nationwide.

Interviews are conducted using the CATI (Computer Aided Telephone = Interviewing) system with trained interviewers. No automated prompting = systems, or internet surveying, are used for our political polling.

More information on this and earlier polls can be found on our website = at www.tipponline.com
=20

TIPP Background

TIPP, a unit of TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence, is the polling = partner of two national publications: Investors Business Daily and The Christian Science Monitor. TIPP began tracking the presidential race on a weekly basis starting the first week of October, and began daily tracking Oct. = 30. The daily tracking poll shows the most recent 3 days of collection, with a sample size of approximately 800-1000+ likely voters.

We will be publishing the results of our daily tracking poll up until = the election. The results are released every day on our website = <http://www.tipponline.com> =20 as well as on the www.pollingreport.com, <http://www.nationaljournal.com>, =

www.voter.com and www.realclearpolitics.com
=20

In case you're not familiar with TIPP, we've made several significant contributions in this year's presidential race:

- 1) we developed the IBD/TIPP MetaPoll, the only poll of its kind, which consolidates all leading national polls, weighting for accuracy, polling population and recentness. The MetaPoll has been published weekly in = IBD (Investors Business Daily) since May 2000.

- 2) we were the first to bring to light (Sept 25, 2000) media bias in the coverage of the race with our partner publication Editor & Publisher magazine. The article that appeared in E&P set off a chain of stories = in leading publications such as USA Today, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, etc.

- 3) we were also the first to publish a thorough analysis of the Investor Class, in what is viewed by many as groundbreaking work that set off a flurry of interest in this important voting bloc.

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> Subject: washingtonpost.com: Is 1888 Casting a Long Shadow?
>
> <<File: A60609-2000Nov1>>
> >From the Washington Post -- an interesting discussion about what
> >might
> happen if a candidate wins the popular vote but loses the electoral
> vote; Or, if the electoral vote is split 50:50. Not probable but
> certainly possible given the seeming closeness of the forthcoming
> election.
>
> Dick Halpern
>
> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A60609-2000Nov1?language=prin>
> ter
>
>

Date: Fri, 03 Nov 2000 10:44:01 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Claire Durand <durandc@SOCIO.UMontreal.CA>
Subject: Canadian electoral surveys - a new law
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id HAA20371

A new electoral campaign has just started in Canada. Members of the list might be interested in consulting the articles of the electoral law pertaining to electoral surveys in Canada. With the new law, any citizen may request detailed methodological information on any electoral survey published during the "official" electoral campaign i.e. from the moment where the Prime minister calls the election to the day before election day.

Canadian electoral law, articles 326 to 328:
Transmission of election survey
results

326. (1) The first person who transmits the results of an election survey - other than a survey that is described in section 327 - to the public during an election period and any person who transmits them to the public within 24 hours after they are first transmitted to the public must provide the following together with the results:

- (a) the name of the sponsor of the survey;
- (b) the name of the person or organization that conducted the survey;
- (c) the date on which or the period during which the survey was conducted;

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Additional information - published surveys
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Report on survey results
at any time
of the survey
request, a
the survey, as
report shall
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during which
to collect
are derived,
sample
were

(d) the population from which the sample respondents was drawn;
(e) the number of people who were participate in the survey; and
(f) if applicable, the margin of error the data obtained.

(2) In addition to the information referred subsection (1), the following must be case of a transmission to the public by broadcasting:
(a) the wording of the survey questions of which data is obtained; and
(b) the means by which a report subsection (3) may be obtained.

(3) A sponsor of an election survey shall, during an election period after the results are transmitted to the public, provide, on copy of a written report on the results of transmitted under subsection (1). The include the following, as applicable:
(a) the name and address of the sponsor survey;
(b) the name and address of the person or organization that conducted the survey;
(c) the date on which or the period the survey was conducted;
(d) information about the method used the data from which the survey results including
(i) the sampling method,
(ii) the population from which the was drawn,
(iii) the size of the initial sample,
(iv) the number of individuals who asked to participate in the survey

and the
of them
refused to
ineligible
data to
results of
opinion, were
any or all
normalization
results of the
and, if
respect of the

numbers and respective percentages
who participated in the survey,
participate in the survey, and were
to participate in the survey,
(v) the dates and time of day of the
interviews,
(vi) the method used to recalculate
take into account in the survey the
participants who expressed no
undecided or failed to respond to
of the survey questions, and
(vii) any weighting factors or
procedures used in deriving the
survey; and
(e) the wording of the survey questions
applicable, the margins of error in
data obtained.

Fee may be charged
\$0.25 per page
subsection (3).

(4) A sponsor may charge a fee of up to
for a copy of a report provided under

Broadcast of surveys not based on
recognized statistical methods

results of an
recognized
election
within 24
the public must
recognized

327. The first person who transmits the
election survey that is not based on
statistical methods to the public during an
period and any person who transmits them
hours after they are first transmitted to
indicate that the survey was not based on
statistical methods.

Claire Durand
Université de Montréal, dept. de sociologie,
C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
Montréal, Québec, Canada, H3C 3J7

durandc@socio.umontreal.ca <http://alize.ere.umontreal.ca/~durandc>

"Si vous connaissez une seule société, vous n'en connaissez aucune." "If you

know only one society, you don't know any".

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 10:46:53 -0500
From: "Cooney, Brendan" <brendan.cooney@strategyone.net>
To: "AAPORNET (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Omnibus surveys - info request
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Anybody out there conducting an omnibus survey or small-business survey that I might tack a few questions to? Would appreciate info and/or leads, costs, etc.

Please reply to me directly (rather than all of AAPORNET) at Brendan.Cooney@StrategyOne.net.

Thanks much.

Brendan Cooney
Account Supervisor, Senior Analyst
StrategyOne
Tel: 212.642.7774
Fax: 212.704.0230

Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 11:09:55 -0500
From: "Christine Kreider" <ckmarg@mint.net>
To: "Stefanie Benedict" <OCarpeNoctemO@cs.com>, "Sheri Kreider" <slk@ctel.net>,
 "Kara Anne Schreiber" <karannes@yahoo.com>,
Subject: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary
Message-ID: <LPBBJMECHCAHECCMFKEPMEEPCDAA.ckmarg@mint.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
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X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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-----_NextPart_001_0003_01C04586.98F681C0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

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From: Curtis Mildner [mailto:cmildner@marketdecisions.com]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 9:36 AM
To: whitep; Valerie.r.landry@state.me.us; Tom Ferriter; Tim Lavin; Theo Holtwijk; Terry Sutton; Ted O'Meara; Stacy; Sarah Haggerty; Sara Salley; Russ Lamer; Rich Rico; Pipkin, Kathy; Pat Hogan; mmurray@msandp.com; mmoss; Mike Wilson; Micah Malloy; Meredith Strang Burgess; Mark Ishkanian; Lori Cook; Linsley, Alison; Leann R. Diehl; lcalhoun@llbean.com; Laurie LaChance; Kevin Boyle; kathy.m.hoppe@state.me.us; Kathy Amoroso; Kathleen Heber; Judy Katzel; Jody Harris; Jennifer Phinney; Jean Maginnis; Jane Ann McNeish; Henry Bourgeois; Greg Sweetser; Gino Nalli; Gail Wilkerson; Freshley, Craig; Elizabeth Swain; Elizabeth Banwell; drucker@USm.maine.edu; Doug Rooks; Deborah Dagan; David Langley; Dana Hutchins; Dan Michaud; Christine Ward; Christine Taylor; Christina Merrill; Chris Bruneau; Cherylyn Almeida; Charles R. Hurdman; Catherine Ormond; Carla Marcus; Burma; brobinso@USm.maine.edu; Bob King; Asselin, Tammy; Anne E. Hussey; Alicebk@aol.com; Adams, Mike; words@maine.com; smgallant; Scott Bahr; Ron Bognore; Richard Card; r.m.dufresne@worldnet.att.net; Michael Desisto; mfeller; Mary Ellen Fitzgerald; Mark Eyerman; John Fehlau; Jim Damicis; Janet_King@idg.com; Harvey Dinerstein; GoreME@aol.com; Frank O'Hara; David Hill; DAS; Darrell Cooper; Dan Waldron; Christine Kreider; bob.cuzner@digitalresearch.com; B. Lee Zacharias; Alayne E Aurora; Roy Ulrickson III; Karen Searle; Gary Gervais; Chris Lawrence; Walter K. Hanson i i; Roxanne E. Bradshaw; Ron Bilodeau; Rich Thompson; Jim Black; Patricia H. Hart; Noy Sinakatham; Michael Bourque; Kelley Cutler; Jennifer Dimond; Jan Robson; Glenn Rudberg; Ellen F. Golden; Cindy L. Trepanier; Brianr@gwi.net; Ann Perrino
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> NO DICE: Mainers Against A Dishonest Deal

> Moe Bisson, Treasurer

> PO Box 861, Biddeford, ME 04005

> www.nodice4me.com

-----= NextPart_001_0003_01C04586.98F681C0

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charset="iso-8859-1"

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class=3DOutlookMessageHeader dir=3Dltr><FONT = face=3DTahoma=20
size=3D2>-----Original Message-----<BR><B>From:</B> Curtis Mildner=20
[mailto:cmildner@marketdecisions.com]<BR><B>Sent:</B> Friday,
November = 03, 2000=20 9:36 AM<BR><B>To:</B> whitep;
Valerie.r.landry@state.me.us; Tom = Ferriter; Tim=20 Lavin; Theo Holtwijk;
Terry Sutton; Ted O'Meara; Stacy; Sarah Haggerty; = Sara=20 Salley; Russ
Lamer; Rich Rico; Pipkin, Kathy; Pat Hogan; =
mmurray@msandp.com;=20 mmoss; Mike Wilson; Micah Malloy; Meredith Strang
Burgess; Mark = Ishkanian; Lori=20 Cook; Linsley, Alison;
Leann R. Diehl; lcalhoun@llbean.com; Laurie = LaChance;=20 Kevin Boyle;
kathy.m.hoppe@state.me.us; Kathy Amoroso; Kathleen Heber; =
Judy=20 Katzel; Jody Harris; Jennifer Phinney; Jean Maginnis; Jane Ann
McNeish; = Henry=20 Bourgeois; Greg Sweetser; Gino Nalli;
Gail Wilkerson; Freshley, Craig; = Elizabeth=20 Swain; Elizabeth Banwell;
druker@USm.maine.edu; Doug Rooks; Deborah = Dagan;
David=20 Langley; Dana Hutchins; Dan Michaud; Christine Ward; Christine
Taylor; = Christina=20 Merrill; Chris Bruneau; Cherilyn
Almeida; Charles R. Hurdman; Catherine = Ormond;=20 Carla Marcus; Burma;
brobinso@USm.maine.edu; Bob King; Asselin, Tammy; = Anne
E.=20 Hussey; Alicebk@aol.com; Adams, Mike; words@maine.com; smgallant; Scott
= Bahr;=20 Ron Bognore; Richard Card;
r.m.dufresne@worldnet.att.net; Michael = Desisto;=20 mfeller; Mary Ellen
Fitzgerald; Mark Eyerman; John Fehlau; Jim Damicis;=20
Janet_King@idg.com; Harvey Dinerstein; GoreME@aol.com; Frank O'Hara; = David
Hill;=20 DAS; Darrell Cooper; Dan Waldron; Christine
Kreider;=20 bob.cuzner@digitalresearch.com; B. Lee Zacharias; Alayne E
Aurora;
Roy = Ulrickson=20 III; Karen Searle; Gary Gervais;
Chris Lawrence; Walter K. Hanson i i; = Roxanne=20 E. Bradshaw; Ron Bilodeau;
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```

Sinakatham; Michael Bourque; Kelley Cutler; Jennifer Dimond; Jan Robson; = Glenn=20 Rudberg; Ellen F. Golden; Cindy L. Trepanier; Brianr@gwi.net; Ann=20 Perrino
Subject: Passing along a message from

Angus and=20 Mary

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> PO Box 861, Biddeford, ME 04005 =
>=20 <FONT=20 face=3DArial>www.nodice4me.com=20
</P></DIR></DIV></BODY></HTML>

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FN:Curtis Mildner
ORG:Market Decisions
TITLE:President, Senior Consultant
TEL;WORK;VOICE:207-767-6440 x105
TEL;WORK;FAX:207-767-8158 ADR;WORK;ENCODING=3DQUOTED-PRINTABLE;;;One Park Square=3D0D=3D0A85 E = Street;South Portland;ME;04106;USA
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URL:
URL:http://www.marketdecisions.com
EMAIL;PREF;INTERNET:cmildner@marketdecisions.com
REV:20001103T143551Z
END:VCARD

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=====
Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 12:46:29 -0500
From: John Mitchell <jmitchell@elementusa.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="----=_NextPart_001_01C045BE.005D6F80"

This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

-----=_NextPart_001_01C045BE.005D6F80
Content-Type: text/plain;
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figure out how this got to me...

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<BODY bgColor=#ffffff>

<DIV>Did this get posted to AAPORnet by mistake? I just can't for the life of me figure

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<BLOCKQUOTE style="MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">

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[mailto:ckmarg@mint.net]
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Nalli;

Gail Wilkerson; Freshley, Craig; Elizabeth Swain; Elizabeth Banwell; drucker@USm.maine.edu; Doug Rooks; Deborah Dagan; David Langley; Dana

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Dan Michaud; Christine Ward; Christine Taylor; Christina Merrill; Chris Bruneau; Cherilyn Almeida; Charles R. Hurdman; Catherine Ormond; Carla

Marcus;

Burma; brobinso@USm.maine.edu; Bob King; Asselin, Tammy; Anne E. Hussey; Alicebk@aol.com; Adams, Mike; words@maine.com; smgallant; Scott Bahr; Ron Bognore; Richard Card; r.m.dufresne@worldnet.att.net; Michael Desisto; mfeller; Mary Ellen Fitzgerald; Mark Eyerman; John Fehlau; Jim Damicis; Janet_King@idg.com; Harvey Dinerstein; GoreME@aol.com; Frank O'Hara; David Hill; DAS; Darrell Cooper; Dan Waldron; Christine Kreider; bob.cuzner@digitalresearch.com; B. Lee Zacharias; Alayne E Aurora; Roy Ulrickson III; Karen Searle; Gary Gervais; Chris Lawrence; Walter K. Hanson

i

i; Roxanne E. Bradshaw; Ron Bilodeau; Rich Thompson; Jim Black; Patricia H. Hart; Noy Sinakatham; Michael Bourque; Kelley Cutler; Jennifer Dimond; Jan Robson; Glenn Rudberg; Ellen F. Golden; Cindy L. Trepanier; Brianr@gwi.net; Ann Perrino
Subject: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary

</DIV>

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> Moe Bisson, Treasurer
> PO Box 861, Biddeford, ME 04005
> www.nodice4me.com
</P></DIR></DIV></BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

-----_=_NextPart_001_01C045BE.005D6F80--

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Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 12:56:06 -0500
From: "Clare Sherlock" <csherlock@technometrica.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <714D7E686BC9D311BB2000508B8BFE5E80A141@ELEMENTNT02>
Subject: Re: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary
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boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0550_01C04595.6E4C1F20"
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6600

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charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I wondered the same thing.

----- Original Message -----=20
From: John Mitchell=20
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'=20
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 12:46 PM
Subject: RE: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary

Did this get posted to AAPORnet by mistake? I just can't for the life =
of me figure out how this got to me...

-----Original Message-----

From: Christine Kreider [mailto:ckmarg@mint.net]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 11:10 AM
To: Stefanie Benedict; Sheri Kreider; Kara Anne Schreiber
Subject: FW: Passing along a message from Angus and Mary

-----Original Message-----

From: Curtis Mildner [mailto:cmildner@marketdecisions.com]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 9:36 AM
To: whitep; Valerie.r.landry@state.me.us; Tom Ferriter; Tim Lavin; =
Theo Holtwijk; Terry Sutton; Ted O'Meara; Stacy; Sarah Haggerty; Sara =
Salley; Russ Lamer; Rich Rico; Pipkin, Kathy; Pat Hogan; =
mmurray@msandp.com; mmoss; Mike Wilson; Micah Malloy; Meredith Strang =
Burgess; Mark Ishkanian; Lori Cook; Linsley, Alison; Leann R. Diehl; =
lcalhoun@llbean.com; Laurie LaChance; Kevin Boyle; =
kathy.m.hoppe@state.me.us; Kathy Amoroso; Kathleen Heber; Judy Katzel; =
Jody Harris; Jennifer Phinney; Jean Maginnis; Jane Ann McNeish; Henry =
Bourgeois; Greg Sweetser; Gino Nalli; Gail Wilkerson; Freshley, Craig; =
Elizabeth Swain; Elizabeth Banwell; drucker@USm.maine.edu; Doug Rooks; =
Deborah Dagan; David Langley; Dana Hutchins; Dan Michaud; Christine =
Ward; Christine Taylor; Christina Merrill; Chris Bruneau; Cherilyn =
Almeida; Charles R. Hurdman; Catherine Ormond; Carla Marcus; Burma; =
brobinso@USm.maine.edu; Bob King; Asselin, Tammy; Anne E. Hussey; =
Alicebk@aol.com; Adams, Mike; words@maine.com; smgallant; Scott Bahr; =
Ron Bognore; Richard Card; r.m.dufresne@worldnet.att.net; Michael =
Desisto; mfeller; Mary Ellen Fitzgerald; Mark Eyerman; John Fehlau; Jim =
Damicis; Janet_King@idg.com; Harvey Dinerstein; GoreME@aol.com; Frank =
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-----=_NextPart_000_0550_01C04595.6E4C1F20

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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<DIV>I wondered the same thing.</DIV>

<BLOCKQUOTE=20

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title=3Djmitchell@elementusa.com>John=20

Mitchell </DIV>

<DIV style=3D"FONT: 10pt arial">To: <A =

href=3D"mailto:'aapornet@usc.edu'"=20

title=3Daapornet@usc.edu>'aapornet@usc.edu' </DIV>
<DIV style=3D"FONT: 10pt arial">Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 =
12:46=20
PM</DIV>
<DIV style=3D"FONT: 10pt arial">Subject: RE: Passing along a =
message from=20
Angus and Mary</DIV>
<DIV>
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<DIV><SPAN =
class=3D160045217-03112000>Did=20
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<BLOCKQUOTE style=3D"MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">
<DIV align=3Dleft class=3DOutlookMessageHeader dir=3Dltr><FONT =
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From: Christine =
Kreider [<A=20
=
href=3D"mailto:ckmarg@mint.net">mailto:ckmarg@mint.net]
Sent:=
B>=20
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To: Stefanie Benedict; =
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Box 861,=20
Biddeford, ME 04005
> <A=20
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face=3DArial>www.nodice4me.com=20
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-----=_NextPart_000_0550_01C04595.6E4C1F20--

=====
Date: Fri, 03 Nov 2000 11:14:51 -0700
From: Toni Genalo <ToniGenalo@asu.edu>

Subject: CAI software advice please
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Message-id: <18FBB03FB58ED4118E7800B0D03D6BADCF49BF@mainex4.asu.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="Boundary_(ID_Bw3lzYA1sHnoNiBwn3+KeQ)"

This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

--Boundary_(ID_Bw3lzYA1sHnoNiBwn3+KeQ)
Content-type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

We are interested in acquiring new CAPI software. We are currently looking at the following systems: Blaise, Sawtooth's CI3, SPSS's In2quest, and Survey Systems. The following are issues that the system will need to deal with:

- Nested data structures
- Outputting data into relational structures
- Recruiting / Sample management
- audio capabilities
- Flexibility: output CAPI, CATI, Self-Administered and Paper/Pencil

Questionnaires

Any insights you might have about which package would be best would be appreciated. Thanks

Laura L. Legge
Research Specialist
Prevention Research Center
Arizona State University
Technology Center Rm. 205
900 S. McAllister Ave.
P.O. Box 876005
Tempe, AZ 85287-6005
(480) 727-6146 (Office)
(480) 965-5430 (Fax)

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
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I'd also suggest you think including in your selection criteria how your CATI software reports call outcome codes, and whether it supports AAPOR's Standard Definitions.

All best wishes...

Rob Daves
Standard Definitions committee chair

=====
Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 15:14:45 -0500
From: "Christine Kreider" <ckreider@mint.net>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Apologies to all...
Message-ID: <LPBBJMECHCAHECCMFKEPAEFCCDAA.ckreider@mint.net>
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Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

for accidentally (I'm still not sure how it happened) forwarding to all of AAPOR an item of interest only to residents of Maine. I will do my best to avoid such irritating -- and embarassing -- behavior in future.

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
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 filename="winmail.dat"

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-----_NextPart_000_0017_01C045A8.CC4A0840--

=====
Date: Fri, 3 Nov 2000 23:05:35 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Matt Drudge Declares War On Voter News Service Exit Poll Embargo
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011032250260.2433-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

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http://inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,13878_7_1_1,00.html

Friday , November 03 06:52 p.m.

Drudge Vows No Surrender on Posting Exit-Poll
Results, as Slate and National Review Back Down

By Greg Lindsay

During primary season this past winter, three Web sites -- Slate, National Review Online and the Drudge Report -- broke ranks with their media peers by revealing exit-poll winners before the voting booths had closed. But come next Tuesday, only Matt Drudge will risk the wrath of the journalistic establishment and possibly of the courts by breaking Election Day news prematurely.

' 'If Dan Rather knows, Main Street has the right to know,' is what I will say on the courthouse steps,' Drudge writes in an e-mail to Inside.

'I'm running with everything.'

Slate and National Review Online, though, have decided against trying to obtain exit polling data from subscribers to the Voter News Service -- a consortium of TV networks, cable news channels and the Associated Press. These results are sent to about 100 subscribers at 2 p.m. on Election Day, with periodic updates throughout the day. The official subscribers are under an 8 p.m. embargo, so the renegade outlets were able to post the information hours earlier.

Slate's Shafer still bristles at what he views as the media's fundamentally dishonest coverage of election results. 'You could call it 'Election Night on Ice.' '

Still, despite railing at the hypocrisy of the mainstream media for keeping news to themselves, National Review Online and Slate say they have no plans to play spoilsport this time. The National Review said that its decision was motivated by readers' disapproval, while Slate said it wanted to avoid taking the matter to court.

After the Microsoft-owned Slate posted the winners in the New Hampshire, North Carolina and Michigan primaries, VNS accused the Web site of copyright infringement, unlawful interference with VNS's contractual relations and misappropriation of 'hot news.' (This principle was established by the United States Supreme Court in 1918 to prevent an AP competitor from rewriting its news feeds.)

Slate deputy editor Jack Shafer says that although the site's executives were confident that they could convince a court they had committed no wrong, they didn't want their battle to have the unintended effect of having the 'hot news' precedent struck down. 'What if we pursued this all the way and ended up kicking the good leg of a Supreme Court precedent out?' he asks. 'Would that be worth it just for the principle of what we doing, when the principle was only to expose the hypocrisy and not to expose the numbers?'

But even though Slate has reversed course, Shafer still bristles at what he views as the media's fundamentally dishonest coverage of election results. 'You could call it 'Election Night on Ice,' ' he says. 'It's this big theatrical product, with this amazing theme music, spinning logos and featured stars. They need to create this sense of drama so they can catapult it into the entertainment world.'

Editors at the networks' Web sites said they wouldn't post the numbers even if given a choice. The reason: If readers learn of the winners before the polls close, it could depress the turnout.

'It's like calling an election before it's over,' says FoxNews.com executive editor Scott Norvell. 'It's calling the race before everyone has voted. It makes me a bit twitchy. If I'm a Gore voter and I've heard that Gore has this state locked up and the networks are going to call it when the polls close, then I say 'Why bother?'

'We're trying to be taken seriously as a new medium, and to be taken seriously we have to act responsibly,' Norvell adds. 'We always complain about (how) little respect is paid to us. We would only further encourage that attitude (by posting VNS numbers).'

ABCNews.com editorial director Bo Brendler explains that VNS numbers are used to guide election coverage. 'The exit polls are necessary for us, and more so for television, as a way to slant coverage -- a way to distribute editorial resources early in the day,' Brendler says. 'We use it to determine how late to be on television. We use it to send reporters to what look like battleground states. It gives us an idea of where candidates may make a statement. It doesn't have anything to do with building a drama that isn't there. Which is still something better than pumping vast bytes of VNS data out to the public. If (Shafer) contends it's better for democracy that people on the West Coast know that the election is decided already, he's wrong.'

http://inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,13878_7_1_1,00.html

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Date: Sat, 04 Nov 2000 20:36:58 -0600
From: "Rob Daves" <daves@startribune.com>
To: aeikensdp@aol.com, tsilver@capaccess.org, sschier@carleton.edu,
75227.173@compuserve.com, reide@email.usps.gov,
Subject: Minnesota Poll news

For those of you with an interest in Minnesota Politics, the Minnesota Poll's most recent findings on the presidential and U.S. Senate race are available at <http://www.startribune.com/poll>. The poll shows a 10-point Gore lead in the state, and a 9-point lead for Mark Dayton over incumbent Sen. Rod Grams, the Republican.

If you aren't interested, please excuse the intrusion, and hit your delete button.

All best wishes...

Rob

Robert P. Daves
Director of Strategic & News Research
Star Tribune
daves@startribune.com
425 Portland Av. S.
Minneapolis MN USA 55488

v: 612.673-7278
f: 612.673-4359
e:

Date: Sun, 5 Nov 2000 22:04:39 -0500
From: "jk" <jklein@igc.org>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Looking for latest on Gore v. Bush and Nader effect

Message-ID: <000101c047a0\$aa3df320\$c62bf7a5@jkleinigc.org>
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I am looking for the latest info/predictions regarding Bush v. Gore and the effect of Nader on the contest. Has anyone got any recent info for US as a whole and New York area? Thanks.

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Date: Sun, 5 Nov 2000 22:44:16 EST
From: BLUMWEP@aol.com
Received: from BLUMWEP@aol.com
by imo-r14.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.35.c693636 (3924)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 5 Nov 2000 22:44:16 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <35.c693636.27378310@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Looking for latest on Gore v. Bush and Nader effect
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
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For the national numbers, see the latest CNN tracking poll. They show a drop in Nader support from Independents & Liberals over the last 2 days.

In New York our latest Blum & Weprin polls--released yesterday for the Daily News/WCBS (10/30-11/3, 883 LV) and today for NY1 10/31-11/4, 851 LV) --show no substantial Nader effect on the outcome. Gore leads Bush by about 20%.

By the way, for those who are interested in the NY Senate race, both of our new polls have Hillary by 7 points. That's just what we had in our last NY1 poll, released 10 days ago.

Mickey Blum

--part1_35.c693636.27378310_boundary
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poll, released 10 days ago.

Mickey Blum</HTML>

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From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Looking for latest on Gore v. Bush and Nader effect
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCFFJBPGEOCFFAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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 charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Dear All:

Just sent out by Gallup is the following (c.a. 10 p.m. Sunday night).

They are going to have one more tomorrow at 10 p.m. Zogby
has both a national and state tracking release scheduled tomorrow
at 6:30 p.m. and (get this) at 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

zogby is zogby.com and has lots of tables.
CNN has not updated their site tonight, which seems strange,
maybe they all went home!

Andy

The Gallup Poll: Presidential Election NewsAlert

The latest presidential poll results are now on www.gallup.com

Results for Nov 4-5, 2000 **

Bush: 47%

Gore: 45%

Buchanan: 1%

Nader: 4%

Don't Know: 3%

** among Likely Voters

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of BLUMWEP@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 10:44 PM

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Looking for latest on Gore v. Bush and Nader effect

For the national numbers, see the latest CNN tracking poll. They show a drop in Nader support from Independents & Liberals over the last 2 days.

In New York our latest Blum & Weprin polls--released yesterday for the Daily

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new polls have Hillary by 7 points. That's just what we had in our last NY1

poll, released 10 days ago.

Mickey Blum

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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All:</DIV>

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sent out by Gallup is the following (c.a. 10 p.m. Sunday night). =20
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<DIV><SPAN=20
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<P>*****</P>

<P>The Gallup Poll: Presidential Election NewsAlert</P>

<P>*****</P>

<P>The latest presidential poll results are now on <A=20
href=3D"http://www.gallup.comResults">www.gallup.com</P>

<P>Results for Nov 4-5, 2000 **</P>

<P>Bush: 47%</P>

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<P>Nader: 4%</P>

<P>Don't Know: 3%</P>

<P>** among Likely Voters</P></DIV>

<BLOCKQUOTE>

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size=3D2>-----Original Message-----
From: =
owner-aapornet@usc.edu=20

[mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]On Behalf Of=20

BLUMWEP@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 10:44=20

PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Looking for = latest on=20
Gore v. Bush and Nader effect

</DIV>For = the=20
national numbers, see the latest CNN tracking poll. They = show a=20

drop in Nader support from Independents & Liberals over the = last 2=20
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In New York our latest Blum & Weprin polls--released = yesterday for the Daily
News/WCBS (10/30-11/3, 883 LV) and today = for NY1=20
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no substantial Nader effect on the = outcome.=20
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By the way, for = those who=20
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by 7 points. That's just what we had in our last NY1
poll, = released=20
10 days ago.

Mickey Blum </BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

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Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 00:35:39 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Bush's item non-response
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Maybe the Gore campaign people are not as troubled as an old survey hand is by questionnaires returned with multiple item non-response, but I would have expected them to capitalize on .G. W. Bush's leaving blank many items on his Texas jury-duty form, since they could have linked that to Bush's campaign strategy for dealing with a knottier aspect of an issue by just leaving it blank. I guess that was also advice to DKE bro's on test-taking for coasters. (Oops! Maybe I should have left that last one blank.)

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 11:58:21 +0100
From: harkness <harkness@zuma-mannheim.de>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (WinNT; I)
X-Accept-Language: en,de-DE
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapor <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Job opening for post grad

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id CAA29247

ZENTRUM für Umfragen, Methoden und Analysen (ZUMA)
Mannheim, Germany

ISSP Work Group, ALLBUS Department

Immediate opening for an anticipated Assistant Researcher to assist in conducting the International Social Survey Programme surveys in Germany (implementation, data editing, methods reports and publications) and quality monitoring for all ISSP member surveys. Degree in sociology, or related fields (political science, communication studies) required, as are familiarity with SPSS, fluent written and spoken English, and good communication skills. Candidates are expected to have at least a working knowledge of German. Preference will be given to applicants with expertise in survey design and data analysis. Successful candidates will have a demonstrated willingness to perform service responsibilities, coupled with a capacity for pursuing research and service tasks independently and as part of a team.

This is a part-time position (19¼ hrs. a week). The appointment is limited initially to two years; extension possible. Applicants should be actively engaged in a research project which will lead to a further qualification (e.g., Ph.D), ideally within the time frame of the appointment. Salary is according to the German federal tariff for 'white collar' appointments; BAT 2a. ZUMA is an equal opportunity employer.

Application Procedures: By December 4th, 2000, send application, letter, vita, transcripts, sample publications, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Janet Harkness, ISSP Director for Germany, ALLBUS Department, ZUMA, P.O. Box 12 21 55, 68072 Mannheim, Germany, Tel.: int. + 0621/1246/284, Fax: int.+ 621/1246/100, email harkness@zuma-mannheim.de. ZUMA web site: <http://www.zuma-mannheim.de>. ISSP web site <http://www.issp.org>

=====
Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 07:05:01 -0500 (EST)
From: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
X-Sender: arobbin@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: FYI: "The Two-Bucks-a-Minute Democracy"
In-Reply-To: <000101c047a0\$aa3df320\$c62bf7a5@jkleinigc.org>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.96.1001106065331.26695E-100000@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

"By handing out millions of dollars' worth of Web TV's, two political scientists at Stanford have gathered the most perfect sample of Americans in the history of polling and persuaded them to answer survey after survey, week after week, year after year. It's a marketer's dream. And it just might change how we think about democracy.
By

MICHAEL LEWIS

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/home/20001105mag-democracy.html>

Alice Robbin, Associate Professor
School of Library and Information Science
Indiana University
005A Main Library
1320 East 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
Office: (812) 855-5389 Fax: (812) 855-6166
Email: arobbin@indiana.edu

=====
Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2000 10:22:50 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Claire Durand <durandc@SOCIO.UMontreal.CA>
Subject: Faculty positions
Mime-Version: 1.0
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 boundary="===== _331835664== _ .ALT"

----- _331835664== _ .ALT
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Two Positions in Sociology at the University of Montreal

The Department of Sociology at the University of Montreal is seeking to=20 fill two full-time tenure track teaching positions (at the assistant=20 professorship level).

Preference will be given to candidates whose research specialisation is in=20 one of the following areas: Advanced Quantitative Methodology (Social=20 Statistics) with emphasis on longitudinal and multi-level analysis;=20 Sociology of Development in the context of globalisation; Sociology of=20 Culture with emphasis on new technology; Sociology of Health with emphasis=20 on the social determinants of health. Expertise in more than one of these=20 areas as well as research work on a country other than Canada would be an=20 asset.

Duties: Teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels; research,=20 supervision of master and doctoral students, involvement in University=20 activities. Information on the Department of Sociology may be accessed at=20 the following website: <http://www.fas.umontreal.ca/SOCIO/>. With more than=20 45 000 students, the University of Montreal is one of the largest=20 North-American public research universities. Teaching activities are=20 conducted in French.

Requirements: A Ph.D. in Sociology or in a related field; proof of ability to teach at the university level and to do academic research; mastery of a theoretical field; research expertise in a field of specialisation and interest in analysing social change; good publications record.

Interested persons should send applications along with a complete academic dossier including copy of their diplomas, curriculum vitae, a short summary of their research agenda (2-3 pages in French), sample of recently published work or research, as well as three letters of recommendation to: Prof. Arnaud Sales, Chair, Departement de Sociologie, Universite de Montreal, C.P. 6128, Succursale Centre-ville, Montreal (Quebec) H3C 3J7 no later than January 15, 2001.

Remuneration: The University of Montreal offers a competitive salary package tied to a complete range of benefits.

Contract date: June 1, 2001

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, preference will be given to applicants who are Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada, but applications from non-Canadians are also accepted.

The University subscribes to the principle of equity and has an equal employment opportunity policy for women.

Claire Durand
Universit=E9 de Montr=E9al, dept. de sociologie,
C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville,
Montr=E9al, Qu=E9bec, Canada, H3C 3J7

durandc@socio.umontreal.ca
<http://alize.ere.umontreal.ca/~durandc>

"Si vous connaissez une seule soci=E9t=E9, vous n'en connaissez aucune."
"If you know only one society, you don't know any".=20
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The Department of Sociology at the University of Montreal is seeking to
fill two full-time tenure track teaching positions (at the assistant<i>
</i>professorship level).<br>
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Preference will be given to candidates whose research specialisation is in one of the following areas:

Advanced Quantitative Methodology (Social Statistics) with emphasis on longitudinal and multi-level analysis; Sociology of Development in the context of globalisation; Sociology of Culture with emphasis on new technology; Sociology of Health with emphasis on the social determinants of health. Expertise in more than one of these areas as well as research work on a country other than Canada would be an asset.

Duties:Teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels; research, supervision of master and doctoral students, involvement in University activities. Information on the Department of Sociology may be accessed at the following website:

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color=3D"#0000FF"><u>http://www.fas.umontreal.ca/SOCIO/</u><font=

face=3D"TIMES" size=3D4>. .

With more than 45 000 students, the University of Montreal is one of the largest North-American public research universities. Teaching activities are conducted in French.

Requirements: A Ph.D. in Sociology or in a related field; proof of ability to teach at the university level and to do academic research; mastery of a theoretical field; research expertise in a field of specialisation and interest in analysing social change; good publications record.

Interested persons should send applications along with a complete academic dossier including copy of their diplomas, curriculum vitae, a short summary of their research agenda (2-3 pages in French), sample of recently published work or research, as well as three letters of recommendation to: Prof. Arnaud Sales, Chair, Departement de Sociologie, Universite de Montreal, C.P. 6128, Succursale Centre-ville, Montreal (Quebec) H3C 3J7 no later than January 15, 2001.

Remuneration: The University of Montreal offers a competitive salary package tied to a complete range of benefits.

Contract date: June 1, 2001

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, preference will be given to applicants who are Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada, but applications from non-Canadians are also accepted.

The University subscribes to the principle of equity and has an equal employment opportunity policy for women.

</div>

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<div>durandc@socio.umontreal.ca</div>
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"If you know only one society, you don't know any".
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What TIPP, the pollster for Investor's Business Daily and The Christian =
Science Monitor, is saying about the election.

Advantage Bush: 6 percentage points over Gore.

The latest results from the IBD/CSM/TIPP tracking poll are attached, as =
well as a file with our October and early November trends. The files are =
in Adobe Acrobat format, if you need any assistance, have any questions, =
please call me.

The topline results for today, Nov. 6, are:

Gore: 42.3
Bush: 48.4
Buchanan: 0.6
Nader: 2.8
Browne: 0.2
Other: 0.2
Not Sure: 5.6

Dates tracked: Nov 3-5

Of 1,433 adults surveyed nationwide by telephone, 989 were classified as "likely voters". The results are presented for likely voters only, with a sampling error of +/- 3.2 percentage points.

TIPP, a unit of TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence, is the polling partner of two national publications: Investors Business Daily and The Christian Science Monitor. TIPP began tracking the presidential race on a weekly basis starting the first week of October, and on a daily basis October 27th. The daily tracking poll shows the most recent 3 days of collection, with the first poll results released the 30th. A sample size of approximately 800-1000 likely voters is used for each poll.

We will be publishing the results of our daily tracking poll up until the election. The results are released every day on our website by 12 noon, <http://www.tipponline.com>, as well as on the www.pollingreport.com, www.nationaljournal.com, www.voter.com and www.realclearpolitics.com.

In case you're not familiar with TIPP, we've made several significant contributions in this year's presidential race:

- 1) we developed the IBD/TIPP MetaPoll, the only poll of its kind, which consolidates all leading national polls, weighting for accuracy, polling population and recentness. The MetaPoll has been published weekly in IBD (Investors Business Daily) since May 2000.
- 2) we were the first to bring to light (Sept 25, 2000) media bias in the coverage of the race with our partner publication Editor & Publisher magazine. The article that appeared in E&P set off a chain of stories in leading publications such as USA Today, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and television media such as Fox News.
- 3) we were also the first to publish a thorough analysis of the Investor Class, in what is viewed by many as groundbreaking work that set off a flurry of interest in this important voting bloc.

TIPP uses the traditional telephone methodology. An RDD (Random Digit Dial) sample is used, randomly generated by computer to include published and non-published telephone numbers nationwide. Interviews are conducted using the CATI (Computer Added Telephone Interviewing) system with trained interviewers. No automated prompting systems, or internet surveying, are used for our political polling.

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Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 11:53:10 -0500
From: Rich Clark <rich@csra.uconn.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Job Opening
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

Survey Research Program Coordinator
University of Connecticut
Position based in Stamford, Connecticut

Under the general direction of designated supervisor will coordinate the Stamford Campus Certificate program in Survey Research Methodology. The position reports to the Director of the Center for Survey Research and Analysis, Storrs Campus. Duties include program coordination, program material development and program marketing. Duties will also include some management of social science survey projects and coordination of all phases of assigned projects including: research proposals, project design, questionnaire writing, management of data collection process, data analysis, report writing and presentation of findings. Salary negotiable.

Submit: Resume and 3 letters of reference.
Contact: Christopher Barnes at 860-486-3002 or cebuconn@yahoo.com

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Associate Director
Center for Survey Research and Analysis
University of Connecticut
U-32 341 Mansfield Rd. Room 408
Storrs, CT 06268

Phone: (860) 486-3002
FAX: (860) 486-6655
cebuconn@yahoo.com

=====
Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2000 17:21:55 -0500
From: Michael Hagen <mhagen@asc.upenn.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Distribution of partisanship in Gallup tracking poll
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

A couple weeks back, Rich Morin traced the volatility of the Gallup tracking of the presidential race to volatility in the distribution of partisanship in the poll. I can't seem to find the figures on partisanship on the Gallup web site. Can anyone point me to them?

Thanks.

Michael G. Hagen
Annenberg Public Policy Center
University of Pennsylvania
3620 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6220
voice: 215 898 4996
fax: 215 746 5375
email: mhagen@asc.upenn.edu

Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 09:30:13 -0500
From: "Clare Sherlock" <csherlock@technometrica.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Final TIPP tracking poll results
MIME-Version: 1.0
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

What TIPP, the pollster for Investor's Business Daily and The Christian = Science Monitor, is saying about the election.

This is it! Bush: 2 percentage points over Gore.=20

The latest results from the IBD/CSM/TIPP tracking poll are attached, as = well as a file with our October and early November trends. The files are = in Adobe Acrobat format, if you need any assistance, have any questions, = please call me.

The topline results for today, Nov. 7, are:
Gore: 46.0
Bush: 47.9
Nader: 3.7
Other: 2.4

Dates tracked: Nov 4-6

Of 1,891 adults surveyed nationwide by telephone, 1,272 were classified as "likely voters". The results are presented for likely voters only, with a sampling error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.

TIPP, a unit of TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence, is the polling partner of two national publications: Investors Business Daily and The Christian Science Monitor. TIPP began tracking the presidential race on a weekly basis starting the first week of October, and on a daily basis October 27th. The daily tracking poll shows the most recent 3 days of collection, with the first poll results released the 30th. A sample size of approximately 800-1000 likely voters is used for each poll.

We will be publishing the results of our daily tracking poll up until the election. The results are released every day on our website by 12 noon, <http://www.tipponline.com>, as well as on the www.pollingreport.com, www.nationaljournal.com, www.voter.com and www.realclearpolitics.com.

In case you're not familiar with TIPP, we've made several significant contributions in this year's presidential race:

- 1) we developed the IBD/TIPP MetaPoll, the only poll of its kind, which consolidates all leading national polls, weighting for accuracy, polling population and recentness. The MetaPoll has been published weekly in IBD (Investors Business Daily) since May 2000.
- 2) we were the first to bring to light (Sept 25, 2000) media bias in the coverage of the race with our partner publication Editor & Publisher magazine. The article that appeared in E&P set off a chain of stories in leading publications such as USA Today, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and television media such as Fox News.
- 3) we were also the first to publish a thorough analysis of the Investor Class, in what is viewed by many as groundbreaking work that set off a flurry of interest in this important voting bloc.

TIPP uses the traditional telephone methodology. An RDD (Random Digit Dial) sample is used, randomly generated by computer to include published and non-published telephone numbers nationwide.

Interviews are conducted using the CATI (Computer Added Telephone Interviewing) system with trained interviewers. No automated prompting systems, or internet surveying, are used for our political polling.

weekly in IBD (Investors Business Daily) since May 2000. (2) we were the first to bring to light (Sept 25, 2000) media bias in the coverage of the race with our partner publication Editor & Publisher magazine. The article that appeared in E&P set off a chain of stories in leading publications such as USA Today, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and television media such as Fox News. (3) we were also the first to publish a thorough analysis of the Investor Class, in what is viewed by many as groundbreaking work that set off a flurry of interest in this important voting bloc.

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More information on this and earlier polls can be found on our website at www.tipponline.com

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To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: DC-AAPOR Seminars for December
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

Greetings, AAPORNET colleagues!

The Washington-Baltimore Chapter is pleased to announce two seminars in December:

NOTE: COMPLETE ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH ABSTRACTS APPEAR FOR BOTH SEMINARS AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE

Hope to see you there!

Rob Santos
Chapter President

SEMINAR 1:

Topic: Election 2000 in Perspective
Date/Time: Wednesday, December 6, 2000, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Speakers: Jim Norman, USA Today
Claudia Deane, Washington Post

NEW

Location: The Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, NW

SEMINAR 2:

Topic: Classifying Open Ended Reports: Coding Occupation in the Current Population
When: Monday, December 11th, 2000, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Speakers: Frederick G. Conrad, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Mick P. Couper, Survey Research Center, Univ. of Mich.
Location: BLS Conference and Training Center
Postal Square Building
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE

FULL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SEMINAR 1:

Topic: Election 2000 in Perspective
Date & Time: Wednesday, December 6, 2000, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Speakers: Jim Norman, USA Today
Claudia Deane, Washington Post

NEW

Location: The Urban Institute
Conference Room 5A (Fifth Floor)
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC
Entrance on 21st St. between L & M Streets;
Report to Receptionist on the fifth floor for directions
to conference room

Metro: DuPont Circle, Red Line
Take the South exit, proceed south on 19th St. for 2 blocks to M
Street;
Turn right onto M Street and proceed 2 blocks to 21st Street;
Turn left onto 21st Street and proceed half a block to Entrance;
Entrance is on west side of 21st, between M & L Streets

RSVP: To be placed on the visitors list, send e-mail to
audrey.kindlon@us.pwcglobal.com or dc-aapor.admin@erols.com
or call Audrey Kindlon at 301-897-4413 by Friday, December 1.

Abstract:

The Year 2000 presidential election offered unprecedented levels of tracking
polls and related voter research, offering insights into the dynamics of the
voter decision making over the course of the presidential campaign. This
talks will present an overview of the polling results through summer and
fall of 2000, leading to Election Day and its result. The role of voter
research and media in the campaign will also be discussed.

SEMINAR 2:

(Co-sponsored with WSS Data Collections Methods Section)

Topic: Classifying Open Ended Reports: Coding Occupation in the
Current Population

When: Monday, December 11th, 2000, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Speakers: Frederick G. Conrad, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Mick P. Couper, Survey Research Center, University of
Michigan

Location: BLS Conference and Training Center (basement level)
Room #9, Postal Square Building,
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC
(Enter on First St., NE, and bring a photo ID)

Metro: Union Station, Red Line

RSVP: To be placed on the visitors list, send e-mail to
audrey.kindlon@us.pwcglobal.com or dc-aapor.admin@erols.com
or call Audrey Kindlon at 301-897-4413 by Thursday, December 7.

Abstract: An overlooked source of survey measurement error is the
misclassification of open-ended responses. This seminar reports on efforts
to understand the misclassification of occupation descriptions in the
Current Population Survey (CPS). Actual CPS descriptions were analyzed to

identify which features vary with intercoder reliability. An experiment was conducted to test how these features interact with each other to affect reliability. Finally the presenters observed and interacted with coders at work to help explain the experimental results.

First a set of occupation descriptions (n=32,362) reported by CPS respondents and entered by interviewers was analyzed; each description was classified by two independent coders. One factor that was strongly related to reliability was the length of the occupation description: contrary to our intuitions, longer descriptions were less reliably coded than shorter ones. This was followed with an experimental study of occupation descriptions (n=800) that was constructed to vary on key features (e.g. specific terms led to low or high reliability in study one); these descriptions were again "double-coded." The effect of description length depended on the difficulty of primary occupation terms. Difficult occupation terms led to a strong length effect; easy occupation terms led to virtually no length effect. Finally, coders classifying 50 experimental descriptions were observed and asked about their reasoning. This qualitative study produced a possible explanation for the lower reliability of longer descriptions: inconsistent application of informal coding rules.

**** END OF FULL ANNOUNCEMENTS *****

=====
Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 10:52:49 -0500
From: "Santos, Robert" <RSantos@ui.urban.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: " (E-mail)" <audrey.kindlon@us.pwcglobal.com>
Subject: Last Call -- Nov. 16 Seminar (Wash.-Balt. Chapt.)
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Greetings, again, colleagues!

This is a last call for RSVP'ing your attendance to the November 16 seminar on advances in telephone sample designs, to be presented by Clyde Tucker and Jim Lepkowski!! (This is a Washington Baltimore Chapter activity)

PLEASE RSVP by MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Below you will find the full announcement for the seminar, including the RSVP instructions.

I'll see you there!

Rob Santos
Chapter President

***** BEGIN ANNOUNCEMENT *****

Topic: Advances in Telephone Sample Designs
Date/Time: Thursday, November 16, 2000, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Speaker: Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jim Lepkowski, University of Michigan

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990 (second floor)
Postal Square Building
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE
Washington, DC
(Enter on First St., NE, and bring a photo ID)

Metro: Union Station, Red Line

RSVP: To be placed on the visitors list, send e-mail to
audrey.kindlon@us.pwcglobal.com or dc-aapor.admin@erols.com
or call Audrey Kindlon at 301-897-4413 by Monday, November 13.

Abstract:

List-assisted RDD designs became popular in the late 1980s and early 90s. Work done by BLS and the University of Michigan resulted in the development of the underlying theory for these designs as well as the evaluation of various alternative sampling plans to optimize the method. This work was documented in an article by Robert Casady and James Lepkowski in the June 1993 issue of Survey Methodology. Recent research by Jim Lepkowski, Clyde Tucker, and Linda Piekarski to re-evaluate these designs in light of the significant changes in the telephone system over the last decade will be presented.

*** END ANNOUNCEMENT *****

=====
Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 12:13:13 -0500
Subject: New Poll Watchers column
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Richard Morin" <morinr@washpost.com>
Message-ID: <OFBC17845D.18871C51-ON85256990.005E4E43@washpost.com>
X-MIMETrack: Serialize by Router on inetmail1/TWP(Release 5.0.3 |March 21, 2000) at 11/07/2000
12:18:44 PM
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

An election-day special edition of the Poll Watchers column is now posted on Washingtonpost.com. Click on
<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30410-2000Nov7.html>

In this column:

Final Tracking Results--Including Ours
Voting Groups the Poll Watchers Will Be Watching
Matt Drudge, Poised to Make Mischief

=====
Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 10:56:06 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Guide to Following U.S. Presidential Election Returns
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011071055120.12003-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Folks,

Here's my personal guide for interpreting Presidential election returns as they come in, state by state, throughout the next 12 hours or so (who can now say how long?). The guide is based on an unweighted ranking of the support for Bush and Gore--in each of the 51 units with electoral votes (50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia)--by five news sources: ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC/MSNBC, and USAToday. The guide consists of the groupings of the 51 units into five categories, with the units in each category roughly equivalent on the unweighted evaluations of the five sources:

	Electoral Units	Votes	
Solid for Gore	10	102	
Rather solid for Gore	3	79	
Relatively close--leans to Gore		1	11
		192	
Tossup--could easily go for Gore or Bush	11	122	122
		224	
Relatively close--leans to Bush		1	11
Rather solid for Bush	2	8	
Solid for Bush	23	205	
	--	---	---
	51	538	538

In other words, according to these data, Gore is expected to win at least 192 electoral votes, and Bush at least 224, with the 122 additional electoral votes too close to call (as of last midnight, PDT).

Because I have listed the units (states and DC) in the declining order in which Gore is likely to win them and, consequently, in the increasing order in which Bush is likely to win them (although the 51 units are listed alphabetically within each of the 7 categories), the lower on the list a Gore win, the more likely it is that he will win the White House and, conversely, the higher on the list a Bush win, the more likely it is that he will be the next U.S. president (in short, the view of the contest as a two-person, zero-sum game).

Questions are welcomed at beniger@rcf.usc.edu

-- Jim

	State's Electoral Votes	Cumulative Electoral Votes for Al Gore
SOLID FOR GORE (n = 10)		
Connecticut	8	8
District of Columbia	3	11
Hawaii	4	15
Maryland	10	25
Massachusetts	12	37
Minnesota	10	47
New Jersey	15	62
New York	33	95
Rhode Island	4	99
Vermont	3	102

	102	
RATHER SOLID FOR GORE (n = 3)		
California	54	156
Delaware	3	159
Illinois	22	181
	--	
	79	
RELATIVELY CLOSE--LEANS TO GORE (n = 1)		
Washington	11	192
	--	
	11	
TOSSUP--COULD EASILY GO FOR GORE OR BUSH (n = 11)		
Arkansas	6	198
Florida	25	223
Iowa	7	230
Maine	4	234
Michigan	18	252
New Mexico	5	257
Oregon	7	264
Pennsylvania	23	Elected 287/276 Elected
Tennessee	11	253
West Virginia	5	242
Wisconsin	11	237

	122	
RELATIVELY CLOSE--LEANS TO BUSH (n = 1)		
Missouri	11	226

RATHER SOLID FOR BUSH (n = 2)

Nevada	4	215
New Hampshire	4	211
	--	
	8	

SOLID FOR BUSH (n = 23)

Alabama	9	205	
Alaska	3	196	
Arizona	8	193	
Colorado	8	185	
Georgia	13	177	
Idaho	4	164	
Indiana	12	160	
Kansas	6	148	
Kentucky	8	142	
Louisiana		9	134
Mississippi		7	125
Montana	3	118	
Nebraska	5	115	
North Carolina	14	110	
North Dakota		3	96
Ohio		21	93
Oklahoma	8	72	
South Carolina	8	64	
South Dakota		3	56
Texas	32	53	
Utah		5	21
Virginia	13	16	
Wyoming	3	3	

	205		Cumulative Electoral Votes for G. W. Bush

Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 14:48:06 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: SIX HOURS: The Nine Waves of Presidential Election Results
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011071446410.4785-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

SIX HOURS--THE NINE WAVES OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

(Times are poll closing times -- all times Eastern and Pacific)

"Expected Outcome" is based on an unweighted ranking of the relative support for Bush and Gore as determined by five news sources: ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC/MSNBC, and USA Today.

-- Jim

Tuesday, November 7, 2000

	Electoral	
	Votes	Expected Outcome
1 *****> 6 p.m. ET (3 p.m. PT) *****		
Indiana	12	BUSH (Solid)
Kentucky	8	BUSH (Solid)
	--	
	20	

	Electoral	
	Votes	Expected Outcome
2 *****> 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT) *****		
Florida	25	*** TOSSUP ***
Georgia	13	BUSH (Solid)
New Hampshire	4	BUSH (Rather Solid)
South Carolina	8	BUSH (Solid)
Vermont	3	GORE (Solid)
Virginia	13	BUSH (Solid)
	--	
	66	

	Electoral	
	Votes	Expected Outcome
3 *****> 7:30 p.m. ET (4:30 p.m. PT) **		
North Carolina	14	BUSH (Solid)
Ohio	21	BUSH (Solid)
West Virginia	5	*** TOSSUP ***
	--	
	40	

	Electoral	
	Votes	Expected Outcome
4 *****> 8 p.m. ET (5 p.m. PT) *****		
Alabama	9	BUSH (Solid)
Connecticut	8	GORE (Solid)
Delaware	3	GORE (Rather Solid)
District of Columbia	3	GORE (Solid)
Illinois	22	GORE (Rather Solid)
Kansas	6	Bush (Solid)
Maine	4	*** TOSSUP ***
Maryland	10	GORE (Solid)
Massachusetts	12	GORE (Solid)
Michigan	18	*** TOSSUP ***
Mississippi	7	BUSH (Solid)
Missouri	11	BUSH (Close-Leaning)

New Jersey	15	GORE (Solid)
Oklahoma	8	BUSH (Solid)
Pennsylvania	23	*** TOSSUP ***
Tennessee	11	*** TOSSUP ***
Texas	32	BUSH (Solid)

	202	

Electoral
Votes Expected Outcome

5 *****> 8:30 p.m. ET (5:30 p.m. PT) **

Arkansas	6	*** TOSSUP ***
	--	
	6	

Electoral
Votes Expected Outcome

6 *****> 9 p.m. ET (6 p.m. PT) *****

Arizona	8	BUSH (Solid)
Colorado	8	BUSH (Solid)
Louisiana	9	BUSH (Solid)
Minnesota	10	GORE (Solid)
Nebraska	5	BUSH (Solid)
New Mexico	5	*** TOSSUP ***
New York	33	GORE (Solid)
North Dakota	3	BUSH (Solid)
Rhode Island	4	GORE (Solid)
South Dakota	3	GORE (Solid)
Wisconsin	11	*** TOSSUP ***
Wyoming	3	BUSH (Solid)

	102	

Electoral
Votes Expected Outcome

7 *****> 10 p.m. ET (7 p.m. PT) *****

Idaho	4	BUSH (Solid)
Iowa	7	*** TOSSUP ***
Montana	3	BUSH (Solid)
Nevada	4	BUSH (Rather Solid)
Utah	5	BUSH (Solid)
	--	
	23	

Electoral
Votes Expected Outcome

8 *****> 11 p.m. ET (8 p.m. PT) *****

California	54	GORE (Rather Solid)
Hawaii	4	GORE (Solid)
Oregon	7	*** TOSSUP ***
Washington	11	GORE (Close--Leaning)
	--	
	76	

Electoral		
	Votes	Expected Outcome
9 *****> 12 midnight ET (9 p.m. PT) ***		
Alaska	3	BUSH (Solid)
	--	
	3	
<hr/>		
TOTALS	51 Units (50 states, plus DC)	538 Electoral Votes

Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2000 15:12:47 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: On Exit-Poll Results, Voter News Service, and Matt Drudge
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011071509350.23312-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Presidential Election Day Special.....

I N S I D E . C O M
I N S I D E D O P E

November 7, 2000 5:05 p.m. ET

<http://www.inside.com>

EXIT-POLL RESULTS (4 P.M. REPORT)

According to sources who have seen the 4 p.m. Voter News Service exit-poll updates, here are the latest results (offered, once again, with the proviso that this information remains wildly sketchy): George W. Bush still up slightly in the popular vote, 48 percent to 47 percent. Al Gore is ahead in Florida (50-47 percent), Michigan (51-48 percent), Maine (48-46 percent), Oregon (slightly), Washington (very, very slightly) and Tennessee (ditto). Bush is ahead slightly in Iowa and Missouri. No updates on other states. In the Senate, things continue to look good for Clinton in New York, Corzine in New Jersey, and Carper in Delaware.

* * *

EARLY EXIT-POLLING DATA SHOW SUPERTIGHT RACE

Offered with the caveat that this information is hugely provisional and sketchy, here is what journalists who have seen the first tranche of the Voter News Service exit-polling data say is happening: George W. Bush appears to hold a slight popular-vote lead 49-48 percent. Al Gore is ahead in Florida, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, California and Washington. Bush holds an edge in New Hampshire, West Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Iowa. Minnesota and Pennsylvania are, crucially, too close to call. One freaky scenario being bandied about: the race ends in an electoral college tie, 269-269. In Senate races, Hillary Clinton is ahead in New York. Incumbents Ashcroft, Grams, Roth, Robb, and McCollum are losing. In Michigan, Abraham is tied.

* * *

TALKING POLITICS AROUND THE VIRTUAL WATERCOOLER

While Matt Drudge may have sworn no retreat, no surrender in his fight to post exit poll numbers, his own popularity is conspiring against him. The Drudgereport.com has been available only intermittently on Election Day today for readers on both coasts, and his posting of Voter News Service numbers -- which became available at 2 p.m. ET -- could drag the site down. But Lucianne Goldberg, linked forever with Drudge thanks to the Lewinsky affair, has come to the rescue. Goldberg plans to post VNS data on Lucianne.com, something that others, like Slate and The National Review Online, have backed off on doing. Another right-wing site, Freerepublic.com, has also reprinted the information from Drudge's site.

"News is news," she says. "Why, as Drudge said, should Dan Rather know and not the American people? That's such elitism on the part of the networks. Screw 'em all." Goldberg says she hopes that by 3 o'clock in the afternoon "we should have a real map of the country." And she adds, "If I can't verify stuff I'm not going to put it up."

<http://www.lucianne.com>
<http://www.freerepublic.com>

* * *

NEED AN ELECTION DAY ATTRACTION? JUST ADD GEOGRAPHY

Are you a news site prepping for record levels of traffic on Election Day? Want to establish your new media credentials with some easy-to-grasp "interactive" features? Then just add geography. Thorny issues like the Electoral College or the religious composition of America are rendered quickly and easily into clickable infographics. ABCNews.com offers the classic example of such a map, showing states color-coded separately for Gore's strongholds, Bush's and the toss-up states. Roll the mouse over a state, and a capsule review of the electoral situation appears. MSNBC.com adds the DIY touch to the form with its Electoral Chess, which gives readers the chance to play out their fantasy or doomsday scenario by choosing which states they think will go to which candidates. Can Gore win without Florida? Sure he

can, if you give him the entire Northeast. Less practical but equally interesting maps are abounding at niche sites like Beliefnet.com, whose map contribution offers a breakdown of U.S. religious composition and political party affiliation on a state-by-state basis. Sadly, the site doesn't cross-index the two.

<http://www.abcnews.com>
<http://www.msnbc.com>
<http://www.beliefnet.com>

* * *

GRIDLOCK FEARS OVERBLOWN AS WEB TRAFFIC FLOWS SMOOTHLY

Despite predictions of an Election Day Web slowdown, as millions of anxious surfers cast for early rumblings of voter leanings, the Internet seems to be running smoothly so far. According to Matrix.net's Matrix IQ service (an offshoot of the Internet Weather Report), as of 10 a.m. ET there was basically no difference at all in Internet performance from the previous 24-hour period. Both latency (the time between the sending of a request and the return of a response) and reachability (what percent of servers are reachable) showed virtually no uptick at all. Only packet loss (the amount of data lost in transmission) showed a small increase for the Web.

* * *

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEB ELECTORATE

Online polling seems to be everywhere this election year, but the questions Web sites are asking do differ. Over at ABCNews.com, 52.1 percent of the 13,792 people polled were excited about their choice of candidate, with 41.8 percent seeing their choice as the lesser of two evils. Slashdot found 4,200 people (48 percent) of a total of 8,750 who said they would vote, compared to 991 (11 percent) who chose the "I won't vote / I'm a loser" option. At SpeakOut.com, the total voter base wasn't shown, but those who did vote preferred Bush over Gore, 55.1 percent to 34.4; Nader supporters represented 5.2 percent. And at Vote.com, of 18,390 votes cast, 66 percent said character was the key issue in the election, with issues pulling a paltry 34 percent. So what does it all mean? Not much, really, since the only real online voting that matters is a test the Pentagon is running, allowing 200 Americans overseas to vote online.

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Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 00:46:01 -0600
From: "Rick Weil" <fweil@pabulum.lapop.lsu.edu>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Polls vs. the Models

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It's 12:30am+ central time & they still haven't called the election, but one thing seems clear. Lots of the polls called the result fairly well, but the mathematical models, which predicted a strong Gore win, were mostly far off. (These were the models that predicted the election from data as far back as Labor Day, based on the economy, incumbency, presidential popularity, etc.) Are those models dead? Is this somehow an outlier election? Any thoughts?

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Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 09:30:09 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Craig Gurian" <craiggurian@igc.org>,
"Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Craig Gurian" <craiggurian@igc.org>,
"Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
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Poll Firm's Fla. Gaffe
Leaves Networks Dazed

By RICHARD HUFF
Daily News Staff Writer

The polling cooperative designed to help the television networks report election results last night was responsible for one of the biggest mixups in national election history. Shortly after 10 p.m.,

the Voter News Service, an organization created in 1991 to provide exit poll information to the networks, withdrew an advisory calling the tight Florida race for Al Gore.

The switcheroo forced every network to recalculate its electoral vote counts for each candidate and reconfigure internal predictions for the outcome of the race. Until then, much of the on-air discussion had concerned how close Gore was to winning, based in part on the Florida results. "We think its unprecedented to have a state called back," an angry network source last night. "This puts other states into question, and we'll deal with future results cautiously."

"The big news is, all the networks have withdrawn Florida from the Gore column," NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw reported at 10:35 p.m. His network was the last to change the tally. According to a network spokeswoman, NBC researchers use historical models as well as their research data, and it wasn't until the statistics started to change did they feel it was appropriate to pull back the Florida call. "The whole point of this entire night is to be prudent," she said.

Another network insider suggested the problem wasn't with VNS but rather with the Florida polls. The debate over Florida began just before 8 p.m., when VNS released polling data from the state with a "call" status, indicating the service was telling subscribers the data were solid enough for users to project a winner.

The results were immediately flagged by the Bush camp, though VNS didn't issue a reverse call for two hours. The networks followed. "They have removed the call, but it doesn't mean they're necessarily wrong," said a VNS staffer.

Calls to a VNS spokeswoman were not returned.

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Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 09:52:18 -0500
From: Lori_Cook@bcbsme.com

Received: by notesext.ahsme.com(Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.7 (934.1 12-30-1999))
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The New England Chapter of AAPOR is sponsoring a post-election lunch panel tomorrow in Cambridge to sift through the results of the (still undecided) closest election outcome in decades. We hope you can join us!

Date: Thursday, November 9, 2000

Time: 12:30 - 2 pm (light lunch will be served)

Location: Abt Associates (directions attached)
55 Wheeler Street
Cambridge, MA

Cost: Free to Chapter members; \$8 for non-members; \$4 for students

Panelists:

John Gorman, President, Opinion Dynamics (Pollster for the Fox News/Opinion Dynamics Poll)

R.D. Sahl, News Anchor of New England Cable News (NECN)

Wayne Woodlief, Op-ed political columnist, Boston Herald

RSVP to Lori Cook at Lori_Cook@bcbsme.com

(See attached file: directio.wpd)

(When you arrive at the Abt lot , tell the security guard at the parking lot entrance shack that you are there for the New England AAPOR meeting. If there are no spots left (we don't think that will be a problem) you can park over at the CVS lot. When you arrive at Abt you will need to sign in and call Mike Battaglia to be able to get passed the lobby.)

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=====

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 10:41:26 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Palm Beach Co Ballot
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

As I am sure you have heard by now, the layout of the ballot in Palm Beach County was claimed to be confusing causing many voters to vote for Buchanan instead of Gore.

Those Buchanan votes do seem unusual in Palm Beach County. Twenty per cent of Buchanan's total state vote came from just this one county:
3,407 / 17,327 = 20%

Anyone care to estimate how many were intended for Gore?

http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/2000vote/general/FL_county.html

=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 10:45:18 -0500
From: "Bill Thompson" <bthompson@directionsrsch.com>
To: mkshares@mcs.net
cc: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-ID: <85256991.00568C23.00@drione.directionsrsch.com>
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Co Ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

Considering a court can't rule on someone's "intent" to vote for someone...(I was involved in such a close race in WI in 93 where punch ballots were incorrectly printed yet we couldn't challenge them in court) is it fair or even worthwhile for us to guess how many intended to vote for Gore? If we start doing that, in my opinion, then we become as bad as the media, who feels the need to say SOMETHING all the time instead of just waiting to see what happens.

=====
Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 10:51:05 -0500
From: "Craig S Gordon" <ARCCSG@langate.gsu.edu>
To: <mkshares@mcs.net>, <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Co Ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id HAA03461

** Reply Requested When Convenient **

If you add up Gore's and Nader's vote it about equals Nelson and Logan's vote while the Bush and Buchanan vote about equals the McCollum vote.

>>> Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net> 11/08/00 05:41AM >>>
As I am sure you have heard by now, the layout of the ballot in Palm Beach County was claimed to be confusing causing many voters to vote for Buchanan instead of Gore.

Those Buchanan votes do seem unusual in Palm Beach County. Twenty per cent of Buchanan's total state vote came from just this one county:
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http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/2000vote/general/FL_county.html

=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:15:47 -0500
From: John Mitchell <jmitchell@elementusa.com>
To: "AAPORnet List server (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot: GIF image
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
 boundary="----_=_NextPart_000_01C049A7.896746A0"

This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Colman [mailto:dcolman@abz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:22 PM
To: 'jmitchell@elementusa.com'

apparently lots of people in palm beach accidentally voted for buchanan thinking that they were voting for gore. check out the gif

-----Original Message-----
From: Cole Corbin
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:14 PM

To: Paul Conley; Dan Colman
Subject:

here's the ballot from palm beach county.

Cole Corbin
Editor

ABZ, Inc.
An About Subsidiary

<http://About.com> <<http://About.com>>
1440 Broadway, New York, NY 10018
ph: 212-204-2732
email: ccorbin@about-inc.com

<<PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif>>

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From: Dan Colman
[mailto:dcolman@abz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:22
PM
To: 'jmittchell@elementusa.com'
Subject: FW:

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beach
accidentally voted for buchanan thinking that they were voting for gore.
check

out the gif</P>

<P>-----Original Message-----
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Corbin
Sent:
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size=1>Paul Conley; Dan Colman
<FONT face=Arial
size=1>Subject: </P>
<P>here's the ballot from palm beach county.
</P>

<P>_____

Cole Corbin
<FONT
face=Verdana
size=2>Editor </P>

<P>ABZ, Inc.
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ph: 212-204-2732

email:
ccorbin@about-inc.com

</P>
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=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 09:31:24 -0800
From: "MJS" <sullivan@fsc-research.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot: GIF image
Message-ID: <3A091D6C.7049.A9E0E3A@localhost>
In-reply-to: <714D7E686BC9D311BB2000508B8BFE5E80A1D8@ELEMENTNT02>
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

Very interesting! It would not be hard to construct an experiment to conclusively demonstrate the error rate that may have resulted from this design.

Date sent: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:15:47 -0500
Send reply to: aapornet@usc.edu
From: John Mitchell <jmitchell@elementusa.com>
To: "AAPORnet List server (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Colman [mailto:dcolman@abz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:22 PM
To: 'jmitchell@elementusa.com'
Subject: FW:

apparently lots of people in palm beach accidentally voted for buchanan thinking that they were voting for gore. check out the gif

-----Original Message-----
From: Cole Corbin
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:14 PM
To: Paul Conley; Dan Colman

Subject:

here's the ballot from palm beach county.

Cole Corbin
Editor

ABZ, Inc.
An About Subsidiary

<http://About.com> <<http://About.com>>
1440 Broadway, New York, NY 10018
ph: 212-204-2732
email: ccorbin@about-inc.com

<<PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif>>

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=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 09:43:50 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: New Measures? News Websites Have Slowed to a Crawl...
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011080940590.28203-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=X-UNKNOWN
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8BIT

Introducing a new set of quantitative measures of the individual responses by citizens of a large democratic nation state at a moment of electoral uncertainty? Or not?

-- Jim

----- Message from KEYNOTE -- Daniel D. Todd <dan.todd@keynote.com> -----

Here is Keynote's updated report measuring the performance and

availability of the Web sites for the major candidates, parties and news organizations involved in yesterday's National Elections.

The New York Times website is seeing terrible performance this morning as well as a significant degradation in response rate. Worse than anything we measured from their site yesterday. It is not clear whether or not this problem is being caused by readers visiting the website for election information. We are continuing to see troubles at MSNBC and USA Today. MSNBC Performance is very much in line with what we have seen from them throughout the election process. USA Today's performance is worse than it had been through most of election day. ABCNews, CNN and The Washington Post seem to be working well. Yahoo! continues to perform very well.

With the Exception of Ralph Nader's website performance from the candidate and party sites has returned to normal.

Keynote Report on Elections Site Performance
5:00pm - 8:00pm PST, November 8, 2000

Overall performance comparison to the Keynote Business 40 Internet Performance Index, an industry standard benchmark of the overall health of the Internet, for this same reporting period:

Site	URL Performance	Response Rate
ABCNews	www.abcnews.com/	2.55 99.2%
Al Gore	www.algore2000.com/	0.84 100.0%
All Politics	www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/	3.31 98.3%
CNN.com	www.cnn.com/	4.24 98.7%
Democratic N.C.*	www.democrats.org/	6.45 99.3%
FirstGov	www.firstgov.gov/	0.78 99.9%
George W. Bush	www.georgewbush.com/	8.56 98.5%
MSNBC	www.msnbc.com/	27.08 84.4%
New York Times	www.nytimes.com/	110.17 64.2%
Pat Buchanan	www.buchananreform.com/	1.72 99.4%
Republican N.C.*	www.rnc.org/	3.20 100.0%
Shadow Conventions	www.shadowconvention.com/	3.51 100.0%
USA Today	www.usatoday.com/	15.18 98.2%
VoteNader.com	www.votenader.com/	17.93 91.7%
Washington Post	www.washingtonpost.com/	1.49 99.9%
Yahoo!	www.yahoo.com	0.59 100.0%
Keynote Business 40	(25 US Metro Areas)	5.78 98.1%

*National Committee

Source: Keynote (Nasdaq:KEYN). Keynote, The Internet Performance Authority®, is the worldwide leader in e-commerce benchmarking and Web performance management services that improve the quality of e-business.

Keynote's measurements were taken every 15 minutes from 25 metro areas around the US from 5:00 am through 8:00 am PST.

Performance is the average time, in seconds, the URL took to completely download. Response rate is the percentage of requests made by Keynote measurement computers which resulted in the base page being properly

downloaded.

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 12:33:28 -0600 (CST)
From: Carolyn White <cswhite@ux6.cso.uiuc.edu>
Message-Id: <200011081833.eA8IXSa10022@ux6.cso.uiuc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Summary of Census Bureau Advisory Comm on Race and Ethnicity
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-MD5: 5+fkZYUU8R7RpfXSGkP2pw==

The Census Bureau's five advisory committees on race and ethnicity held their annual meeting in Alexandria, Va on Nov 2-3. Can anyone point me to a summary of the meeting?

TIA

Carolyn S. White, PhD
Program Coordinator, CCSO
Asst Professor, Sociology
University of Illinois

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 10:50:24 -0800 (PST)
From: Robert Eisinger <eisinger@lclark.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.4.10.10011081024290.22855-100000@haystack.lclark.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Dear AAPORNetters:

I mistakenly deleted the Palm Beach Ballot gif. Can someone (anyone) send it to me (eisinger@lclark.edu) again?

Thanks.

-Robert Eisinger
eisinger@lclark.edu

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 13:00:20 -0600
From: "Stuefen, Randy" <rstuefen@usd.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Youth and Cigarettes
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2448.0)
Content-Type: text/plain;

Subject: Re: Palm Vote Ballot
References: <714D7E686BC9D311BB2000508B8BFE5E80A1D8@ELEMENTTNT02>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Thanks to John Mitchell for forwarding the message with the Sun-Sentinal graphic. I had been looking for one that showed clearly the column of circles which other renditions such as the ABC News graphic surely did not do. I had been looking vainly in various sites including the Miami Herald's for a clear graphic. By blackening the Democratic circle, however, the Sun-Sentinal may have made even its better graphic less than ideal for showing how the ballot would have confused voters. My impression is that association of the second circle with the Democrats is more ambiguous in a column of identical circles than it is once the circle has been punched out. That may explain reports of voters realizing their error after they made it.

With all due regard for the messages in this thread that use outcome statistics to indicate whether the ballot was a source of great confusion, a cognition approach may also be illuminating. The Palm ballot may well be a case of incompetent design rather, but attempts to use ballot design to manipulate electoral outcomes have a time-honored place in American history. It was once a more prominent political issue than it is nowadays. I can remember being taught about it in high school civics in the 1930's. An association I have with the Information Design Journal makes me interested in hearing from any colleague interested in doing a paper on Palm ballot case in some larger context such as automated self-administered forms, the politics of ballot design, etc.

John Mitchell wrote:

```
> Part 1.1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)
>
>                                     Name: PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif
> PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif      Type: GIF Image (image/gif)
>                                     Encoding: base64
```

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:39:41 -0500
From: "Jim Caplan" <caplanjr@bellsouth.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <714D7E686BC9D311BB2000508B8BFE5E80A1D8@ELEMENTTNT02>
<3A09B834.CB299E1F@american.edu>
Subject: Re: Palm Vote Ballot
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Perhaps a special disambiguating optical device could be devised for voters of that county. Call it Palm Pilot, perhaps?

Jim Caplan
Miami

----- Original Message -----

From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 3:31 PM
Subject: [Was "Re: FW:"] Palm Vote Ballot

Thanks to John Mitchell for forwarding the message with the Sun-Sentinal graphic. I had been looking for one that showed clearly the column of circles which other renditions such as the ABC News graphic surely did not do. I had been looking vainly in various sites including the Miami Herald's for a clear graphic. By blackening the Democratic circle, however, the Sun-Sentinal may have made even its better graphic less than ideal for showing how the ballot would have confused voters. My impression is that association of the second circle with the Democrats is more ambiguous in a column of identical circles than it is once the circle has been punched out. That may explain reports of voters realizing their error after they made it.

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John Mitchell wrote:

> Part 1.1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)
>
> Name: PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif
> PalmVoteBallotConfusion.gif Type: GIF Image (image/gif)
> Encoding: base64

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 16:06:55 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: New Poll Watchers column
References: <OF53FE95B9.254351BE-ON85256991.006C5EC6@washpost.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Dick-

Last week on a Fox network talk show, I believe I heard Ed Goeas say that he had begun to weight his sample +3 % points in favor of Democrats. I believe in your last column they said they were going to take another look at this.

Nick

Richard Morin wrote:

> A post-election (mid-election?) Poll Wachers column has been posted on
> Washingtonpost.com:
>
> <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45950-2000Nov8.html>
>
> In today's column:
>
> Behind Those Bad Exit Poll Predictions in Florida
> Grading the Polls
> How Swing Groups Swung

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:03:20 -0800
From: "#crclf" <crclf@ix.netcom.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Co Ballot
Message-ID: <01c049d8\$16d698a0\$3d6d79a5@earthlink.charalton>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

Bill,

A court can certainly rule that an election practice has in some way deprived a citizen or group of citizens of their right to vote-- in this case, the analysis would be that an egregiously confusing ballot format had this effect. The court could take testimony from voters who would state under oath that they had been confused and had unintentionally voted for Buchanan. If the court found that such confusion was a reasonable and widespread response to the ballot format, rather than merely the result of negligence on the part of the voters, it is entirely conceivable that a judge could fashion a remedy that would permit people in that area to vote again.

If Bush had won the popular vote nationwide, of course such challenges would have very little public support or moral cogency; however, because Bush received fewer votes than Gore, his moral claim to the office is

extremely weak. Many people will support just about any apparently legitimate legal challenge that could have the effect of bringing the election result into line with the actual votes. Consider that, although we have always been told the winner of the popular vote could lose the electoral contest, it never happened in the 20th century, so it was just an abstract worry. Now that it has apparently happened, everybody must consider how idiotic the 18th-century electoral college is in modern presidential elections.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Thompson <bthompson@directionsrsch.com>
To: mkshares@mcs.net <mkshares@mcs.net>
Cc: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 7:48 AM
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Co Ballot

>
>
>Considering a court can't rule on someone's "intent" to vote for someone...(I
>was involved in such a close race in WI in 93 where punch ballots were
>incorrectly printed yet we couldn't challenge them in court) is it fair or even
>worthwhile for us to guess how many intended to vote for Gore? If we start
>doing that, in my opinion, then we become as bad as the media, who feels the
>need to say SOMETHING all the time instead of just waiting to see what happens.
>
>

=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 15:08:08 -0800
From: "#crclf" <crclf@ix.netcom.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Can a court rule on someone's "intent" to vote for someone?
Message-ID: <01c049d8\$c26c1280\$3d6d79a5@earthlink.charalton>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0280_01C04995.B448D280"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_0280_01C04995.B448D280
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

AAPOR:

A court can certainly rule that an election practice has in some way

deprived a citizen or group of citizens of their right to vote-- in this case, the analysis would be that an egregiously confusing ballot format had this effect. The court could take testimony from voters who would state under oath that they had been confused and had unintentionally voted for Buchanan. If the court found that such confusion was a reasonable and widespread response to the ballot format, rather than merely the result of negligence on the part of the voters, it is entirely conceivable that a judge could fashion a remedy that would permit people in that area to vote again.

If Bush had won the popular vote nationwide, of course such challenges would have very little public support or moral cogency; however, because Bush received fewer votes than Gore, his moral claim to the office is extremely weak. Many people will support just about any apparently legitimate legal challenge that could have the effect of bringing the election result into line with the actual votes. Consider that, although we have always been told the winner of the popular vote could lose the electoral contest, it never happened in the 20th century, so it was just an abstract worry. Now that it has apparently happened, everybody must consider how idiotic the 18th-century electoral college is in modern presidential elections.=20

-----=_NextPart_000_0280_01C04995.B448D280
Content-Type: text/html;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD W3 HTML//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>

<META content=3Dtext/html; charset=3Diso-8859-1 =
http-equiv=3DContent-Type>
<META content=3D'"MSHTML 4.71.1712.3"' name=3DGENERATOR>
</HEAD>

<BODY bgColor=3D#ffffff>

<DIV>AAPOR:</DIV>

<DIV> </DIV>

<DIV>A court can certainly rule that an election practice has in some way deprived a citizen or group of citizens of their right to vote-- in

this case, the analysis would be that an egregiously confusing ballot format had

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must
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modern
presidential elections.
 </DIV></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_0280_01C04995.B448D280--

=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 23:17:32 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <OF53FE95B9.254351BE-ON85256991.006C5EC6@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: New Poll Watchers column
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Hey Rich; what about Harris? spot on on their national phone poll!
----- Original Message -----
From: Richard Morin <morinr@washpost.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 7:45 PM
Subject: New Poll Watchers column

>
> A post-election (mid-election?) Poll Wachers column has been posted on
> Washingtonpost.com:
>
> <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45950-2000Nov8.html>

>
>
> In today's column:
>
> Behind Those Bad Exit Poll Predictions in Florida
> Grading the Polls
> How Swing Groups Swung
>
>
>
>

=====
Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 16:16:31 -0800
From: Norbert Schwarz <nschwarz@umich.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Palm Beach County irregularities (fwd)
Message-ID: <3037582484.973700191@pc-casbs-156.Stanford.EDU>
X-Mailer: Mulberry (Win32) [1.4.3, s/n S-399020]
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline

This may be of interest to the aapornet.

----- Forwarded Message -----
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2000 3:57 PM -0500
From: Greg Adams <gadams@andrew.cmu.edu>

> As you probably all know, Bush has 1700 more votes in Florida over Gore.
> However, folks in Palm Beach were complaining that their ballots were
> confusing, and many people voted for Buchanan when they thought they were
> voting for Gore. With the help of my wife Chris, I analyzed the county by
> county presidential results for Florida. The results are clear: the
> ballot for Palm Beach cost Gore approximately 2200 votes. A simple
> regression of Buchanan's vote on Bush's vote shows that Buchanan should
> have only gotten 800 votes, not 3400.
>
> Don't believe me? Look for yourself: It's not even close! Palm Beach is
> an outlier beyond all belief!!!
>
> <http://madison.hss.cmu.edu/palm-beach.pdf>
>
> I need help getting these results out to the world. If you have media
> contacts or now how to tip them, please have them contact me asap.
> Thanks.

.....
Norbert Schwarz
University of Michigan
nschwarz@umich.edu

On sabbatical 8/2000 through 6/2001:
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
75 Alta Road

Stanford, CA 94305-8090

650-321-2052, Ext. 240 voice
650-321-1192 fax
760-875-9883 voice & fax messages, delivered by e-mail (most reliable)

=====
Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 19:26:46 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Yamashik@aol.com" <Yamashik@aol.com>,
"Y1967-L@Aya.Yale.Edu" <y1967-l@aya.yale.edu>,
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: We do not yet have nearly enough information to know who won
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPGEBCCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

Dear All:

I have followed with interest the discussion about the "recount" in Florida today, tomorrow and, perhaps, for a few more days. My Conclusion:

WE DO NOT YET HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH INFORMATION TO KNOW WHO WON!!

It is quite misleading on the basis of provisional and untested results to assert that one candidate is seeking to "take away" a victory from the other, as it is to assert that the one garnering the most popular vote should definitely win, so Florida should yield.

I have been involved with a variety of electoral challenges, recounts, recanvasses, court cases, etc. in Westchester County, New York. The canvassing of voting machines or computer ballot tabulating machines has the possibility of major error built in. Numbers can be easily transposed, zeroes can be added, ballot boxes can be lost. Elderly election inspectors often do the initial canvas at the end of a long day making mistakes more likely.

Usually such mistakes are meaningless, since election outcomes most often are very obvious. But in this case (along with a State Senate election in NYC and a House Race in New Jersey) the race is very close. In the NY and NJ case people are talking about the outcome being in doubt for weeks, when only a few hundred thousand votes have been cast. Here we are talking about a few hundred votes out of about 6 million cast in maybe 20,000 precincts. It seems to me that a careful audit, including a comparison with the 1996 outcome is called for to be sure that the candidate who actually won is declared the winner.

But in contested cases I have seen races switch back and forth during recanvass procedures in Westchester County. All very frustrating and non-telegenic, but really part of the democratic process: IE: ACCURATELY

COUNTING THE VOTE.

Questions about absentees, other irregularities, and the Palm Beach Ballot anomaly can only be resolved in this context. If the dispute moves into court, information on who people thought they were voting for when they voted for Buchanan is actually fairly easy to come by. Voters can be subpoenaed and asked if they understood for whom they were voting.

Assume that they had meant to vote for Gore. If everyone comes to believe that the votes that allowed George Bush to become President-Elect were cast in error, the underpinning of legitimacy in this election will be destroyed. It would be similarly damaged if a true full recount were frustrated.

It may be frustrating to the Newsman, who said "We need to elect a President sometime," but it is far better to spend time finding out who won, rather than rushing to judgment and not being sure.

Andrew A. Beveridge
209 Kissena Hall
Department of Sociology
Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
Phone: 718-997-2837
Fax: 718-997-2820
E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>

Home Office
50 Merriam Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
Phone: 914-337-6237
Fax: 914-337-8210

=====
Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 18:14:36 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Richard Rands <rrands@cfmc.com>
Subject: RE: Youth and Cigarettes
In-Reply-To: <C3AC1B98FED7D21190E700C00D003E8C0497BBD3@exchange.usd.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Randall,

I have forwarded your question to Dr. Janet Brigham, who is the editor of the newsletter for the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT). She is also the author of an informative book about tobacco use called "Dying to Quit."

Richard Rands
>

>Dear All,

>In South Dakota, one must be 18 to purchase cigarettes. There are 18 year

>olds that are in high school. I am interested in the proportion of kids
>that purchase their cigarettes from these older students.
>Has anyone seen any work that identifies where youth get their cigarettes?
>What proportion purchase them from stores, get them from parents, buy them
>from older kids ?
>Thanks for the info.

>
>Randall M. Stuefen
>Director of Research & Associate Director

>
>*****
>Business Research Bureau Voice 605-677-5287
>414 East Clark Street Fax 605-677-5427
>University of South Dakota 57069 rstuefen@usd.edu
>*****

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 21:29:13 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Fewer bumper stickers and road signs this time around
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Just a minor observation: in the past, at least in Cobb County, Georgia, which is a Republican jungle (home of Bob Barr and Newt), there were many fewer bumper stickers and road signs. compared to past elections, advertising Bush and Cheney. Could this mean that even those who on the surface exhibited a passion for the Republican agenda, didn't really feel that strongly about it and were really voting against Clinton?

Dick Halpern

Date: Wed, 08 Nov 2000 22:15:09 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu, BillMorley2@juno.com
From: "H.H.Kassarjian" <HKassarj@ucla.edu>
Subject: Palm Beach County irregularities
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="===== _2923721==_ .ALT"

----- _2923721==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I thought the following from another listserv might of interest to some in AAPOR.

Hal Kassarjian

>Message from ACR-L listserv

>-----
>
>
>Some empirical data re the confusing ballott in Palm Beach County. Thought

>this would be of interest in light of the recent flurry of e-mails.
>Norbert
>
>----- Forwarded Message -----
>Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2000 3:57 PM -0500
>From: Greg Adams <gadams@andrew.cmu.edu>
>
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>> have only gotten 800 votes, not 3400.
>>
>> Don't believe me? Look for yourself: It's not even close! Palm Beach
is
>> an outlier beyond all belief!!!
>>
>> <http://madison.hss.cmu.edu/palm-beach.pdf>
>>
>> I need help getting these results out to the world. If you have media
>> contacts or now how to tip them, please have them contact me asap.
>> Thanks.

>>
>
>
>.....
>Norbert Schwarz
>University of Michigan
>nschwarz@umich.edu
>
>On sabbatical 8/2000 through 6/2001:
>Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
>75 Alta Road
>Stanford, CA 94305-8090
>
>650-321-2052, Ext. 240 voice
>650-321-1192 fax
>760-875-9883 voice & fax messages, delivered by e-mail (most reliable)

Hal Kassarjian
HKassarj@ucla.edu
Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669
FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325
-----_2923721==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>
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interest to some in AAPOR.

Hal Kassarjian

760-875-9883 voice & fax messages, delivered by e-mail (most reliable)

</blockquote>

<div>*****</div>

<div>Hal Kassarjian</div>

<div>HKassarj@ucla.edu</div>

<div>Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669</div>

FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325

</html>

-----_2923721==_ .ALT--

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 06:24:53 -0500

From: "Jim Caplan" <caplanjr@bellsouth.net>

To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001108212357.02c2c940@mail.mindspring.com>

Subject: Re: Fewer bumper stickers and road signs this time around

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

X-Priority: 3

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

I am so pleased that someone brought this up. I made the observation that in South Florida, there were almost NO bumper stickers for either party. I simply assumed that here, any public statement of position would be met by retaliation from passionate folks of the opposite ilk. If this is true in Atlanta and Miami, it may be a phenomenon. Here's a quickie research project or maybe a master's thesis for someone. Probably still valid for the next 30 days or the next car wash (which may be the very place to do the intercept).

Jim Caplan
Miami

----- Original Message -----

From: "dick halpern" <rshalpern@mindspring.com>

To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 9:29 PM

Subject: Fewer bumper stickers and road signs this time around

Just a minor observation: in the past, at least in Cobb County, Georgia, which is a Republican jungle (home of Bob Barr and Newt), there were many fewer bumper stickers and road signs. compared to past elections, advertising Bush and Cheney. Could this mean that even those who on the surface exhibited a passion for the Republican agenda, didn't really feel that strongly about it and were really voting against Clinton?

Dick Halpern

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 08:51:26 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Sydney" <sbeveril@swarthmore.edu>, "Craig Gurian" <cgl@igc.org>,
"Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: A HISTORY OF MIAMI VOTE FRAUD!!!
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPCEBJCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

Dear All:

As you must know the margin has dropped to under 1,000, including one uncounted precinct in Palm Beach. Also about 19,000 Palm Beach Ballots were thrown out because they had two punches, and 3,400 voted for Buchanan.

Miami it seems has had voter fraud before. This from Today's Miami-Herald:

Here we go again, all eyes are on Miami
Area's history of `weirdness' dates to 1876
BY JOHN DORSCHNER
jdorschner@herald.com

For the second time in a year, South Florida shimmers in the spotlight of the world's media.

First came the Elián saga. Now the election of an American president hangs in the balance -- in an area notorious for voter fraud.

Media hounds everywhere are seeking comments, frequently from the area's best known pundits.

``There is certainly something harrowing about the fact that the future of the republic now depends on the integrity and incompetence of election workers in South Florida,' ' noted Carl Hiaasen, Herald columnist and best-selling novelist known for his sardonic looks at the area's bizarre happenings.

Hiaasen said that after doing an interview with NBC. ``They're all chasing me -- from the UK and everywhere,' ' he said of the world's journalists. ``Just when you thought we had reached the threshold of weirdness with Elián, then this happens.' '

But when it comes to elections, it's happened before. The Herald won a Pulitzer two years ago for uncovering voter fraud in a Miami city election,

and in 1876, Dade County was a focus of a national recount involving a presidential campaign.

``It was the election of Hayes vs. Tilden,'' recalled Paul George, a South Florida historian. ``Florida was one of the disputed areas.''

The state's tabulation was held up for weeks because the votes of Dade -- which then included Broward and Palm Beach counties -- did not arrive at the capital in Tallahassee.

``Very few people lived here then,'' George said. ``The census recorded 85 non-Indians. Capt. William H. Gleason was the boss of Dade County, and he was real slow in bringing the votes to Tallahassee. . . . The nation was waiting for Dade. A New York newspaper asked, `Where the hell is Dade County?' ''

The Democrat, Samuel Tilden, ended up winning the nation's popular vote, but a special Republican-dominated electoral commission gave 20 disputed electoral votes to the Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, who was elected President.

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Or maybe not. As writer-director Rob Reiner said early Wednesday, speaking from the Gore hotel in Tennessee: ``If you wrote this, they'd throw you out of the Writers Guild.''

=====
Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 10:10:12 -0500
From: Edward Freeland <efreelan@Princeton.EDU>
X-Sender: "Edward Freeland" <efreelan@smtp.princeton.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD Princeton University 05-99 (WinNT; I)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: A HISTORY OF MIAMI VOTE FRAUD!!!
References: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPCEBJCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

Andy et al. -- According to a front page story in this morning's NY Times, Palm Beach County disqualified 29,000 ballots (not 19,000) for multiple punches or no punch at all. Also, bear in mind that Miami is not in Palm Beach County. It's in Dade County.

Apparently if you make a mistake when voting in Palm Beach County, or you wish to change your mind, you have to pull your paper punch card out of the machine, leave the booth, request a new card, and then get back in line and wait for the next available voting booth.

I spoke with a Palm Beach County voter this morning. She noticed that the presidential ballot in the booklet behind which the punch card is inserted was oddly formatted for two reasons: (1) it was easy to confuse the #2 punch hole (Buchanan) with the #2 candidate listed on the left side of the ballot; and (2) it may have appeared to some voters that you needed to punch a hole for both the presidential and vice presidential candidates. The latter might account for some of the multiple punch votes that were disqualified.

It is hard to believe that in the most technologically advanced country in the world, the choice of our next president comes down to a stack of poorly formatted paper punch cards.

Ed Freeland

"Andrew A. Beveridge" wrote:

> Dear All:

>

> As you must know the margin has dropped to under 1,000, including one

> uncounted
> precinct in Palm Beach. Also about 19,000 Palm Beach Ballots were thrown
> out
> because they had two punches, and 3,400 voted for Buchanan.
>
> Miami it seems has had voter fraud before. This from Today's Miami-Herald:
>
> Here we go again, all eyes are on Miami
> Area's history of `weirdness' dates to 1876
> BY JOHN DORSCHNER
> jdorschner@herald.com
>
> For the second time in a year, South Florida shimmers in the spotlight of
> the world's media.
>
> First came the Elián saga. Now the election of an American president hangs
> in the balance -- in an area notorious for voter fraud.
>
> Media hounds everywhere are seeking comments, frequently from the area's
> best known pundits.
>
> ``There is certainly something harrowing about the fact that the future of
> the republic now depends on the integrity and incompetence of election
> workers in South Florida,' noted Carl Hiaasen, Herald columnist and
> best-selling novelist known for his sardonic looks at the area's bizarre
> happenings.
>
> Hiaasen said that after doing an interview with NBC. ``They're all chasing
> me -- from the UK and everywhere,' he said of the world's journalists.
> ``Just when you thought we had reached the threshold of weirdness with
> Elián, then this happens.''
>
> But when it comes to elections, it's happened before. The Herald won a
> Pulitzer two years ago for uncovering voter fraud in a Miami city election,
> and in 1876, Dade County was a focus of a national recount involving a
> presidential campaign.
>
> ``It was the election of Hayes vs. Tilden,' recalled Paul George, a South
> Florida historian. ``Florida was one of the disputed areas.''
>
> The state's tabulation was held up for weeks because the votes of Dade --
> which then included Broward and Palm Beach counties -- did not arrive at
> the
> capital in Tallahassee.
>
> ``Very few people lived here then,' George said. ``The census recorded 85
> non-Indians. Capt. William H. Gleason was the boss of Dade County, and he
> was real slow in bringing the votes to Tallahassee. . . . The nation was
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>
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> but
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>

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> from the Gore hotel in Tennessee: ``If you wrote this, they'd throw you out
> of the Writers Guild.'''

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=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 10:28:58 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login6.isis.unc.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Ballots that get counted and certified after the election
In-Reply-To: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPGEBCCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011091012510.80206-100000@login6.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

To illustrate Andrew's good point:

For my annual lecture on pre-election polls, I have an overhead showing the Gallup error in every Presidential election since 1936. When I updated it November 1996, I gave Gallup a 3-point error based on the national returns published a few days after the election.

In fact, as Jim Norman pointed out for me recently, Gallup's 1996 deviation was only 1.9 percent. The difference is in the ballots that get counted and certified long after the media have normally lost interest.

Moral: for all we know, Bush could still be the popular vote winner. For the Gallup accuracy record, go to:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/trends/ptaccuracy.asp>

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 <http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer>
=====

On Wed, 8 Nov 2000, Andrew A. Beveridge wrote:

> Date: Wed, 8 Nov 2000 19:26:46 -0500
> From: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
> Reply-To: aapornet@usc.edu
> To: "Yamashik@aol.com" <Yamashik@aol.com>,
> "Y1967-L@Aya.Yale.Edu" <y1967-l@aya.yale.edu>
> Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
>
> Dear All:
>
> I have followed with interest the discussion about the "recount" in Florida
> today, tomorrow and, perhaps, for a few more days. My Conclusion:
>
> WE DO NOT YET HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH INFORMATION TO KNOW WHO WON!!
>
> It is quite misleading on the basis of provisional and untested results to
> assert that one candidate is seeking to "take away" a victory from the

> other, as it is to assert that the one garnering the most popular vote
> should definitely win, so Florida should yield.
>
> I have been involved with a variety of electoral challenges, recounts,
> recanvasses, court cases, etc. in Westchester County, New York. The
> canvassing of voting machines or computer ballot tabulating machines has
> the
> possibility of major error built in. Numbers can be easily transposed,
> zeroes can be added, ballot boxes can be lost. Elderly election inspectors
> often do the initial canvas at the end of a long day making mistakes more
> likely.
>
> Usually such mistakes are meaningless, since election outcomes most often
> are very obvious. But in this case (along with a State Senate election in
> NYC and a House Race in New Jersey) the race is very close. In the NY and
> NJ case people are talking about the outcome being in doubt for weeks, when
> only a few hundred thousand votes have been cast. Here we are talking
> about
> a few hundred votes out of about 6 million cast in maybe 20,000 precincts.
> It seems to me that a careful audit, including a comparison with the 1996
> outcome is called for to be sure that the candidate who actually won is
> declared the winner.
>
> But in contested cases I have seen races switch back and forth during
> recanvass procedures in Westchester County. All very frustrating and
> non-telegenic, but really part of the democratic process: IE: ACCURATELY
> COUNTING THE VOTE.
>
> Questions about absentees, other irregularities, and the Palm Beach Ballot
> anomaly can only be resolved in this context. If the dispute moves into
> court, information on who people thought they were voting for when they
> voted for Buchanan is actually fairly easy to come by. Voters can be
> subpoenaed and asked if they understood for whom they were voting.
>
> Assume that they had meant to vote for Gore. If everyone comes to believe
> that the votes that allowed George Bush to become President-Elect were cast
> in error, the underpinning of legitimacy in this election will be
> destroyed.
> It would be similarly damaged if a true full recount were frustrated.
>
> It may be frustrating to the Newsman, who said "We need to elect a
> President
> sometime," but it is far better to spend time finding out who won, rather
> than rushing to judgment and not being sure.
>
>
> Andrew A. Beveridge
> 209 Kissena Hall
> Department of Sociology
> Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
> Flushing, NY 11367-1597
> Phone: 718-997-2837
> Fax: 718-997-2820
> E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
> Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>
>
> Home Office

> 50 Merriam Avenue
> Bronxville, NY 10708
> Phone: 914-337-6237
> Fax: 914-337-8210
>
>
>
>

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 10:50:38 -0500
Subject: Ballots that get counted and certified after the election
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Richard Morin" <morinr@washpost.com>
Message-ID: <OF85C1E8A2.C7E126FC-ON85256992.0056D8CD@washpost.com>
X-MIMETrack: Serialize by Router on inetmail1/TWP(Release 5.0.3 |March 21,
2000) at 11/09/2000
10:50:31 AM
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Phil: Do you have a rough estimate of the number of ballots that get
counted and certified after the election? Do they break
Republican/Democrat? Best, Rich

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 10:48:46 EST
From: RonBerkowitz@aol.com
Received: from RonBerkowitz@aol.com
by imo-r01.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.c.celde8b (16788)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 9 Nov 2000 10:48:46 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <c.celde8b.273c215e@aol.com>
Subject: Re: New Poll Watchers column
To: aapornet@usc.edu
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Bob...Attached to this message (and for everyone) is the final Haris
Telephone Poll.

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On Thu, 9 Nov 2000, Richard Morin wrote:

> Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 10:50:38 -0500
> From: Richard Morin <morinr@washpost.com>
> Reply-To: aapornet@usc.edu
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Ballots that get counted and certified after the election
>
>
> Phil: Do you have a rough estimate of the number of ballots that get
> counted and certified after the election? Do they break
> Republican/Democrat? Best, Rich
>
>

Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 11:18:32 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
CC: Richard Morin <morinr@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: New Poll Watchers column
References: <OF53FE95B9.254351BE-ON85256991.006C5EC6@washpost.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

How come these polling experts are so ready to blame the exit polls for what may have been radically faulty electoral operations? The VNS seems to have too ready to conclude that its result was screwy rather than that there was something screwy about the unofficial count. An exit poll, like a political candidate, cannot afford a wimpy response to being called a liar.

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu
6247 North Kensington Street
McLean VA 22101
703-241-0512

Richard Morin wrote:

> A post-election (mid-election?) Poll Wachers column has been posted on
> Washingtonpost.com:
>
> <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45950-2000Nov8.html>
>
> In today's column:
>
> Behind Those Bad Exit Poll Predictions in Florida
> Grading the Polls

> How Swing Groups Swung

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 11:19:20 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: The Official Tally
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPIEBLCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
In-Reply-To: <OF85C1E8A2.C7E126FC-ON85256992.0056D8CD@washpost.com>
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

Dear All:

What Phil says is right, but part of that is just getting the count complete. Florida, for instance, does not even do a careful tally, apparently, unless there is a question about the outcome. The media tally is unofficial from the AP, and is basically a call-in.

It is very appropriate to call what Florida is doing a recanvass, because I don't think that they are going below the level of each voting precinct at this point. Rather they are simply toting up each precinct and making sure that the rows and columns add up.

A recount would involve revisiting each voting machine, and retallying each ballot. (There, of course, issues about disqualified ballots would become upper most.) The 20,000 + in Palm Beach is quite troubling, since they are well beyond the margin. Especially since many of them would have said they were for Gore. Was there any exit polling going on in Palm Beach? That would be very relevant for this case.

The notion that a judge and some people end up doing this is not very surprising. I have spent days in situations where the judge convenes in the Board of Election itself.

Andy

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Richard Morin
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 10:51 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: your mail

Phil: Do you have a rough estimate of the number of ballots that get counted and certified after the election? Do they break Republican/Democrat? Best, Rich

=====
Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 11:26:31 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Jim Wolf <Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: RE: Youth and Cigarettes
In-Reply-To: <C3AC1B98FED7D21190E700C00D003E8C0497BBD3@exchange.usd.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey asks youth smokers about their source of tobacco.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/2001survey.htm>

There are links on this page to Data and findings.

At 01:00 PM 11/8/00 -0600, Stuefen, Randy wrote:

>
>Dear All,
>In South Dakota, one must be 18 to purchase cigarettes. There are 18 year olds that are in high school. I am interested in the proportion of kids >that purchase their cigarettes from these older students.
>Has anyone seen any work that identifies where youth get their cigarettes?
>What proportion purchase them from stores, get them from parents, buy them >from older kids ?
>Thanks for the info.
>
>Randall M. Stuefen
>Director of Research & Associate Director
>
>*****
>Business Research Bureau Voice 605-677-5287
>414 East Clark Street Fax 605-677-5427
>University of South Dakota 57069 rstuefen@usd.edu
>*****
>
>

Jim Wolf Jim-Wolf@att.net

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 11:50:07 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>, "Y1967-L@Aya. Yale. Edu" <y1967-l@aya.yale.edu>,
Cc: "Fredrica Rudell" <frudell@iona.edu>, "Sydney" <sbeveril@swarthmore.edu>, "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: The Law in Florida
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCJFPJEBMCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

Judges have power to overturn elections
WILLIAM MARCH
of The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA - Under a 1998 court ruling, Florida judges have broad authority to invalidate elections or order new elections in cases in which fraud, or even unintentional error, results in flawed outcome.

``The criteria are very broad, almost completely undefined, and they grant state judges a great deal of discretion,'' said Steve Gey, a constitutional law expert at the Florida State University College of Law.

Gey said if irregularities are found in Tuesday's vote for president, proving they affected the outcome wouldn't be hard, because the race is so close.

The court decision stems from a challenge to the outcome of the 1996 sheriff's race in Volusia County. The state Supreme Court, deciding the case in 1998, didn't overturn the race, but set standards under which judges could do so, Gey said.

The standards say the judge can overturn an election if there was fraud or irregularities that ``adversely affect the sanctity of the ballot and the integrity of the election.''

Because the election was so close, and could so easily be affected by any proven irregularity, Gey said, ``that last criteria is almost a giveaway.''

Unintentional errors as well as fraud can qualify, Gey said.

If the election were found to be invalid, Gey said, the likely remedy would be a new election. It could be held just in the county where the irregularities occurred, or statewide, depending on the circumstances.

In 1998, a judge overturned a Miami mayoral election because of massive fraud, including absentee- vote fraud, and invalidated Xavier Suarez's runoff win. His opponent, Joe Carollo, became mayor instead.

But to many Florida political veterans, Tuesday's voting was reminiscent of the 1988 U.S. Senate race between Buddy MacKay and U.S. Sen. Connie Mack.

Tuesday night ``was like deja vu all over again,'' Mack said. MacKay was initially proclaimed the winner, but the outcome was changed by the absentee ballots - far fewer than the more than 500,000 in Tuesday's voting.

And as in Tuesday's race, there were cries that faulty layout of the ballot affected the race. Thousands of voters in 1988 apparently failed to vote in the race because they missed the ballot line in an obscure position at the

bottom of a page.

But complaints in that case didn't change the outcome of the race.

```
=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 12:55:56 -0500
From: s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu
Received: by notesmail1.csuohio.edu (Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.6 (890.1 7-16-1999))
id 85256992.00628422 ; Thu, 9 Nov 2000 12:56:03 -0500
X-Lotus-FromDomain: CSU
To: aapornet@usc.edu, jkraus@Law5.law.virginia.edu
Message-ID: <85256992.006281B3.00@notesmail1.csuohio.edu>
Subject: Mitofsky's response
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline
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VNS and the networks are under fire. Warren's response on Jim Lerher's program last night was straight forward and honest. He admitted to five mistakes in 3,000 projections in the past, and said that this was the first time he made two on the same night. He said that there was a sampling error and that he may provide statistical safeguards in the future. He did as well as might be expected under the circumstances.

```
=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 12:53:13 EST
From: RonBerkowitz@aol.com
Received: from RonBerkowitz@aol.com
        by imo-r17.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.c3.ada2162 (16788)
        for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 9 Nov 2000 12:53:14 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <c3.ada2162.273c3e89@aol.com>
Subject: Harris Interactive Election Results
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 125
```

Here are links to two of Harris Interactive's results from our internet polling.

<http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20>

001107/a2274.htm&symbol=HPOL

<http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20>

001108/a2566.htm&symbol=HPOL

Ron Berkowitz
Research Assistant, The Harris Poll

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 13:21:26 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Harris Interactive Election Results
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

You forgot this correction

<http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20001108/a2663.htm&symbol=HPOL>

I suggest everyone read these releases especially Gordon Black's comments.

--

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----

> From: RonBerkowitz@aol.com [SMTP:RonBerkowitz@aol.com]
> Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 12:53 PM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Harris Interactive Election Results

>
> Here are links to two of Harris Interactive's results from our internet
> polling.

>
> <http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20001107/a2274.htm&symbol=HPOL>

>
> <http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20001108/a2566.htm&symbol=HPOL>

>
> <http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20001107/a2274.htm&symbol=HPOL>

>
> <http://quicken.excite.com/investments/news/story/bw/?story=/news/stories/bw/20001108/a2566.htm&symbol=HPOL>

>
>
>
>
> Ron Berkowitz
> Research Assistant, The Harris Poll

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 12:53:19 -0500
Message-ID: <002C88DC.C22051@abtassoc.com>
From: Joe_Wislar@abtassoc.com (Joe Wislar)

Subject: Florida recount info (fwd)
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Description: cc:Mail note part

Here are some new ground-level details from the Florida recount. The message was originally sent to a Wesleyan alum newsgroup and then forwarded to me. The author is obviously a Democrat, so if you're a Republican (or "other"), please ignore those opinions.

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 03:44:25 EST
From: StevenM820@aol.com
Reply-To: weschat alumni mailing list <weschat-l@lyris.wesleyan.edu>
To: weschat alumni mailing list <weschat-l@lyris.wesleyan.edu>
Subject: Florida recount info

Hello again,

Thought you'd like another update from the inside. I spent much of Wed. as the Palm Beach County Dem. Party observer in the recount room at the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections. Also present were lawyers and a staffer representing GWB, several lawyers representing Gore, representatives of the Reform Party, the Fla. Democratic and Republican Parties, the DNCC, US Rep. Clay Shaw and his Dem. challenger Elaine Bloom (this race is still contested), a Dem. State Senator and a Dem. State Representative from the County.

The recount was supposed to begin at 1:30, was delayed until 4:00 and ended at 11:30. Our role basically consisted of sitting in a cramped room watching five staffers run stacks of punch card ballots through counting machines. Pretty dull all in all until it was discovered that one precinct had not been counted in full. This resulted in a net gain for Al of about 360 votes. The Bush boys lost their smug attitudes and began huddling and whispering every few minutes.

The absentees came through for Al too. When one votes at the polls in Florida, they provide a punch instrument which, if used correctly, completely perforates the ballot. However, absentee voters often use a pen or other implement which does not fully perforate the card. This was apparent to us from the fact that over 10,000 voters in the County, about 2.2% of the overall turnout did not make any choice in the Presidential race, but did vote in the US Senate or Congressional races. We theorized that many voters had partially perforated the card, but the machines weren't reading them. The more times the ballots are run through the counting machine, the more likely the loosened chits fall off.

When the absentees were counted, 221 ballots that had previously registered no vote now did show a vote in the Presidential race. These went overwhelmingly for Gore, leading to some whooping and high fiving from our side. The Bushies really lost it at this point and got a little hostile with the staffers, which in turn elicited some harsh responses from the assembled masses.

Gore's net gain in the County was 643. Word from other counties is that Gore closed the 1,700 deficit by over 1,200. Only half of the counties conducted

their recounts on Wednesday. The rest are on Thursday.

The bigger problem is that the ballot in Palm Beach County, which differs in its layout from the ballots elsewhere in the State, is illegal for several reasons. Florida statutes specifically mandate the precise layout of the ballot and the order of candidates. The law was not followed. Bush's name was first, with Buchanan below him and Gore third. This is completely improper, as well as the fact that the law requires the names to be placed to the left with the punch holes to the right of the candidates' names. On this ballot, some names were on the right and some on the left, with all of the punch holes in the middle. It was difficult to line up the name with the correct hole.

Moreover, 19,000 ballots were disqualified because they voted for two or more candidates. This is a direct result of the confusing layout of the names on the ballot. This represents over 4% of the total ballots. It was as high as 15% in some predominantly African-American precincts and about 10% in some precincts with large numbers of Jewish retirees. The Gore vote in many of these precincts was over 90%.

This explains the networks' exit polling which reflected voters' belief that they had voted for Gore, but in fact their ballots had been disqualified. This led to the initial awarding of Florida to Gore.

Folks, the bottom line is that if the names on the ballot were properly situated Gore would have had an additional 11-13,000 vote margin in this County, and the election would be over. We have done a precinct by precinct analysis of where the disqualified votes came from. By attributing the same percentage of the vote Gore obtained in those precincts to the disqualified ballots, Gore would be winning Florida by at least 10,000 votes. In other words, Gore has actually won the election both in the popular vote and in the electoral vote, but he may well still lose it.

You should also be aware that other large counties in the State disqualified about one half of one percent of their ballots for casting two or more votes in the Presidential race. In Palm Beach County it was 4.4%.

Lastly, don't expect the recount to be over on Thursday, as the media is stating. Legal actions are underway. The next question, will a judge order a re-vote just in Palm Beach County with a new ballot?

Steven Meyer '86

You are currently subscribed to weschat-l as: khelleng@s.psych.uiuc.edu
To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-weschat-l-96242X@lyris.wesleyan.edu

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 13:52:26 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Mitofsky's response
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

Is there an official VNS statement on this?

I searched the net and found mostly conspiracy theorists and older data.

I heard just the very last part of Warren's interview on National Public Radio last night.

--

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----

> From: s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu
[SMTP:s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu]
> Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 12:56 PM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu; jkraus@Law5.law.virginia.edu
> Subject: Mitofsky's response

>
>
>

> VNS and the networks are under fire. Warren's response on Jim Lerher's
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> last night was straight forward and honest. He admitted to five mistakes
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> two on the same night. He said that there was a sampling error and that
> he may
> provide statistical safeguards in the future. He did as well as might be
> expected under the circumstances.
>

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 14:04:40 -0500
From: "Safir, Adam" <ASafir@ui.urban.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Mitofsky's response
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Leo Simonetta
>Is there an official VNS statement on this? I searched the net and found
mostly conspiracy theorists and older data. I heard just the very last part
of Warren's interview on
>National Public Radio last night.

The transcript from
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/media/july-dec00/badcall_11-8.html is copied
below:

BAD CALLS

November 8, 2000

Two experts discuss the media's premature calls on the presidential election outcome in Florida.

The NewsHour Media Unit is funded by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

TERENCE SMITH: By any measure, last night was a nightmare for the news media, especially for network television. To help us sort out what happened and why, we are joined by Marvin Kalb, executive director of the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy; and by Warren Mitofsky, president of Mitofsky International, who is one of the founders of election exit polling. Last night, he advised CNN and CBS on their projections and retractions. Gentlemen, welcome to you both. Warren Mitofsky, you have been doing this exit polling on election night for years. What went wrong last night?

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, we made a beautiful mistake or a mistake that was a beaut, I should say. The first projection, the projection for Vice President Gore winning Florida, was a little before 8 o'clock. It was based on exit poll data, actual vote returns that were being released by voting officials and on county data that was being tabulated separately. And those three sources of data gave us projections, different projections that showed Vice President Gore carrying the state by a small but comfortable margin.

TERENCE SMITH: And were those bad numbers or was there poor judgment involved?

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, we subsequently, after the projection was on the air, found bad numbers in one county, and we also had a sample that misrepresented the west coast of Florida. It over-represented the Democratic vote in the Tampa area.

TERENCE SMITH: Right. But then of course later you called it for Governor Bush.

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, the projection after two o'clock in the morning was really based on the vote counts, almost all the votes were counted. I believe there were over 90 percent of those votes counted, and at that time Governor Bush was leading by about 56,000. We looked to see where the votes were missing -- the ones that have yet to be counted -- and when we did that analysis, we thought, Governor Bush had a sure margin of at least 30-35,000 votes. It turned out that that was wrong too.

TERENCE SMITH: Right.

Mistake was a beaut

WARREN MITOFSKY: That's why I said the mistake was a beaut.

TERENCE SMITH: Given your experience, were you surprised when you were wrong?

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, yes, I've done this for many years. I've made

mistakes before, not very many. I've called the wrong winner five times, you know, in over 30 years, but to make two mistakes in the same state in the same night is beyond anything that I've experienced before.

TERENCE SMITH: Marvin Kalb, what do you think is the impact of this mistake on the audience, on credibility, on the networks?

MARVIN KALB: Mistakes have consequences. I have enormous good, warm feelings for Warren Mitofsky. He is one of the best in the business -- but mistakes having consequences that people who make those mistakes have to account for them in one way or another. For example --

TERENCE SMITH: The networks.

MARVIN KALB: The networks have to account for them. The people who work for the networks, who urge the networks to make certain statements to the public, it's not only the public that is dependent upon these calls; it's the political system itself. Governor Bush was dependent upon it. Vice President Gore was dependent upon it. Everybody is. So these calls, I say they have to be right... and most of the time they are. They are terrifically effective instruments. At the same time look ahead now and I question really what will happen to the credibility of this kind of a system in the long term. Look ahead to the year 2004. Let's say Florida is again in play. Let's say the race is again close. And let's say they come in with a call. Will you automatically believe it now as a citizen or will you question it? Will you remember what happened in the year 2000? I think the networks have a lot of self-examination to do because if they don't, there will be a lot of people outside of the networks, political officials, Governor Jeb Bush said it on the program just a couple of minutes ago that the political people will look at the networks and expect them to do something about it.

TERENCE SMITH: Was the mistakes of a proportion -- in your view -- that makes it worthwhile to review or revise the very use of exit polling on election night?

MARVIN KALB: I spent a lot of time today talking with network executives, and a number of them raised with me the idea that people on the outside are going to say to us, what about exit polling -- are we doing that right? What about these calls -- are we too hasty? So they are aware of it, but I'm afraid that there may be calls outside of networks, perhaps in the Congress, perhaps in the executive branch for there to be new sets of guidelines that we cannot any longer just trust the networks to do it.

Learning from mistakes

TERENCE SMITH: Warren Mitofsky, what do you think about that? Has it reached a point where you ought to review what you do and how you do it?

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, we review what we do after every election. We learn from our mistakes. Fortunately, we've had very, very few mistakes. The process is extremely reliable. As I say, I've participated in over 3000 elections in a half a dozen different countries. Prior to last night I have had exactly five mistakes in all these years. No process is perfect, but this process is about as good as I think you can make it. And we'll make it even better learning from last night's mistakes.

TERENCE SMITH: What are the lessons from last night's mistakes?

WARREN MITOFSKY: Well, the lessons are not to be more careful. We were as careful as we could be. And we were wrong. We can institute certain statistical procedures to help us with our quality control and our verification of numbers before we believe them and use them. And that part of the process deserves looking into and will probably get refined as a result of what happened last night.

TERENCE SMITH: You were talking about some possible oversight or review of all this by Congress or other -- what do you have in mind?

MARVIN KALB: What I have in mind is that a number of the people I talked to today raise an interesting question. We are, they say, totally dependent upon the networks for this information. If it seems, as Warren has outlined tonight, that you even with the best, they can't get it right and can make two mistakes in one night, maybe they should not be trusted to do it anymore. They may not be -- there could be an actual skepticism developing. So then to whom do you turn? And it could be that people will say maybe there ought to be a commission set up to look this. You cannot trust the networks to do it right anymore and the networks themselves are not the networks that Warren remembers from the old days at CBS. The networks today are different instruments. They are under phenomenal competitive pressures. They make decisions today, news decisions based on ratings, on money, on a determination to succeed, sometimes, sometimes even without regard to the quest for facts and accuracy.

TERENCE SMITH: Did you -- Warren Mitofsky -- did you feel under any competitive pressure last night to make projections before you were ready?

WARREN MITOFSKY: I didn't feel under any more pressure to make a projection last night than I've ever felt in all the years I've been doing this. I've been making projections with the same care for all of these years. Sure, people would like to see projections made quickly, but in my first election and almost every election since then, executives at news organizations, when push comes to shove, have gotten almost down on their knee, not literally, and said I don't care how long it takes, I want to be right. I heard it in my first election from Bill Leonard, who we all worked for, and I heard it as recently as this election from the executives at CNN and CBS.

TERENCE SMITH: All right. Final thought, Marvin Kalb, what do the networks need to do, do you think, to rebuild this confidence that you are talking about?

MARVIN KALB: I'm not sure, frankly, that the networks can rebuild the confidence that they once had. The public confidence is based on performance, and what happened last night was pretty horrendous -- a whole night of questionable commentary flowed from that decision on Florida. So a lot of people were being misinformed. And this is a very large mistake. And I think consequences will flow.

TERENCE SMITH: Warren Mitofsky, thanks so much for joining us. Marvin Kalb, thank you both.

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 15:55:28 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Public opinion
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBEEELCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Has anyone conducted research asking U.S. public their opinions about the vote count, etc.? The residual feelings associated with Impeachment are bound to rise among political leaders-the public might offer the most intelligent common sense perspectives at this point. Mark Richards

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 15:04:31 -0600
From: "Rick Weil" <rweil@pabulum.lapop.lsu.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <85256992.006281B3.00@notesmail1.csuohio.edu>
Subject: Re: Mitofsky's response
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2314.1300
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2314.1300

I also heard Warren on NPR & saw him & Marvin Kalb on PBS, and also felt Warren handled himself well. I was less happy about part of what Marvin Kalb said. He noted how centralized the exit polling operation is and how the networks are being blamed & their credibility is coming under fire. So far so good. But then he suggested that maybe some other entity could do it better. I wasn't sure if he was thinking of a "scientific"/university body, a government body, or what. This was the part I had trouble with. I'm no expert on conducting exit polls, but I do study confidence & legitimacy, and my impression is that kicking problems "upstairs" is rarely a solution. These were rare errors made by very careful people, and no other group can be completely exempt from making similar errors. A scientific or governmental body risks being tarnished just as much as the networks in the event of an error, and I can't see where that's necessarily better.

So what's the answer? I don't know, but one classic approach is to spread the risk rather than concentrate it - namely, introduce more competition. I know that this raises lots of questions/problems, because VNS was formed to reduce costs and pool expertise of the subscribers. But clearly, we've now seen the unlikely outcome of the expected-value calculation: the probability

of error was low, but the cost of it may be high. Will an "upstairs" agency have better experts who never make errors? Will the costs of an error be lower for them? The PBS show seemed to put two possibilities on the table: learn from mistakes & go on (Mitofsky), or kick it upstairs (Kalb). I don't know enough to advocate one course over another, but at least logically, it looks like competition might be a third choice to (re-)consider.

Rick Weil
Department of Sociology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
225-388-1140
225-388-5102 fax
fweil@lapop.lsu.edu

----- Original Message -----

From: <s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>; <jkraus@Law5.law.virginia.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 11:55 AM
Subject: Mitofsky's response

>
>
> VNS and the networks are under fire. Warren's response on Jim Lerher's
program
> last night was straight forward and honest. He admitted to five mistakes
in
> 3,000 projections in the past, and said that this was the first time he
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he may
> provide statistical safeguards in the future. He did as well as might be
> expected under the circumstances.
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>

=====
Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 16:03:13 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login6.isis.unc.edu
To: AAPOR list <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: VNS sample
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011091602050.80206-100000@login6.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Anybody know the VNS exit poll sample size on Tuesday? It was 147,081
in 1,468 precincts in 1996.

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 13:07:23 -0800
From: "MJS" <sullivan@fsc-research.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Subject: Re: Public opinion
Message-ID: <3A0AA18B.15854.108A64BC@localhost>
In-reply-to: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBEEELCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

An opinion poll addressing this issue is the last thing we need right now.

Date sent: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 15:55:28 -0500
Send reply to: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Public opinion

Has anyone conducted research asking U.S. public their opinions about the vote count, etc.? The residual feelings associated with Impeachment are bound to rise among political leaders-the public might offer the most intelligent common sense perspectives at this point. Mark Richards

The information contained in this communication is confidential and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of Freeman, Sullivan & Co. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to postmaster@fsc-research.com, and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including attachments.

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 16:13:37 -0500
From: "Barry Hollander" <barry@arches.uga.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <3A0AA18B.15854.108A64BC@localhost>
Subject: Re: Public opinion
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

>An opinion poll addressing this issue is the last thing we need right now.

Gawds yes. I'd hate to be the anchor forced to keep a straight face, stare into a camera, and tell viewers the latest poll report on what people think about the poll reports. I suspect people have had quite enough of polls for a while.

Barry Hollander
Associate Professor
College of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
706.542.5027

email: barry@arches.uga.edu
web: <http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander>

Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 17:01:43 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Richard C. Rockwell" <richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
Subject: American public opinion about the Electoral College
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut has assembled a collection of historical data on public opinion about the Electoral College. This collection, based upon the Roper Center's archives of data collected by several survey firms, reflects past perspectives of the American people, expressed before the heat of the current election. The data may be viewed at:

<http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>

under the "What's New" banner.

Readers should interpret the data with caution, as variant forms of questions about the Electoral College were used by the survey firms whose data are reported here. The data do not constitute a time series.

Permission is granted to reprint this report, with proper attribution as described in the report.

Richard C. ROCKWELL
Executive Director, The Roper Center & Institute for Social Inquiry
Professor of Sociology
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V +1 860 486-4440
F +1 860 486-6308

richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 14:14:47 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Graphic Statistics on Buchanan vs. Gore/Bush Votes in Florida
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011091406430.25581-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

AAPORNETers,

Two social statisticians, Greg Adams at Carnegie Mellon University and Chris Fastnow at Chatham College, have calculated and graphed analytic summary statistics for differences between the Buchanan vote and the Gore/Bush votes in Florida, and made these available at

<http://madison.hss.cmu.edu>

I think you'll be quite surprised by both the approach and the rather striking graphic results.

-- Jim

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 16:31:44 -0600
From: David_Moore@gallup.com
Received: by exchng2.gallup.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21) id <VX05V714>; Thu, 9 Nov 2000 16:31:48 -0600
Message-ID: <D18E70780D62D1119580006008162F90011A018B@EXCHNG3>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Cc: gadams@andrew.cmu.edu
Subject: RE: Graphic Statistics on Buchanan vs. Gore/Bush Votes in Florida
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

I found that an interesting analysis, and I wonder if a similar analysis of votes for David McReynolds would produce similar results. McReynolds could have received votes intended for Harry Browne, given the structure of the ballot. Furthermore, votes intended for Nader could have gone to Howard Phillips of the Constitution Party. And votes for James Harris could have gone to Monica Moorehead.

While the numbers are small, the patterns should be similar -- with McReynolds and Phillips and Moorehead all getting higher vote totals in Palm Beach County than anywhere else (the votes of the minor party candidates could be aggregated if necessary to study the larger pattern).

I have copied Greg Adams, co-author of this analysis, to ask if he would be willing to extend his work to the minority candidates as well.

David W. Moore
The Gallup Organization
47 Hulfish Street
Princeton, NJ 08542
(609) 924-9600
david_moore@gallup.com

Have you been briefed?
Click the link to receive the Gallup Tuesday Briefing, our weekly e-mail publication.
<<http://www.gallup.com/update/contact.asp>>

-----Original Message-----

From: James Beniger [mailto:beniger@rcf.usc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 5:15 PM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Graphic Statistics on Buchanan vs. Gore/Bush Votes in Florida

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-- Jim

Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 16:15:51 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Don Dillman <dillman@wsu.edu>
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="====_255234367==_ .ALT"

-----_255234367==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Yesterday I was interviewed by an AP reporter who faxed me a copy of the Palm Beach County ballot and interviewed me a few minutes later. I was quoted in her article that appeared today in a number of media outlets, where I was identified as being from the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Two things seemed apparent to me after the phone call. One was that I was likely to be called by other media people and asked to react, and second, that the visual design issues, at least as I see them, are somewhat complex.

Consequently, I decided to put together a written statement concerning the problems I think the ballot exhibits, which I am inserting below in this message. I am sending this to AAPORNET partly because of the number of messages that have appeared about the ballot in the last two days. Also I want to make it clear to the members of AAPOR that I am speaking as an individual on this issue, and not as a representative of AAPOR or my employer, Washington State University. Thus, I have added what I hope is a clarifying statement that this statement represents my personal opinions based on past research and experiences in the development of self-administered questionnaires.

November 9, 2000

Statement by Don A. Dillman on Palm Beach County Florida Ballot

Several people have asked for my opinion on whether the format of the November 7, 2000, general election ballot in Palm Beach County, Florida, resulted in more people voting for Buchanan than had intended to do so. This statement is in response to those requests.

I cannot say with certainty whether the format of this ballot affected a certain number of people who thus voted by mistake for Pat Buchanan, while intending to vote for another candidate. That would require knowledge of what specific people did in the voting booth Tuesday, which I don't have. However, based on my experiences and past research concerning how the visual format of questionnaires affects respondents to surveys, I believe it is likely that certain visual features of the ballot resulted in some individuals who wished to vote for Gore inadvertently punching the second hole in the column, thus resulting in a vote for Buchanan. These visual attributes may also have resulted in double punches as people attempted to correct their error. However, I do not think that voters who intended to vote for Bush were similarly affected.

I believe this outcome occurred because of the joint effects of several undesirable features of the Palm Beach County ballot, rather than a single attribute. These factors include: (1) the listing of some candidates for President on the left-hand page of the ballot, while others were listed in a separate group on the right-hand page; (2) use of a single column of circles between the pages to register one's vote, regardless of which page contained the candidate's name; (3) the lack of familiarity some people may have had with how to answer a punch ballot printed in this format; (4) the likelihood that most people knew which candidate they wanted to vote for prior to seeing any of the choices on the ballot; (5) the location of the presidential choices on the first pages of the ballot; and (6) the visual process people typically follow when registering preferences on a survey questionnaire or election ballot when it is unnecessary to read all choices

(names of presidential candidates, for example) before registering one's vote.

In order to mark their ballot, it was necessary for people to insert their paper ballot underneath the booklet that showed the ballot choices. They were then required to use a stick-pin answering device to punch through a circle on the ballot to make a hole in the paper ballot.

When people open and/or begin to read material printed in a booklet format, they tend to look first at the left-hand page and focus their attention there. Because this is a ballot in which most people expect to vote on most or all of the choices, it is also likely that they would expect to answer the questions in order. It is therefore likely that many voters began reading the left-hand page without first looking at the second page and seeing what material was printed there. Thus, they may have been unaware that some of the candidates for president were listed on the opposite page.

Most people who completed the ballot knew who they wanted to vote for prior to reading the list of names. Thus, rather than attempting to read all of the answer possibilities before marking their choice, they simply looked for the name of the candidate for whom they wished to vote. The typical procedure would be to start at the top of the list and read downwards until the preferred candidate was found.

After reading the first candidate's name (Bush) on the left-hand page, people who wanted to vote for him should have been guided to the answer column by the number and an arrow. That circle was also the first (or top) circle in the answer column. It therefore seems quite unlikely that the voter would by-pass the first circle and mark the second circle, thereby voting for Buchanan, by mistake.

In contrast, people who wanted to vote for Gore, and had just seen Bush's name, would be expected to go straight down the page as they searched for Gore's name. After finding it, people are likely to have moved their fingers and thumb that held the stick-pin punching device to the appropriate punching location. It is likely that in the process of doing this some people (particularly those who are right-handed) did not see the number and arrow pointing to the appropriate answer circle because it was obscured by their hand. They may have also concluded that the second hole in the column was the correct one to punch, simply because Gore was the second candidate on the page. Thus, both the locational feature (being second) and mechanics of answering seem likely to have worked together in a way that led some people to inadvertently punch the second hole (Buchanan choice) rather than the third hole (Gore choice).

The possibility that some circles in the column of possible answers applied to Buchanan (on the next page) is unlikely to have occurred to some respondents. It is most unusual for any ballot or questionnaire to list choices to the first page to the right of the names, while choices to the second page are listed to the left of the names, and in addition to have all of them listed in a single column. Therefore, I would expect that some respondents had no idea that any of the choices in the answer column applied to the next page instead of to the candidates on page one. This problem was accentuated by the presidential preference being listed on the first page of the ballot, before the respondent had figured out, through experience, exactly how the ballot worked.

It does seem likely that some respondents who marked the second circle would have noticed that it was not aligned with the Gore box in the same way as the first circle was aligned with the Bush box. However, among those who noticed the different alignment this feature may have been discounted, because of their having to link together physically separate components (the actual paper ballot and the booklet listing candidate names) and the association of the second circle in the column with the second candidate (Gore) choice.

I would also expect that some ballots were double punched (Gore and Buchanan) as voters started to punch the second circle, realized they were making an error, and attempted to recover from it.

Despite the visual and mechanical problems that individually and jointly increase the likelihood that Gore preference voters unintentionally and unknowingly voted for Buchanan, the nature of the problem is such that it would not affect most voters. Most people are able to "figure-out" how to answer questions when they are presented in a visually inappropriate way, as was done in this situation. However, I am also confident that some Gore-preference voters would have made the error described above. At the same time, and for the reasons described above, Bush-preference voters were not likely to make the same mistake.

1Don A. Dillman is the Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The opinions expressed here are his own and should not be attributed to his employer, Washington State University, or to the American Association for Public Opinion Research, for which he now serves as Vice-President and President-Elect. Background on the theory and research that lead to the interpretations reported here are published in Chapter 3 of Dillman, Don A. 2000 Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method, New York: John Wiley; and Jenkins, Cleo R. and Don A. Dillman 1997 "Towards a Theory of Self-Administered Questionnaire Design," Chapter 7 of Lyberg, Lars, et al., Survey Measurement and Process Quality, (pp.165-196,) New York: Wiley Interscience.

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e-mail: dillman@wsu.edu
<http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/>

-----_255234367==_.ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

<html>
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November 9, 2000

<div align=3D"center">

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</div>

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I cannot say with certainty whether the format of this ballot affected a certain number of people who thus voted by mistake for Pat Buchanan, while intending to vote for another candidate. That would require knowledge of what specific people did in the voting booth Tuesday, which I don=92t have. However, based on my experiences and past research concerning how the visual format of questionnaires affects respondents to surveys, I believe it is likely that certain visual features of the ballot resulted in some individuals who wished to vote for Gore inadvertently punching the second hole in the column, thus resulting in a vote for Buchanan. These visual attributes may also have resulted in double punches as people attempted to correct their error. However, I do not think that voters who intended to vote for Bush were similarly affected.

I believe this outcome occurred because of the joint effects of several undesirable features of the Palm Beach County ballot, rather than a single attribute. These factors include: (1) the listing of some candidates for President on the left-hand page of the ballot, while others were listed in a separate group on the right-hand page; (2) use of a single column of circles between the pages to register one=92s vote, regardless of which page contained the candidate=92s name; (3) the lack of familiarity some people may have had with how to answer a punch ballot printed in this format; (4) the likelihood that most people knew which candidate they wanted to vote for prior to seeing any of the choices on the ballot; (5) the location of the presidential choices on the first pages of the ballot; and (6) the visual process people typically follow when registering preferences on a survey questionnaire or election ballot when it is unnecessary to read all choices (names of presidential

candidates, for example) before registering one's vote.

In order to mark their ballot, it was necessary for people to insert their paper ballot underneath the booklet that showed the ballot choices. They were then required to use a stick-pin answering device to punch through a circle on the ballot to make a hole in the paper ballot.

When people open and/or begin to read material printed in a booklet format, they tend to look first at the left-hand page and focus their attention there.
 Because this is a ballot in which most people expect to vote on most or all of the choices, it is also likely that they would expect to answer the questions in order.
 It is therefore likely that many voters began reading the left-hand page without first looking at the second page and seeing what material was printed there.
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 they may have been unaware that some of the candidates for president were listed on the opposite page.

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 They may have also concluded that the second hole in the column was the correct one to punch, simply because Gore was the second candidate on the page.
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exactly how the ballot worked.

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<x-sigsep><p></x-sigsep>

Don A. Dillman, Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
and Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4014
phone: 509-335-1511
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e-mail: dillman@wsu.edu

http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman

</html>

Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 18:34:49 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Corinne Kirchner <corinne@afb.net>
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I thought this list might be interested in the letter we e-mailed a couple of hours ago to the letters to the Editor of the New York Times; it was signed (so to speak) by me and my research assistant but actually sent from the Vice President for Communications of the American Foundation for the Blind. Here it is:

X-Sender: lgreco@192.168.1.253
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 4.3.2
Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 16:39:04 -0500
To: letters@nytimes.com
From: Liz Greco-Rocks <lgreco@afb.net>
Subject: RE: Ballot Design
Cc: corinne@afb.net
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
X-UIDL: ed4aa8aa71cf1977a9e0e8460337ff8c

November 9, 2000

To the Editor:

Re "Florida Democrats Say County's Ballot Design Hurt Gore" (front page, Nov. 9):

It seems that a little bit of knowledge might have been a dangerous thing in Palm Beach County. Theresa LePore, the Palm Beach County Election supervisor, was cited as saying that she "redesigned the ballot ... to make it easier to read for the county's many elderly voters," a reference to the substantial percentage of elderly persons who have low vision.

Earlier this year, the American Foundation for the Blind received a contract from the Health Care Financing Administration to evaluate the special version of its "Medicare & You 2000 Handbook" that was geared towards elderly low vision readers. One of our strong findings in the study report was that low vision readers find it very difficult to track their eyes across a page.

Without any form of line or connection between the candidate's name and the appropriate circle for selection, it would have been very difficult for voters with low vision to have tracked their eyes correctly from one point to the other. They probably would not even have realized that there were additional candidates listed on the other side of the ballot page to which some of the circles referred.

Corinne Kirchner, Ph.D.
Director of Policy Research and Program Evaluation
American Foundation for the Blind

Sara Diament, M.A.

Senior Research Assistant
American Foundation for the Blind

American Foundation for the Blind
11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300
New York, NY 10001
212-502-7640

Corinne Kirchner, Ph.D.
Director of Policy Research & Program
Evaluation
American Foundation for the Blind

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 15:41:36 -0800
From: "MJS" <sullivan@fsc-research.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot
CC: rmontgomery@kcstar.com
Message-ID: <3A0AC5B0.2950.11179B91@localhost>
In-reply-to: <5.0.0.25.0.20001109154830.02218080@mail.wsu.edu>
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

Ok, Dr. Dillman (a widely respected expert on questionnaire construction) has described serious design flaws in the Palm County ballot that can be expected to produce significant response errors on the part of voters working to the disadvantage of Mr. Gore.

Statistical evidence offered by Drs. Adams and Fastnow suggests that the Buchanan response in Palm County is significantly higher (by a factor of 6) than would be expected given the responses of voters in other Florida counties. These facts, in conjunction with the large number of disqualified ballots for multiple punches suggest that the election has been compromised.

Where do we go from here?

Date sent: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 16:15:51 -0800
Send reply to: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Don Dillman <dillman@wsu.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot

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names) and the association of the second circle in the column with the second candidate (Gore) choice.

I would also expect that some ballots were double punched (Gore and Buchanan) as voters started to punch the second circle, realized they were making an error, and attempted to recover from it.

Despite the visual and mechanical problems that individually and jointly increase the likelihood that Gore preference voters unintentionally and unknowingly voted for Buchanan, the nature of the problem is such that it would not affect most voters. Most people are able to "figure-out" how to answer questions when they are presented in a visually inappropriate way, as was done in this situation. However, I am also confident that some Gore-preference voters would have made the error described above. At the same time, and for the reasons described above, Bush-preference voters were not likely to make the same mistake.

1Don A. Dillman is the Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The opinions expressed here are his own and should not be attributed to his employer, Washington State University, or to the American Association for Public Opinion Research, for which he now serves as Vice-President and President-Elect. Background on the theory and research that lead to the interpretations reported here are published in Chapter 3 of Dillman, Don A. 2000 Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method, New York: John Wiley; and Jenkins, Cleo R. and Don A. Dillman 1997 "Towards a Theory of Self-Administered Questionnaire Design," Chapter 7 of Lyberg, Lars, et al., Survey Measurement and Process Quality, (pp.165-196,) New York: Wiley Interscience.

Don A. Dillman, Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
and Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology
Washington State University
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<http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/>

The information contained in this communication is confidential and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of Freeman, Sullivan & Co. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to postmaster@fsc-research.com, and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including attachments.

=====
Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 17:52:19 -0800 (PST)
From: Patricia Gwartney <PATTYGG@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU>
Subject: Amazing statistical analysis of Palm Beach vote patterns
To: aapornet@usc.edu

Susan Pinkus

-----Original Message-----

From: Rick Weil [SMTP:fweil@pabulum.lapop.lsu.edu]

Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 1:05 PM

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Mitofsky's response

I also heard Warren on NPR & saw him & Marvin Kalb on PBS, and also felt

Warren handled himself well. I was less happy about part of what Marvin

Kalb said. He noted how centralized the exit polling operation is and how

the networks are being blamed & their credibility is coming under fire. So

far so good. But then he suggested that maybe some other entity could do it

better. I wasn't sure if he was thinking of a

"scientific"/university body, a government body, or what. This was the part I had trouble with.

I'm no

expert on conducting exit polls, but I do study confidence & legitimacy, and

my impression is that kicking problems "upstairs" is rarely a solution.

These were rare errors made by very careful people, and no other group can

be completely exempt from making similar errors. A scientific or governmental body risks being tarnished just as much as the networks

in the

event of an error, and I can't see where that's necessarily better.

So what's the answer? I don't know, but one classic approach is to spread

the risk rather than concentrate it - namely, introduce more competition. I

know that this raises lots of questions/problems, because VNS was formed to

reduce costs and pool expertise of the subscribers. But clearly, we've now

seen the unlikely outcome of the expected-value calculation: the probability

of error was low, but the cost of it may be high. Will an

"upstairs" agency

have better experts who never make errors? Will the costs of an error be

lower for them? The PBS show seemed to put two possibilities on the table:

learn from mistakes & go on (Mitofsky), or kick it upstairs (Kalb). I don't

know enough to advocate one course over another, but at least logically, it

looks like competition might be a third choice to (re-)consider.

Rick Weil

Department of Sociology

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803
225-388-1140
225-388-5102 fax
fweil@lapop.lsu.edu

----- Original Message -----

From: <s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>; <jkraus@Law5.law.virginia.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 11:55 AM
Subject: Mitofsky's response

>
>
> VNS and the networks are under fire. Warren's response on Jim
Lerher's
program
> last night was straight forward and honest. He admitted to five
mistakes
in
> 3,000 projections in the past, and said that this was the first
time he
made
> two on the same night. He said that there was a sampling error
and that
he may
> provide statistical safeguards in the future. He did as well as
might be
> expected under the circumstances.
>
>

Date: Thu, 09 Nov 2000 22:04:12 -0500
Subject: Re: <no subject>
From: "Ward Kay" <rakekay@erols.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
CC: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Mime-version: 1.0
X-Priority: 3
Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Message-Id: <E13u4Ou-00004e-00@smtp03.mrf.mail.rcn.net>

>From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

> Voters can be
> subpoenaed and asked if they understood for whom they were voting.

I think that the public would be very uncomfortable with voters being
subpoenaed. The privacy of the ballot box is a very important to Americans.

Date: Thu, 9 Nov 2000 23:23:26 -0500

From: "Jim Caplan" <caplanjr@bellsouth.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <85256992.006281B3.00@notesmaill1.csuohio.edu>
Subject: Re: Mitofsky's response
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

How much of this "error" could be attributable to the more than 10,000 voters in Palm Beach County who thought they were voting for Gore and ended up disqualified or voting for Buchanan? Wouldn't they have told the VNS enumerator what they thought they had done?

Jim Caplan
Miami

----- Original Message -----

From: <s.kraus@NotesMaill1.csuohio.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>; <jkraus@Law5.law.virginia.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 12:55 PM
Subject: Mitofsky's response

VNS and the networks are under fire. Warren's response on Jim Lerher's program last night was straight forward and honest. He admitted to five mistakes in 3,000 projections in the past, and said that this was the first time he made two on the same night. He said that there was a sampling error and that he may provide statistical safeguards in the future. He did as well as might be expected under the circumstances.

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 01:54:09 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
References: <5.0.0.25.0.20001109154830.02218080@mail.wsu.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Don,

I hate to add to the post-election deluge in your in-box, but here goes:

Not a bad statement at all, but still no (non-Cuban) cigar. The analytical parts of your statement (all of which are sound but also all of which also are music to partisan Democrats) are offset by the indeterminate adjectives you use for summations. The way you use "most" and "some" allows partisan Republicans, don't-make-waves establishmentarians, and lawyer-hating plain folks just tired of it all to dismiss everything else you said. Of all fuzzy quantitative terms you might have applied to the proportions of voters misled and not misled, you chose to suggest that "most people" were not misled, "some" were. "Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many times more or fewer than the number needed to make a big difference in the electoral outcome; about as many or far, far more than the usual mistake rate in balloting in this country. If you really don't know enough to address the magnitudes at issue one way or the other, you should say so more clearly than you do. Further, if you can't be more appropriately specific than "some," I think you just have not been paying attention. The last paragraph has another bias. You get your "most" who are not misled from an entire population of people dealing for any purpose with any amount of applicable experience with any instance of some imaginary universe of badly designed forms. You pair that "most" (dear to the Bush side) with "some" misled of those who wanted to make one specific choice (Democratic, Gore, Lieberman) on this particular ballot.

The particular population most likely to want to make that choice also needs to be considered in terms of their ability to handle puzzles such as this ballot presented. For instance, I have heard reference to the narrow near-vision field that would be common among the elderly Jews who are a significant component of the County's reliable Democrats. One of the voters who seeks invalidation of the County's vote complains that the likelihood of confusion is understated by the representations of the ballot in the media. He contends that the angular position of the ballot on the voting device makes the perceptual alignment of holes with candidates far more difficult than when inspecting a photocopy of the ballot.

You do get high marks for a very statesman-like statement. If it accorded more with my points, it would be doubtless be regarded as much less so. The name of your endowed adds to the problem.

Don Dillman wrote:

> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 07:03:36 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <3A0AA18B.15854.108A64BC@localhost>
<000a01c04a91$ed5bbea0$e623c080@grady.uga.edu>
Subject: Re: Public opinion
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
 Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
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 X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
 X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
 X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Barry

The American polls, both in the run up to the day and the exit poll, did an excellent job. The last thing we need is poll pickers who should know better rubbing them. See the table below. Please also see the very useful comment from Joe Wislar, which suggests that the polls are conducted with a great deal more honesty and efficiency than the count itself.

Congratulations to Warren and Kathy for making themselves available to talk on the television and being open, honest and clear about just what happened. It's tough, standing up to all the uninformed comment by the pundits trying to blame anyone but themselves, and both Warren and Kathy represented themselves, and us, very well.

Bob Worcester

Nader	Buch.	Lead	Error on G/B	Gore	Bush
Final(?) 0%	Result 1%	0		49%	3%
REUTERS/MSNBC/ 1%	Zogby -2%		3	46%	48%
CBS 1%		2		47%	48%
FOX/OPINION 0%	DYNAMICS 1			48%	48%
HARRIS 0%		2		47%	47%
IBD/CSM 0%		1		49%	47%
ICR 2%		7		46%	44%
CNN/USA 1%	TODAY 2%	3		48%	46%
NEWSWEEK 0%		2		49%	46%
PEW 1%		2		49%	46%
ABC 1%		2		49%	46%
NBC/WSJ/ 2%	Hart-Teeter 3%	4		48%	45%

MARIST COLLEGE			51%	46%	2%	
1%	5%	4				
VOTER.COM/Lake Goas			51%	45%	4%	0%
6%	5					
HOTLINE				51%	43%	4%
1%	8%	7				
RASMUSSEN			52%	43%	4%	
1%	9%	8				

Four years ago, and eight years ago, I wrote an article in Public Perspective castigating the American pollsters and media for not reallocating the 'don't knows', so that this type of comparison can be made. I have used two sources, AEI's excellent poll service, (thanks Karlyn) and PollingReport.Com. These have three polls with a one point discrepancy between them, which I assume is due to a reallocation formula other than proportional, which of course is their call. In each case, I have used AEI's report as my source. There are many ways to judge accuracy of the polls against the actual result, but for simplicity, I have rounded the result to 49%/48%, and taken Pat Buchanan's vote when below 1/2% to zero, and then sorted the polls by lead. On this basis, four polling organisations were within one point of the 1% lead in the actual count and should be congratulated, but as the actual vote as now reported is only 0.22%, for what it is worth, I would award the prize for the closest poll to Opinion Dynamics, as closest not only to the Bush/Gore result but also Nader and Buchanan, second to Harris (well done Humphrey, and especially for your lucid final Harris Report, which gave full technical details and the permutations of certain voters, and certain/likely voters, etc.) and to IDB/CSM for the least error on the two main candidates' result. The use of the gap as a measure of accuracy is shown to be pretty much nonsense, when you look at the ICR poll result, which although it has a two percent lead, it has a seven point error. There are many other ways to calculate the error, but as it's after 2 a.m. in Canada, where this is being written, that's all for now folks.

----- Original Message -----
 From: Barry Hollander <barry@arches.uga.edu>
 To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
 Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:13 PM
 Subject: Re: Public opinion

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 > now.
 >
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 >
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 >

> Barry Hollander
> Associate Professor
> College of Journalism and Mass Communication
> University of Georgia
> Athens, GA 30602
> 706.542.5027
>
> email: barry@arches.uga.edu
> web: http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander
>
>
>

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 06:23:24 -0500
From: "Richard M. Perloff" <r.perloff@csuohio.edu>
Subject: Dillman comment
X-Sender: r.perloff@popmail.csuohio.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3.0.3.32.20001110062324.0076ad9c@popmail.csuohio.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.3 (32)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Don Dillman presents an intriguing analysis of possible responses to the Palm Beach ballot. But we have to remember these are only possibilities; we can't know for sure, and we have no control group for comparison.

In fact the only available quasi-control group is that in 1996 some 15,000 voters in the same county also had invalid ballots, due to doublepunching.

This suggests that a great deal of the variance is due not to this ballot, but to the nature of the population (older voters or voters living in Palm Beach or something else). The consequences of the ballot mistakes this year are far greater than usual. But the possibility that the mistakes are not necessarily a result of this year's ballot, and the difficulty of making such inferences with confidence, gives me great pause about invalidating a democratic election for the presidency of the U.S.

Rick Perloff
Cleveland State University

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 11:22:58 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <3A0AA18B.15854.108A64BC@localhost>

<000a01c04a91\$ed5bbea0\$e623c080@grady.uga.edu>
<029601c04ae4\$5ale2da0\$a8790a40@rmw>
Subject: Re: Public opinion
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
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X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_033A_01C04B08.9468EDA0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Here's the table attached as as Excel file.

----- Original Message -----

From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 7:03 AM
Subject: Re: Public opinion

> Barry
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					Gore	Bush
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> 0%	1					
> HARRIS					47%	47%
> 0%	0%	2				4%
>						
> IBD/CSM					49%	47%
> 0%	2%	1				4%
> ICR					46%	44%
7%						
> 2%	2%	7				
> CNN/USA TODAY			48%	46%	4%	
> 1%	2%	3				
>						
> NEWSWEEK				49%	46%	5%
> 0%	3%	2				
> PEW					49%	46%
> 1%	3%	2				3%
> ABC					49%	46%
3%						
> 1%	3%	2				
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> Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:13 PM
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> > Barry Hollander
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> > email: barry@arches.uga.edu
> > web: http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
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filename="finalpolls.xls"

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ACIAADhAAEAQAABAAQAAAAAAAAAAAAAO/AAAAAAAA4D8RAFUAAGAIAAACDgAAAAAAAAAAAAA

=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 06:37:05 -0500
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: "'Albert D. Biderman '" <abider@american.edu>,
 "'aapornet@usc.edu '"
Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Given the concern with possible vote fraud (real or imagined) resulting from the Palm Beach "Butterfly" ballot, has this ballot design ever been used anywhere else in the US? What were the results?

If we can believe Carl Rove (Bush Campaign Staffer) and the press reports, this ballot design is used in Cook County, Illinois, the home of Bill Daly (Gore Campaign Chairman). Does Cook County use this ballot design, and has there been any accusations of vote fraud in Cook County Illinois as a result of this design.

John Huffman

-----Original Message-----

From: Albert D. Biderman
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Sent: 11/10/00 1:54 AM
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

Don,

I hate to add to the post-election deluge in your in-box, but here goes:

Not a bad statement at all, but still no (non-Cuban) cigar. The analytical parts of your statement (all of which are sound but also all of which also are music to partisan Democrats) are offset by the indeteriminate adjectives you use for summations. The way you use "most" and "some" allows partisan Republicans, don't-make-waves establishmentarians, and lawyer-hating plain folks just tired of it all to dismiss everything else you said. Of all fuzzy quantitative terms you might have applied to the proportions of voters misled and not misled, you chose to suggest that "most people" were not misled, "some" were. "Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many times more or fewer than the number needed to make a big difference in the electoral outcome; about as many or far, far more than the usual mistake rate in balloting in this country. If you really don't know enough to address the magnitudes at issue one way or the other, you should say so more clearly than you do. Further, if you can't be more appropriately specific than "some," I think you just have not been paying attention. The last paragraph has another bias. You get your "most" who are not misled from an entire population of people

dealing for any purpose with any amount of applicable experience with any instance of some imaginary universe of badly designed forms. You pair that "most" (dear to the Bush side) with "some" misled of those who wanted to make one specific choice (Democratic, Gore, Lieberman) on this particular ballot.

The particular population most likely to want to make that choice also needs to be considered in terms of their ability to handle puzzles such as this ballot presented. For instance, I have heard reference to the narrow near-vision field that would be common among the elderly Jews who are a significant component of the County's reliable Democrats. One of the voters who seeks invalidation of the County's vote complains that the likelihood of confusion is understated by the representations of the ballot in the media. He contends that the angular position of the ballot on the voting device makes the perceptual alignment of holes with candidates far more difficult than when inspecting a photocopy of the ballot.

You do get high marks for a very statesman-like statement. If it accorded more with my points, it would be doubtless be regarded as much less so. The name of your endowed adds to the problem.

Don Dillman wrote:

> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 07:12:32 -0500
From: "Ratledge, Edward" <ratledge@udel.edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Amazing statistical analysis of Palm Beach vote patterns
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

I would be more impressed if the independent variables included the Reform Party registration. Unless the proportion is similar in each county, the model is probably misspecified. Given favorability ratings of around 20% for Buchanan in the broad electorate and a reported Reform Party registration of 16,000 in Palm Beach County, it would seem difficult to draw a conclusion with any degree of certainty.

-----Original Message-----

```
From: Patricia Gwartney [mailto:PATTYGG@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 8:52 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: amazing statistical analysis of Palm Beach vote patterns
```

One of my graduate seminar survey methodology students sent class members this amazing link:

Hi,

If anyone is interested in an statistical analysis of what happened in

To court to get an order for a new election or to get a statistical adjustment of the results in Palm Beach County. Anything less means that the will of the electorate will be thwarted.

I am personally appalled at the comments of William Schneider.

In my experience elections are supposed to be about assuring that the preferred candidate. i.e. the one who gets the most votes cast fairly, wins.

All the stuff about legitimacy and mandate pale in comparison to this simple fact. It is almost like the establishment does not want the people to chose their preferred candidate.

Certainly the brother of the candidate in a state where election counting seems to be dominated by elected GOP folks does not seem too willing to make sure this happens.

Andy Beveridge

P.S. There is a reason for three branches of government, it is called checks and balances.

The courts are there to prevent elections from being "stolen," and have done so in Florida.

```
=====  
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 09:27:09 -0500  
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>  
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>  
Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)  
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;  
        boundary="----_=_NextPart_001_01C04B22.4F55FAE0"
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This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

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Content-Type: text/plain;  
        charset="iso-8859-1"
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If we can believe Carl Rove (Bush Campaign Staffer) and the press reports, this ballot design is used in Cook County, Illinois, the home of Bill Daly (Gore Campaign Chairman). Does Cook County use this ballot design, and has there been any accusations of vote fraud in Cook County Illinois as a result of this design.

John Huffman

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Dillman [mailto:dillman@wsu.edu]

Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 7:16 PM

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Palm Beach Ballot

Yesterday I was interviewed by an AP reporter who faxed me a copy of the Palm Beach County ballot and interviewed me a few minutes later. I was quoted in her article that appeared today in a number of media outlets, where I was identified as being from the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Two things seemed apparent to me after the phone call. One was that I was likely to be called by other media people and asked to react, and second, that the visual design issues, at least as I see them, are somewhat complex.

Consequently, I decided to put together a written statement concerning the problems I think the ballot exhibits, which I am inserting below in this message. I am sending this to AAPORNET partly because of the number of messages that have appeared about the ballot in the last two days. Also I want to make it clear to the members of AAPOR that I am speaking as an individual on this issue, and not as a representative of AAPOR or my employer, Washington State University. Thus, I have added what I hope is a clarifying statement that this statement represents my personal opinions based on past research and experiences in the development of self-administered questionnaires.

November 9, 2000

Statement by Don A. Dillman on Palm Beach County Florida Ballot

Several people have asked for my opinion on whether the format of the November 7, 2000, general election ballot in Palm Beach County, Florida, resulted in more people voting for Buchanan than had intended to do so. This statement is in response to those requests.

I cannot say with certainty whether the format of this ballot affected a certain number of people who thus voted by mistake for Pat Buchanan, while intending to vote for another candidate. That would require knowledge of what specific people did in the voting booth Tuesday, which I don't have. However, based on my experiences and past research concerning how the visual format of questionnaires affects respondents to surveys, I believe it is likely that certain visual features of the ballot resulted in some individuals who wished to vote for Gore inadvertently punching the second hole in the column, thus resulting in a vote for Buchanan. These visual attributes may also have resulted in double punches as people attempted to correct their error. However, I do not think that voters who intended to vote for Bush were similarly affected.

I believe this outcome occurred because of the joint effects of several undesirable features of the Palm Beach County ballot, rather than a single

attribute. These factors include: (1) the listing of some candidates for President on the left-hand page of the ballot, while others were listed in a separate group on the right-hand page; (2) use of a single column of circles between the pages to register one's vote, regardless of which page contained the candidate's name; (3) the lack of familiarity some people may have had with how to answer a punch ballot printed in this format; (4) the likelihood that most people knew which candidate they wanted to vote for prior to seeing any of the choices on the ballot; (5) the location of the presidential choices on the first pages of the ballot; and (6) the visual process people typically follow when registering preferences on a survey questionnaire or election ballot when it is unnecessary to read all choices (names of presidential candidates, for example) before registering one's vote.

In order to mark their ballot, it was necessary for people to insert their paper ballot underneath the booklet that showed the ballot choices. They were then required to use a stick-pin answering device to punch through a circle on the ballot to make a hole in the paper ballot.

When people open and/or begin to read material printed in a booklet format, they tend to look first at the left-hand page and focus their attention there. Because this is a ballot in which most people expect to vote on most or all of the choices, it is also likely that they would expect to answer the questions in order. It is therefore likely that many voters began reading the left-hand page without first looking at the second page and seeing what material was printed there. Thus, they may have been unaware that some of the candidates for president were listed on the opposite page.

Most people who completed the ballot knew who they wanted to vote for prior to reading the list of names. Thus, rather than attempting to read all of the answer possibilities before marking their choice, they simply looked for the name of the candidate for whom they wished to vote. The typical procedure would be to start at the top of the list and read downwards until the preferred candidate was found.

After reading the first candidate's name (Bush) on the left-hand page, people who wanted to vote for him should have been guided to the answer column by the number and an arrow. That circle was also the first (or top) circle in the answer column. It therefore seems quite unlikely that the voter would by-pass the first circle and mark the second circle, thereby voting for Buchanan, by mistake.

In contrast, people who wanted to vote for Gore, and had just seen Bush's name, would be expected to go straight down the page as they searched for Gore's name. After finding it, people are likely to have moved their fingers and thumb that held the stick-pin punching device to the appropriate punching location. It is likely that in the process of doing this some people (particularly those who are right-handed) did not see the number and arrow pointing to the appropriate answer circle because it was obscured by their hand. They may have also concluded that the second hole in the column was the correct one to punch, simply because Gore was the second candidate on the page. Thus, both the locational feature (being second) and mechanics of answering seem likely to have worked together in a way that led some people to inadvertently punch the second hole (Buchanan choice) rather than the third hole (Gore choice).

The possibility that some circles in the column of possible answers applied to Buchanan (on the next page) is unlikely to have occurred to some

respondents. It is most unusual for any ballot or questionnaire to list choices to the first page to the right of the names, while choices to the second page are listed to the left of the names, and in addition to have all of them listed in a single column. Therefore, I would expect that some respondents had no idea that any of the choices in the answer column applied to the next page instead of to the candidates on page one. This problem was accentuated by the presidential preference being listed on the first page of the ballot, before the respondent had figured out, through experience, exactly how the ballot worked.

It does seem likely that some respondents who marked the second circle would have noticed that it was not aligned with the Gore box in the same way as the first circle was aligned with the Bush box. However, among those who noticed the different alignment this feature may have been discounted, because of their having to link together physically separate components (the actual paper ballot and the booklet listing candidate names) and the association of the second circle in the column with the second candidate (Gore) choice.

I would also expect that some ballots were double punched (Gore and Buchanan) as voters started to punch the second circle, realized they were making an error, and attempted to recover from it.

Despite the visual and mechanical problems that individually and jointly increase the likelihood that Gore preference voters unintentionally and unknowingly voted for Buchanan, the nature of the problem is such that it would not affect most voters. Most people are able to "figure-out" how to answer questions when they are presented in a visually inappropriate way, as was done in this situation. However, I am also confident that some Gore-preference voters would have made the error described above. At the same time, and for the reasons described above, Bush-preference voters were not likely to make the same mistake.

1Don A. Dillman is the Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The opinions expressed here are his own and should not be attributed to his employer, Washington State University, or to the American Association for Public Opinion Research, for which he now serves as Vice-President and President-Elect. Background on the theory and research that lead to the interpretations reported here are published in Chapter 3 of Dillman, Don A. 2000 Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method, New York: John Wiley; and Jenkins, Cleo R. and Don A. Dillman 1997 "Towards a Theory of Self-Administered Questionnaire Design," Chapter 7 of Lyberg, Lars, et al., Survey Measurement and Process Quality, (pp.165-196,) New York: Wiley Interscience.

Don A. Dillman, Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
and Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology
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Pullman, WA 99164-4014
phone: 509-335-1511
fax: 509-335-0116
e-mail: dillman@wsu.edu
[http <http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/> ://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman](http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/)
/ <<http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/>>

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charset="iso-8859-1"

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<META content="MSHTML 5.50.4134.600" name=GENERATOR></HEAD>
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<P>John Huffman</P></DIV>
<BLOCKQUOTE dir=ltr style="MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">

<DIV class=OutlookMessageHeader dir=ltr align=left>-----Original Message-----
From: Don Dillman [mailto:dillman@wsu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 7:16 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Palm Beach Ballot

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<FONT
face="Arial, Helvetica">November 9, 2000

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A.

Dillman on Palm Beach County Florida
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</DIV><FONT

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dillman@wsu.edu
<A href="http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/"
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href="http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/"

eudora="autourl">

</P></BLOCKQUOTE></B
O
DY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_001_01C04B22.4F55FAE0--

=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 10:37:36 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: More statistical analysis of the Palm Beach Ballots effects
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

This was posted yesterday on sci.stat.edu and the author gave me permission
to repost
it here. Greg Adams has also added some links to other statistical
analyses.

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

Path: spln!lex!newsgate.newsguy.com!newsp.newsguy.com!mdrn
From: Robert.Dawson@STMARYS.CA (Robert J. MacG. Dawson)
Newsgroups: sci.stat.edu
Subject: Re: Stats on Palm Beach votes
Date: 9 Nov 2000 13:17:36 -0800
Organization: None
Lines: 470
Message-ID: <3A0B0224.79F5B094@stmarys.ca>
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Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
NNTP-Posting-Date: 9 Nov 2000 21:17:41 GMT
Xref: spln sci.stat.edu:18980

Juan Zuluaga wrote:

>
> ----- Forwarded Message -----
> Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 3:57 PM -0500
> From: Greg Adams <gadams@andrew.cmu.edu>
>
> Subject: important: election results
>
> As you probably all know, Bush has 1700 more votes in Florida over Gore.
> However, folks in Palm Beach were complaining that their ballots were
> confusing, and many people voted for Buchanan when they thought they were

> voting for Gore. With the help of my wife Chris, I analyzed the county by
 > county presidential results for Florida. The results are clear: the
 ballot
 > for Palm Beach cost Gore approximately 2200 votes. A simple regression of
 > Buchanan's vote on Bush's vote shows that Buchanan should have only gotten
 > 800 votes, not 3400.
 >
 > Don't believe me? Look for yourself: It's not even close! Palm Beach is
 > an outlier beyond all belief!!!

Hooooold on. Look at the pictures again:

<http://madison.hss.cmu.edu/palm-beach.pdf>

THESE DATA ARE NOT NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED. Nor does the assumption of
 homoscedasticity even begin to apply. Moreover, the "Bush" and "Gore"
 numbers are mostly proxies for county size, which is roughly
 logsymmetric. Doing least-squares regression on these data is just
 meaningless.

Histogram of Pop N = 67

Midpoint	Count	
0	30	*****
50000	15	*****
100000	8	*****
150000	4	****
200000	3	***
250000	1	*
300000	1	*
350000	1	*
400000	1	*
450000	1	*
500000	0	
550000	1	*
600000	1	*

Histogram of logPop N = 67

Midpoint	Count	
8.0	4	****
8.5	9	*****
9.0	9	*****
9.5	4	****
10.0	6	*****
10.5	2	**
11.0	12	*****
11.5	7	*****
12.0	6	*****
12.5	4	****
13.0	3	***
13.5	1	*

If we use `_proportion_` of the vote per county, we get much more plausible looking distributions for Bush and Gore:

Histogram

Histogram of Gorepro N = 67

Midpoint	Count	
0.25	3	***
0.30	5	*****
0.35	9	*****
0.40	12	*****
0.45	20	*****
0.50	9	*****
0.55	4	****
0.60	2	**
0.65	2	**
0.70	1	*

MTB > hist c36

Histogram

Histogram of Bushpro N = 67

Midpoint	Count	
0.30	1	*
0.35	2	**
0.40	2	**
0.45	5	*****
0.50	10	*****
0.55	19	*****
0.60	12	*****
0.65	8	*****
0.70	5	*****
0.75	3	***

MTB > hist c37

but the proportions for Pat Buchanan are still far from normal. (Should I rephrase that? Naaaah.)

Histogram of PBpro N = 67

Midpoint	Count	
0.000	1	*
0.002	23	*****
0.004	20	*****
0.006	13	*****
0.008	4	****
0.010	2	**
0.012	2	**

```

0.014      0
0.016      1 *
0.018      1 *

```

By the way, those two high-tail points are NOT Palm Beach, but the (small) Calhoun and Liberty) counties. If we log-transform we get a reasonably symmetric distribution:

Histogram of logPBpro N = 67

```

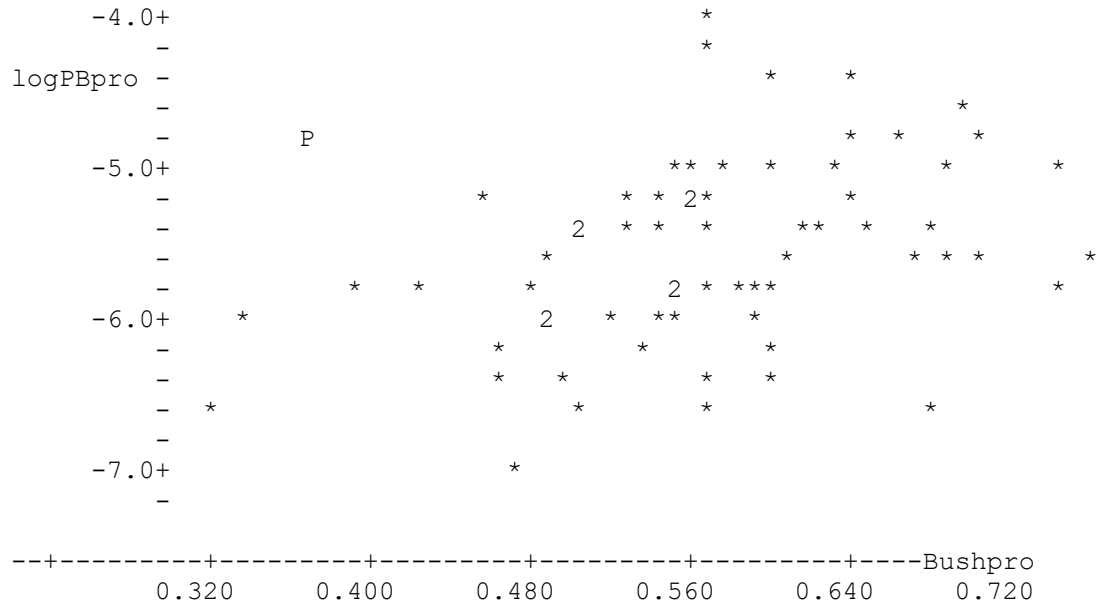
Midpoint      Count
-7.2          1 *
-6.8          1 *
-6.4          8 *****
-6.0         14 *****
-5.6         15 *****
-5.2         17 *****
-4.8          6 *****
-4.4          3 ***
-4.0          2 **

```

We plot *that* against the proportion of Bush or Gore votes (essentially equivalent) and we get (Palm Beach marked with a "P")

```
MTB > plot c39*c36
```

Plot



And regress:

The regression equation is
 $\log PBpro = - 6.80 + 2.25 \text{ Bushpro}$

Predictor	Coef	StDev	T	P
Constant	-6.8005	0.4440	-15.31	0.000
Bushpro	2.2484	0.7821	2.88	0.005

S = 0.5867 R-Sq = 11.3% R-Sq(adj) = 9.9%

Analysis of Variance

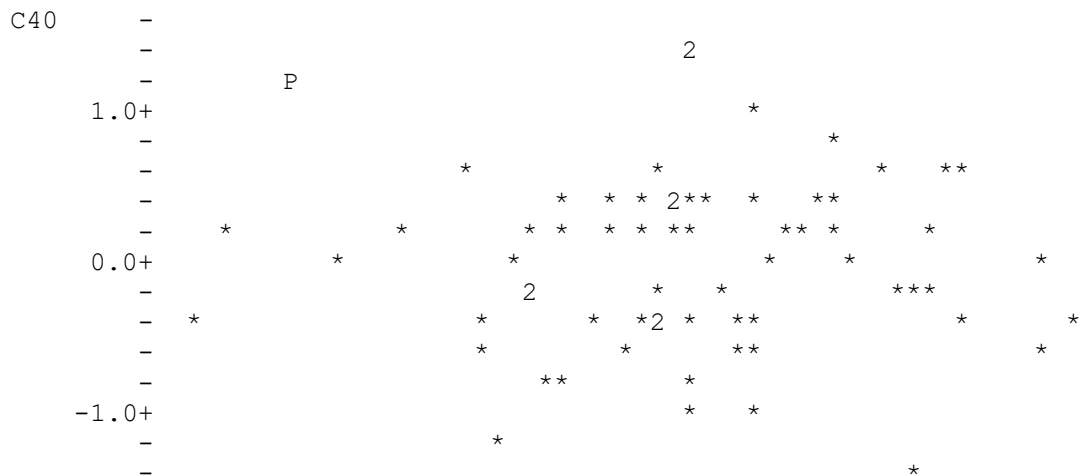
Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	1	2.8457	2.8457	8.27	0.005
Residual Error	65	22.3777	0.3443		
Total	66	25.2234			

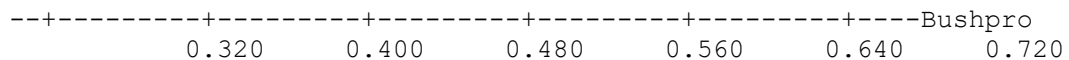
Unusual Observations

Obs	Bushpro	C39	Fit	StDev Fit	Residual	St
6	0.314	-6.5731	-6.0945	0.2056	-0.4786	
-0.87 X						
7	0.561	-4.0407	-5.5384	0.0717	1.4977	
2.57R						
11	0.668	-6.6086	-5.2985	0.1106	-1.3101	
-2.27R						
13	0.468	-7.0057	-5.7486	0.1018	-1.2570	
-2.18R						
20	0.331	-5.9082	-6.0565	0.1932	0.1483	
0.27 X						
39	0.556	-4.1054	-5.5499	0.0718	1.4445	
2.48R						
[PalmBeach is #50]						
50	0.359	-4.8267	-5.9923	0.1727	1.1656	
2.08R						

R denotes an observation with a large standardized residual
X denotes an observation whose X value gives it large influence.

Nothing much going on here: 2 SD's in a slightly heavy-tailed distribution, and by no means the heaviest outlier. Residual plot (Palm Beach again indicated:)

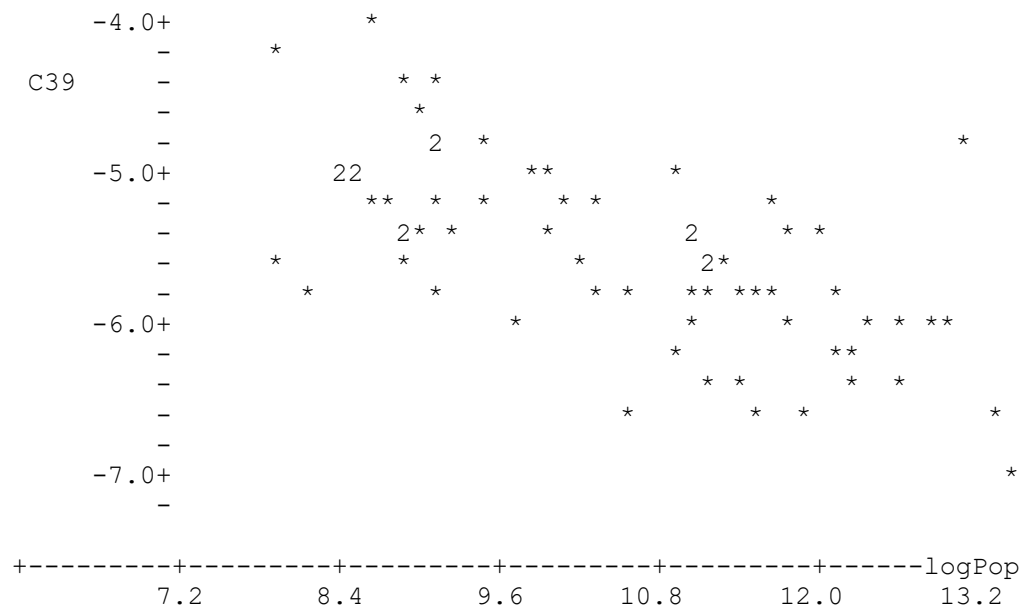




More interesting, however, is if we regress the transformed Buchanan proportion on log of county size *and* the main vote split. Not only does the R-squared rise dramatically, indicating that Buchanan has mainly rural support:

```
MTB > plot c39*c18
```

Plot



but Palm Beach suddently pops off the charts as an outlier:

```
MTB > regress c39 2 c36 c18;
SUBC> resid c40.
```

Regression Analysis

The regression equation is
 $\log PBpro = - 3.39 + 0.828 \text{ Bushpro} - 0.252 \text{ logPop}$

Predictor	Coef	StDev	T	P
Constant	-3.3894	0.6491	-5.22	0.000
Bushpro	0.8281	0.6610	1.25	0.215
logPop	-0.25208	0.04028	-6.26	0.000

S = 0.4657 R-Sq = 45.0% R-Sq(adj) = 43.2%

Analysis of Variance

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	2	11.3407	5.6704	26.14	0.000
Residual Error	64	13.8826	0.2169		
Total	66	25.2234			

Source	DF	Seq SS
Bushpro	1	2.8457
logPop	1	8.4951

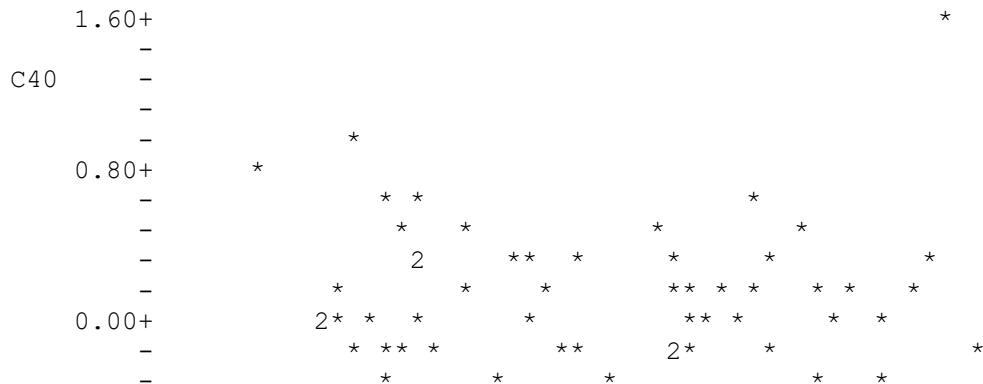
Unusual Observations

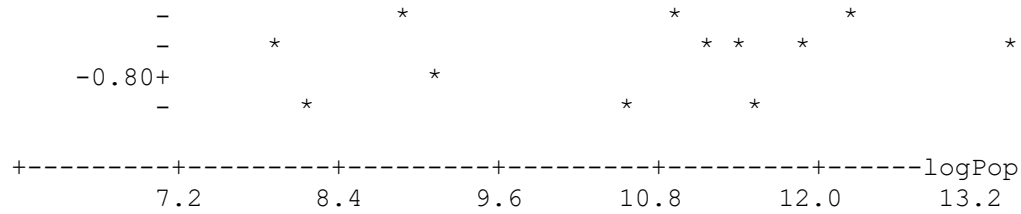
Obs	Bushpro	C39	Fit	StDev Fit	Residual	St
6	0.314	-6.5731	-6.4678	0.1737	-0.1052	
-0.24 X						
7	0.561	-4.0407	-5.0774	0.0931	1.0367	
2.27R						
20	0.331	-5.9082	-5.5282	0.1751	-0.3800	
-0.88 X						
22	0.563	-5.8950	-4.9631	0.1077	-0.9319	
-2.06R						
44	0.493	-6.5416	-5.6008	0.0722	-0.9408	
-2.04R						
50	0.359	-4.8267	-6.3587	0.1490	1.5320	
3.47R						

R denotes an observation with a large standardized residual
X denotes an observation whose X value gives it large influence.

MTB > plot c40*c18 #residuals against log of population

Plot





Histogram

Histogram of C40 N = 67 #residuals of logPBpro against logpop and Bushpro

Midpoint	Count	
-1.0	2	**
-0.8	3	***
-0.6	5	*****
-0.4	4	****
-0.2	14	*****
0.0	13	*****
0.2	12	*****
0.4	7	*****
0.6	4	****
0.8	1	*
1.0	1	*
1.2	0	
1.4	0	
1.6	1	*

This, I think, is evidence that Palm Beach does not fit the pattern; and the assumptions of normality and heteroscedasticity are well supported.

We can do the same regression on *only* log population:

```
MTB > regress c39 1 c18;
SUBC> resid c40
* NOTE * Subcommand does not end in . or ; (; assumed).
SUBC> .
```

Regression Analysis

The regression equation is
 $C39 = -2.75 - 0.269 \logPop$

Predictor	Coef	StDev	T	P
Constant	-2.7455	0.3983	-6.89	0.000
logPop	-0.26941	0.03800	-7.09	0.000

S = 0.4678 R-Sq = 43.6% R-Sq(adj) = 42.7%

Analysis of Variance

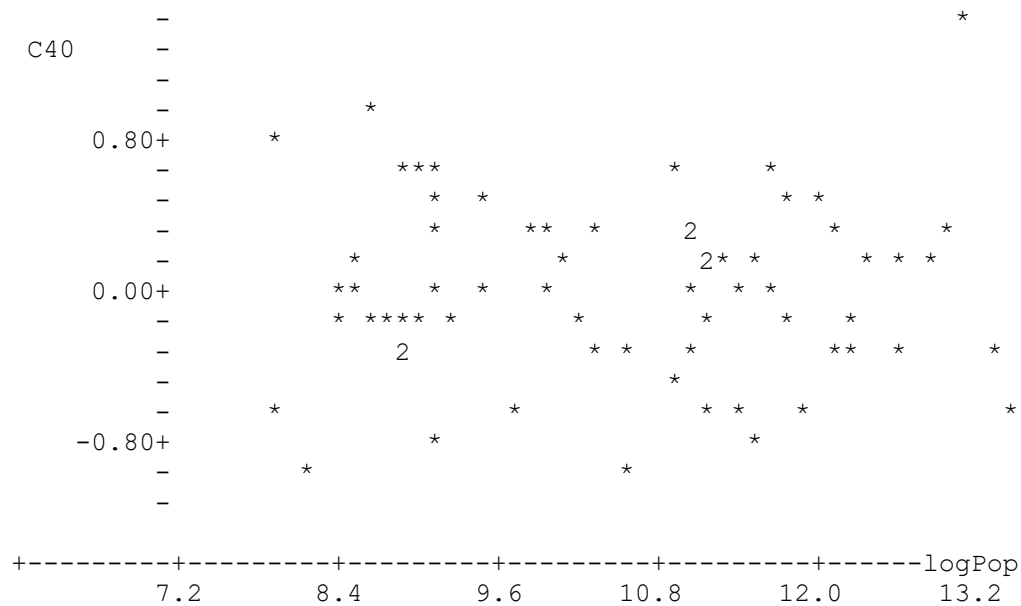
Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	1	11.000	11.000	50.27	0.000
Residual Error	65	14.223	0.219		
Total	66	25.223			

Unusual Observations

Obs	logPop	C39	Fit	StDev Fit	Residual	St
7	8.5	-4.0407	-5.0464	0.0901	1.0057	
2.19R						
22	8.1	-5.8950	-4.9257	0.1039	-0.9694	
-2.13R						
44	10.4	-6.5416	-5.5452	0.0572	-0.9964	
-2.15R						
50	13.0	-4.8267	-6.2372	0.1137	1.4104	
3.11R						

MTB > plot c40*c18 #residuals of logPBpro against logpop

Plot



Just out of interest, IF we assume that the residual arises from ballot errors, how many votes does it represent? A factor of $\exp(1.41) = 4.1$ would suggest that 75% of the 3407 Buchanan votes were not intended, so that about 2500 were intended for Gore.

Yrs aye,
Robert Dawson

=====
Instructions for joining and leaving this list and remarks about

the problem of INAPPROPRIATE MESSAGES are available at
<http://jse.stat.ncsu.edu/>

=====

--

=====

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 11:55:14 -0500
From: "Howard Fienberg" <hfienberg@stats.org>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Journalist looking for help
Message-ID: <001201c04b37\$000cd7a0\$5670accf@howard>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook 8.5, Build 4.71.2173.0
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Scott Shane from the Baltimore Sun is looking for academics who can put the concept of 'margin of error' in scientific research into the context of this year's presidential election outcome. Essentially, asking if it is possible in a broader sense to find a winner and loser when the results fall well within the margin of error.

If you think you can help him, or know someone who can, please phone him ASAP, he's on a short deadline:
1-800-829-8000 (dial 1 to get extensions, then go to extension 6174)
or
1-410-332-6174

Sincerely,
Howard Fienberg

+++++

Howard Fienberg	hfienberg@stats.org
Research Analyst	http://www.stats.org
The Statistical Assessment Service	
2100 L. St., NW	(202) 223-3193
Suite 300	FAX: 872-4014
Washington, DC 20037	ICQ#: 38550600

The Statistical Assessment Service is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving public understanding of scientific and social research.

+++++

=====

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 09:01:03 -0800
From: "MJS" <sullivan@fsc-research.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
Message-ID: <3A0BB94F.15152.14CF63B8@localhost>
In-reply-to: <3A0B9B91.9B4AD7B8@american.edu>
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

Al,

Here's the thing. Why don't you take a crack at telling us clearly what you think and the rest of us will take a crack at improving on your logic.

Date sent: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 01:54:09 -0500
Send reply to: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

Don,

I hate to add to the post-election deluge in your in-box, but here goes:

Not a bad statement at all, but still no (non-Cuban) cigar. The analytical parts of your statement (all of which are sound but also all of which also are music to partisan Democrats) are offset by the indeterminate adjectives you use for summations. The way you use "most" and "some" allows partisan Republicans, don't-make-waves establishmentarians, and lawyer-hating plain folks just tired of it all to dismiss everything else you said. Of all fuzzy quantitative terms you might have applied to the proportions of voters misled and not misled, you chose to suggest that "most people" were not misled, "some" were. "Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many times more or fewer than the number needed to make a big difference in the electoral outcome; about as many or far, far more than the usual mistake rate in balloting in this country. If you really don't know enough to address the magnitudes at issue one way or the other, you should say so more clearly than you do. Further, if you can't be more appropriately specific than "some," I think you just have not been paying attention. The last paragraph has another bias. You get your "most" who are not misled from an entire population of people dealing for any purpose with any amount of applicable experience with any instance of some imaginary universe of badly designed forms. You pair that "most" (dear to the Bush side) with "some" misled of those who wanted to make one specific choice (Democratic, Gore, Lieberman) on this particular ballot.

The particular population most likely to want to make that choice also needs to be considered in terms of their ability to handle puzzles such as this ballot presented. For instance, I have heard reference to the narrow near-vision field that would be common among the elderly Jews who are a significant component of the County's reliable Democrats. One of the voters who seeks invalidation of the County's vote complains that the likelihood of confusion is understated by the

representations of the ballot in the media. He contends that the angular position of the ballot on the voting device makes the perceptual alignment of holes with candidates far more difficult than when inspecting a photocopy of the ballot.

You do get high marks for a very statesman-like statement. If it accorded more with my points, it would be doubtless be regarded as much less so. The name of your endowed adds to the problem.

Don Dillman wrote:

> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

The information contained in this communication is confidential and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of Freeman, Sullivan & Co. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to postmaster@fsc-research.com, and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including attachments.

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 12:01:15 -0500
From: "Howard Fienberg" <hfienberg@stats.org>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: So everyone understands
Message-ID: <001301c04b37$dd6d82c0$5670accf@howard>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook 8.5, Build 4.71.2173.0
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3
```

Just so everyone is clear, I am not associating myself with Scott's approach. He is looking to draw a metaphorical comparison. I tried to explain that voting and polling are entirely different animals....

Cheers,
Howard

```
+++++
Howard Fienberg             hfienberg@stats.org
Research Analyst           http://www.stats.org
The Statistical Assessment Service
2100 L. St., NW             (202) 223-3193
Suite 300                   FAX: 872-4014
Washington, DC 20037       ICQ#: 38550600
```

The Statistical Assessment Service is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving public understanding of scientific and social

research.

+++++

=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 12:18:54 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: House Panel To Review Early Calls
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

An AP story in the New York Times

"Election-night projections that led news organizations to prematurely declare that Florida would be won by Democrat Al Gore are the subject of a congressional investigation focusing on whether the predictions discouraged voters from going to the polls elsewhere in the country."

"Central to the probe, Tauzin said, is the role of the Voter News Service, a consortium of the networks and AP that uses voter exit polls and actual results to help make election projections. Other news organizations subscribe to VNS data."

For the complete story see:

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/politics/AP-ELN-Early-Calls-Congress.html>

--

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 13:40:14 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: Public opinion
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A0C410E.C904571B@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win95; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBEEELCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>

Mark,

Good point, especially since we were inundated with polls coming up to the election. We should at least have some sense of the public feeling on this.

Frank Rusciano

Mark David Richards wrote:

> Has anyone conducted research asking U.S. public their opinions about the
> vote count, etc.? The residual feelings associated with Impeachment are

> bound to rise among political leaders-the public might offer the most
> intelligent common sense perspectives at this point. Mark Richards

=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 13:54:09 EST
From: RoniRosner@aol.com
Received: from RoniRosner@aol.com
by imo-r07.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.c2.2fd4773 (4539)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 10 Nov 2000 13:54:10 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <c2.2fd4773.273d9e51@aol.com>
Subject: 11/15 NYAAPOR mtg: Major League Elections, review of the results
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="UTF-8"
Content-Language: en
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 125
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id KAA25004

NYAAPOR & SCHULMAN, RONCA & BUCUVALAS, INC.
present an Evening Meeting

Date Wednesday, 15 November 2000
Time 5:30 p.m. -- 8:00 p.m.

Place CUNY Graduate School & Univ. Center
365 Fifth Avenue @ 34th St./Segal Theatre
NOTE NEW LOCATION!!

Admission Current NYAAPOR members, student members,
HLMs, free; other students, \$5*; all others, \$15*
(* free if joining at the meeting)

RSVP by E-MAILING RoniRosner@aol.com ONLY, NOT AAPORNET

MAJOR LEAGUE ELECTIONS: A REVIEW OF THE 2000 RESULTS

- * Was Gore's hail Mary with Lieberman successful?
- * How important was personality versus knowledge to election outcomes?
- * Was the truth factor an issue?
- * What impact did the Presidential and Vice-presidential debates have on the vote?
- * Where have the undecided voters gone?
- * Was there a sex bias in New York State elections?
- * How much campaign spending is too much?

Join our distinguished panel of media pollsters as they reflect upon these and other questions raised, and the issues identified as they covered the 2000 election campaigns.

Introducing our Panelists:

Micheline Blum Blum & Weprin Associates, Inc.
Marjorie Connelly The New York Times
Dr. Murray Edelman Voter News Service

Kathleen A. Frankovic CBS News
Gary Langer ABC News
Doug Schwartz Quinnipiac Poll

BUILDING SECURITY CANNOT ADMIT ANYONE
WHOSE NAME IS NOT ON OUR LIST!!
If you are planning to attend, E-mail RoniRosner@aol.com
Or, if you must, call 722-5333

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 11:06:51 -0800
To: por@vance.irss.unc.edu, aapornet@usc.edu
From: Jerold Pearson <jpearson@stanford.edu>
Subject: Hole lot of shakin goin on
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Regarding the criticism of the VNS: Far be it from me to disagree with many of the pundits, yapping heads, and other drooling jackals on the talk shows...but considering the double-punching of 19,120 ballots that were invalidated, it sorta sounds like the VNS got it right when it originally called Florida for Gore.

Here's another interesting item: A friend of mine who votes in the Tallahassee area says that county uses some sort of scan sheet instead of punch cards -- and it alerts the voter if he has voted for more than one candidate. Apparently, the voter gets three tries to get it right before the ballot is invalidated. It really IS unacceptable that the most technologically advanced nation in the world is using archaic voting mechanisms. Yes, it might be expensive to replace all the outdated voting machinery all across the nation, but, as we see now, we are paying an even higher price by not replacing it.

Jerold Pearson, '75
Director of Market Research
Stanford University
650-723-9186
jpearson@stanford.edu
<http://www.stanford.edu/~jpearson/>

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 13:25:02 -0600
From: "Barbara Burrell" <TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: VNS and Oregon
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline

Does anyone know how and whether "exit polling" was done in Oregon with its mail-in ballot system?

Also, in the past the New York Times has had a Portrait of the Electorate table with data from the exit polls on the Thursday after election day, but I did not find it in this Thursday's paper. Does anyone know if such a "Portrait" with these data are available

anywhere.

Thanks,

Barbara Burrell

Barbara Burrell
Interim Director
Public Opinion Laboratory
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-753-9657

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 15:25:55 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: American public opinion about the vote count
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A0C59D3.88B5EE74@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win95; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <3.0.6.32.20001109170143.01363690@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
```

For those who are interested, there has been a poll about the "fairness" of the national vote count. (It would be interesting to see this broken down by partisan identification).

Go to:
<http://www.pollingreport.com/wh2post.htm>

Frank Rusciano

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 13:21:14 -0800
From: "Voigt, Lynda" <lvoigt@fhcrc.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Job opportunity in Seattle, WA
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

I'm posting this for a colleague at the Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative, Seattle, Washington.

Please send any inquiries to the address and e-mail noted at the bottom, not to me (I have no additional information about this position).

Center for Health Studies-Group Health Cooperative
Seattle, Washington

Employment Opportunity

Research Program Director

The Center for Health Studies (CHS) at Group Health Cooperative invites applications for the position of full-time Research Program Director with its Survey Research Program.

The Environment

The Center for Health Studies is the research arm of Group Health Cooperative, a not-for-profit HMO located in western Washington state. Since 1988, the Survey Program has offered a full range of capabilities related to the design, implementation, and analysis of health-related surveys. The Survey Program completes over 25,000 surveys per year. Primarily, surveys are administered using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology from an on-site interviewing facility. The Survey Program also conducts screening and recruitment interviews and administers a variety of survey modalities. Other Survey Program services include questionnaire design, sampling frame design, data cleaning, data analysis, and evaluation of survey methods.

The Work

- * Provide leadership and scientific direction for CHS Survey Research Program.
- * Oversee all program operations: administrative, budget, and staffing.
- * Exercise responsibility for data quality and human subject compliance.
- * Provide expertise in areas of survey design, methodology, and sampling.
- * Represent CHS Survey Program to the local and national research community.

The Skills and Experience We Seek

- * Master's or doctoral degree in relevant field required.
- * 7 years or more experience related to responsibilities for this position required, including 5 or more years supervisory experience.
- * Experience in a health services research environment with thorough knowledge of research design and methodology.
- * Training and experience in survey research.
- * Excellent communication skills (interpersonal, oral, and written) with ability to relate well to a diverse, multidisciplinary team of social scientists, clinicians, and project staff.
- * Ability to use computer applications as management tools.
- * Quantitative skills desirable, including familiarity with basic biostatistics.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Group Health Cooperative offers an excellent compensation/benefits/paid time-off package, including medical coverage for staff and eligible dependents from the first day of work. Interested applicants can access our web site at www.ghc.org or visit our Human Resources Office at 521 Wall Street, Seattle, WA, citing Job# 200031111. Or call (206) 448-2748 or 1-800-848-4259.

For information about this or other positions at the Center for Health Studies, please contact:

Patti Benson, MPH
Program Director, Immunization Studies
Center For Health Studies
benson.p@ghc.org
(206) 287-2091

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 16:56:51 EST
From: RonBerkowitz@aol.com
Received: from RonBerkowitz@aol.com
        by imo-d06.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.18.4bd3906 (3977)
        for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 10 Nov 2000 16:56:51 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <18.4bd3906.273dc923@aol.com>
Subject: IS AAPORNET UP AND RUNNING
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 125
```

After days of fervent debate, i haven't received any emails today. Just wanted to make sure

Ron

```
=====
Date: Fri, 10 Nov 2000 17:08:12 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: County official knew about ballot confusion!
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
        boundary="=====_30820584==_ .ALT"
```

```
-----_30820584==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
```

Seems that those responsible for conducting the election realized that the ballot might cause confusion and issued a memo to that effect. To see a picture of the actual memo click on the word memo in <http://www.salon.com/politics/feature/2000/11/09/lapore/index.html>.

Dick Halpern

County official knew about ballot confusion

Palm Beach County's elections supervisor distributed a memo to workers about voter confusion -- hours after the polls opened.

- - - - -

By John Lantigua

Nov. 09, 2000 | WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- According to a memo distributed to poll workers in Palm Beach County Tuesday afternoon, the county's supervisor of elections was already aware that voters were struggling with the confusing butterfly ballot her office had prepared.

More than 19,000 ballots were nullified in Palm Beach County because voters selected more than one candidate as their presidential choice. Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan received a surprising 3,407 votes -- more than three times the votes the ultraconservative candidate received in any other Florida county, and almost 20 percent of his total in the state. Some complained that they had erroneously voted for the Reform Party candidate, and three voters filed suit Wednesday to force a revote in the county.

The Election Day memo, written by Theresa LePore, states "Please remind all voters coming in that they are to vote only for one (1) presidential candidate and that they are to punch the hole next to the arrow next to the number next to the candidate they wish to vote for."

Florida State Rep. Irv Slosberg, who was rallying voters at the Whisper Walk precinct near Boca Raton, says workers at that polling place weren't given the memo until sometime in the afternoon, at least five hours after the polls had opened.

Slosberg aide Lawrence Victoria, who was working at nearby Century Village, says poll workers there didn't receive the letter until sometime between 12 and 1 p.m. Due to complaints about confusion, Democratic volunteers began telling voters to "punch number five if you want to vote for Gore." But Victoria was unaware whether similar efforts were undertaken elsewhere in Palm Beach County.

Slosberg says he's outraged by Tuesday's outcome. "It was an illegal ballot. We threw the penalty flags down and now we want the refs to come and declare first and 10.

"It's not frivolous," Slosberg says. "I think there's strength in numbers. We have 20,000 people disenfranchised here."

According to Salon's Jake Tapper, LePore's memo was written after DNC officials complained to her in an 11:24 a.m. fax. The DNC missive stated "apparently certain presidential ballots in several precincts in Palm Beach County are quite confusing ... You should immediately instruct all deputy supervisors and other officials at these precincts that they should advise all electors (and post a written advisory) that the ballots that the presidential race list is two pages long and that the electors should only vote for one presidential candidate."

But Slosberg aide Victoria says the DNC complaint wasn't the first. While visiting one of several precincts on his get-out-the-vote tour around Boca Raton, Victoria says he overheard one Democratic volunteer calling to complain to LaPore's office about the confusing ballot at 8:30 a.m.

- - - - -

About the writer

John Lantigua is a Miami freelance writer. He shared the 1999 Pulitzer

Prize for investigative reporting for his work at the Miami Herald.
Lantigua's fourth book, "Player's Vendetta," was published in August by Signet.

Sound Off

Send us a Letter to the Editor

<http://www.salon.com/>S
-----30820584==.ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>

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color="#FF0000"><u><http://www.salon.com/politics/feature/2000/11/09/lapore/index.html>

</u>.

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Sound Off

Send us a Letter to the Editor

S</html>

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:12:14 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
CC: "'Albert D. Biderman '" <abider@american.edu>,
 "'aapornet\"@usc.edu.'@usc.edu"Bill Daley - not Cook County.
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
References:
<DF2B720CF774D21189EE00805FA7FA2201E317BB@nmrusdunsx3.nielsenmedia.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-
creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Rove was wrong.

Chicago is home to Bill Daley - not Cook County.

Suburban Cook County is a seperate election district from Chicago.

Both the Chicago and surburban Cook election districts used a butterfly ballot, but not like the one used in Palm Beach County. The presidential candidates were all listed on the left-hand page - not on opposite pages which led to the number of spoiled ballots.

The Cook County ballot Rove has been waving in front of the cameras was the judicial retention portion of the ballot which was so cramped and confusing that half of total County did not vote for judges.

The ballot appeared in the Tribune yesterday in a story not only

"Huffman, John P." wrote:

> Given the concern with possible vote fraud (real or imagined) resulting
> from
> the Palm Beach "Butterfly" ballot, has this ballot design ever been used
> anywhere else in the US? What were the results?
>
> If we can believe Carl Rove (Bush Campaign Staffer) and the press reports,
> this ballot design is used in Cook County, Illinois, the home of Bill Daly
> (Gore Campaign Chairman). Does Cook County use this ballot design, and has
> there been any accusations of vote fraud in Cook County Illinois as a
result
> of this design.
>
> John Huffman
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Albert D. Biderman
> To: aapornet@usc.edu

> Sent: 11/10/00 1:54 AM
> Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
>
> Don,
>
> I hate to add to the post-election deluge in your in-box, but here
> goes:
>
> Not a bad statement at all, but still no (non-Cuban) cigar. The
> analytical parts of your statement (all of which are sound but also
> all of which also are music to partisan Democrats) are offset by the
> indeterminate adjectives you use for summations. The way you use
> "most" and "some" allows partisan Republicans, don't-make-waves
> establishmentarians, and lawyer-hating plain folks just tired of it
> all to dismiss everything else you said. Of all fuzzy quantitative
> terms you might have applied to the proportions of voters misled and
> not misled, you chose to suggest that "most people" were not misled,
> "some" were. "Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in
> the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many
> times more or fewer than the number needed to make a big difference in
> the electoral outcome; about as many or far, far more than the usual
> mistake rate in balloting in this country. If you really don't know
> enough to address the magnitudes at issue one way or the other, you
> should say so more clearly than you do. Further, if you can't be
> more appropriately specific than "some," I think you just have not
> been paying attention. The last paragraph has another bias. You get
> your "most" who are not misled from an entire population of people
> dealing for any purpose with any amount of applicable experience with
> any instance of some imaginary universe of badly designed forms. You
> pair that "most" (dear to the Bush side) with "some" misled of those
> who wanted to make one specific choice (Democratic, Gore, Lieberman)
> on this particular ballot.
>
> The particular population most likely to want to make that choice also
> needs to be considered in terms of their ability to handle puzzles
> such as this ballot presented. For instance, I have heard reference
> to the narrow near-vision field that would be common among the elderly
> Jews who are a significant component of the County's reliable
> Democrats. One of the voters who seeks invalidation of the County's
> vote complains that the likelihood of confusion is understated by the
> representations of the ballot in the media. He contends that the
> angular position of the ballot on the voting device makes the
> perceptual alignment of holes with candidates far more difficult than
> when inspecting a photocopy of the ballot.
>
> You do get high marks for a very statesman-like statement. If it
> accorded more with my points, it would be doubtless be regarded as
> much less so. The name of your endowed adds to the problem.
>
> Don Dillman wrote:
>
> > Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:21:22 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>

Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: American public opinion about the vote count
References: <3.0.6.32.20001109170143.01363690@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
<3A0C59D3.88B5EE74@rider.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Based on the minimal information provided, this poll counts results obtained from only 505 adults nationwide obtained during the single day of November 8th, that is, the day after the election.

This would seem to be exactly the kind of quickie poll that we in AAPOR have been warning others not to believe.

Jan Werner

Frank Rusciano wrote:

>
> For those who are interested, there has been a poll about the "fairness" of the
> national vote count. (It would be interesting to see this broken down by
> partisan identification).
>
> Go to:
> <http://www.pollingreport.com/wh2post.htm>
>
> Frank Rusciano

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:38:53 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Carl Rove was wrong.

The ballot he was waving in front of the cameras was the judicial retention portion of the ballot. And yes it was confusing. Only half of the county's voters voted for judges - but there are of course other reasons for this.

Carl Rove chose to ignore the *presidential portion* of the ballot as it appeared in Cook County. Although it was a butterfly layout - all of the presidential candidates were *listed on the left hand page* not on

opposite pages as in Palm Beach County.

Also, Bill Daley is generally associated with Chicago - not with Cook County. Chicago and suburban Cook are two separate election districts but they both used the same ballot layout.

There were 120,000 spoiled ballots in total Cook County of a total 2 million ballots cast according to a Tribune story yesterday. The ballot I described above also appeared in the story

Frankly, I can't find a word of truth in what Rove has been saying.

As an aside, I find the failure rate in our election apparatus astounding. It takes a close election to show how faulty the system is. In business, we don't blame the customers if they can't use the product.

Nick

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>
>> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:55:01 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I am sending this again because I keep getting messages that the

original was not deleverable to many of you. Sorry for any inconvenience.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:38:53 +0000

From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>

Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net

Organization: Market Shares Corporation

To: aapornet@usc.edu

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> From: Albert D. Biderman
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Sent: 11/10/00 1:54 AM
> Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
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>
> Don Dillman wrote:
>
> > Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 09:13:59 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Dillman comment
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPOEEDCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700
In-Reply-To: <3.0.3.32.20001110062324.0076ad9c@popmail.csuohio.edu>

Don Dillman presents an intriguing analysis of possible responses to the Palm Beach ballot. But we have to remember these are only possibilities; we can't know for sure, and we have no control group for comparison.

In fact the only available quasi-control group is that in 1996 some 15,000 voters in the same county also had invalid ballots, due to doublepunching.

Apparently this is a GOP contention. In fact the Palm Beach number is 30,000, including 10,000 that had no punches (discernible by the antiquated voting machines). If that number was roughly the same in 1996, then only 5-6,000 double punches happened in 1996. But this is why court action or some reasonably objective forum is needed.

This suggests that a great deal of the variance is due not to this ballot, but to the nature of the population (older voters or voters living in Palm Beach or something else). The consequences of the ballot mistakes this year are far greater than usual. But the possibility that the mistakes are not necessarily a result of this year's ballot, and the difficulty of making such inferences with confidence, gives me great pause about invalidating a democratic election for the presidency of the U.S.

Rick Perloff
Cleveland State University

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 09:17:19 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: Whoops on Poll Results
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPGE EECGAA.and y@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
 boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0007_01C04BC0.310AA880"
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_0007_01C04BC0.310AA880
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Dear All:

Perhaps to indicate how easy it is to make a mistake when tabulating Bob Worcester had a couple of numbers reversed in his EXCEL, which was based upon a couple of numbers that Barry had reversed.

Attached, for those who care, is a fixed EXCEL sheet. Both CBS and MSNBC/ZOGBY/REUTERS had put Gore ahead.

Andrew A. Beveridge
209 Kissena Hall
Department of Sociology
Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
Phone: 718-997-2837
Fax: 718-997-2820
E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>

Home Office
50 Merriam Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
Phone: 914-337-6237
Fax: 914-337-8210

-----_NextPart_000_0007_01C04BC0.310AA880
Content-Type: application/vnd.ms-excel;
 name="finalpolls.xls"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
Content-Disposition: attachment;

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 08:59:02 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References:
<DF2B720CF774D21189EE00805FA7FA2201E317BB@nmrusdunsx3.nielsenmedia.com>
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Nightline reported last night that they investigated Rove's specific assertions regarding Cook County and found them to be untrue. I am not sure, however, whether the form has EVER been used there.

mike oneil

----- Original Message -----

From: Huffman, John P. <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: 'Albert D. Biderman ' <abider@american.edu>; <"aapornet@usc.edu
'"@usc.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 4:37 AM
Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

> Given the concern with possible vote fraud (real or imagined) resulting
> from
> the Palm Beach "Butterfly" ballot, has this ballot design ever been used
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> I hate to add to the post-election deluge in your in-box, but here
> goes:
>
> Not a bad statement at all, but still no (non-Cuban) cigar. The

> analytical parts of your statement (all of which are sound but also
> all of which also are music to partisan Democrats) are offset by the
> indeteriminate adjectives you use for summations. The way you use
> "most" and "some" allows partisan Republicans, don't-make-waves
> establishmentarians, and lawyer-hating plain folks just tired of it
> all to dismiss everything else you said. Of all fuzzy quantitative
> terms you might have applied to the proportions of voters misled and
> not misled, you chose to suggest that "most people" were not misled,
> "some" were. "Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in
> the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many
> times more or fewer than the number needed to make a big difference in
> the electoral outcome; about as many or far, far more than the usual
> mistake rate in balloting in this country. If you really don't know
> enough to address the magnitudes at issue one way or the other, you
> should say so more clearly than you do. Further, if you can't be
> more appropriately specific than "some," I think you just have not
> been paying attention. The last paragraph has another bias. You get
> your "most" who are not misled from an entire population of people
> dealing for any purpose with any amount of applicable experience with
> any instance of some imaginary universe of badly designed forms. You
> pair that "most" (dear to the Bush side) with "some" misled of those
> who wanted to make one specific choice (Democratic, Gore, Lieberman)
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> The particular population most likely to want to make that choice also
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> such as this ballot presented. For instance, I have heard reference
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> Jews who are a significant component of the County's reliable
> Democrats. One of the voters who seeks invalidation of the County's
> vote complains that the likelihood of confusion is understated by the
> representations of the ballot in the media. He contends that the
> angular position of the ballot on the voting device makes the
> perceptual alignment of holes with candidates far more difficult than
> when inspecting a photocopy of the ballot.

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> You do get high marks for a very statesman-like statement. If it
> accorded more with my points, it would be doubtless be regarded as
> much less so. The name of your endowed adds to the problem.

>
> Don Dillman wrote:

> > Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 11:05:17 -0500
From: "Ratledge, Edward" <ratledge@udel.edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

The butterfly ballot was used this year for the judiciary in Cook County according to CNN but was not used for the presidential race. Evidently it is usually used when there is a space problem.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael O'Neil [mailto:mikeoneil@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 10:59 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

Nightline reported last night that they investigated Rove's specific assertions regarding Cook County and found them to be untrue. I am not sure, however, whether the form has EVER been used there.

mike oneil

----- Original Message -----

From: Huffman, John P. <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: 'Albert D. Biderman ' <abider@american.edu>; <'aapornet@usc.edu '@usc.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 4:37 AM
Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)

> Given the concern with possible vote fraud (real or imagined) resulting from
> the Palm Beach "Butterfly" ballot, has this ballot design ever been used
> anywhere else in the US? What were the results?
>
> If we can believe Carl Rove (Bush Campaign Staffer) and the press reports,
> this ballot design is used in Cook County, Illinois, the home of Bill Daly
> (Gore Campaign Chairman). Does Cook County use this ballot design, and has
> there been any accusations of vote fraud in Cook County Illinois as a
> result
> of this design.
>
> John Huffman
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Albert D. Biderman
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Sent: 11/10/00 1:54 AM
> Subject: Re: Palm Beach Ballot (No Cigar for Dillman)
>
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> Don Dillman wrote:

> > Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 11:33:39 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Report from the designer of the butterfly ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="=====_1863866==_ .ALT"

-----_1863866==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Report published in today's Atlatna Constitution based on an interview with
Theresa LePore who designed the Palm Beach ballot. Key points:

* she alone designed the ballot. And while other election supervisors

in the state struggled with the same issues, she was the only one in Florida to adopt the butterfly configuration.

* By law, LePore is the final authority on what the Palm Beach County ballot should look like. She said no one supervised her. There is a "canvassing committee" that includes a judge and county commissioner, but neither of them reviewed the ballot in advance.

* According to the Miami Herald, the executive director of the Florida Democratic Party, Bob Poe, said no one in his party signed off on the ballot.

* LePore's office said the county mailed a sample ballot to every registered voter. But the sample ballots look significantly different than the real ballot did because the holes aren't pictured in the sample ballot's graphic.

ELECTION 2000: BUSH VS. GORE
From News Services (Atlanta Constitution)
Saturday, November 11, 2000

Theresa LePore says she thought she was doing elderly Palm Beach County, Fla., residents a favor. Her ballot design spread the names of presidential candidates across two pages and did not require reducing the size of the type.

butterfly
Now, her ballot design --- referred to as a formation --- remains at the center of the dispute over whether Al Gore or George W. Bush won Florida and will take the presidency.

supervisor
"Hindsight is 20-20," the county elections told the Palm Beach Post. "But I'll never do it again."

The main complaint is the alignment of holes to punch with the candidates' names. A number of voters say they were confused and punched the hole for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan when they intended to vote for Gore.

According to LePore, a Democrat re-elected Tuesday without opposition, she alone designed the ballot. And while other election supervisors in the state struggled with the same issues, she was the only one in Florida to adopt the butterfly configuration.

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party signed off on the ballot.

LePore's office said the county mailed a sample
ballot to every registered
voter. But the sample ballots look significantly
different than the real ballot did
because the holes aren't pictured in the sample
ballot's graphic.

Also, the instructions in the text of the sample
ballot state: "Punch straight
down through the hole to the right of the arrow by
the candidate or issue of
your choice," but the hole for Buchanan was to the
left of the arrow because
he was listed on the right side of the butterfly
formation.

Voters' complaints in Palm Beach surfaced before
the polls closed and the
Democratic National Committee hired Texas-based
TeleQuest to alert voters to
possible confusion with the ballots they cast.

"Some voters have encountered a problem today with
punch card ballots in
Palm Beach County," the script for the call said.
"These voters have said that
they believe that they accidentally punched the
wrong hole for the incorrect
candidate."

"If you have already voted and think you may have
punched the wrong hole for
the incorrect candidate, you should return to the
polls and request that the
election officials write down your name so that
this problem can be fixed," the
script said.

The firm took the names and numbers of voters who
said they may have cast
an errant ballot, providing the Democratic Party a
list of about 2,400 voters in
the county who thought they may have misvoted.

The calls indicate that Democrats were concerned
about Palm Beach
problems even before they knew Florida's vote
would end in a razor-thin
margin, said American University political science

professor Candice Nelson.

"To the extent there have been accusations that Democrats didn't cry foul until they realized Wednesday that Bush may have won, this cuts the other way," she said.

-----1863866==.ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>

Report published in today's Atlanta Constitution based on an interview with Theresa LePore who designed the Palm Beach ballot. Key points:

she alone designed the ballot. And while other election supervisors in

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According to the Miami Herald, the executive director of the Florida Democratic Party, Bob Poe, said no one in his party signed off on the ballot.

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ELECTION 2000: BUSH VS. GORE

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it would be in the best judgment of all concerned, or whether it is politically responsible or wise for either candidate to support a legal challenge. The law in Florida demands that a court resolve the issue when there is a legitimate concern as to which candidate the voters have chosen. When people like Karen Hughes, Bush's Communications Director, utter remarks like "We certainly hope the Democrats would stop this talk of endless legal battles," and "I hope the vice president and his campaign officials would think through their responsibility to this country and to the process," she is arguing against the rule of law.(3)

2) THIS IS ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, NOT CANDIDATES.

"The real parties in interest here . . . are the voters. They are possessed of the ultimate interest and it is they whom we must give primary consideration."(4)

Al Gore and George W. Bush are not the people whose rights may have been violated (although one of them will be very sore when this is all over). The thousands of voters who were confused by the ballot and either voted for the wrong candidate or had their ballots thrown out are the ones who have been deprived of that most basic right in a democracy, the right to vote. They are the people we should be concerned about, whether they meant to vote for Al Gore or George Bush or someone else.

3) THE JUDGE WHO HEARS THIS CASE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO VOID THE ELECTION.

"[I]f a court finds substantial noncompliance with statutory election procedures and also makes a factual determination that reasonable doubt exists as to whether a certified election expressed the will of the voters, then the court . . . is to void the contested election, even in the absence of fraud or intentional wrongdoing."(5)

As with the first point, there is no discretion here - note the language - a judge "is to void", not "may void." According to a political scientist quoted by CNN, "It would take a tremendously courageous judge to take responsibility for [voiding an election]. That judge or that panel of judges would be taking responsibility for deciding who is the next president of the United States."(6) Although whichever judge (or panel of judges) hears this case will face a great deal of political pressure, and indeed must be courageous enough to withstand it, he or she (or they) has little choice in the matter. The application of the law requires that this election be voided, for two reasons:

A) THERE HAS BEEN CLEAR, SUBSTANTIAL NON-COMPLIANCE WITH FLORIDA ELECTION LAW AS REGARDS THE LAYOUT OF THE BALLOT.

Florida law clearly states that the ballot punch holes must be to the right of the candidates' names, and that the Democrat be listed as the second candidate on the ballot.(7) The law exists precisely to prevent voter confusion. In Palm Beach, however, the holes were to the left of some names, and the one to punch for Gore was the third one down. That elected Democrats may have okayed this ballot is totally irrelevant; again, we are not concerned with the rights of political

parties or candidates, but rather with the rights of voters.

B) THERE "EXISTS REASONABLE DOUBT" AS TO THE EXPRESSED WILL OF THE VOTERS.

This is a no-brainer. The election hinges on 327 votes. According to CNN, Patrick Buchanan received 3,407 votes in Palm Beach County, a number even he admits is too large. "I don't doubt a number of those ballots, of those votes that were cast for me, probably were intended for Vice President Gore," he confessed to Larry King. Considering that Gore received 62 percent of the Palm Beach Vote overall, there is little doubt that the confused votes for Buchanan could have swung the election to Gore.(8) Add to that the discounted 19,000+ ballots, and there is simply no question about whether reasonable doubt exists. Huge doubt exists.

Given the two clear facts - that there was substantial non-compliance that resulted in doubt as to the expressed will of voters, the Florida judges who hear this case have no choice but to void the election. In so-doing, they will not be deciding "who is the next president of the United States," because until the re-vote is counted, we cannot know who that will be (and, given the network election-night fiascos, we should all be wary of any predicted outcomes). Rather, they will be affirming the voting rights of the citizens of the Great State of Florida.

Notes

1. Reported at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/LAW/11/09/election.remedies.florida.pol/index.html>

2. Beckstrom, 707 So.2d at 724. This statement is made in the context of a finding of gross negligence, but no fraud, with regard to absentee ballots. Gross negligence is later defined by the court to mean "negligence that is so pervasive that it thwarts the will of the people." Id. at 725. Surely, the validity of an election called into question by gross negligence at the actual voting booths is equally an issue of great public importance whose resolution is required by the high court. . . ." Id. at 724.

3. Reported at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/ALLPOLITICS/stories/11/10/election.president.03/index.html>

4. Id. at 724 (internal quotes and citation omitted).

5. Beckstrom, 707 So.2d at 725.

6. Reported at

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/LAW/11/09/election.remedies.florida.pol/index.html#1>

7. Fla. Stat. § 101.191

8. The facts and quotes in this section can all be found at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/LAW/11/10/palm.beach.controver/index.html>

end

```
=====  
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 13:21:02 +0000  
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>  
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net  
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)  
X-Accept-Language: en  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: aapornet@usc.edu  
Subject: Cook County  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-  
creator="4D4F5353"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
```

Here is that Tribune article about the Cook County ballot, the spoiled over vote ballots, and issues regarding alternate forms of voting.

CHICAGO NO STRANGER TO FLORIDA
BALLOT WOES

By Douglas Holt and Evan Osnos, Tribune Staff
Writers. Tribune staff writer Noah Isackson contributed to this report.
November 10, 2000

Nearly 2 million Cook County residents went to the polls this week and gripping a small stylus, punched pinholes in a computer card to vote for president and other offices.

But somehow, 120,503 of them either failed to register a choice for president or rendered their choice unusable by piercing holes next to names of two or more candidates.

County officials say the same thing happens every election year, yet hardly anyone complains about the punch card apparatus. Now, however, problems with a similar system in Florida have thrown the presidential election into chaos and triggered a wave of national hand-wringing about the shortcomings of the punch card system.

Election experts say the spotlight has dramatized what they have long known are imperfections in not just punch cards but in all variations of the way Americans vote. In fact, they say, even with attempts to modernize voting by experimenting with high-tech optical readers, ATM-like touch-screen computers and online balloting, the practice of casting and counting ballots will remain imperfect.

"It is not an exact science," said Kimball Brace, president of Election Data Services Inc., a Washington-based consultant on the administration of elections. "Even if you go with touch-screen [technology], you are putting your faith in the electronic recording of your vote. Computers can go wrong too."

Although punch cards may seem about as high-tech as a rotary telephone, they are used in about 90 percent of all polling places in Illinois. Election officials favor the system because it is cheap to operate and,

compared with old-fashioned paper ballots or voting machines, considered more reliable.

No high-tech voting systems are in use in Illinois. State election law doesn't forbid their use, but it doesn't explicitly authorize it, either. And election officials say they won't attempt to experiment with anything new unless they get a specific go-ahead from the General Assembly.

That could come within weeks. The House and Senate have already passed versions of legislation that would allow the use of touch-screen voting machines. An attempt to reconcile the differences may come up in the fall veto session, which opened Thursday.

In Florida, the controversy has surrounded the design of the punch card ballot used in Palm Beach County. Concerns were raised when 3,407 votes for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan appeared in precincts that tend to support liberal Democrats.

Voters there have complained that the design of what is known as a "butterfly ballot," which put opposing candidates on either side of a row of punch holes, may have caused them to mark the wrong candidate.

Hoping to preempt criticism of the punch card system used here, Cook County Clerk David Orr said Thursday that ballots used locally are designed to protect against the kind of problems that Democrats claim have undermined the integrity of the Palm Beach vote.

"For president, a voter looks only to the left hand page and sees all candidates in vertical order," Orr said.

At the same time, he acknowledged complaints over the way the ballot listed dozens of judges around a densely packed strip of "yes" and "no" choices. But Orr said there was no evidence that confusion over the design had affected the outcomes.

Each generation of voting system creates new advantages--but also new problems.

The old paper ballots, in which voters placed an "X" in a box next to a candidate, were simple for voters to read but had to be hand-counted--a slow process susceptible to errors or outright fraud.

Also, voters continually had to be reminded that only an "X"--not a check or a slash--would be recognized.

Then came mechanical lever voting machines, which left no paper trail, making recounts difficult. Suburban Cook County junked the 600-pound behemoths in 1976 and switched to the punch card system; Chicago followed suit in 1982.

As of 1998, more than a third of the nation's voters used punch card systems, including large metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles and Chicago, according to Brace's firm.

But punch cards are susceptible not only to design problems but to something known in the parlance of election experts as the "hanging

chad," the lingering dot of paper that sometimes clings to the ballot after a punch. When the ballot is fed into a computer, that paper scrap can scramble the results.

About one-fourth of polling places across the nation are now equipped with optical scanning systems that combine elements of the paper ballot with the same computer wizardry used to grade standardized school tests administered to high school students. Essentially, voters mark their choices on paper with an ordinary pen and the ballot is fed into an optical scanner that reads and records the choices.

One pitfall of using such a system is that, depending on the jurisdiction, it can require millions of ballots to be printed well in advance of Election Day, making last minute changes all but impossible.

Just under 10 percent of voters nationwide use computerized voting booths. Though fast and reliable, touch-screen voting technology has been slow to spread because it is expensive--machines cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each. That means that without spending a lot more money, fewer voting booths would be available at individual precincts and lines would be longer.

Last year, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners toyed with buying touch screens and solicited bids for a citywide system. The bids came in around \$55 million, compared with \$13 million the city paid for its punch card system.

Despite frequent calls for an online revolution in voting, computer security experts warn it would face many of the same problems that beset online commerce. Ballots can be undermined by computer viruses or hijacked by hackers.

"We are not at the point where we are ready to jump in and start voting online," said Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst for the Center for Democracy and Technology, a non-profit group that examines privacy issues on the Internet.

The first test of secret ballot Internet voting came in the Arizona Democratic primary last spring. It attracted nearly 40,000 online voters--more than doubling the party's turnout for a conventional primary in 1996. But it was plagued by software glitches, garbled names and transmission problems.

The online vote also sparked a lawsuit by Virginia-based Voting Integrity Project, which alleged that it gave wealthy whites an unfair edge over minorities, who might have less access to computers.

Schwartz predicted that the Florida problems will lead to pressure on election officials to adopt increasingly sophisticated voting methods. And while he thinks online voting may work fine for non-critical and small-scale balloting such as corporate shareholder elections, he is wary about its widescale application in politics.

"Because of the current situation, you will see pressure to move in that direction," said Schwartz. "But caution must be advised."

JnjDw94D8HaOkhIjfvfE/inUdK0TT1kIIRru+hDkEKSQaAP4Qf8AhwX/AMHTX/Saj/zo3/wUU/8A
nN0f8OC/+Dpr/pNR/wCdG/8Agop/85uv6/f+HsX/AASy/wCkln7AH/iZH7Ov/wA8aj/h7F/wSy/6
SWfsAf8AiZH7Ov8A88agD+QL/hwX/wAHTX/Saj/zo3/wUU/+c3R/w4L/AODpr/pNR/50b/4KKf8A
zm6/r9/4exf8Esv+kln7AH/iZH7Ov/zxqP8Ah7F/wSy/6SWfsAf+Jkfs6/8AzzqAP5Av+Hbf/B01
/wBJqP8Azo3/AMFFP/nN0f8ADgv/AIOmv+k1H/nRv/gop/8AObr+v3/h7F/wSy/6SWfsAf8AiZH7
Ov8A88aj/h7F/wAesv8ApJZ+wB/4mR+zr/8APGoA/kC/4cF/8HTX/Saj/wA6N/8ABRT/AOc3R/w4
L/4Omv8ApNR/50b/AOCin/zm6/r9/wCHsX/BLL/pJZ+wB/4mR+zr/wDPGo/4exf8Esv+kln7AH/i
ZH7Ov/zxqAP5Av8AhwX/AMHTX/Saj/zo3/wUU/8AnN0f8OC/+Dpr/pNR/wCdG/8Agop/85uv6/f+
HsX/AASy/wCkln7AH/iZH7Ov/wA8aj/h7F/wSy/6SWfsAf8AiZH7Ov8A88agD+QL/hwX/wAHTX/S
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Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 14:48:13 -0500
From: s.kraus@NotesMail1.csuohio.edu
Received: by notesmail1.csuohio.edu (Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.6 (890.1 7-16-1999))
id 85256994.006CCBB7 ; Sat, 11 Nov 2000
14:48:20 -0500
X-Lotus-FromDomain: CSU
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-ID: <85256994.006CC9AE.00@notesmail1.csuohio.edu>

Subject: RE: Palm Beach Ballot
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

The Chicago butterfly ballot was not used for selecting the presidential candidates. It was used for lesser offices. One needs to make a distinction between items in a "butterfly" ballot. When the right and left sides of the ballot have offices to select and face the voter, confusion may arise because the punch holes are not lined up. That was the case in Palm Beach. In Ohio the butterfly ballot (open on both right and left sides) was used only at the end of the ballot for issues.

Best to all,

Sid

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 16:12:11 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Worcester Excel spreadsheet Revised (fwd)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011111611560.4932-101000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: MULTIPART/Mixed; BOUNDARY="0-188213258-973985010=:19839"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: QUOTED-PRINTABLE
Content-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011111611561.4932@almaak.usc.edu>

This message is in MIME format. The first part should be readable text, while the remaining parts are likely unreadable without MIME-aware tools. Send mail to mime@docserver.cac.washington.edu for more info.

--0-188213258-973985010=:19839
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; CHARSET=US-ASCII
Content-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011111611562.4932@almaak.usc.edu>
Content-Disposition: INLINE

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 15:23:30 -0800 (PST)
From: "[iso-8859-1] Robert Worcester" <rmworchester@yahoo.com>
To: beniger@rcf.usc.edu
Cc: worc@mori.com
Subject: Worcester Excel spreadsheet Revised

James, could you do me a favour? My server is up the creek for some reason this weekend, and I wanted to get the attached and revised spreadsheet to the net, and I've used this backup system to send it out, and had it kicked back as I'm not subscribed from this

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Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 19:32:13 -0500 (EST)
From: Scott Keeter <skeeter@osf1.gmu.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Public opinion about the mess
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.4.21.0011111927150.8322-100000@osf1.gmu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

In addition to lawyers, pollsters will also be busy in the next week, I think. Here's a report on a new Newsweek poll regarding public opinion about the Florida situation.

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/488684.asp>

Full text of the questions can be found at

<http://www.pollingreport.com/wh2post.htm>

Scott Keeter
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Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
Voice 703 993 1412
Department fax 703 993 1399
Personal fax 703 832 0209
E-mail skeeter@gmu.edu
Web site <http://mason.gmu.edu/~skeeter>

=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 20:04:23 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: American public opinion about the vote count
To: jwerner@jwdp.com
Cc: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A0DEC96.33F8AD83@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.51 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win98; U)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <3.0.6.32.20001109170143.01363690@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
<3A0C59D3.88B5EE74@rider.edu> <3A0D47D2.7B53C9CC@jwdp.com>

I would agree with Jan about the problems with the size of the sample and the single day polling (indeed, I don't believe the question is well designed either). However, I do feel that the issues raised here are critically important. The (admittedly unreliable) results of the survey I referenced suggest that 44% of the respondents think the election was "not honest" and 8% are "not sure." If these findings can be replicated with a rigorous sample, question design, and analysis, the results would be frightening! It would imply that over half the respondents either were unsure of the election's honesty, or suspicious of it. What would the meaning of that result be for the republic? I think that asking good versions of this question is at least as important-- if not more important-- than tracking numerous horserace results prior to the election.

Frank Rusciano

Jan Werner wrote:

> Based on the minimal information provided, this poll counts results
> obtained from only 505 adults nationwide obtained during the single day
> of November 8th, that is, the day after the election.
>

> This would seem to be exactly the kind of quickie poll that we in AAPOR
> have been warning others not to believe.
>
> Jan Werner
> _____
>
> Frank Rusciano wrote:
> >
> > For those who are interested, there has been a poll about the "fairness"
of the
> > national vote count. (It would be interesting to see this broken down by
> > partisan identification).
> >
> > Go to:
> > <http://www.pollingreport.com/wh2post.htm>
> >
> > Frank Rusciano

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 06:25:50 EST
From: Scheuren@aol.com
Received: from Scheuren@aol.com
by imo-r13.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.26.d3621d3 (17233)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 12 Nov 2000 06:25:51 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <26.d3621d3.273fd83e@aol.com>
Subject: Florida Balloting, especialy Palm Beach
To: aapornet@usc.edu
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Dear Colleagues:

As a Deming follower, let me propose a non-exhaustive set of seven analytic principles for the Palm Beach problem.

The first three make a direct appeal to Deming; three more may arguably be common sense and the last, on peer review, is one of the reasons we submit to AAPORNET to begin with.

I am submitting this note even though most of us on this LISTSERV are already following these principles, at least implicitly. However, adding other principles and explicitly following all that result might make for better science.

Fritz

(1) Attempt to do "systems thinking" on the voting process itself -- especially the local Palm Beach County process -- to extend that such information is available.

Comment: Don Dillman has made a masterful attempt at examining a subsystem in the Palm Beach vote -- the ballot itself. His caution is especially

appreciated in not overgeneralizing. My wife who, for many years, has been a (nonpartisan) voting official in Alexandria, VA, has filled my ear with lots of process details that go beyond the ballot. Some of these have come out since Don's posting (like the memo that alerted polling officials to difficulties). In my opinion, however, we are at an early point still in doing justice to the "systems thinking" needed in Palm Beach and elsewhere.

(2) Look at the implicit and explicit models being assumed, remembering that, as Deming put it, "All models are flawed, some are useful."

Comment: The early outlier analyses and model fitting with current voting data made a good start here (I had fun doing it too). New ideas have been mentioned since then -- for example that we look back at previous Reform Party and Buchanan primary voting patterns (when Buchanan was a Republican). These are hunches that may be worth pursuing. I even wonder if we have all the right data or even the right unit of analysis? What about the recount results? What about precinct data for the County? State?

(3) Quantify the inherent variability in the process, including providing a (one-sided) confidence interval on any results obtained.

Comment: The predicted regression adjustments that might be made to the Buchanan/Gore vote make a good beginning because they contain some measures of variability. But more are needed -- not just variability, given a model (which is what we obtain in regression). What is the underlying error rate in the process itself? If we were running quality control charts by precinct, say, where would the 3 sigma limits be?

In the case of a complete recount, one can make changes, and these have been made; but to fix only a single mistake, because we noticed it (with no systematic way of noticing errors of similar size) could make matters worse. Deming's funnel example may fit here. The distinction between common causes and special causes is important to remember in this assessment. This exact error may well be unique but that is not enough to act on it. What we have to be able to assert, convincingly, is that there are no other errors of this absolute size (or greater) that were made.

(4) Make choice of analysis techniques and their application outcome blind.

Comment: Virtually all of us are trying hard here to adhere to this principle. But, without the peer review step (See step 7 below), I certainly would not trust even my own judgment unaided. After all I voted on Tuesday, even gave sample ballots out at a precinct near my home.

(5) Keep open to more data and do not rush to judgment.

Comment: There have been lots of details added, in the media and on this LISTSERV -- as the days have gone by -- even this weekend. Not enough, though, has to come out for me, at least, to try to speak with any professional confidence.

(6) Do no harm, after all we are Americans first.

Comment. I doubt, as some others have already said, that we will be able to make the call statistically or at least in time for the country to act. That's OK with me, as long as we approach the subject with humility and accept the outcome of the process. On this LISTSERV, at least, we seem to be

doing fairly well in putting country before party.

(7) Seek peer review and reaction to sharpen thinking and expose weaknesses.

Comment: this final principle is the one we clearly are all adhering to in submitting our thoughts to this LISTSERV. Anyway, now it is your turn. Thank you for reading this far

PS: If the Deming references were obscure, his appropriately named 1986 book, *Out of the Crisis* (MIT Press) is a good source. Incidentally, I called two members of my family who live in Palm Beach County "one was a Gore voter and the other a Bush nonvoter. Their perspective adds a fascinating personal dimension which I may share at another time, perhaps after we come out of this particular crisis.

Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 09:36:51 -0600
From: smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu
Received: from norcmail.uchicago.edu (norcmail.uchicago.edu [128.135.45.4])
by genesis1.norc.uchicago.edu (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id JAA21520;
Sun, 12 Nov 2000 09:40:21 -0600
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To: <aapornet@usc.edu>, <methods@unm.edu>, <por@vance.irss.unc.edu>,
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General Social Survey Student Paper Competition

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago announces the latest annual General Social Survey (GSS) Student Paper Competition. To be eligible papers must: 1) be based on data from the 1972-1998 GSSs or from the GSS's cross-national component, the International Social Survey Program (any year or combination of years may be used), 2) represent original and unpublished work, and 3) be written by a student or students at an accredited college or university. Both undergraduates and graduate students may enter and college graduates are eligible for one year after receiving their degree. Recent college graduates who completed an appropriate undergraduate or senior honors thesis are encouraged to consider submitting such research. Professors are urged to inform their students of this opportunity.

The papers will be judged on the basis of their: a)

contribution to expanding understanding of contemporary American society, b) development and testing of social science models and theories, c) statistical and methodological sophistication, and d) clarity of writing and organization. Papers should be less than 40 pages in length (including tables, references, appendices, etc.) and should be double spaced.

Paper will be judged by the principal investigators of the GSS (James A. Davis and Tom W. Smith) with assistance from a group of leading scholars. Separate prizes will be awarded to the best undergraduate and best graduate-level entries. Entrants should indicate in which group they are competing. Winners will receive a cash prize of \$250, a commemorative plaque, and SPSS Base, the main statistical analysis package of SPSS. SPSS Base is donated by SPSS, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois. Honorable mentions may also be awarded by the judges.

Two copies of each paper must be received by February 15, 2001. The winner will be announced in late April, 2001. Send entries to:

Tom W. Smith
General Social Survey
National Opinion Research Center
1155 East 60th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

For further information:

Phone: 773-256-6288
Fax: 773-753-7886
Email: smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu

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1155 East 60th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

For further information:

Phone: 773-256-6288
Fax: 773-753-7886
Email: smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu

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Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 11:45:51 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Two things seem likely (though not certain) at this point in Florida:

1. The manual recount is likely to give Gore a higher total than Gore = (If we extrapolate the admittedly miniscule Palm Beach count announced = at 2am this morning, it would suggest a net of 1900 for Gore, enough to = put him ahead, though not by much).

2. There has been speculation that most of the overseas vote will be for = Bush. One news report went a bit further and reported that in the last = four elections, these were in fact more Republican than Democratic.

It seems to me that the likely result will depend on the AMOUNT by which = the overseas vote will break for Bush. Does anyone have access to = historical data -- quantified -- on the actual counts from overseas = votes in Florida in the last several elections? =20

This will, of course, not be definitive. It does, however, strike me as = the best possible indicator of the likely final vote.

Mike O'Neil

oneil@oneilresearch.com

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charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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than Democratic.</DIV>

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on the AMOUNT by which the overseas vote will break for Bush. <nbsp;> Does =
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overseas votes in Florida in the last several elections? =
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does, however, strike me as the best possible indicator of the likely =
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Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 15:41:16 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPCEFFCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Two things seem likely (though not certain) at this point in Florida:

1. The manual recount is likely to give Gore a higher total than Gore (If we extrapolate the admittedly miniscule Palm Beach count announced at 2am this morning, it would suggest a net of 1900 for Gore, enough to put him ahead, though not by much).

If they count other counties the number could go higher.

2. There has been speculation that most of the overseas vote will be for Bush. One news report went a bit further and reported that in the last four elections, these were in fact more Republican than Democratic.

They had that on MSNBC. That last election it was only a few points (maybe 5 or 6 percent). Dukakis was much higher, but supposedly they got a lot of people living in Israel to vote this time.

It seems to me that the likely result will depend on the AMOUNT by which the overseas vote will break for Bush. Does anyone have access to historical data -- quantified -- on the actual counts from overseas votes in Florida in the last several elections?

This will, of course, not be definitive. It does, however, strike me as the best possible indicator of the likely final vote.

Mike O'Neil

oneil@oneilresearch.com

-----_NextPart_000_0008_01C04CBE.FEB5D300

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charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">

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this point in Florida:</DIV>

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Gore a higher total than Gore (If we extrapolate the admittedly =
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Beach count announced at 2am this morning, it would suggest a net of =
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Gore, enough to put him ahead, though not by much).<SPAN=20

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<DIV> </DIV>

<DIV>2. There has been speculation =

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<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV>Mike O'Neil</DIV>
<DIV> </DIV>
<DIV><A=20
=
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></DIV>
<DIV> </DIV></BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_0008_01C04CBE.FEB5D300--

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 15:45:06 -0500 (EST)
From: Scott Keeter <skeeter@osf1.gmu.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
In-Reply-To: <003801c04cd8\$c923fe00\$e9e9fea9@phoenix.speedchoice.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.4.21.0011121542090.3740-100000@osf1.gmu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

According to today's Washington Post, here is how the overseas absentee

ballots in Florida broke in the past three elections:

1996

Dole:	1212	
Clinton	902	
Perot	94	

1992

Bush	1519	
Clinton	1047	
Perot	58	

1988

Bush	2288	
Dukakis	650	

On Sun, 12 Nov 2000, Michael O'Neil wrote:

> Two things seem likely (though not certain) at this point in Florida:

>

> 1. The manual recount is likely to give Gore a higher total than Gore (If we extrapolate the admittedly miniscule Palm Beach count announced at 2am this morning, it would suggest a net of 1900 for Gore, enough to put him ahead, though not by much).

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>

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>

> oneil@oneilresearch.com

>

>

>

Scott Keeter
Dept. of Public and International Affairs

George Mason University MSN 3F4
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
Voice 703 993 1412
Department fax 703 993 1399
Personal fax 703 832 0209
E-mail skeeter@gmu.edu
Web site <http://mason.gmu.edu/~skeeter>

Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 16:15:32 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login2.isis.unc.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
In-Reply-To: <Pine.OSF.4.21.0011121542090.3740-100000@osf1.gmu.edu>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011121613150.83130-100000@login2.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Looking at the Washington Post data another way, we see see the GOP advantage from the overseas vote diminishing every time:

1988	1638
1992	472
1996	310

Apply a straight-line model to that, and the GOP edge goes negative in 2000!

Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 <http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer>

Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 16:22:37 -0800
From: Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
Reply-To: ande271@attglobal.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD {TLC;RETAIL} (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: AAPORNET@USC.edu
Subject: Florida Balloting, especialy Palm Beach
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Scheuren's points are excellent. Too bad AAPOR does not have money for the type of analysis or refinement of what has been done already he suggests. Would this be a proper use of endowment funds if we had any?

In listening to the discussions among partisans, it is necessary to

remember that each industry has its own standards. we accept conclusions based on sample data with rather wide confidence intervals, compared with what is acceptable in some of the "hard" sciences. On the other hand, we are well-known as a "counting industry." we should have something to say about the counting methods used in situations other than survey research. At least we can make public our own standards, just to give people an idea of how elections might be run (if there were enough money to introduce computerized voting nationwide).

I do think we as researchers might address the questions of instrument design and especially tabulation standards in our industry as they might apply to election results. It seems to me that, because of the great difficulty of tabulating millions of ballots, it has become acceptable in elections to do what would be unacceptable in public opinion or social or marketing research - namely, to stop tabulating or counting at a certain point when logic dictates that a contest has been won. I wonder in how many contests the *historical* record of the number of votes is far from accurate.

Second, I believe it is a standard in our industry to *try* to determine the intent of the respondent when the record is ambiguous. Am I correct in stating that discarding questionnaire data where two answer categories are marked for a question that should elicit a single answer is standard when there is no way of determining the reason for the "double punch?" And is it correct to say that the standard is to use two or more "judges" if it seems possible that a check-mark or "X" is not exactly in the box (or on the line) for one answer category?

Of course with CATI and CAPI widely used, it is less urgent to determine what the standard is, but some of us are old enough to remember how it was.

Data that reflect a bias resulting from question wording or questionnaire formatting are also not strange to us. I hope I am not reflecting my own bias as a Democrat in saying that it is unthinkable in survey research not to recount and recount as many times as necessary in order to arrive at accurate results.

If standards were higher, people like Dillman and Kerchner would be consulted *before* finalizing ballot format. But that is not all. If people were really held as accountable for errors in election results as Warren Mitofsky is holding himself accountable for the mis-calls on Tuesday night, the experiences in Illinois and perhaps elsewhere would have influenced ballot format design in Palm Beach County. Actually, there are plenty of competent researchers in universities in Florida who could have been consulted (I don't mean to imply that commercial researchers couldn't have been also).

Speaking of Warren, I wonder if a statement from AAPOR deploring the practice of declaring an election outcome in a State before all the polls in that state have closed would be helpful to VNS and anyone else managing exit polls in dampening the competitive zeal of network officials, campaign managers, etc.? AAPOR is in a somewhat weaker position to discuss its standards publicly when it has been suggested that some voters in western Florida did not vote because they thought the election had been decided.

I think VNS is great as well as gracious, and 5 errors out of 3,000 is more than anyone could ask. I hope controversy over exit polling does not impair our ability to make a contribution as a professional association to the debate that there will surely be in the future about preventing the type of mess that we are in now.

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 17:23:58 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
CC: "Wainer, Howard" <hwainer@ets.org>
Subject: On Close Election Mythology`
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
boundary="-----C6E8E057537500D377A3D298"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.
-----C6E8E057537500D377A3D298
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I am attaching a document on the 1976 close election I wrote a couple of decades ago. I OCR'd it from an old teleconference printout because Die Meisterspinner have been deluging us this week with much silliness about close elections, a.k.a. Dead Heats. It's relevant to two of these spins that were most painful for me to see. The Tale of the Gracious Patriotic Loser is bad enough but to see Bob Dole putting his name on Washington Post op ed about the 1976 version in which he himself was Second Banana really hurt. It's not only that he must know better but he surely owes the country some of his inimitable rancor-squelching sardonic wit in this hour of "crisis" rather than a self-serving tall-tale. This is a guy who tossed away countless votes by a reluctance to brag on himself. The other close election genre that pains includes items by statistician and polling friends who think seem to believe that some simple stochastic function will be found to be the fundamental principle of the Universe. Up to but not including the last (and most important) paragraph of the attached paper, I too went along with that simplifying gag,. Howard Wainer subsequently applied some revealing EDA to expand on the analysis. That revision is in my bibliography but I couldn't find a copy today. (Anyone who has been scared off of opening attachments because of bugs in recent SRMSNET posts can e-mail me for this paper and I will insert the text in a reply.)

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

-----C6E8E057537500D377A3D298
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
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XCDC:76ELEC

Was The '76 Election Really That Close?

Albert D. Biderman

BSSR

One of the great political myths is that the 1976 Presidential election was as an unusually close squeaker in which Ford lost to Carter only by a bit of bad luck. Post editorial writer Mark Shields in a column on March 6 repeats one of the fallacies on which this myth rests: "If only 7,233 Mississippians and 5,559 Ohioans had voted Republican instead of Democratic, Jerry Ford would be president today." But that's something like saying that a man who bets he can toss nine heads in a row has bad luck when he only tosses seven.

If we look at the states that were so close that "chance" factors might have made them go either way, we see that Ford had an extremely lucky share of the breaks. For him to have won more of the states that were close to even-stein would have involved a most improbable run of luck. Of the nine states where the Carter margin was less than two percent of the votes cast, Ford won seven and lost only two. Let's imagine a replay of the election with all "chance" factors such as the weather, sunspots, candidate's biorhythms or what have you being a little bit different. We can arrange the states in order of how close the 1976 election was in each to see what kind of luck might have won the election for Ford. We can look at the closest election, or the two closest, or three closest, and so on. In 1976, Ford won the closest of all (Oregon). If he won the two closest races, Oregon and Ohio, he still would not have won the election assuming the split among the rest of the states was the same as in 1976. He would have won the election only if he won three out of three of the "chanceiest" races, and then only if his good luck held up in the next four closest elections (Maine, New Jersey, California and Iowa) all of which he won in 1976.

Just as a sensible view of statistics gives a different picture of how lucky for Carter the 1976 electoral vote was, a sense for history gives a different view as to whether that was an unusually close election with a weak popular mandate for the winner. As presidential elections go, President Carter's share of the popular vote wasn't unusually low. Only half of the elections since the Second World War were decided by bigger margins. Of all Democratic candidates in this century, only Roosevelt and Johnson did better than Carter. If we look at all 38 other elections in which popular votes for president have been counted--those from 1824 on--the winner got a lower percentage of the popular votes than Carter's in 14. In only half of all of these elections did the winner's share of the votes exceed Carter's by one percent or more. Almost half of those big winners (9) were incumbents running for reelection. Only FDR and William H. Harrison got more of the popular vote than Carter in a contest with an incumbent. To be sure, in many of the elections since 1824, third parties and splinter parties played a bigger role and often held down the margin for the winning candidate. But the success of presidential candidates has depended upon how well they have been able to hold together a winning party coalition, as Carter did.

We can argue as to how close to a 50-50 split of the vote between the two major parties we should take as the cut-off for deciding whether the ou=

to come in a particular state was a matter of luck. Some would say less than three percent, some might insist on less than one percent, and others would draw the line somewhere in between. But no matter where we draw the line defining the "chance-determined" outcomes, we end up with a group of states in which Ford would have had to get a disproportionate share. For example, if we take the 20 closest states, those within a reasonable "chancey-margin" for the statistician, we find Ford won 13 and lost 7. Assuming it was equally likely for each of those states to go either way, the chance of his winning that many or more close races was less than 3 in 100. The chances of his having won any two more of those states would have been under 8 in 10,000. That these extra states would have been two very big states he needed to win the election or that he would have won some other winning combination of 16 or more states moves us out beyond one chance in 10,000.

Of course, the world and its elections don't run by chance alone. The results in the close states may not have been purely a matter of luck. For example, it is plausible that the Ford campaign was doing a better job than Carter's in concentrating resources on states where the results looked like they were going to be close. But Lady Luck's hand can be forced only so much in a game as complex as a political election. Ford's campaign did fabulously well in working the odds, but they failed to do miraculously well.

=0C

-----C6E8E057537500D377A3D298--

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 17:44:23 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: On Close Election Mythology`
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X-Priority: 3
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X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Your paper assumes that the result of an election is a joint function of a main effect (candidate preference, one assumes) and another factor, which could be thought of as noise, or "luck." I disagree. The result of an election is a fully deterministic reality. The statistical notions of probability do not apply. They had the election and this is what the results were. The only way in which it makes sense to talk about closeness is to relate the margin of victory to the total number of votes cast.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Voice (610) 408-8800
Fax (610) 408-8802

jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Albert D. Biderman <abider@american.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: Wainer, Howard <hwainer@ets.org>
Date: Sunday, November 12, 2000 5:23 PM
Subject: On Close Election Mythology`

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>of decades ago. I OCR'd it from an old teleconference printout because
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>in recent SRMSNET posts can e-mail me for this paper and I will insert
>the text in a reply.)

>
>Albert D. Biderman
>abider@american.edu
>
>

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 18:33:58 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
References: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011121613150.83130-100000@login2.isis.unc.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The trend line reflects a losing Democrat in 1988 and a winning Democrat in both 1992 and 1996.

Philip Meyer wrote:

> Looking at the Washington Post data another way, we see see the GOP

> advantage from the overseas vote diminishing every time:
>
> 1988 1638
> 1992 472
> 1996 310
>
> Apply a straight-line model to that, and the GOP edge goes negative in
> 2000!
>
> =====
> Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
> CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
> University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
> Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
> =====

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 21:50:39 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

From today's NY Times.....Statistically, wouldn't we say the election is a draw?

Dick Halpern

Talk About Slim Margins . . .
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/12/weekinreview/12ODDS.html>

November 12, 2000
THE ELECTION
By DAVID LEONHARDT

AT the 1972 Olympics, swimming officials awarded a gold medal to a Swede named Gunnar Larsson after the clock showed that he had beaten Tim McKee, an American, by a few thousandths of a second in a 400-meter race. Afterward, officials decided that such a tiny margin was an unfair and potentially dangerous way to separate the two performances. From then on, they decided, races would be timed only to the hundredth of a second.

Sure enough, at the Games in Sydney this summer, two Americans, Anthony Ervin and Gary Hall Jr., shared a gold medal in the 50-meter freestyle, each with a time of 21.98 seconds. The difference between them as much as almost 0.01 seconds could be nearly 10 times larger than the apparent difference between Gov. George W. Bush's and Vice President Al Gore's vote counts in Florida.

All of which shows that for all meaningful statistical purposes, the Florida vote was a tie.

As of Friday, the difference between Mr. Bush and Mr. Gore stood at about 300 votes, according to The Associated Press. With six

million ballots cast in Florida, the margin translates to a difference of about 1 out of every 20,000 votes. If the difference stays near its current level, it will easily be the closest state poll in a presidential election in a century. (The 1904 contest in Maryland comes in second; Teddy Roosevelt won it by 51 votes, or 1 out of every 4,400 cast. As of Friday, Mr. Gore's lead in New Mexico seemed to be similarly slim.)

A difference as minuscule as the Florida vote is almost never perceptible in everyday life. If the average American family were to lose a nickel at some point during a week on the sidewalk or behind a dresser it would be forfeiting about one ten-thousandth of its weekly after-tax money.

Given the amount of uncertainty in an election what statisticians call noise and what politicians call voting irregularities the difference goes from barely perceptible to moot, at least scientifically.

In the future, one alternative (however politically unpalatable) would be to call a draw in any state in which the popular vote finishes within a certain margin say, less than one-tenth of 1 percent and to split the electoral votes.

And what are the chances such a close race will happen again in the next century? Using most mathematical models, the probability is just a handful out of a million, or less, for a given election.

Compare that likelihood with the chance that a massive asteroid will slam into the earth in 2071. Last week scientists cut those odds in half, to 1 in 1,000. Even with that good news, it is clear that the world could come close to ending before there is another election quite like this one.

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=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 22:59:27 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu, aapornet@usc.edu
From: Jim Wolf <Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
In-Reply-To: <5.0.0.25.2.20001112214735.02d62290@mail.mindspring.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

At 09:50 PM 11/12/00 -0500, dick halpern wrote:
> From today's NY Times.....Statistically, wouldn't we say the
>election is a draw?
>

I'm getting concerned about all this chatter about margins of error relative to the the election.

It is my understanding that margins of error relate to estimates based on *samples* where the units of measurements have known selection probabilities. Elections are not samples.

But maybe they should be!

=====
Jim Wolf Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net

=====
Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 23:21:03 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

The assertion that as a margin of difference approaches some hugely small proportion we enter a realm in which the notions of greater than and less than become meaningless is numerically insane. (OK, maybe it's valid in nuclear physics or some similar area -- but not when you're counting cards.) Not all sets of numbers are appropriate for the application of probability theory. In this context it is also incompatible with a fundamental tenet of democratic government. The uncritical acceptance of these illogical and insidious analogies is difficult to understand in a forum like this.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Voice (610) 408-8800
Fax (610) 408-8802
jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com
-----Original Message-----

From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Date: Sunday, November 12, 2000 9:52 PM
Subject: Talk About Slim Margins . . .

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>Dick Halpern
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>Talk About Slim Margins . . .
><http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/12/weekinreview/12ODDS.html>
>
>November 12, 2000
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>By DAVID LEONHARDT
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>a 400-meter race. Afterward, officials decided that such a tiny
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>finishes within a certain margin say, less than one-tenth of 1
>percent and to split the electoral votes.

>

> And what are the chances such a close race will happen again in
>the next century? Using most mathematical models, the probability
>is just a handful out of a million, or less, for a given election.

>

> Compare that likelihood with the chance that a massive asteroid
>will slam into the earth in 2071. Last week scientists cut those
>odds in half, to 1 in 1,000. Even with that good news, it is clear
>that the world could come close to ending before there is another
>election quite like this one.

>

>Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company

>

>

Date: Sun, 12 Nov 2000 20:47:23 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>

To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: On Close Election Mythology--Reply to J.P. Murphy
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011122032470.2750-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

James,

Stochastic and deterministic are hardly antonyms. "Stochastic" describes how all "events" in the universe are generated (unless one believes in an interventionist and purposive god), while "deterministic" is, in effect, just one of many ways in which we see, describe, and think about such "events" after they have occurred.

Why were you just dealt a royal flush? Determinist answers lie in the order in which the cards were shuffled into a deck, the point in that deck at which it was cut, the number of players in the game, and where the dealer sat in the circle of players, relative to you.

In sharp contrast to this deterministic explanation, the stochastic one exploits the culture of playing cards, and also of poker: the number of suits, the number of cards in each suit, the accepted rank ordering of the cards (lowest to highest) in each suit, the number of cards dealt to each hand, and so on.

In short, the determinist approach explains only the particular hand you were dealt just now, and nothing else. This explanation lacks anything we would wish to call "theory" (it most resembles detective work, as in the reconstruction of the "crime scene")--even though the explanation is nevertheless rich, complete, and convincing, but of course.

The stochastic approach, by sharp contrast, is entirely theoretical (transcending, as it does, any particular standard deck of cards, or any particular hand of poker). In this way, it applies to any and all games played within the same culture of playing cards, and also of poker. And because of this, it applies equally to all such games that have ever been played, or ever will be played.

At this point, I hope you can appreciate how silly I think it is to write something like what you did below, namely,

"The result of an election is a fully deterministic reality. The statistical notions of probability do not apply. They had the election and this is what the results were."

The problem with these words is not that they do not convey a recognizable picture of the physical world external to ourselves; this they indeed do. The problem with your words is rather that they convey a picture of a "real" world conveniently sealed off from any possibility of abstract or creative thought. I encourage you to join me in the alternative and opposite world, along with many other much more irritatingly brilliant members of AAPOR as likely as not to be found there. Whoever gave you rigid rules for

where "notions of probability" do or do not apply did you no favor, believe me. I hope you will consider defecting to the other side.

-- Jim

On Sun, 12 Nov 2000, James P. Murphy wrote:

> Your paper assumes that the result of an election is a joint function of a
> main effect (candidate preference, one assumes) and another factor, which
> could be thought of as noise, or "luck." I disagree. The result of an
> election is a fully deterministic reality. The statistical notions of
> probability do not apply. They had the election and this is what the
> results were. The only way in which it makes sense to talk about closeness
> is to relate the margin of victory to the total number of votes cast.
>
> James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
> Voice (610) 408-8800
> Fax (610) 408-8802

```
=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 01:24:36 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Thanks But No Thanks
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3
```

The arguments in the paper by Biderman and the NYT article are quite similar. They essentially say -- Here are some numerical outcomes; let's apply the principles of probability as an aid to deciphering what actually did or maybe did not happen. Of course you can do it. However, most people believe that election results are best thought of as the aggregation of a large number of individual decisions -- period. This is hardly equivalent to what kind of hand one is dealt in a card game. (Not sure I even understood that lecture.) My dictionary defines "determinism" as the doctrine that acts of the will, occurrences in nature, or social or psychological phenomena are determined by antecedent causes. I never used the word stochastic so I don't know who invited him. My point in commenting on these two submissions is that they do a serious disservice to the concept of a democratic election because they characterize the outcome (in very close races like this one) as essentially indeterminate.

Ironically, it was Biderman who faulted Dillman's repeated use of "indeterminate adjectives" (e.g. "some") in his critique:

"Some" just won't do when it makes all the difference in the world whether "some" is "just a few" or "a great many"; many times more or fewer than the

number needed to make a big difference in the electoral outcome..."

Excuse me -- "just won't do." Is this what it feels like to have someone else do your thinking for you?

I guess it's OK to have it both ways if it's all for the right cause.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
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jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

```
=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 06:38:02 -0500 (EST)
From: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
X-Sender: arobbin@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu
Reply-To: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: 13 Myths About the Results of the 2000 Election (fwd)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.96.1001113063244.27193A-100000@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from QUOTED-PRINTABLE to 8bit by usc.edu id DAA10745
----- Forwarded message -----
With the help of people around the country, the Red Rock News Service has
been assembling urls on the election, all of which are available at:
  http://dlis.gseis.ucla.edu/people/pagre/florida.html
=====
```

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Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 01:49:16 -0500
From: Rich Cowan <rcowan@lesley.edu>
```

13 MYTHS ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE 2000 ELECTION (please forward!!)

Millions of dollars are now being raised for a public relations war between the Democrats and the Republicans to determine the next president of the United States. Will the outcome of the election be determined by ratings in the polls? Will the present standoff be resolved by escalation and threats? Or will the intention of the voters on election day and the right of the states to choose their own electors actually matter?

Our involvement this week is essential in order to uphold the principles of democracy. Propaganda is flying left and right. To combat this barrage, we present a point by point analysis of some key myths in the media today, substantiated with footnotes. Please read, copy, and forward to friends, relatives and colleagues! Thanks!

[This draft #4 was prepared by Rich Cowan (rcowan@lesley.edu) with help from Paul Rosenberg, Dan Kohn, Jonathan Prince, Marc Sobel, subscribers to the Red Rock Eater News Service and the electronic mail discussion florida-recount-discuss@egroups.com, and the Yale

Law School Student Campaign for a Legal Election, 127 Wall Street
New Haven, CT 06511 -- spin@pantheon.yale.edu]

- 1) Myth: Al Gore has a responsibility to concede the election.

Fact: A 330 vote margin out of 6 million votes cast in Florida is incredibly close! It is roughly equivalent to a 1-vote margin in a city with 40,000 people and 18,000 voters.

It is extremely rare for an election this close NOT to be contested for several weeks until a manual recount can take place, with observers from both sides taking part and inspecting ballots. This kind of detailed recount has not yet taken place.

According to the US Constitution and the Laws of Florida, it is the responsibility of officials in Florida to certify the election results. November 17 is the deadline for absentee ballots sent from overseas to arrive. Since the election is close enough in Florida, Oregon, and New Mexico to be affected by absentee ballots, the results in those states cannot be certified before that date.

- 2) Myth: the number of "spoiled ballots" in Palm Beach County was typical. In a press briefing televised live on all networks on 11/9/00, Karl Rove of the Bush campaign compared the 14,872 invalidated ballots in the 1996 Presidential race to 19,120 ballots for President that were spoiled in this election.

Fact: the Bush campaign was comparing apples and oranges. There were actually 29,702 invalidated ballots this year in Palm Beach County. This is almost twice the number in 1996. "19,120" refers to only those 2000 ballots which were thrown out for voting for two Presidential candidates. The remaining 10,582 ballots had no choice recorded for President

According to the Palm Beach County elections office (www.pbcelections.org), voters this year were not confused at all by the rest of the ballot. For example, less than 1% of U.S. Senate votes were invalidated because of multiple punches, compared with over 4% in the Presidential contest.

- 3) Myth: The Palm Beach ballot is definitely illegal due to the presence of punch holes to the left of some of the candidates.

Fact: According to the Secretary of State's office, there is a loophole in Florida law that may allow ballots used for voting machines to deviate from the rules governing paper ballots. This view has been contested by hundreds of Florida voters. The final decision on the legality of the ballot is likely to be made in court, as long as this issue could have an effect on the election.

It is possible that the ballot could be ruled illegal on other grounds, such as the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act or the Americans With Disabilities Act.

- 4) Myth: "The more often ballots are recounted, especially by hand, the more likely it is that human errors, like lost ballots and other risks, will be introduced. This frustrates the very reason why we have moved from hand counting to machine counting." -- Former Sec. of State James Baker, speaking on behalf of the Bush campaign at a press briefing televised by all networks on 11/10/00.

Fact: In 1997, George W. Bush signed into law a bill stating that hand recounts were the preferred method in a close election in Texas. The bill, "HB 330", mandated that representatives of all parties be present to prevent fraud.

Laws establishing rights and procedures for hand recounts also exist in Florida (see Title IX, Chapter 102). In fact, the Orlando Sentinel, (orlandosentinel.com) reported that a partial hand count of Presidential ballots this year was ordered by Republicans in Seminole County, where Bush led Gore. This count took place on 11/9 and 11/10, widening Bush's lead by 98 votes. The Bush campaign did not complain about this hand count; nor did it complain about the hand count on 11/11/00 which put Bush slightly ahead of Gore in New Mexico.

There do exist machine voting systems which are fairly accurate, but antiquated punch card systems are notoriously inaccurate. They were outlawed in Massachusetts in 1997 by Secretary of State William Galvin after a Congressional primary that was also "too close to call". The problem is that if the punched-out pieces of cardboard are not completely removed from the punch card, they can obstruct the card reader and the votes will not be counted. A manual recount of such cards can clearly reveal the voter's intentions.

- 5) Myth: The process is unfair because hand recounts were held only in liberal areas of Florida, where Gore stands to pick up the most votes.

Fact: It is true that a statewide recount would be more fair, and the Bush campaign has every right to request one. According to Florida law, hand recount requests must come from the campaigns, not from the state. To fail to request what is commonly referred to as a "defensive recount" in conservative areas of Florida, they may be making a tactical blunder that will cost them the election.

It is also true that there were voting irregularities in the counties where the Gore campaign requested recounts.

- 6) Myth: "Palm Beach County is a Pat Buchanan stronghold and that's why Pat Buchanan received 3407 votes there. According to the Florida Department of State, 16,695 voters in Palm Beach County are registered to the Independent Party, the Reform Party, or the American Reform Party, an increase of 110% since the 1996 presidential election" -- Ari Fleischer of the Bush Campaign,

11/9/00. The 2,000 votes received by the Reform party candidate for Congress indicate that party's strength in Palm Beach County (James Baker on Meet the Press, 11/12/00).

Fact: Of those 16,695 voters, only 337 (2 percent) are in the Reform Party according to Florida state records. The Reform party candidate for Congress, John McGuire, is connected to a more centrist wing of the Reform Party, predating Buchanan's involvement. An analysis of his support indicates that it came largely from reform-minded Ralph Nader voters.

Regarding Buchanan's vote total, the Washington Post reported that his vote percentage in Palm Beach county was four times as high at the polls as in absentee voting. Even Buchanan himself admitted on 11/8/00 on the Today Show that many of his votes actually "belonged to Al Gore". So did his campaign manager, Bay Buchanan.

- 7) Myth: If Gore (or Bush) ends up winning the popular vote, he really should win the election even if he loses Florida and other states.

Fact: This is not the way the U.S. Constitution is written. The Electoral College decision, imperfect as it may be, is the only one that matters. It may be possible to reform or eliminate the electoral college in the future, so that small states would no longer receive extra electoral votes out of proportion to their population. But until this change is made by Constitutional amendment, the Electoral College is still the law of the land.

- 8) Myth: The Cook County, Illinois ballot from the home district of Gore campaign chair Richard Daley is similar to the "butterfly" ballot used in Palm Beach County (reported by Don Evans, 11/8/00)

Fact: According to the Chicago Daily Herald on 11/10/00, the ballots in Chicago which had "facing pages" were referendum questions which only had two punch holes, Yes and No.

- 9) Myth: The election process in Florida outside of Palm Beach County was fair.

Fact: Actually, thousands of irregularities in over a half-dozen categories have already been reported:

-Ballots ran out in certain precincts according to the LA Times on 11/10/00.

-Carpools of African-American voters were stopped by police, according to the Los Angeles Times (11/10/00). In some cases, officers demanded to see a "taxi license".

-Polls closed with people still in line in Tampa, according to the Associated Press.

-In Osceola County, ballots did not line up properly, possibly

causing Gore voters to have their ballots cast for Harry Browne. Also, Hispanic voters were required to produce two forms of ID when only one is required. (source: Associated Press)

- Dozens, and possibly hundreds, of voters in Broward County were unable to vote because the Supervisor of Elections did not have enough staff to verify changes of address.
- Voters were mistakenly removed from voter rolls because their names were similar to those of ex-cons, according to Mother Jones magazine.
- According to Reuters news service (11/8/00), many voters received pencils rather than pens when they voted, in violation of state law.
- According to the Miami Herald, many Haitian-American voters were turned away from precincts where they were voting for the first time (11/10/00)
- According to Feed Magazine (www.feedmag.com), the mayoral candidate whose election in Miami was overturned due to voter fraud, Xavier Suarez, said he was involved in preparing absentee ballots for George W. Bush. (11/9/00)
- According to tompaine.com, CBS's Dan Rather reported a possible computer error in Volusia County, Florida, where James Harris, a Socialist Workers Party candidate, won 9,888 votes. He won 583 in the rest of the state. [11/9/00] County-level results for Florida are available at cnn.com.
- Many African-American first-time voters who registered at motor vehicles offices or in campus voter registration drives did not appear on the voting rolls, according to a hearing conducted by the NAACP and televised on C-SPAN on 11/12/00.

10) Myth: "No evidence of vote fraud, either in the original vote or in the recount, has been presented." -- James Baker, representing the Bush campaign on 11/10/00, in a Florida briefing.

Fact: The election was held just last week, so of course many instances of fraud have not yet been substantiated. Even so, authorities have already uncovered clear evidence of voter fraud involving absentee ballots.

In Pensacola, Florida, Bush supporter Todd Vinson never received the absentee ballot he requested. According to the Associated Press on 11/9/00, it was determined after an investigation that this ballot was received by a third party, filled out with a forged signature, and then sent in. Assistant State Attorney Russell Edgar, when asked if other absentee ballots might had been intercepted, said, "I agree there may well be many more than just this one".

Much media attention on the issue of voter fraud has been focused on Wisconsin where cigarettes were offered to homeless people

who were casting absentee ballots, presumably for Gore. The Gore campaign claims the cigarettes were not used to "buy" votes. On Monday 10/13, the London Times reported a suspected pro-Bush vote fraud operation in Miami involving over 10,000 ballots.

- 11) Myth: It is highly unusual for judges to intervene after an election. Since the designer of a disputed ballot in Florida is a member of the party contesting the election, a legal challenge is impossible.

Fact: The most fundamental right of a democratic society is the the right to vote, and to have one's vote correctly counted. The legal system exists to ensure that people's rights are not violated. Whether the person committing a violation is a Democrat or a Republican does not affect how that violation should be treated.

Elections are ultimately struggles for political power so it should not be surprising that disputes are often resolved in court. Of course judges can be biased. That is why they must explain their decisions and why bad arguments can be overturned on appeal.

The Florida Supreme Court ruled in 1998, in connection with a disputed Volusia County election, that if there is "substantial noncompliance" with election laws and a "reasonable doubt" about whether election results "expressed the will of the voters" then a judge must "void the contested election, even in the absence of fraud or intentional wrongdoing." (source: Wall St. Journal, 10/10/00). The Journal indicated that there was little legal precedent for a revote in just one area where an election occurred. It would be more likely for a court to order a new election or to overturn the result.

These issues have arisen in other states as well. In a Massachusetts Democratic primary in 1996 for the US House, the election was so close after recounts that a judge had to make the final decision after examining some of the ballots that were incompletely punched, to determine the intention of the voter. The law clearly dictated that it was the will of the voter that mattered, and the candidate who was behind, William Delahunt, went on to win the final election. Call the Capitol Switchboard if you have any doubts at 202-225-3121.

- 12) Myth: Richard Nixon's party in 1960 did the honorable thing in not contesting the results of the election.

Fact: According to a column in the Los Angeles Times, 11/10/00, "on Nov. 11, three days after the election, Thurston B. Morton, a Kentucky senator and the Republican Party's national chairman, launched bids for recounts or investigations in not just Illinois and Texas but also Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. A few days later, Robert H. Finch and Leonard W. Hall, two Nixon intimates, sent agents to conduct what they called "field

checks" in eight of those 11 battlegrounds. In New Jersey, local Republicans obtained court orders for recounts; Texans brought suit in federal court. Illinois witnessed the most vigorous crusade. Nixon aide Peter Flanigan encouraged the creation of a Chicago-area Nixon Recount Committee. As late as Nov. 23, Republican National Committee general counsel H. Meade Alcorn Jr. was still predicting Nixon would take Illinois." Recounts continued into December, but did not succeed in overturning the result of the election.

- 13) Myth: "Governor Bush is still the winner, subject only to counting the overseas ballots, which traditionally have favored the Republican candidates" -- James Baker, Press Briefing, 11/10/00

Fact: The number of yet-to-be-counted overseas military ballots is likely to be in the range of 500 to 2000, based on the 1996 election in which there were 2,300 overseas absentee ballots overall, with roughly 60% of them coming from people enlisted in the military. According to CNN [11/10/00], the military overseas ballots that arrived before the election were already counted.

The biggest difference from 1996 is that Clinton -- who avoided the draft -- was running against Dole, a decorated military veteran.

In 2000 George W. Bush -- who avoided service in Vietnam and actually lost flying privileges in the Texas Air National Guard -- is running against Al Gore, a veteran who served in Vietnam.

It is just as possible that Gore will gain a few hundred votes from veterans as the other way around. It is also possible that the Gore ticket will pick up votes from Democratic diplomatic appointees, or temporary residents and dual citizens of Israel.

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<http://dlis.gseis.ucla.edu/people/pagre/13-myths.html>

Internet references sometimes change, so they will be updated at:

<http://dlis.gseis.ucla.edu/people/pagre/myth-references.html>

To participate in a student discussion, please send a blank email to:
can-rw-subscribe@topica.com

Tips on E-Organizing:
www.organizenow.net

Additional Footnotes, References
(the web links may change; please report errors)

Myth 1: Time to Concede the Election

330 votes out of 6 million is 0.00550% of the vote.
1 vote out of 18 thousand is 0.00555% of the vote.
A margin of 0.500000% of the vote is the Florida recount threshold.

Myth 2: Number of Spoiled Ballots.

Article giving counts for invalidated ballots in 2000:

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20001110/el/el_n_florida_recount_63.html

Odd ballot prompts allegations of widespread mistaken voting
by MITCH LIPKA, Orlando Sun-Sentinel, 11/9/00.

See Also:

<http://www.herald.com/thispage.htm?content/archive/news/yahoo/digdocs/058333>

Myth 3: Ballot Definitely Illegal

Those Florida Ballots Were Clearly Illegal

<http://www.latimes.com/news/comment/20001110/t000107677.html>

Some Florida Ballots Illegal, Dems Say

<http://www.salon.com/politics/feature/2000/11/07/results/>

Palm Beach Ballot Illegal, Demo Lawyers Say

<http://www.miamiherald.com/content/archive/news/elect2000/digdocs/095052.htm>

United Press International Story: Eye doctors say palm beach ballot
confused voters, 11/9/00, filed from Ft. Lauderdale at 4:11:44 PM EDT.

Access to Voting for Disabled and Elderly Citizens

<http://www.bazelon.org/expandvote.html#ADA>

Myth 4: Hand Recounts Introduce Errors

Seminole County delivers edge to Bush in recount

<http://orlandosentinel.com/elections/1110sem.htm>

Election Workers' Nightmare

<http://www.latimes.com/print/asection/20001110/t000107857.html>

William Galvin, interviewed on CNN, 11/8/00.

Texas State Law, HB 331 (also § 212.005(d), Texas Election Code)

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/75R/billtext/HB00331F.HTM>

Hand recounts used in New Mexico, overturn Gore lead

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/12/politics/12RESU.html>

Bush Signed Recount Rule in Texas

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/politics/AP-ELN-Bush-Texas-Recounts.html>

Myth 5: Selective Recounts are Unfair

Bush Team Prepares 'Scorched-Earth Plan'

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2830-2000Nov11.html>

Volusia Elections Votes for Manual Recount

<http://orlandosentinel.com/news/1109vol.htm>

Votes may be missed in Broward County

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/daily/detail/0,1136,36000000000124832,00.html>

Myth 6: Palm Beach a Pat Buchanan Stronghold
Numbers Add Up to More Dispute

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64175-2000Nov10.html>

State of Florida Party Registration

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/2000voterreg/2000genparty.pdf>

Buchanan Says Disputed Florida Votes Are Gore's

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20001109/pl/election_buchanan_dc_1.html

Bay Buchanan strongly denounced the Republican spin:

<http://www.latimes.com/print/asection/20001110/t000107856.html>

Precinct-level Correlations Between Reform Party Candidate for Congress
John McGuire and all presidential candidates, analysis by
Paul H. Rosenberg" <rad@gte.net> based on Palm Beach County data.

Myth 7: Candidate Should Win Without Electoral Majority
see the US Constitution.

Myth 8: Butterfly Ballots in Chicago Too

Cook ballot designer says his ballots are not like Florida's

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/cdh/20001110/lo/orr_cook_s_ballots_not_like_florida_s_1.html

Myth 9: Florida Respects Voting Rights

Jesse Jackson Questions Florida Voting

<http://www.salon.com/politics/feature/2000/11/08/jackson/>

On Pencils Vs. Pens

NAACP Alleges Voter Suppression in Florida, Reuters, Wednesday November 8

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20001108/pl/election_naacp_dc_2.html

Broward County

Problems at Polls Prevent Hundreds from Casting Votes (Miami Herald)

<http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/067127.htm>

Ballots Ran Out According to St. Petersburg Times

http://www.sptimes.com/News/110900/Election2000/Voters_statewide_say_.shtml

More Irregularities Alleged

http://abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/DailyNews/ELECTION_WatchdogPart5001108.html.html

Voting Scrutinized All Over Florida

<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/elect2000/pres/wire2/20001110/tCB00V0495.html>

Florida Ballot Quirks Scrutinized
<http://cbsnews.com/now/story/0,1597,247897-412,00.shtml>

Florida Cops Accused of Harassing Black Voters
http://www.apbnews.com/newscenter/breakingnews/2000/11/08/vote1108_01.html

Election Day Allegations Could Form Basis for Legal Challenges, Experts Say
<http://www.cnn.com/2000/LAW/11/08/recount.challenges.pol/index.html>

Moving Toward a Lawsuit
http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/DailyNews/ELECTION_WatchdogPart6001108.html

Many Mistakenly Removed from Voter Rolls
http://www.motherjones.com/news_wire/floridavote.html

Xavier Suarez Involvement in Absentee Drive
http://www.feedmag.com/templates/daily.php3?a_id=1389

Florida Recount Continues As Lawsuit Threats Rise
http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20001109/pl/election_florida_dc_15.html

NAACP Says Fraudulent Calls Surface in Florida (before election)
http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20001106/pl/election_naacp_dc_1.html

NAACP Alleges Voter Suppression in Florida
http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20001108/pl/election_naacp_dc_2.html

Voting Irregularities, Chaos Reported in Florida
<http://cnews.tribune.com/news/story/0,1162,oso-nation-82375,00.html>
<http://cnews.tribune.com/news/story/0,1162,sunsentinel-elections2000-82375,00.html>

Voters Statewide Say They Had Poll Troubles
http://www.sptimes.com/News/110900/Election2000/Voters_statewide_say_.shtml

Widespread Voting Irregularities Marred Presidential Results in S. Florida
<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/daily/detail/0,1136,36000000000124144,00.html>

After Bizarre Vote, Experts Question Whether Election Process Is Fair
<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/daily/detail/0,1136,36000000000123968,00.html>

Dade's Ballot System Delays Tally
<http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/098048.htm>

New York Times, "African Americans Demand Revote"
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/11/politics/11BLAC.html>

Registered Voters' Names Failed to Appear on Voting Rolls
<http://cnews.tribune.com/news/story/0,1162,oso-nation-82375,00.html>

Myth 10: No Vote Fraud in Florida

Transcript: James A. Baker III on Fla. Recount, Nov. 10, 2000

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A61032-2000Nov10.html>

Associated Press story was available as of 11/9 at:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/vote2000/pensacola.htm>

Wall St. Journal Article

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB973813954697912953.htm>

NAACP hears testimony of Florida voting irregularities

Breed, Allen G, Associated Press Wire, 11/11/00.

(Hearings Televised on CSPAN, 11/12/00)

Pensacola Ballot Prompts Fraud Investigation

<http://www.pensacolanejournal.com/news/110900/Local/ST001.shtml>

Cigarettes Distributed for Gore Vote

<http://www.themilwaukeechannel.com/mil/election2000/itsyourvote/stories/-20001105-134550.html>

Gore camp demands FBI inquiry

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,34812,00.html>

Myth 11: Judges Stay Out of Elections

PHIL KUNTZ and DAVID S. CLOUD, "Neverending Election Draws Questions About Electoral Process, Constitution," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 10/11/00

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB97386780919735330.htm>

Yale Law Students CAMPAIGN FOR A LEGAL ELECTION

<http://commons.somewhere.com/rre/2000/RRE.Florida.Common.Law.a.html>

Myth 12: Nixon Didn't Fight in 1960

It's a Myth That Nixon Acquiesced in 1960

<http://www.latimes.com/news/comment/20001110/t000107675.html>

The Fallacy of Nixon's Graceful Exit

<http://www.salon.com/politics/feature/2000/11/10/nixon/>

Was Nixon Robbed? (October 16 article)

<http://slate.msn.com/HistoryLesson/00-10-16/HistoryLesson.asp>

Senate History Interview (1987): The "Good Old Days" Were Not

http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_history_oralhist_shuman4.html

"Illinois Republicans Lose", New York Times, Dec. 13, 1960, p. 23.

"Texas Recount Denied", New York Times, Dec. 13, 1960, p. 23.

Myth 13: Republican Absentee Advantage

Texas Air National Guard

<http://www.democrats.com/display.cfm?id=172>

See also:

London Sunday Times, June 18, 2000, "Bush flies into an air force cocaine cloud," online at <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk>

Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:47:53 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: Statistics and Fuzzy Math Will Not Save Us From Recounts
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPCFPCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700
In-Reply-To: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011122032470.2750-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

Dear All:

Pondering the flip notion that there should be three possible election outcomes and that they will "save us" from the recount scenario going on in Florida, I was struck by a singular point.

If we have three outcomes: win, lose or draw, we will then have two controversial break points: from win to draw and from draw to lose.

As such, the number of recounts may actually increase, since anytime that move is difficult to divine the parties will swing into action.

Andy

Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 09:00:23 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Charles Turner" <cfturner@erols.com>,
 "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: Stability of Exit Poll Standard Errors
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPIEGACGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
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Dear All:

I was struck with the fact that the exit polls in Florida are carried out at 45 precincts and that the precinct analysis is done at 120. According to the CNN tables there were 1818 respondents in Florida, which works out to about 40 per polling place.

Certainly the Standard Error of such an estimate would be much higher than that of a Simple Random Sample drawn from 1818 voters. Indeed, my guess is that the design effect might be as high as 3 or 4, leaving the effective sample size at about 600 or so, assuming that the 45 precincts were representative of FLA in some way.

With that there could be additional variation given that the exit polling was going on all day, and early on partial results were reported.

Andy

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=====
Date: Sat, 11 Nov 2000 22:47:11 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
References: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPGEEECGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: Re: Whoops on Poll Results

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Thanks Andrew; that's what I get for working on this until 2 am , and not checking it carefully enough. Here's another revised version, adding a couple that Karlyn and Rich added to their lists, repercentaged, and ranked.
Bob

----- Original Message -----

From: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: Aapornet@Usc. Edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 2:17 PM
Subject: Whoops on Poll Results

> Dear All:
>
> Perhaps to indicate how easy it is to make a mistake when tabulating Bob
> Worcester
> had a couple of numbers reversed in his EXCEL, which was based upon a
> couple
> of
> numbers that Barry had reversed.
>
> Attached, for those who care, is a fixed EXCEL sheet. Both CBS and
> MSNBC/ZOGBY/REUTERS
> had put Gore ahead.
>
> Andrew A. Beveridge
> 209 Kissena Hall
> Department of Sociology
> Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
> Flushing, NY 11367-1597
> Phone: 718-997-2837
> Fax: 718-997-2820
> E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
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>
> Home Office
> 50 Merriam Avenue
> Bronxville, NY 10708
> Phone: 914-337-6237
> Fax: 914-337-8210

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> trying
> > to blame anyone but themselves, and both Warren and Kathy represented
> > themselves, and us, very well.
> >
> > Bob Worcester
> >
> >
> > Nader      Buch.      Lead  Error on G/B      Gore      Bush
> > Final(?)  Result
> > 0%         1%           0          49%      48%      3%
> >
> > REUTERS/MSNBC/Zogby
> >           1%      -2%           3          46%      48%      5%
> >
> > CBS
> > 4%
> > 1%         -1%           2          47%      48%
> >
> > FOX/OPINION DYNAMICS
> > 0%         1           48%      48%      3%          1%
> > HARRIS
> > 0%         0%           2          47%      47%      4%
> >
> > IBD/CSM
> > 0%         2%           1          49%      47%      4%
> > ICR
> > 7%
> > 2%         2%           7          46%      44%
> > CNN/USA TODAY
> > 1%         2%           3          48%      46%      4%
> >
> > NEWSWEEK
> > 0%         3%           2          49%      46%      5%
> > PEW
> > 3%
> > 1%         3%           2          49%      46%
> > ABC
> > 3%
> > 1%         3%           2          48%      45%      4%
> > NBC/WSJ/Hart-Teeter
> > 2%         3%           4
> >
> > MARIST COLLEGE
> > 1%         5%           4          51%      46%      2%
> > VOTER.COM/Lake Goas
> > 0%
> > 6%         5
> >
> > HOTLINE
> > 1%         8%           7          51%      43%      4%
> >
> > RASMUSSEN
> > 1%         9%           8          52%      43%      4%
> >
> > Four years ago, and eight years ago, I wrote an article in Public
> > Perspective castigating the American pollsters and media for not

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> > reallocating the 'don't knows', so that this type of comparison can be
> made.
> > I have used two sources, AEI's excellent poll service, (thanks Karlyn)
and
> > PollingReport.Com. These have three polls with a one point discrepancy
> > between them, which I assume is due to a reallocation formula other than
> > proportional, which of course is their call. In each case, I have used
> AEI's
> > report as my source. There are many ways to judge accuracy of the polls
> > against the actual result, but for simplicity, I have rounded the result
> to
> > 49%/48%, and taken Pat Buchanan's vote when below 1/2% to zero, and then
> > sorted the polls by lead. On this basis, four polling organisations
were
> > within one point of the 1% lead in the actual count and should be
> > congratulated, but as the actual vote as now reported is only 0.22%, for
> > what it is worth, I would award the prize for the closest poll to
Opinion
> > Dynamics, as closest not only to the Bush/Gore result but also Nader and
> > Buchanan, second to Harris (well done Humphrey, and especially for your
> > lucid final Harris Report, which gave full technical details and the
> > permutations of certain voters, and certain/likely voters, etc.) and to
> > IDB/CSM for the least error on the two main candidates' result. The use
> of
> > the gap as a measure of accuracy is shown to be pretty much nonsense,
when
> > you look at the ICR poll result, which although it has a two percent
lead,
> > it has a seven point error. There are many other ways to calculate the
> > error, but as it's after 2 a.m. in Canada, where this is being written,
> > that's all for now folks.

> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >

> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: Barry Hollander <barry@arches.uga.edu>
> > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:13 PM
> > Subject: Re: Public opinion

> >
> >

> > > >An opinion poll addressing this issue is the last thing we need right
> > > now.

> > >

> > > Gawds yes. I'd hate to be the anchor forced to keep a straight face,
> > > stare into a camera, and tell viewers the latest poll report on what
> > > people think about the poll reports. I suspect people have had
> > > quite enough of polls for a while.

> > >
> > >
> > > _____

> > > Barry Hollander
> > > Associate Professor
> > > College of Journalism and Mass Communication
> > > University of Georgia

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Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 09:35:48 EST
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for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 13 Nov 2000 09:35:49 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <a.4d01d48.27415644@aol.com>
Subject: 13 myths (plus one?)
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
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One statement in the "13 myths" item is indisputably true: "Millions of dollars are now being raised for a public relations war between the Democrats and the Republicans to determine the next president of the United States. Propaganda is flying left and right."

The item itself may well qualify as "Exhibit A".

The motive behind this AAPORNET posting is not clear. Was it to inform us of the types of spin being employed in this PR war? Or was it to aid and abet one side of it? Who can say? In any case, it is in the former spirit that I have appended, without further comment, an item from this morning's WorldNetDaily:

ELECTION 2000
'How Democrats
steal elections'
Veterans of hand recounts describe
techniques used to change outcome

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By Jon Dougherty and David Kupelian
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The manual vote recounts being insisted on by Democratic operatives in Palm Beach County, Fla., have been used for over 20 years to steal elections from Republicans, claim several GOP veterans of hand-recount election-upsets.

According to Bob Haueter, chief of staff to the California Assembly Republican Caucus, and an expert on manual recounts, a Democrat lawyer intimately involved in "stealing" elections from Republicans through hand recounts admitted to the process and even shared the techniques involved.

After Tuesday's vote and an automatic recount still left GOP nominee George W. Bush ahead by a slim 288-vote margin, Palm Beach elections officials decided that a manual recount of all 425,000 votes should be undertaken.

"What's happening in Florida is exactly the game plan laid out to me by an attorney who represented the Democrats in a recount in California where they stole a seat from us," former California Assemblyman Pat Nolan told WorldNetDaily.

A staunch conservative legislator, Nolan served in the California Assembly from 1978 until 1994, when he was convicted, along with several other lawmakers, in a federal corruption probe. After spending a little over two years in federal prison, he emerged to become president of Justice Fellowship, the public policy arm of Watergate figure Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries. For the past four years, Nolan has worked with Colson -- another fallen-but-reformed public figure -- to reform the criminal justice system.

Regarding the 1980 California Assembly race between Republican Adrian Fondse and Democrat Pat Johnston, Nolan recalled that the Republican won "by about 54 votes or so."

But after the election, Democrats "brought in their junkyard dog lawyers from around the country," said Nolan, "and basically harassed the local registrar -- got in their faces and demanded to handle ballots" -- which were of the same type now in dispute in Palm Beach.

The same issue of "hanging chads -- the little squares in the punch cards -- was also an issue in Stockton," says Nolan. The Democrats' strategy, he says, was to handle them as often as possible -- perhaps bending, crinkling or otherwise altering them -- so that additional chads become displaced, thereby disqualifying the ballot.

The result? In the Stockton election, Nolan said Democrats were successful in getting the vote count reversed from a plus-54 win by Republicans to a minus-17 loss.

"I vowed that I'd never let that happen again," Nolan said. "So I asked my staff to track down the lawyer that headed up the team for the Democrats."

Haueter was, at that time, chief of staff for Nolan, and it was he who first contacted attorney Tim Downs, who readily admitted the Democratic strategy and even described the tactics to Nolan.

"When I first called him and explained to him who I was and why I was calling, he chuckled and said, 'I wondered when you guys would get around to calling me,'" Haueter said, adding that Downs told him -- "'I've taken several seats from you across the United States.'"

"Downs told me, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, 'You get me within 100 votes and I can steal any election,'" Haueter told WorldNetDaily.

Nolan subsequently hired Downs and "brought him out to train my staff in the techniques they [Democrats] were using" so they could protect themselves against future election-fraud victimization, Nolan said.

Nolan and Haueter said Downs described three basic tactics:

"The first rule is, you keep counting until you're ahead. And if that doesn't put you ahead, you recount, re-recount -- you keep counting until you're ahead. If you're behind, then you've got nothing to lose."

Second, Nolan said, "the more times those ballots are handled, the more chance there is that chads will break loose" and hence disqualify the ballot.

Third, he said, "the minute you're ahead, you stop and declare yourself the victor."

"After that, you don't want the ballots handled any more," Nolan said, "because some of the chads for your candidate might break loose. While you're behind it doesn't matter, but if you're ahead and more break off or become disqualified for your candidate, that's a bad thing."

A favorite tactic, said Nolan, is to ask election officials for ballots, "allegedly so they can look at it more closely." When operatives do, often they will bend or crinkle ballots covertly in an effort to break another chad loose and thus have the ballot thrown out.

"This whole process sounds like exactly what is going on in Florida," Nolan said. "And the more times those ballots are handled, the more chances are you'll break some of them [chads] loose."

Nolan referred to Fox News' Tony Snow's weekend interview with Bush campaign representative and former Secretary of State James Baker, in which he asked Baker why -- after each time election officials run ballots through mechanical vote-tally machines -- there have been more votes counted or taken away from both candidates.

"Baker didn't have an answer to that," Nolan said. "But the answer is, because they've handled those ballots more times, breaking loose more of those chads" -- those that perhaps weren't completely punched through.

"The tactics fit what [Downs] told me back in 1982 and 1983," Nolan said, who added that he didn't know who Downs may have worked with using these tactics recently.

WorldNetDaily attempted to reach Downs by phone on Sunday, but was unsuccessful.

Following a mechanical recount over the weekend, Palm Beach election officials awarded an additional 36 votes to Gore, while Bush lost three.

"A hand count of four selected precincts turned up enough additional votes for Gore to prompt the Democratic majority on the county election commission to order the hand recount in all 531 precincts," the Associated Press

reported.

Republicans, news accounts said, lodged "strenuous protests" and pledged to file a lawsuit halting yet another recount of Palm Beach votes. That hearing is scheduled for today.

Reports said nearly 30,000 ballots have already been rejected in Palm Beach County because they had two or more holes punched for president, or because computers could not detect any holes at all. Ballots with two votes also are rejected in hand counts.

Corroborating Haueter's and Nolan's account is a parallel story by Los Angeles-area political strategist Arnold Steinberg. In a National Review.com piece titled "Beware of Hanging Chads," Steinberg asks, "Do you know what two words will determine the Presidential election?" The chilling answer, he said: "Hanging chads."

Steinberg, describing a 1980 congressional race between long-time incumbent, Democrat James C. Corman, and Steinberg's client, Republican challenger Bobbi Fiedler, recalls how after Fiedler's upset victory -- by a slim margin -- over the heavily favored Corman, the Democrats called for a hand recount.

"Democratic Party lawyers and recount specialists descended on the county registrar's office," says Steinberg. "Each recount station had a government employee to do the counting, flanked by one Democratic and one Republican observer.

"The Democrats' agenda was, of course, to change the election result, and they went about it systematically. At their urging, the recounting began with Corman's strongest precincts, Fiedler's weakest. Their intention was to recount ballots in those areas until the election outcome was reversed, and then stop the recount. Similarly, today in Florida, the Gore people are demanding hand recounts in their favored counties, where they would be most likely to gain."

Just as important as the order in which the precincts are recounted, however, is outright ballot tampering, says Steinberg.

"Their hired guns tried lots of tricks on Corman's behalf, but what I remember most was the hanging chads. A chad is the perforated square (or circle) on the ballot that a voter depresses with a pin to indicate his preferred candidate. The chad hangs from the ballot if the voter didn't fully depress it -- for instance, if an older person did not press firmly enough. This matters because voter machines usually are not able to tabulate cards with hanging chads.

"It often comes down to interpreting the voter's intention. Does the chad hang 'strongly' -- i.e., detached only a little -- meaning that it is a mistake that should not be counted? Or does it hang loosely -- i.e., mostly detached -- as an intended vote would be?

"What my lawyers soon discovered was that the opposition would eyeball a disputed ballot before picking it up to officially inspect it. If the hanging chad indicated a vote for Fiedler, the lawyer for the other side picked up the ballot ever so carefully, so he could argue that the voter really never intended to vote for Fiedler. If the hanging chad was a Corman vote, the lawyer picked up the ballot quite vigorously, so that the chad soon was no

longer hanging.

"'You see,' their guy would declare, 'that voter obviously intended to vote for Corman.'"

Luckily, says Steinberg, "it didn't take long to figure out all the opposition's tricks. I added more lawyers, more observers, and the bad guys eventually caved. Bobbi Fiedler's victory was preserved. But it was a nasty business."

Echoing Nolan's and Haueter's experience with manual-vote recounts, Steinberg says, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

If you'd like to sound off on this issue, please take part in the WorldNetDaily poll.

-
--

Jon Dougherty is a staff reporter and David Kupelian is managing editor of WorldNetDaily.com.

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 10:03:50 -0500
From: "Clare Sherlock" <csherlock@technometrica.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <0f1701c04d7d\$b4c2f420\$e1cdd6cd@rmw>
Subject: Correction on poll results table
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2919.6600
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6600

Robert-
Another correction for your poll results table (thanks for putting that together by the way--we've found it quite useful):

The IBD/CSM/TIPP results should read-
Bush 48% (47.9%)
Gore 46% (46.0%)
Nader 4% (3.7%)
Other 2% (2.4%)

Also, "IBD/CSM" poll should read "IBD/CSM/TIPP" poll (the poll was conducted by TIPP in association with our media partners, Investor's Business Daily and the Christian Science Monitor).

Finally, if the table reflects a rank ordering of polls based upon estimated lead, the TIPP poll should be placed just ahead of Gallup (TIPP lead 1.9% Bush, Gallup lead 2% Bush).

Just to keep the record straight! Thanks-
Clare

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 5:42 PM
Subject: Public opinion

> Here's the revised table, with an error corrected, and two more polls added

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 11:22 AM
> Subject: Re: Public opinion

>

>

> > Here's the table attached as as Excel file.

> > ----- Original Message -----

> > From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
> > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 7:03 AM
> > Subject: Re: Public opinion

> >

> >

> > > Barry

> > >

> > > The American polls, both in the run up to the day and the exit poll, did

> > > an

> > > excellent job. The last thing we need is poll pickers who should know

> > > better rubbishing them. See the table below. Please also see the very

> > > useful comment from Joe Wislar, which suggests that the polls are

> > > conducted

> > > with a great deal more honesty and efficiency than the count itself.

> > >

> > > Congratulations to Warren and Kathy for making themselves available to

> > > talk

> > > on the television and being open, honest and clear about just what

> > > happened.

> > > It's tough, standing up to all the uninformed comment by the pundits

> > > trying

> > > to blame anyone but themselves, and both Warren and Kathy represented

> > > themselves, and us, very well.

> > >

> > > Bob Worcester

> > >

> > >

Gore

Bush

> > > Nader Buch. Lead Error on G/B

```

> > >
> > > Final(?) Result                49%    48%
3%
> > > 0%          1%          0
> > >
> > > REUTERS/MSNBC/Zogby            46%    48%    5%
> > >          1%          -2%          3
> > >
> > > CBS                                47%    48%
> 4%
> > > 1%          -1%          2
> > >
> > > FOX/OPINION DYNAMICS            48%    48%    3%          1%
> > > 0%          1
> > > HARRIS                                47%    47%
4%
> > > 0%          0%          2
> > >
> > > IBD/CSM                                49%    47%
4%
> > > 0%          2%          1
> > > ICR                                46%    44%
> > 7%
> > > 2%          2%          7
> > > CNN/USA TODAY                    48%    46%    4%
> > > 1%          2%          3
> > >
> > > NEWSWEEK                                49%    46%    5%
> > > 0%          3%          2
> > > PEW                                49%    46%
> 3%
> > > 1%          3%          2
> > > ABC                                49%    46%
> > 3%
> > > 1%          3%          2
> > > NBC/WSJ/Hart-Teeter              48%    45%    4%
> > > 2%          3%          4
> > >
> > > MARIST COLLEGE                    51%    46%    2%
> > > 1%          5%          4
> > > VOTER.COM/Lake Goas              51%    45%    4%
> > 0%
> > > 6%          5
> > >
> > > HOTLINE                                51%    43%
4%
> > > 1%          8%          7
> > >
> > > RASMUSSEN                            52%    43%    4%
> > > 1%          9%          8
> > >
> > > Four years ago, and eight years ago, I wrote an article in Public
> > > Perspective castigating the American pollsters and media for not
> > > reallocating the 'don't knows', so that this type of comparison can be
> > > made.
> > > I have used two sources, AEI's excellent poll service, (thanks Karlyn)
> > > and

```

> > > PollingReport.Com. These have three polls with a one point
discrepancy
> > > between them, which I assume is due to a reallocation formula other
than
> > > proportional, which of course is their call. In each case, I have used
> > AEI's
> > > report as my source. There are many ways to judge accuracy of the
polls
> > > against the actual result, but for simplicity, I have rounded the
result
> > to
> > > 49%/48%, and taken Pat Buchanan's vote when below 1/2% to zero, and
then
> > > sorted the polls by lead. On this basis, four polling organisations
> were
> > > within one point of the 1% lead in the actual count and should be
> > > congratulated, but as the actual vote as now reported is only 0.22%,
for
> > > what it is worth, I would award the prize for the closest poll to
> Opinion
> > > Dynamics, as closest not only to the Bush/Gore result but also Nader
and
> > > Buchanan, second to Harris (well done Humphrey, and especially for
your
> > > lucid final Harris Report, which gave full technical details and the
> > > permutations of certain voters, and certain/likely voters, etc.) and
to
> > > IDB/CSM for the least error on the two main candidates' result. The
use
> > of
> > > the gap as a measure of accuracy is shown to be pretty much nonsense,
> when
> > > you look at the ICR poll result, which although it has a two percent
> lead,
> > > it has a seven point error. There are many other ways to calculate
the
> > > error, but as it's after 2 a.m. in Canada, where this is being
written,
> > > that's all for now folks.
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Barry Hollander <barry@arches.uga.edu>
> > > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > > Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:13 PM
> > > Subject: Re: Public opinion
> > >
> > >
> > > > An opinion poll addressing this issue is the last thing we need
right
> > > > now.
> > > >
> > > > Gawds yes. I'd hate to be the anchor forced to keep a straight
face,

> > > > stare into a camera, and tell viewers the latest poll report on what
> > > > people think about the poll reports. I suspect people have had
> > > > quite enough of polls for a while.
> > > >
> > > > _____
> > > >
> > > > Barry Hollander
> > > > Associate Professor
> > > > College of Journalism and Mass Communication
> > > > University of Georgia
> > > > Athens, GA 30602
> > > > 706.542.5027
> > > >
> > > > email: barry@arches.uga.edu
> > > > web: http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > >
> > >
> >
> >
>

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 10:32:25 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login3.isis.unc.edu
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: The two Jims.
In-Reply-To: <00ea01c04d3a\$660c54e0\$93e4c3d1@default>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011131027160.26312-100000@login3.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Re: the argument between the two Jims. I think it was William S. Cleveland who said, at an AAPOR didactic session a few years ago, that probability theory is a way of "codifying our ignorance." Even if the outcome of the card shuffle and the vote count are deterministic, they remain beyond our ability to predict or measure. The true probability of a Bush majority in Florida is either 1 or 0. But given our imperfect perception, we may never know. Any chance that both of you guys agree with me?

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 15:06:56 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>

To: "Blanton, Dana" <dana.blanton@foxnews.com>
Cc: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <BD1172EA7D4FD411ABE700B0D020FFD550A9CC@HAMLET>
Subject: Re: Whoops on Poll Results
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Dear Dana

Sorry, as to the reallocation, I have in the past two elections castigated the American polling organisations, and their clients, for not reallocating, and have done so where they did not, so that they can be compared easily with the actual count, something the British pollsters and media have done for thirty years. Other wise, you are confusing your readers/viewers beyond their ability to make the leap between the result, say 49/48, and your poll results, 43/43. It seems so obvious to us in Britain, and we cannot understand the difficulties you have in the US of doing this. Some do, some don't, and in the 1992 election, famously, Gallup didn't until half way through the period between Labor Day and Election Day, and then switched to reallocating.

In the USA Today table, page 8a, compiled by Jim Norman (Hi Jim) and April Unminger, by Marcy E. Mullins, November 8, you can see what a mess the American practice is: some reallocated, some not. If the result was 49%/48%, rounded, you've got CBS in their table, unallocated (as they reported it), at 44%/45%, a poor result, nine point gross, 4.5 point net error. Yet reallocated, CBS was right on the money, at 48%/47%, a two/one point error, and your own even better, at 48/48. Well done on the poll; C- on the presentation!

Allocate on your own judgement by all means, but if you don't, I will, on the proportionality principle, so that ordinary laymen and women can understand how your polls came out.

Thanks for the email: I hope to hear from others of other comments and corrections before once again submitting a critical article to Public Perspective on this. Perhaps the 'three wise men' would care to comment? Harry? Humphrey? Warren? Isn't it past time that guidelines were agreed?

Bob Worcester

----- Original Message -----

From: Blanton, Dana <dana.blanton@foxnews.com>
To: <worc@mori.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2000 2:33 PM
Subject: RE: Whoops on Poll Results

> There is an error in your chart. The final FOX News/Opinion Dynamics poll
> results released on November 3 were:
> Bush, 43%
> Gore, 43%

> Nader, 3%
> Buchanan, 1%
>
> FOX News/Opinion Dynamics did not make a final projection or allot the
(10%)
> undecideds.
>
> Dana L. Blanton
> FOX News
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Bob Worcester [mailto:worc@mori.com]
> Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 5:47 PM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge
> Subject: Re: Whoops on Poll Results
>
> << File: finalpolls.xls >> Thanks Andrew; that's what I get
> for working on this until 2 am , and not
> checking it carefully enough. Here's another revised
> version, adding a
> couple that Karlyn and Rich added to their lists,
> repercentaged, and ranked.
> Bob
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
> To: Aapornet@Usc. Edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
> Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 2:17 PM
> Subject: Whoops on Poll Results
>
>
> > Dear All:
> >
> > Perhaps to indicate how easy it is to make a mistake when
> tabulating Bob
> > Worcester
> > had a couple of numbers reversed in his EXCEL, which was
> based upon a
> couple
> > of
> > numbers that Barry had reversed.
> >
> > Attached, for those who care, is a fixed EXCEL sheet.
> Both CBS and
> > MSNBC/ZOGBY/REUTERS
> > had put Gore ahead.
> >
> > Andrew A. Beveridge
> > 209 Kissena Hall
> > Department of Sociology
> > Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
> > Flushing, NY 11367-1597
> > Phone: 718-997-2837
> > Fax: 718-997-2820

> > E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
> > Website: http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps
> >
> > Home Office
> > 50 Merriam Avenue
> > Bronxville, NY 10708
> > Phone: 914-337-6237
> > Fax: 914-337-8210
> >
> >
> >
>

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 11:47:31 -0500
From: Jennifer.M.Rothgeb@census.gov
Received: from deliver.tco.census.gov (inet-gw.census.gov [148.129.143.2])
by info.census.gov (8.11.0/8.11.0) with ESMTMP id eADG1ZG23216
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 13 Nov 2000 11:47:35 -0500 (EST)
Received: from it008nthqln.tco.census.gov (it008nthqln.tco.census.gov
[148.129.123.82])
by deliver.tco.census.gov (8.11.0/8.11.0/v3.12) with SMTP id
eADG1Zs29780
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 13 Nov 2000 11:47:35 -0500
Received: by it008nthqln.tco.census.gov (Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.5 (863.2 5-20-
1999)) id 85256996.005BB7DA ; Mon, 13 Nov 2000
11:41:48 -0500
X-Lotus-FromDomain: BOC
Sender: Jennifer.M.Rothgeb@census.gov
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-ID: <85256996.005BB711.00@it008nthqln.tco.census.gov>
Subject: CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR MONOGRAPH PAPERS
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT, EVALUATION, AND
TESTING

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR MONOGRAPH PAPERS

DATE: Tentatively, November 13 - 17, 2002
PLACE: Probably will be in the southeastern United States.
DEADLINE: Abstracts for monograph papers are due by May 1, 2001
CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet

The goals of the first international conference devoted exclusively to
questionnaire development, evaluation, and testing are to bring together
researchers and survey practitioners working in this area, to stimulate
research
papers that contribute to the science of reducing measurement error through
questionnaire evaluation, to provide documentation of the current practices,
and
to stimulate new ideas for future practices. Both invited and contributed

sessions are planned. An integrated volume representing the theoretical, methodological, and statistical contributions to the field will be produced after the conference. The conference is sponsored by ASA/SRM, AAPOR, IASS, CASRO, and CMOR.

Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 11:48:59 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: The two Jims.
References: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011131027160.26312-100000@login3.isis.unc.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

There is no such thing as "the true probability of a Bush majority."

One can make odds as to the result of the election being a Bush majority, but that is an economic decision in a market of ideas, not a mathematical computation of probability.

As a mathematical concept, probability does not apply to a single outcome but rather to a relationship between possible outcomes, or, as von Mises put it, a limit of relative frequency in a random sequence.

>From a mathematical point of view, a single event is a singularity and is not defined, just as the ratio of one to zero is not defined, even though a ratio approaches infinity asymptotically as the numerator approaches one and the denominator approaches zero.

There are other approaches to probability of course, such as Quantum mechanics, but they have no useful meaning in the context of predicting elections or measuring public opinion.

Jan Werner

Philip Meyer wrote:

>
> Re: the argument between the two Jims. I think it was William
> S. Cleveland who said, at an AAPOR didactic session a few years ago, that
> probability theory is a way of "codifying our ignorance." Even if the
> outcome of the card shuffle and the vote count are deterministic, they
> remain beyond our ability to predict or measure. The true probability of a
> Bush majority in Florida is either 1 or 0. But given our imperfect
> perception, we may never know. Any chance that both of you guys agree with
> me?

>
> =====
> Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
> CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
> University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425

> Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365

http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer

> =====

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:59:49 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Caesar Salad or Seas of Troubles?
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011130857430.20957-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

In Julius Caesar (the tragedy, I.ii), Cassius laments:

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

In yesterday's Washington Post, Steven Luxenberg (an unwitting Cassius, he) laments of The Presidential Election That Refused to Die:

The fault wasn't in the data. The fault was in ourselves and the artifice that we in the media--primarily the TV networks--have constructed to "call" races on Election Night.

Thus have we gone, over two millennia, from stars to media to media stars to media news anchors as stars--but now not Cassius's faultless stars, but stars who deserve to take the rap for our current seas of troubles (easily mistaken for a very close election).

-- Jim

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<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64978-2000Nov11.html>

Sunday, November 12, 2000; Page B05

Is TV To Blame? Well, Let's Go to the Videotape

By Steven Luxenberg

The fault wasn't in the data. The fault was in ourselves and the artifice that we in the media--primarily the TV networks--have constructed to "call" races on Election Night.

For about 90 minutes in the wee hours of Wednesday morning, from 2:20 a.m. until 3:50 a.m., the TV networks called George W. Bush the president-elect of the United States. He heard it. So did thousands of

supporters huddling in the rain outside the state capitol in Austin and millions of viewers overseas. So did world leaders who sent congratulatory messages. And so did his opponent, Vice President Gore.

It's easy for members of my profession to dismiss what happened as the inevitable result of competitive pressure and human error under an intense deadline. If we're looking for someone and something to blame, we might say, as Carolyn Smith of ABC News' Election Decision Desk did, "The data failed us in Florida." And if we're trying to make amends, we might apologize, as nearly all the network anchors did. "We don't just have egg on our face," said NBC's Tom Brokaw, "we have an omelet." On CBS, Dan Rather said, "We do the best we can on these calls. But we have to stand up and take responsibility and be accountable."

This was not just another media blunder, however. The premature projection of a Bush victory--by Fox, CNN, NBC, CBS and ABC--had real consequences beyond the surreal spectacle of Gore making a concessionary call to Bush and then retracting it. It made the Bush campaign furious at Gore's turnabout, and it left Bush and the Republicans feeling that Gore was a sore loser who was refusing to concede a legitimate victory. More importantly, it helped create the erroneous and dangerous impression that the nation had already entered--as historian Michael Beschloss said on ABC during the confusion--an "electoral crisis."

There was no crisis at that moment (although we may see one before the business in Florida is over). All that had happened was this: We in the media had interrupted, for our own reasons and our own needs, a functioning system that hadn't yet finished its work.

Much of the country was asleep when these strange and unnecessary events unfolded, so it's worth recounting exactly what happened. The "decision desks" at the networks were receiving and evaluating a constant stream of data from Voter News Service, the consortium they and the Associated Press created in 1990 to handle exit polling and vote counting. At 2:16 a.m., Fox News called Florida for Bush. The rest of the dominoes fell, one by one, over the next three minutes. With definitive language like "It's official" and "Bush wins," the networks turned Florida red for Bush on their colorful electoral maps. The pre-loaded video graphics flashed the words that the governor had been waiting 18 months to read: "George Walker Bush, 43rd President of the United States."

The crowd in Austin, watching on a huge TV screen, erupted into delirious cheering. The crowd in Nashville became funereal. The networks then leapt to cover the reaction that they had just created. The analysts began discussing how "President-elect Bush"--no longer "the Texas governor"--would conduct his transition.

It was a stop-in-your-tracks moment. For hours, the networks had been saying--rightly--that Florida was too close to call, that all the votes would need to be counted, that the presidency might turn on absentee ballots that were arriving from overseas. They had already been burned once--having given Florida to Gore early in the evening and then backing off just before 10 p.m.--and they had made clear that they weren't going to make that mistake again.

They had forgotten the lesson they had just learned. Votes were still uncounted in Florida, and yet the networks put their faith in the same

computer models, exit polls and mathematical formulations that had led them astray a few hours before. Only ABC's Peter Jennings showed any true hesitation, but it didn't stop his network from going along. It never seemed to occur to anyone to say to viewers, "We now have new data that, if accurate, shows Bush winning Florida. Now, this is just a projection, based on the available information. But if it turns out to be true, then the governor would have enough electoral votes to send him over the top. We all know how projections can go wrong, so at this late hour, with 96 percent of the Florida vote counted and after that awful mistake we made earlier, we want to wait for the election officials there to finish. It isn't our job to declare the winner."

Imagine for a moment that it's Election Night again, and the networks have taken this approach. They don't rush to be first to declare Bush president, so Gore never calls him. The Florida law that requires a recount (if the vote margin is less than 0.5 percent) kicks in before Gore has a chance to create the impression that he is the one dragging out the election. The candidates are left in their proper position, awaiting the outcome, rather than put in the uncomfortable position in which Bush and Gore found themselves at 3 o'clock in the morning.

The networks' call had a huge psychological effect on the electorate and the candidates, with political and historical ramifications. Voters might have shrugged off a long count in Florida as an acceptable delay in a contested election. But a "reversal"--taking back something that was "decided"--fed the notion of a tainted result, contributed to the overheated rhetoric on both sides in the past few days and helped fuel the sense of a country in crisis.

There's nothing inherently wrong with exit polls or computerized voting models. They can be useful tools for understanding the electorate and how it voted. But we are letting them become a substitute for the real thing. Millions of dollars are spent to reveal something that would be known anyway a few hours later. And in a case where a race comes down to less than one-half of 1 percent out of 6 million, what could be more exciting than reporting the totals in each Florida county as they are announced?

The live nature of television magnifies this kind of mistake. At The Washington Post, after the networks called the election for Bush, we prepared a story and a new front page with the headline, "Bush Appears Victorious." Fortunately for us, it takes about 15 minutes before a new front page can be put on our eight presses; that gave us time to do more reporting. When our executive editor learned that Bush's lead was shrinking, he killed the front page.

Our readers weren't watching as our editors agonized over what to do. But it's not that hard to get it right, if we commit ourselves to covering the news rather than making it. I discovered this myself one night, in 1978. I was working at the Baltimore Sun and was assigned to observe the voting tally for the Democratic gubernatorial primary. It wasn't supposed to be a close race. The last poll before the election had the incumbent acting governor, Blair Lee, leading an upstart challenger, Harry Hughes, by 14 percentage points.

Reporters around the state were phoning in vote totals as soon the counties reported them. Hughes was running ahead, astounding everyone, but the tally from Montgomery--Lee's home county--wasn't complete yet. It

was possible that a heavier-than-expected vote for him there could turn the election, but it seemed increasingly unlikely. The reporter writing the story was on deadline for the edition that went to most subscribers, and the editors wanted to know--as soon as possible, dammit!--when to call the race for Hughes. We waited until it was clearly impossible for Lee to overcome Hughes's lead.

The final outcome wasn't even that close--Hughes won by 19,000 votes out of 573,000 in the four-person race. So you could argue that we were being a bit too cautious. But I never thought about it that way: My assignment was to cover the unofficial returns as they were reported, not to project a winner.

There will be calls for better modeling, better ways to find discrepancies, better safeguards to avoid what happened in this remarkable election. That's fine. But let's not call the election better next time.

Let's not call it at all.

Steven Luxenberg is the editor of Outlook.

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64978-2000Nov11.html>

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=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 12:02:01 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Still trying to figure out
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBKEGLCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

what the people had in mind... Here is some non-partisan U.S. humor (I think?!). mark

Don't Be So Snippy About Us Yanquis

By Joel Garreau

Washington Post Staff Writer

Monday , November 13, 2000 ; Page C01

Fariborz, my Iranian brother-in-law, called the other night to ask about the election. He lived through that orderly transfer of power that memorably

brought us the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. What he basically wanted to know was if it was time yet to start burying gold in the back yard.

This came on the heels of Dominique, my wife's sister, calling from Paris to offer the usual helpful French suggestions about how to run an election and a nation.

My relatives, of course, are not the only people who talk funny who are offering us Americans their valuable insights in this our time of need. The Mexicans--among others--are shocked, shocked, that an election might hang on a remote province run by one candidate's brother. "We could not get away with something like that in Zimbabwe without the threat of sanctions," said one government spokesman of the possibility that Gore could win the popular vote and lose the election. Even Fidel Castro has offered a hand, volunteering to send monitors across the Florida Straits to ensure the fairness of any new election.

Well, to them I say yes, if you're asking whether the American system is messy, and sometimes even humiliating, the answer is yes. If it had been up to me, I would have gotten the Teamsters to settle this a couple of days ago.

But if you are one of those enlightened types who insist on working this out in front of God and everybody, then let the record show this is a remarkably robust operating system we're working here.

I mean, for openers, we do count the votes. Yes, Kim Jong Il's way of doing it is neater. But call us snippy. The problem we've got here is that we're actually trying to figure out what the American people had in mind on Tuesday.

And yes, there have got to be easier ways of electing a president than the electoral college. Take direct proportional representation. Wouldn't that be so much more tidy? I mean, it works so well for the Israelis.

Our result has been an emotional roller coaster? Well, sure. But let the record show that that's because we think it's important to have a government. Unlike the Italians.

Get serious here. Let us look at the situation.

First of all, nobody's dead. Yet.

This is a substantial advantage over the way a lot of other people do things. It's also a real tribute to the seriousness of purpose of the American people. Have you any idea how many guns there are in Palm Beach County?

Nor has anybody lost any serious money. Yet. Quite the contrary. So many lawyers are flying into Florida that if a 747 goes down in Biscayne Bay it will, as the sick joke goes, be a damn fine start.

Indeed, the stock market has put itself on hold because it realizes the startling achievement this election represents. This is the greatest triumph of demographic targeting in history. What you have here is two guys who spent a quarter of a billion dollars aiming for the exact middle of the electorate. Who knew that they would succeed beyond their wildest dreams--that they'd hit the bull's-eye with such precision that we're now measuring their margin of error at four digits to the right of the decimal point?

This election is also providing significant lessons.

A wise man once said that war is God's way of teaching us geography. The same goes for electoral college squeakers. When's the last time so many powerful people lavished so much attention on Oregon, much less West Virginia?

We've also learned once again, and at an important time in our history, that if it's really, really important, you shouldn't trust any technology less time-tested than the pencil.

We now also know beyond a doubt that we need a better class of columnist.

When it comes to fancying what lunacy is possible in Florida, events demonstrate how vastly overrated Dave Barry and Carl Hiaasen really are. These schnooks have no imagination. So to those Rome newspaper editors who have the astounding creativity to refer to us as a banana republic, I say, with appropriate hand gestures: Shuttuppayoutface. This is an amazing experiment we've been running these last 200 years. It's way too early for us to know how that'll turn out, either.
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Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 10:09:13 -0600
From: "Stephen M. Johnson" <johnsons@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU>
Subject: Re: VNS and Oregon
In-reply-to: <sa0bf735.066@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
X-Sender: johnsons@oregon.uoregon.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3.0.6.32.20001113100913.01298300@oregon.uoregon.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.6 (32)
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

To the best of my knowledge Oregon did not see any "exit" polling, although someone may have done it at the drop boxes on election day. The news services claim they relied on surveys of people who had voted prior to election day.
Steve Johnson
Associate Director
Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

At 01:25 PM 11/10/00 -0600, you wrote:
>Does anyone know how and whether "exit polling" was done in Oregon with
>its mail-in ballot system?
>
>Also, in the past the New York Times has had a Portrait of the
>Electorate table with data from the exit polls on the Thursday after
>election day, but I did not find it in this Thursday's paper. Does
>anyone know if such a "Portrait" with these data are available
>anywhere.
>
>Thanks,
>
>Barbara Burrell
>
>
>
>Barbara Burrell
>Interim Director
>Public Opinion Laboratory
>Northern Illinois University
>DeKalb, Illinois 60115
>815-753-9657
>

=====
Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 13:58:09 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: 13 myths (plus one?)
References: <a.4d01d48.27415644@aol.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

OK, but increasing the myth count by one doesn't help much. I'd say 14 is an undercount of the myths that approaches in magnitude the Palm County vote undercount.

RFunk787@aol.com wrote:

> One statement in the "13 myths" item is indisputably true: "Millions of
> dollars are now being raised for a public relations war between the
Democrats
> and the Republicans to determine the next president of the United States. .
. .
> .. Propaganda is flying left and right."
>
> The item itself may well qualify as "Exhibit A".
>
> The motive behind this AAPORNET posting is not clear. Was it to inform us
> of the types of spin being employed in this PR war? Or was it to aid and
> abet one side of it? Who can say? In any case, it is in the former
spirit
> that I have appended, without further comment, an item from this morning's
> WorldNetDaily:
>
> ELECTION 2000
> 'How Democrats
> steal elections'
> Veterans of hand recounts describe
> techniques used to change outcome
>
> -----
-
--
>
> --
>
> By Jon Dougherty and David Kupelian
> © 2000 WorldNetDaily.com
>
> The manual vote recounts being insisted on by Democratic operatives in Palm
> Beach County, Fla., have been used for over 20 years to steal elections
from
> Republicans, claim several GOP veterans of hand-recount election-upsets.
>
> According to Bob Haueter, chief of staff to the California Assembly

> Republican Caucus, and an expert on manual recounts, a Democrat lawyer
> intimately involved in "stealing" elections from Republicans through hand
> recounts admitted to the process and even shared the techniques involved.
>
> After Tuesday's vote and an automatic recount still left GOP nominee George
> W. Bush ahead by a slim 288-vote margin, Palm Beach elections officials
> decided that a manual recount of all 425,000 votes should be undertaken.
>
> "What's happening in Florida is exactly the game plan laid out to me by an
> attorney who represented the Democrats in a recount in California where
they
> stole a seat from us," former California Assemblyman Pat Nolan told
> WorldNetDaily.
>
> A staunch conservative legislator, Nolan served in the California Assembly
> from 1978 until 1994, when he was convicted, along with several other
> lawmakers, in a federal corruption probe. After spending a little over two
> years in federal prison, he emerged to become president of Justice
> Fellowship, the public policy arm of Watergate figure Chuck Colson's Prison
> Fellowship Ministries. For the past four years, Nolan has worked with
Colson
> -- another fallen-but-reformed public figure -- to reform the criminal
> justice system.
>
> Regarding the 1980 California Assembly race between Republican Adrian
Fondse
> and Democrat Pat Johnston, Nolan recalled that the Republican won "by about
> 54 votes or so."
>
> But after the election, Democrats "brought in their junkyard dog lawyers
from
> around the country," said Nolan, "and basically harassed the local
registrar
> -- got in their faces and demanded to handle ballots" -- which were of the
> same type now in dispute in Palm Beach.
>
> The same issue of "hanging chads -- the little squares in the punch cards -
-
> was also an issue in Stockton," says Nolan. The Democrats' strategy, he
says,
> was to handle them as often as possible -- perhaps bending, crinkling or
> otherwise altering them -- so that additional chads become displaced,
thereby
> disqualifying the ballot.
>
> The result? In the Stockton election, Nolan said Democrats were successful
in
> getting the vote count reversed from a plus-54 win by Republicans to a
> minus-17 loss.
>
> "I vowed that I'd never let that happen again," Nolan said. "So I asked my
> staff to track down the lawyer that headed up the team for the Democrats."
>
> Haueter was, at that time, chief of staff for Nolan, and it was he who
first
> contacted attorney Tim Downs, who readily admitted the Democratic strategy
> and even described the tactics to Nolan.

>
> "When I first called him and explained to him who I was and why I was
> calling, he chuckled and said, 'I wondered when you guys would get around
> to
> calling me,'" Haueter said, adding that Downs told him -- "'I've taken
> several seats from you across the United States.'"
>
> "Downs told me, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, 'You get me within 100 votes and
> I
> can steal any election,'" Haueter told WorldNetDaily.
>
> Nolan subsequently hired Downs and "brought him out to train my staff in
> the
> techniques they [Democrats] were using" so they could protect themselves
> against future election-fraud victimization, Nolan said.
>
> Nolan and Haueter said Downs described three basic tactics:
>
> "The first rule is, you keep counting until you're ahead. And if that
> doesn't
> put you ahead, you recount, re-recount -- you keep counting until you're
> ahead. If you're behind, then you've got nothing to lose."
>
> Second, Nolan said, "the more times those ballots are handled, the more
> chance there is that chads will break loose" and hence disqualify the
> ballot.
>
> Third, he said, "the minute you're ahead, you stop and declare yourself the
> victor."
>
> "After that, you don't want the ballots handled any more," Nolan said,
> "because some of the chads for your candidate might break loose. While
> you're
> behind it doesn't matter, but if you're ahead and more break off or become
> disqualified for your candidate, that's a bad thing."
> A favorite tactic, said Nolan, is to ask election officials for ballots,
> "allegedly so they can look at it more closely." When operatives do, often
> they will bend or crinkle ballots covertly in an effort to break another
> chad
> loose and thus have the ballot thrown out.
>
> "This whole process sounds like exactly what is going on in Florida," Nolan
> said. "And the more times those ballots are handled, the more chances are
> you'll break some of them [chads] loose."
>
> Nolan referred to Fox News' Tony Snow's weekend interview with Bush
> campaign
> representative and former Secretary of State James Baker, in which he asked
> Baker why -- after each time election officials run ballots through
> mechanical vote-tally machines -- there have been more votes counted or
> taken
> away from both candidates.
>
> "Baker didn't have an answer to that," Nolan said. "But the answer is,
> because they've handled those ballots more times, breaking loose more of
> those chads" -- those that perhaps weren't completely punched through.
>

> "The tactics fit what [Downs] told me back in 1982 and 1983," Nolan said, who
> added that he didn't know who Downs may have worked with using these tactics
> recently.
>
> WorldNetDaily attempted to reach Downs by phone on Sunday, but was unsuccessful.
>
> Following a mechanical recount over the weekend, Palm Beach election officials awarded an additional 36 votes to Gore, while Bush lost three.
>
> "A hand count of four selected precincts turned up enough additional votes for Gore to prompt the Democratic majority on the county election commission
> to order the hand recount in all 531 precincts," the Associated Press reported.
>
> Republicans, news accounts said, lodged "strenuous protests" and pledged to file a lawsuit halting yet another recount of Palm Beach votes. That hearing
> is scheduled for today.
>
> Reports said nearly 30,000 ballots have already been rejected in Palm Beach County because they had two or more holes punched for president, or because computers could not detect any holes at all. Ballots with two votes also are
> rejected in hand counts.
>
> Corroborating Haueter's and Nolan's account is a parallel story by Los Angeles-area political strategist Arnold Steinberg. In a National Review.com
> piece titled "Beware of Hanging Chads," Steinberg asks, "Do you know what two
> words will determine the Presidential election?" The chilling answer, he said: "Hanging chads."
>
> Steinberg, describing a 1980 congressional race between long-time incumbent,
> Democrat James C. Corman, and Steinberg's client, Republican challenger Bobbi
> Fiedler, recalls how after Fiedler's upset victory -- by a slim margin -- over the heavily favored Corman, the Democrats called for a hand recount.
>
> "Democratic Party lawyers and recount specialists descended on the county registrar's office," says Steinberg. "Each recount station had a government employee to do the counting, flanked by one Democratic and one Republican observer.
>
> "The Democrats' agenda was, of course, to change the election result, and they went about it systematically. At their urging, the recounting began with
> Corman's strongest precincts, Fiedler's weakest. Their intention was to recount ballots in those areas until the election outcome was reversed, and then stop the recount. Similarly, today in Florida, the Gore people are
> demanding hand recounts in their favored counties, where they would be most likely to gain."

>
> Just as important as the order in which the precincts are recounted,
however,
> is outright ballot tampering, says Steinberg.
>
> "Their hired guns tried lots of tricks on Corman's behalf, but what I
> remember most was the hanging chads. A chad is the perforated square (or
> circle) on the ballot that a voter depresses with a pin to indicate his
> preferred candidate. The chad hangs from the ballot if the voter didn't
fully
> depress it -- for instance, if an older person did not press firmly enough.
> This matters because voter machines usually are not able to tabulate cards
> with hanging chads.
>
> "It often comes down to interpreting the voter's intention. Does the chad
> hang 'strongly' -- i.e, detached only a little -- meaning that it is a
> mistake that should not be counted? Or does it hang loosely -- i.e., mostly
> detached -- as an intended vote would be?
>
> "What my lawyers soon discovered was that the opposition would eyeball a
> disputed ballot before picking it up to officially inspect it. If the
hanging
> chad indicated a vote for Fiedler, the lawyer for the other side picked up
> the ballot ever so carefully, so he could argue that the voter really never
> intended to vote for Fiedler. If the hanging chad was a Corman vote, the
> lawyer picked up the ballot quite vigorously, so that the chad soon was no
> longer hanging.
>
> "'You see,' their guy would declare, 'that voter obviously intended to vote
> for Corman.'"
>
> Luckily, says Steinberg, "it didn't take long to figure out all the
> opposition's tricks. I added more lawyers, more observers, and the bad guys
> eventually caved. Bobbi Fiedler's victory was preserved. But it was a nasty
> business."
>
> Echoing Nolan's and Haueter's experience with manual-vote recounts,
Steinberg
> says, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."
>
> If you'd like to sound off on this issue, please take part in the
> WorldNetDaily poll.
>
> -----
-
--
>
> --
>
> Jon Dougherty is a staff reporter and David Kupelian is managing editor of
> WorldNetDaily.com.

Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 14:27:16 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Morin on the "Bad Call in Florida"
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

The following appears in today's Washington Post:

Bad Call In Florida
By Richard Morin
Monday, November 13, 2000; Page A27

It's abundantly clear that major television networks have no one but themselves to blame for the debacle in the wee hours of Wednesday in which they gave Florida and the presidency to Gov. George W. Bush and then sheepishly took it back an hour later.

But it's also evident that the networks are not about to blame themselves for the debacle. Instead, they've selected Voter News Service, the network exit poll consortium, to take the fall.

VNS was established by the networks in 1990 to conduct exit polls on Election Day--and apparently to serve as the whipping boy for bad decisions by network newsies.

Barely hours after the blown Bush prediction, VNS issued this oblique mea culpa: "The call for Bush in Florida later in the evening was made solely on the basis of the tabulated vote. . . . As the remaining voters were tabulated, that lead dropped dramatically and the members [the major networks and Associated Press] felt that even though Bush was still ahead, the responsible thing to do was to withdraw the call."

One problem: VNS never called Florida for Bush. Fox News was the first to declare Florida for the Republicans as vote counts supplied by VNS continued to show Bush with a substantial lead. Fox announced the call at 2:16 a.m. (Ironically, the decision to declare Bush the winner was made by John Ellis, who headed the call desk at Fox and happens to be Bush's cousin.)

The other networks quickly followed suit, only to take the call back around 3 a.m. But VNS officials confirm they never issued a prediction. Warren Mitofsky, the first director of VNS who worked Election Night for CBS and CNN, reacted with disbelief when the VNS statement was read to him over the telephone. "VNS is confused," he said. "They did not make the second call. They have nothing to withdraw."

But withdrawing the non-call is precisely what they did. Why? VNS isn't talking. Its media patrons have imposed a gag order. "Right now I can't answer anything about Florida," Murray Edelman, editorial director of VNS, said. "That's the choice of the board right now."

Actually, Tuesday's debacle in Florida, which included an earlier call for Gore, was an inevitable consequence of a decision by ABC in 1994 to go out on its own to make election calls. Prior to that time, VNS had

been responsible for all calls on Election Night, which were reported by the networks.

Then ABC News in 1994 decided to go its own way. It quietly set up a decision desk and staffed it with experts who reviewed the VNS exit poll results and incoming vote counts--and then made their own predictions.

It beat VNS to important calls, declaring Gov. Mario Cuomo the loser in New York, calling Bush's victory over Ann Richards in the Texas governor's race and Oliver North's loss to Sen. Chuck Robb in Virginia. It was the polling equivalent of Pearl Harbor. "The other networks were blind-sided," Mitofsky said.

The peace thus broken, a range war began. By 1996, each network had in place a decision desk staffed with statisticians, political scientists and consultants in service to a single dubious end: be the first to call the winner of state and national races.

So what's to do? One obvious answer is to give VNS and the networks some competition. The Los Angeles Times currently does the only other national exit poll. Other news organizations should, separately or together, conduct their own national and local exit polls as a check and balance on VNS.

The networks themselves need to dump their decision desks. Instead, make VNS solely responsible for making all state and national Election-Night calls. These calls would then be reported by the networks and subsequently by other media. The new rule (actually, the pre-1994 rule): Nobody makes early calls, or their access to VNS data, including the feeds of the actual vote counts, is severed instantly and for the duration of Election Night.

If VNS makes a wrong call, smite it hard. And if all this responsibility makes VNS reluctant to call all but the biggest blowouts before the very last vote is counted--who cares? Better a few late nights waiting for final vote counts than a few more late-night disasters.

Finally, take VNS mostly off the hook for Tuesday's debacle and put the networks squarely on it. In particular, here's what ABC must do, and quickly: Get Peter Jennings to beggar himself on the nightly news. Make him admit on behalf of ABC that the network was wrong six years ago to start this rush to judgment that culminated with Wednesday's humiliating Bush call. Order him to apologize effusively for any damage done to the political process. Finally, allow him to announce that ABC's decision desk has been placed in permanent storage. And make every other anchor do much the same thing.

Now that would be must-see TV.

The writer is director of polling for The Post.
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Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 21:51:27 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Correction on poll results table

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
 boundary="-----_NextPart_000_005B_01C04DBB.DFA92040"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_005B_01C04DBB.DFA92040
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

----- Original Message -----
From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2000 9:24 PM
Subject: Re: Correction on poll results table

> Here's the 13 November version of the final polls chart; apologies to
> those
> who are not interested.
>
> I am still looking for the final poll figures for several of the polling
> organisations, and would appreciate anyone who has access to these to let
> me
> have them. I am especially keen to get the data to accurately round the
> results to 100%, as this is the fairest comparison.
>
> Thanks to those who have helped sharpen it up. I've had to go to a
> decimal
> point on the actual vote, as to round it as it stands would come to 101%,
> and while that may have happened in some areas, we wouldn't want to
> condone
> it (joke). I have not however allowed decimal points on poll results, as
> it
> suggests spurious accuracy to the public, and I would not want to
> encourage
> what I regard as very dubious practice.
>
> I have now ranked it according to average error, the 'Rose' method,
> developed by Professor Richard Rose of University of Strathclyde, who
> happens to be another American long resident in Scotland. This is the
> system we have used in the UK for many years. It indicates that all the
> polling organisations were on average within the plus or minus three
> percent
> sampling tolerance, although some were outside that on individual results.
>
> Do let me have any corrections; I have accessed a number of sources, but
> don't have all the players' email addresses.
>
> I will be writing this up for Public Perspective, as I have the past two
> American elections.

>
> Bob Worcester
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Clare Sherlock <csherlock@technometrica.com>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Sent: Monday, November 13, 2000 3:03 PM
> Subject: Correction on poll results table
>
>
> > Robert-
> > Another correction for your poll results table (thanks for putting that
> > together by the way--we've found it quite useful):
> >
> > The IBD/CSM/TIPP results should read-
> > Bush 48% (47.9%)
> > Gore 46% (46.0%)
> > Nader 4% (3.7%)
> > Other 2% (2.4%)
> >
> > Also, "IBD/CSM" poll should read "IBD/CSM/TIPP" poll (the poll was
> > conducted
> > by TIPP in association with our media partners, Investor's Business
> > Daily
> > and the Christian Science Monitor).
> >
> > Finally, if the table reflects a rank ordering of polls based upon
> > estimated
> > lead, the TIPP poll should be placed just ahead of Gallup (TIPP lead
> > 1.9%
> > Bush, Gallup lead 2% Bush).
> >
> > Just to keep the record straight! Thanks-
> > Clare
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
> > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 5:42 PM
> > Subject: Public opinion
> >
> >
> > > Here's the revised table, with an error corrected, and two more polls
> > added
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
> > > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > > Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 11:22 AM
> > > Subject: Re: Public opinion
> > >
> > >
> > > > Here's the table attached as as Excel file.
> > > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > > From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
> > > > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > > > Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 7:03 AM
> > > > Subject: Re: Public opinion

> > > >
> > > >
> > > > > Barry
> > > > >
> > > > > The American polls, both in the run up to the day and the exit
poll,
> > did
> > > > an
> > > > excellent job. The last thing we need is poll pickers who should
> know
> > > > better rubbishing them. See the table below. Please also see the
> very
> > > > useful comment from Joe Wislar, which suggests that the polls are
> > > > conducted
> > > > with a great deal more honesty and efficiency than the count
itself.
> > > >
> > > > Congratulations to Warren and Kathy for making themselves
available
> to
> > > > talk
> > > > on the television and being open, honest and clear about just what
> > > > happened.
> > > > It's tough, standing up to all the uninformed comment by the
pundits
> > > > trying
> > > > to blame anyone but themselves, and both Warren and Kathy
> represented
> > > > themselves, and us, very well.
> > > >
> > > > Bob Worcester
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > Gore
> > Bush
> > > > Nader Buch. Lead Error on G/B
> > > >
> > > > Final(?) Result 49% 48%
> > 3%
> > > > 0% 1% 0
> > > >
> > > > REUTERS/MSNBC/Zogby 46% 48% 5%
> > > > 1% -2% 3
> > > >
> > > > CBS 47%
48%
> > > > 4%
> > > > 1% -1% 2
> > > >
> > > > FOX/OPINION DYNAMICS 48% 48% 3%
> 1%
> > > > 0% 1
> > > > HARRIS 47% 47%
> > 4%
> > > > 0% 0% 2
> > > >
> > > > IBD/CSM 49% 47%
> > 4%

> > > > 0% 2% 1
 > > > > ICR 46%
 > 44%
 > > > > 7%
 > > > > 2% 2% 7
 > > > > CNN/USA TODAY 48% 46% 4%
 > > > > 1% 2% 3
 > > > >
 > > > > NEWSWEEK 49% 46% 5%
 > > > > 0% 3% 2
 > > > > PEW 49%
 46%
 > > > 3%
 > > > > 1% 3% 2
 > > > > ABC 49%
 46%
 > > > > 3%
 > > > > 1% 3% 2
 > > > > NBC/WSJ/Hart-Teeter 48% 45% 4%
 > > > > 2% 3% 4
 > > > >
 > > > > MARIST COLLEGE 51% 46% 2%
 > > > > 1% 5% 4
 > > > > VOTER.COM/Lake Goas 51% 45% 4%
 > > > > 0%
 > > > > 6% 5
 > > > >
 > > > > HOTLINE 51% 43%
 > > 4%
 > > > > 1% 8% 7
 > > > >
 > > > > RASMUSSEN 52% 43% 4%
 > > > > 1% 9% 8
 > > > >
 > > > > Four years ago, and eight years ago, I wrote an article in Public
 > > > > Perspective castigating the American pollsters and media for not
 > > > > reallocating the 'don't knows', so that this type of comparison
 can
 > be
 > > > > made.
 > > > > I have used two sources, AEI's excellent poll service, (thanks
 > Karlyn)
 > > > and
 > > > > PollingReport.Com. These have three polls with a one point
 > > discrepancy
 > > > > between them, which I assume is due to a reallocation formula
 other
 > > than
 > > > > proportional, which of course is their call. In each case, I have
 > used
 > > > > AEI's
 > > > > report as my source. There are many ways to judge accuracy of the
 > > polls
 > > > > against the actual result, but for simplicity, I have rounded the
 > > result
 > > > > to
 > > > > 49%/48%, and taken Pat Buchanan's vote when below 1/2% to zero,

and
> > then
> > > > sorted the polls by lead. On this basis, four polling
organisations
> > > were
> > > > within one point of the 1% lead in the actual count and should be
> > > > congratulated, but as the actual vote as now reported is only
0.22%,
> > for
> > > > what it is worth, I would award the prize for the closest poll to
> > > Opinion
> > > > Dynamics, as closest not only to the Bush/Gore result but also
Nader
> > and
> > > > Buchanan, second to Harris (well done Humphrey, and especially for
> > your
> > > > lucid final Harris Report, which gave full technical details and
the
> > > > permutations of certain voters, and certain/likely voters, etc.)
and
> > to
> > > > IDB/CSM for the least error on the two main candidates' result.
The
> > use
> > > > of
> > > > the gap as a measure of accuracy is shown to be pretty much
> nonsense,
> > > when
> > > > you look at the ICR poll result, which although it has a two
percent
> > > lead,
> > > > it has a seven point error. There are many other ways to
calculate
> > the
> > > > error, but as it's after 2 a.m. in Canada, where this is being
> > written,
> > > > that's all for now folks.
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > > From: Barry Hollander <barry@arches.uga.edu>
> > > > To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> > > > Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 9:13 PM
> > > > Subject: Re: Public opinion
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > > An opinion poll addressing this issue is the last thing we need
> > right
> > > > > now.
> > > > >
> > > > > Gawds yes. I'd hate to be the anchor forced to keep a straight
> > face,
> > > > > stare into a camera, and tell viewers the latest poll report on
> what

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 Date: Mon, 13 Nov 2000 17:42:38 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
 From: tmglp@cms.mail.virginia.edu
 Received: from tetra.mail.virginia.edu by mail.virginia.edu id aa01134;
 13 Nov 2000 17:39 EST
 Received: from gj9k20b.Virginia.EDU (bootp-55-134.bootp.Virginia.EDU
 [128.143.55.134])
 by tetra.mail.Virginia.EDU (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id RAA28960
 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 13 Nov 2000 17:39:10 -0500 (EST)
 To: AAPORnet List server <aapornet@usc.edu>
 Subject: Cook County clarified
 Message-ID: <SIMEON.10011131738.C@gj9k20b.config.mail.virginia.edu>
 X-Mailer: Simeon for Win32 Version 4.1.4 Build (40)
 X-Authentication: IMSP
 MIME-Version: 1.0
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A small note about Cook County:
 Chicago is located within the County of Cook and Chicago voters vote for
 County officers, including scores of judges. Richard J. Daley, (Bill
 Daley's father) wielded his vaunted power over the Chicago machine by
 virtue of his office as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic
 Organization. There was no geographic error in the Republican riposte that
 found irony in the discovery that the butterfly ballot was used in Bill
 Daley's home turf.

That only half of voters bother with the judicial ballot there is a long-standing circumstance that pre-dates the use of punch-card balloting and is probably not a result of the ballot design. Illinois is a long-ballot state in which a voter in a Presidential year may be faced with as many as 300 choices to make. Before the punch card ballot, Chicago voters voted most offices on a mechanical vote machine and then could vote in a paper booklet for judicial retention if they wished. Most did not bother with that step, although retention of certain judges was occasionally contested.

I do think it is relevant to point out, as the Democrats have already done, that the Cook County butterfly ballot is used only in unopposed races (i.e., the judges on the 'retention ballot') and is therefore less likely to cause confusion than the one used in Palm Beach County.

Tom

Thomas M. Guterbock	Voice: (804) 243-5223
NEW POSTAL ADDRESS:	CSR Main Number: (804) 243-5222
Center for Survey Research	FAX: (804) 243-5233
University of Virginia	EXPRESS DELIVERY: 2205 Fontaine Ave
P. O. Box 400767	Suite 303
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4767	e-mail: TomG@virginia.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:22:54 -0500
From: "Michael Mokrzycki" <Michael_Mokrzycki@ap.org>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Message-ID: <85256997.004F00E3.00@nyc2.ap.org>
Subject: Re: Morin on the "Bad Call in Florida"
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: multipart/mixed;
Boundary="0__=I3YhkMuHnf4RyhTBJjTl33JQbP0cdcFYVdwIZ4UsVZVE6w383CdnHVVg"
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Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

For the record, AP did NOT call FL for Bush.

Mike Mokrzycki
Associated Press

Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com> on 11/13/2000 02:27:16 PM

Please respond to jwerner@jwdp.com

To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
cc: (bcc: Michael Mokrzycki/TheAP)

Subject Morin on the "Bad Call in Florida"
:

--0__=I3YhkMuHnf4RyhTBJjTl33JQbP0cdcFYVdwIZ4UsVZVE6w383CdnHVVg
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The following appears in today's Washington Post:

Bad Call In Florida
By Richard Morin
Monday, November 13, 2000; Page A27

It's abundantly clear that major television networks have no one but themselves to blame for the debacle in the wee hours of Wednesday in which they gave Florida and the presidency to Gov. George W. Bush and then sheepishly took it back an hour later.

But it's also evident that the networks are not about to blame themselves for the debacle. Instead, they've selected Voter News Service, the network exit poll consortium, to take the fall.

VNS was established by the networks in 1990 to conduct exit polls on Election Day--and apparently to serve as the whipping boy for bad decisions by network newsies.

Barely hours after the blown Bush prediction, VNS issued this oblique mea culpa: "The call for Bush in Florida later in the evening was made solely on the basis of the tabulated vote. . . . As the remaining voters were tabulated, that lead dropped dramatically and the members [the major networks and Associated Press] felt that even though Bush was still ahead, the responsible thing to do was to withdraw the call."

One problem: VNS never called Florida for Bush. Fox News was the first to declare Florida for the Republicans as vote counts supplied by VNS continued to show Bush with a substantial lead. Fox announced the call at 2:16 a.m. (Ironically, the decision to declare Bush the winner was made by John Ellis, who headed the call desk at Fox and happens to be Bush's cousin.)

The other networks quickly followed suit, only to take the call back around 3 a.m. But VNS officials confirm they never issued a prediction.=

Warren Mitofsky, the first director of VNS who worked Election Night for CBS and CNN, reacted with disbelief when the VNS statement was read to him over the telephone. "VNS is confused," he said. "They did not make the second call. They have nothing to withdraw."

But withdrawing the non-call is precisely what they did. Why? VNS isn't talking. Its media patrons have imposed a gag order. "Right now I can't answer anything about Florida," Murray Edelman, editorial director of VNS, said. "That's the choice of the board right now."

Actually, Tuesday's debacle in Florida, which included an earlier call for Gore, was an inevitable consequence of a decision by ABC in 1994 to go out on its own to make election calls. Prior to that time, VNS had been responsible for all calls on Election Night, which were reported by the networks.

Then ABC News in 1994 decided to go its own way. It quietly set up a decision desk and staffed it with experts who reviewed the VNS exit poll results and incoming vote counts--and then made their own predictions.

It beat VNS to important calls, declaring Gov. Mario Cuomo the loser in New York, calling Bush's victory over Ann Richards in the Texas governor's race and Oliver North's loss to Sen. Chuck Robb in Virginia. It was the polling equivalent of Pearl Harbor. "The other networks were blind-sided," Mitofsky said.

The peace thus broken, a range war began. By 1996, each network had in place a decision desk staffed with statisticians, political scientists and consultants in service to a single dubious end: be the first to call the winner of state and national races.

So what's to do? One obvious answer is to give VNS and the networks some competition. The Los Angeles Times currently does the only other national exit poll. Other news organizations should, separately or together, conduct their own national and local exit polls as a check and balance on VNS.

The networks themselves need to dump their decision desks. Instead, make VNS solely responsible for making all state and national Election-Night calls. These calls would then be reported by the networks and

subsequently by other media. The new rule (actually, the pre-1994 rule)=
:
Nobody makes early calls, or their access to VNS data, including the
feeds of the actual vote counts, is severed instantly and for the
duration of Election Night.

If VNS makes a wrong call, smite it hard. And if all this responsibilit=
y
makes VNS reluctant to call all but the biggest blowouts before the ver=
y
last vote is counted--who cares? Better a few late nights waiting for
final vote counts than a few more late-night disasters.

Finally, take VNS mostly off the hook for Tuesday's debacle and put the=
networks squarely on it. In particular, here's what ABC must do, and
quickly: Get Peter Jennings to beggar himself on the nightly news. Make=
him admit on behalf of ABC that the network was wrong six years ago to
start this rush to judgment that culminated with Wednesday's humiliatin=
g
Bush call. Order him to apologize effusively for any damage done to the=
political process. Finally, allow him to announce that ABC's decision
desk has been placed in permanent storage. And make every other anchor
do much the same thing.

Now that would be must-see TV.

The writer is director of polling for The Post.
=A9 2000 The Washington Post

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=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 10:31:01 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: The Way We Win
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Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="=====_3900592==_ .ALT"

=====_3900592==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

While most are a bit preoccupied with the election results and the=20
rancorous partisanship that has developed over the election process itself,=
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Friedman, in today's NY Times, takes introduces an interesting (and I think=
=20
valuable)perspective as to how all of this is being viewed overseas and its=
=20

possible implications for us and for them. Just some things to keep in mind.

Dick Halpern

The Way We Win

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
New York Times, November 14, 2000

For foreigners, the most important aspect of this American election is not who wins, but how he wins.

Who wins this election is not very important to foreigners because neither candidate has spoken to the world or about America's place in it. More on that in a minute. But how they win, how the votes are counted and how the disputes are resolved is critical. Because since the fall of the Berlin Wall more countries have moved toward democratic elections than at any time in history. And in many cases, American democracy has been their model, and Americans have been enlisted as the monitors and arbiters of what constitutes a free and fair election. We can't blow that.

"I have monitored 20 foreign elections," said Emory University's Robert Pastor, who pioneered President Carter's election monitoring teams. "There are always disputes about the mechanics of the process, but what I remember most is people in all these countries asking me at some critical point, 'How do you do it in America? Why are there no problems there?'"

"I always tell them: We have problems, but we have institutions that prevent our election problems from becoming violent or the results discredited. Those institutions are impartial election administrators and independent judiciaries. It would be tragic, not just for America but for the process of democratization around the world, if there were a rush to judgment in Florida that discredited, or short-circuited, America's election administrators or our independent judiciary."

That's why foreigners are watching. But here's why they're not=20
listening: Foreigners are watching our election the way they watch the=
N.B.A. finals on satellite TV =97 to see which team wins, but with the=
=20 sound off, because the words mean nothing. Because for foreigners there=
wasn't much to listen to, since neither candidate offered any inspiring=
=20 vision of America =97 any argument for why its values and institutions were
important for the world, or why the world, with both its needs=
and aspirations, was important to America.
Both Al Gore and George W. Bush need to understand, though, that=
the vapid inward-looking campaigns they ran have implications for=20
America abroad. They have left the playing field out there wide open for=
=20 those whose vision is to oppose America or seek its destruction. The=20
America- haters have all the energy now in Europe and the Middle East. Our
friends are mute and on the defensive.
And why not? If they did turn the sound on, what they heard was a
country where politics had been reduced to what your interest=20
group can suck out of the government, from tax cuts to prescription drugs.=
Who could blame foreigners for feeling that these candidates were=20
the political equivalents of genetically modified food? Both men were devoid=20
of any natural ingredients. They were test- tube candidates, produced by
consultants with poll-tested positions geared to interest=20
groups, but with nothing to say about America as a whole.
The notion that the very reason America has the prosperity it=20
does is because of its values, institutions and deeply imbedded ideals=
goes unarticulated these days. And so our enemies abroad, the sort of=
=20 people who blew up the U.S.S. Cole, paint us as nothing more than a=20
sterile, money-grubbing society that is only interested in exporting trade
agreements.
There is a remarkable quote in Newsweek's latest insider account=

=20
of the
election in which Al Gore compares himself to the lead character=
=20
in the
film "Being John Malkovich," whose body gets possessed by others.
"That's what I feel like," Mr. Gore complained during the=20
campaign. "A
guy whose head is occupied by all these people telling me what=20
to do."

Imagine how we feel. Either we get a president whose head has=
been
occupied by political consultants, or we get a president whose=20
head has
been occupied by his father's friends.

The only thing left to do now is pray that as this election is=20
resolved, our
institutions emerge unscathed and the winner emerges as a better=
man
than the one who ran. Pray that Al Gore as president won't be a
pandering partisan, but will let his natural love for policy and=
=20
American
government emerge. Or pray that George W. Bush will develop some
curiosity about the world and some energy to reach beyond the=20
retreads
of his father's cabinet, and will allow his bipartisan instincts=
=20
to rule. Pray.
And pray hard.

Richard S. Halpern, Ph.D.
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Adjunct Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology
3837 Courtyard Drive
Atlanta, GA 30339-4248
rshalpern@mindspring.com
phone/fax 770 434 4121

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Dick Halpern

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And why not? If they did turn the sound on, what they heard was a country where politics had been reduced to what your interest group can suck out of the government, from tax cuts to prescription drugs. Who could blame foreigners for feeling that these candidates were the political equivalents of genetically modified food? Both men were devoid of any natural ingredients. They were test-tube candidates, produced by consultants with poll-tested positions geared to interest groups, but with nothing to say about America as a whole.

The notion that the very reason America has the prosperity it does is because of its values, institutions and deeply imbedded ideals goes unarticulated these days. And so our enemies abroad, the sort of people

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 11:02:31 -0500 (EST)
From: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
X-Sender: arobbin@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: The Way We Win
In-Reply-To: <5.0.0.25.2.20001114103010.02c37140@mail.mindspring.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.96.1001114105332.27604A-100000@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
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The day after the election, last Wednesday, I made two predictions concerning increases in applications for immigration and for citizenship as a result of the world's assessment of the outcome of our election. When friends wrote to me about a "crisis of legitimacy," I replied that "there is no 'crisis,' our political institutions are strong, and they are the envy of the world." I also predicted that Americans would support the process of recounting, including its delays, and would accept whatever outcome (i.e., Bush or Gore) was eventually decided upon. Thus far, polling data seem to support the latter, and we will just have to see about the former predictions. Count me optimistic and naive...

Alice Robbin, Associate Professor
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Indiana University
005A Main Library
1320 East 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
Office: (812) 855-5389 Fax: (812) 855-6166
Email: arobbin@indiana.edu

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 08:22:41 -0800
From: Earl Babbie <babbie@chapman.edu>
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X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.73C-CCK-MCD {C-UDP; EBM-APPLE} (Macintosh; U; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Lessons from the Sunshine State
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
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While we all suffer the agonies of uncertainty and divisiveness, it's important to learn from the Florida crisis. Here are two entries on the lesson list:

1. We have discovered a previously unappreciated defect in exit polling: we can only determine whom voters THINK they voted for, not how their votes actually counted, miscounted, lost, or ignored. With a possible deadline for hand-counts looming, an election official this morning assured Palm County voters that their votes would count "one way

or another." So, our challenge is to augment confidence intervals with a One Way or Another Factor (OWAF).

2. Now machine politicians from both parties tell us that while poking your ballot with a stylus may leave the chad hanging, simply flexing that ballot can cause that sucker to pop right out. So, in addition to streamlining election technology, we may be able to slow the depletion of world stylus reserves.

Earl

--

kth Law of CyberSpace: We are all, as individuals, in over our heads.

Earl Babbie
babbie@chapman.edu
<http://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/socsci/sociology/Faculty/Babbie/>
Tel: 714-997-6565
Fax: 714-281-6213
A day without cancer is like. . .a day without cancer.

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 08:33:35 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: New Frontiers in Data Collection
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011140818330.14441-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Folks,

Would those of you with experience in field operations please tell me--how long would it take to train survey interviewers to collect "airborne skin flakes"? Go ahead and laugh now--this won't be funny by, say, our 2007 annual conference (at Buck Hill Falls, is it not?).

-- Jim

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:49:51 -0500
From: Declan McCullagh <declan@well.com>
Subject: FC: DNA sniffing and identification based on your breathing

[A discussion of Penn State Professor Gary Settles' Patent No. US6073499. No wonder some politicians want everyone DNA-tested at birth... --Declan]

<http://www.feedmag.com/re/re381.2.html>

FEED: Which is at the top of the thermal plume.

GS: Yes. Basically we collect the entire thermal plume and take it from three by three feet at the mouth of the sampler down to four by four inches. At that point there

is a collector on which particles and molecules are trapped and/or condense out. Then we reject the air once it goes through the mesh and just take the particles and molecules that are in it. That goes into the inlet of an ion mobility spectrometer. And from that we get a spectrum showing the things that were in the plume -- particularly explosives, because it's tuned for that.

FEED: There's been some talk of using the aura sniffer to do DNA analysis.

GS: Yeah. But mitochondrial DNA -- not nuclear DNA. We're releasing skin all the time, so it's not like being requested to give a DNA sample and having to give consent. You can't keep your skin from coming off. So it is possible to sample mitochondrial DNA from the airborne skin flakes. Of course, before this was ever done it would have to go through the same rigorous procedure and scrutiny by the ACLU and so forth that the other technology does. I'm not advocating it. I'm just saying that the possibility exists. The possibility also exists to sample a wide variety of medical conditions non-obtrusively. And I think that could end up being a valuable instrument for medical diagnosis.

[...]

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 12:21:58 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Tallahassee
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Tally hassles in Tallahassee? Gimme a break!

.

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 10:37:01 -0800
From: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: VNS and Oregon
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

Hi - There was no exit polling in Oregon -how could there have been since it was mail-in ballots. But what I gather from VNS they did a telephone poll of 600 voters prior to election day.

Susan Pinkus

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen M. Johnson [SMTP:johnsons@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2000 8:09 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: VNS and Oregon

To the best of my knowledge Oregon did not see any "exit" polling, although someone may have done it at the drop boxes on election day. The news services claim they relied on surveys of people who had voted prior to election day.
Steve Johnson
Associate Director
Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

At 01:25 PM 11/10/00 -0600, you wrote:
>Does anyone know how and whether "exit polling" was done in Oregon with
>its mail-in ballot system?
>
>Also, in the past the New York Times has had a Portrait of the
>Electorate table with data from the exit polls on the Thursday after
>election day, but I did not find it in this Thursday's paper. Does
>anyone know if such a "Portrait" with these data are available
>anywhere.
>
>Thanks,
>
>Barbara Burrell
>
>
>
>Barbara Burrell
>Interim Director
>Public Opinion Laboratory
>Northern Illinois University
>DeKalb, Illinois 60115
>815-753-9657
>

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 14:19:07 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login1.isis.unc.edu
To: AAPOR list <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011141417330.27184-100000@login1.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

FYI ...

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:45:36 -0800
From: Peter Y. Sussman <pys@sirius.com>
To: spj-ethics@ccrc.wustl.edu
Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox

The Washington Post reports that the man in charge of election night coverage for Fox News -- and the man who made the first decision to call Florida for Bush and hence the election -- is the first cousin of Bush brothers Jeb and George W. and was in frequent contact with them during Election Night. Fox's decision to "give" Florida to Bush was followed within minutes by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC. It was that initial decision that first created the impression that lingers to this day that the state was won by Bush, affecting public perceptions of all subsequent actions by Bush and Gore and their supporters.

The story is at
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 14:23:34 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

But don't forget all of the major news organizations first gave it to Gore - while most of America was still awake. And according to the WP story Ellis was behind that call as well.

AP has what appears to be a more up-dated version of this story at
<http://news.excite.com/news/ap/001114/10/ent-eln-election-fox-executive>

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Philip Meyer [SMTP:pmeyer@email.unc.edu]
> Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 2:19 PM
> To: AAPOR list

> Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

>

>

> FYI ...

>

>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:45:36 -0800

> From: Peter Y. Sussman <pys@sirius.com>

> To: spj-ethics@ccrc.wustl.edu

> Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox

>

>

> The Washington Post reports that the man in charge of election night
> coverage for Fox News -- and the man who made the first decision to call
> Florida for Bush and hence the election -- is the first cousin of Bush
> brothers Jeb and George W. and was in frequent contact with them during
> Election Night. Fox's decision to "give" Florida to Bush was followed
> within minutes by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC. It was that initial decision that

>

> first created the impression that lingers to this day that the state was
> won by Bush, affecting public perceptions of all subsequent actions by
> Bush

> and Gore and their supporters.

>

> The story is at

> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

>

>

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 14:35:17 -0500

From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>

To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: RE: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

MIME-Version: 1.0

X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)

Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"

Is the assertion being made that five major news networks were duped by a
Bush relative? And, what, if anything, should we make of the fact that the
Bush relative also previously called Florida for Gore?

-----Original Message-----

From: Philip Meyer [mailto:pmeyer@email.unc.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 2:19 PM

To: AAPOR list

Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

FYI ...

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:45:36 -0800

From: Peter Y. Sussman <pys@sirius.com>
To: spj-ethics@ccrc.wustl.edu
Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox

The Washington Post reports that the man in charge of election night coverage for Fox News -- and the man who made the first decision to call Florida for Bush and hence the election -- is the first cousin of Bush brothers Jeb and George W. and was in frequent contact with them during Election Night. Fox's decision to "give" Florida to Bush was followed within minutes by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC. It was that initial decision that first created the impression that lingers to this day that the state was won by Bush, affecting public perceptions of all subsequent actions by Bush and Gore and their supporters.

The story is at
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 15:59:36 -0500
From: "Viswanath, K. Vish (NCI)" <viswanav@mail.nih.gov>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Request for media surveys
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)
Content-Type: text/plain

Dear Colleagues,

This is not as exciting as the election news but I wonder if someone can help me with information on organizations that routinely do media exposure surveys. We are working on a major national survey on Cancer information, knowledge and exposure and are looking at different media exposure measures.

I will appreciate any information anyone has on organizations that routinely measure media exposure both in general as well as on health. We have an idea on some usually well-known ones such as Nielsen, MRI or Simmons. We want to make sure if there are other organizations beside these.

Please send the information to me at my E-mail address. If there is an interest, I will share it with the group in a summary form.

Thanks,

Vish

K. Viswanath, Ph. D.
Expert, Health Communication & Informatics Research Branch
Behavioral Research Program
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
National Cancer Institute
6130 Executive Blvd., EPN 4070
Bethesda, MD 20892-7363

[Rockville, MD 20852 - express mail]

Tel: (301) 594-6644 (Voice)
(301) 480-2087 (FAX)

Please note my New E-mail Address: Viswanav@mail.nih.gov
<mailto:Viswanav@mail.nih.gov>

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 17:54:56 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: More poll results
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBGEHJCNA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Washington Post/ABC News:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/vault/data111300.htm>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13958-2000Nov13.html>

Gallup: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr001114.asp>
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr001113.asp>

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 18:40:39 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Administration and Cost of Elections Project (ACE)
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBGEHLCNA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

This might be of interest...
<http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/vc/default.htm>
"The Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Electronic Publication represents the first-ever attempt to provide a globally accessible information resource on election administration. It provides user-friendly, operationally oriented information on options, detailed procedures, and the

administrative and cost implications associated with organising elections. Three leading international organisations that provide electoral assistance have worked together to produce the ACE Electronic Publication. The project partners are the International Foundation for Election Systems, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs..."

Guiding Principles of Vote Counting

<http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/vc/vc20/default.htm>

"To establish and maintain public confidence in the electoral process, vote counting systems and procedures should incorporate the fundamental principles of vote counting in a democratic election.

These fundamental principles are:

- * transparency
- * security
- * professionalism
- * accuracy
- * secrecy
- * timeliness
- * accountability
- * equity

Transparency

For the counting process to be open and transparent, representatives of political parties and candidates should be allowed to witness and/or participate in the process, and permitted to copy the statement of the results of the counting process. National and international electoral observers should also be allowed to witness the process and permitted to copy the statement of the results of the counting process. In some countries, ordinary citizens are encouraged to watch the counting process. Manual counting is by its nature more transparent than computerized counting. If vote counting is computerized, new mechanisms for ensuring transparency, such as external audits, need to be introduced.

Security

The security of the ballots and the ballot boxes, from the time voting begins to the completion of the count, is fundamental to the integrity of the counting process. Polling and counting officials, representatives of political parties and candidates, and national and international electoral observers should carefully watch the ballots and the boxes at all times, and accompany them if they are moved from one location to another. Individually numbered, tamper-proof seals or bags should be used to ensure the secure transport of ballots.

Professionalism

Polling and counting officials must act in a professional manner. They should be thoroughly trained in the counting process, as distinct from the voting process; thorough in their procedures; and committed to treating electoral materials with care and respect. Once a person accepts work as a counting official, he or she must be non-partisan throughout the entire process. Some jurisdictions require that all counting officials (as well as poll officials) sign an oath to this effect, creating awareness that they can be legally prosecuted if their work is proved to be partisan.

Accuracy

Accuracy is directly related to the integrity of the count, and of the elections themselves. Later discovery of errors and correction of mistakes can lead to accusations of manipulation or fraud. The accuracy of the count will depend on clear procedures and manuals, adequate staff training, and their commitment to the process. Clear audit trails of ballots and ballot

boxes, as well as checking and rechecking mechanisms, will contribute to the accuracy of the results. Whilst mechanical voting or computerization may enhance accuracy, this must be balanced against the resulting apparent loss of transparency.

Secrecy

Secrecy of the vote is important because it ensures that voters cannot be punished for the way they vote, or intimidated into voting a particular way. To preserve the secrecy of the vote, voters' identification must be protected during the count. If their identity and choice on the ballot is determined as a result of counting procedures, it must be kept confidential and never revealed. If the secrecy of the vote of individuals or a community is a concern, measures such as counting at counting centres, rather than at individual polling stations, or mixing ballots from different polls, can be considered. Numbered ballot papers corresponding to matching stubs with the voter details, while facilitating accountability and clear audit trails, compromise secrecy and are best avoided.

Timeliness

Delays in completing the count and in the release of unofficial preliminary results can negatively affect the level of integrity and confidence in the voting process. The responsible electoral management body should carefully plan all stages of the counting process to facilitate the early announcement of results, or at least to realistically assess when results can be announced, taking into consideration the communications and transport infrastructure.

Accountability

Clear responsibility and accountability for each stage of the counting process are important. At the national level, the electoral management body should be accountable. At the electoral district level, it may be a senior election officer or commission official. At polling stations, specified poll workers may be responsible for polling and counting. Clearly defined complaints and appeals processes are also important.

Counting rules, including criteria for rejecting ballots, should be clear, known in advance, and understood by everyone involved in the election, including election officials, the general public, political parties, candidates, non-governmental organizations, and national and international electoral observers.

Clear audit trails are essential in ensuring accountability.

Equity

Equity generally means that the rules are the same for all participants in the electoral process, and that they accept these rules. The proper training and non-partisanship of counting officials and polling officials, and the presence of political party representatives, national and international electoral observers will help to ensure that counting is conducted in a fair and correct manner.

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 19:12:41 EST

From: Thomoconr@aol.com

Received: from Thomoconr@aol.com

by imo-r04.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.ae.d342234 (3983)

for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 14 Nov 2000 19:12:42 -0500 (EST)

Message-ID: <ae.d342234.27432ef9@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

To: aapornet@usc.edu

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
In-reply-to: <ae.d342234.27432ef9@aol.com>
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

Dear All:

The idea that a Bush relative was at Fox and involved in the calling of any states at all is completely ludicrous. That a Bush relative had a role in this call is absolutely unacceptable whether or not he made the final call or gave presumably confidential data to the Bush Bros!!!

There is poll today that shows that GOP voters are less willing to accept Gore as Prexy than vice versa. Chuck Hegel attributes this to the fact that the media called for Bush at 2:20 a.m.

If you think this is legitimate, you have signed on to a view that of "media uber alles." They can do whatever they want and are completely outside normal questioning.

It is the same reason that people are very upset that not only the politicians but the commentators or the Bloviating class, as Carville called them, take money from special interests.

Want information on this, go the the Chicago Tribune and look at the Cokie Watch, that James Warren has running.

If a politician takes a big weekend and a \$30K speaking fee from big tobacco that is news story, if Sam Donaldson does that is just okay.

If the Pollsters sign on to this level of credibility, is it any wonder that people will be hanging up their phones on them.

There is a reason for Huffington's Partnership for a Poll Free America, do you want to give her ammunition, now that she has become a real liberal!!

Andy Beveridge.

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Thomoconr@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 7:13 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

I agree. Florida was originally called for Gore when only 25% of the vote had been tallied and Bush was in the lead, so the nepotism charge doesn't hold water. You're also impugning the professionalism of the other major networks by saying they played follow the leader. As for the

"misperception"

that Bush won the state, I think that has more to do with that fact that Bush holds a slim lead in the state's ballots, not because his brother works at Fox.

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 16:54:16 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011141652240.16871-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Here is more recent reporting--by The Washington Post's Howard Kurtz--on the influence of John Ellis, first cousin of George W. and Jeb Bush, in his role as head of Fox News's Election Night decision desk, and his impact on the presidential election coverage of other news media.

-- Jim

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

Tuesday, November 14, 2000; Page C01

Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News

By Howard Kurtz
Washington Post Staff Writer

In yet another bizarre twist to an already surreal campaign, the head of Fox News's Election Night decision desk--who recommended calling Florida, and the election, for George W. Bush--turns out to be Bush's first cousin.

Even as he was leading the Fox decision desk that night, John Ellis was also on the phone with his cousins--"Jebbie," the governor of Florida, and the presidential candidate himself--giving them updated assessments of the vote count.

Ellis's projection was crucial because Fox News Channel put Florida in the W. column at 2:16 a.m.--followed by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC within four minutes. That decision, which turned out to be wrong and was retracted by the embarrassed networks less than two hours later, created the impression that Bush had "won" the White House.

Which is why media circles were buzzing yesterday with the question of why Fox had installed a Bush relative in such a sensitive post.

"Appearance of impropriety?" asks Fox Vice President John Moody, who approved Ellis's recommendation to call Florida for Bush. "I don't think there's anything improper about it as long as he doesn't behave improperly, and I have no evidence he did. . . . John has always conducted himself in an extremely professional manner."

But Moody admits that Ellis's Election Night conversations with the cousins "would cause concern."

Ellis--whose mother, Nancy Ellis, is the sister of former president George Bush--boasted to the New Yorker that "everyone followed us." He also said the morning after the election that "Jebbie'll be calling me like eight thousand times a day." Ellis did not respond to an interview request yesterday.

Ellis's support for his cousin was hardly a secret. He wrote in The Washington Post's Outlook section nine days ago that the Texas governor is "smart, engaging, enormously energetic, possessed of dynamic leadership skills, funny, wry [and] optimistic," as opposed to "the morally berserk universe of the Clintons."

Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, said: "The notion that you'd have the cousin of one presidential candidate . . . in a position to call a state is unthinkable. Fox's call precipitated all the other networks' calls. That call--wrong, unnecessary, misguided, foolish--has helped create a sense that this election went to Bush, was pulled back and he is waiting to be restored."

Critics say the Ellis connection will reinforce Fox's reputation as a conservative network whose anchors include Tony Snow, a former Bush White House staffer, and such commentators as Newt Gingrich. Fox maintains it merely provides a balanced alternative to the liberal networks. But, says Rosenstiel, "the marketing slogan 'We report, you decide' is obliterated by the fact that one candidate's first cousin is actually deciding, and then they report."

Marvin Kalb, Washington executive director of Harvard's Shorenstein press center, calls Ellis "a fine writer and columnist, and he's always sensitive about his relationship with his first cousin. His mother is very, very close with former president Bush. Therefore I am puzzled as to why he'd put himself in a position where he would seem to be the one making the call for his cousin. It clearly conveys the wrong impression."

As a Boston Globe columnist last year, Ellis wrote after some reader complaints: "I am loyal to my cousin. . . . I put that loyalty ahead of my loyalty to anyone else outside my immediate family. That being the case, it is not possible for me to continue writing columns about the 2000 presidential campaign."

Ellis worked for NBC News as a producer and researcher in the political unit from 1978 through March 1989, soon after President Bush took office. Fox says it hired Ellis this year for work during the primaries and on Election Night. He also worked for Fox in 1998 when, Moody says, he called George Bush's reelection in Texas (though that was a landslide).

Ellis, who lives in Irvington, N.Y., was among those briefing Fox News President Roger Ailes last Tuesday night, but he was not a total Bush loyalist. At 7:52 p.m., Fox called Florida for Al Gore based on Ellis's recommendation, though Fox was not the first to make that projection. After Fox's report, according to the New Yorker, Jeb Bush called and asked Ellis: "Are you sure?"

The Gore call, based heavily on exit polls from Voter News Service, also turned out to be wrong and was retracted by the networks two hours later.

At 2 a.m., Ellis called his cousins to say it was "statistically impossible" for Gore to win Florida. "Their mood was up, big-time," Ellis told the New Yorker's Jane Mayer. "It was just the three of us guys handing the phone back and forth--me with the numbers, one of them a governor, the other the president-elect. Now that was cool."

But it was decidedly uncool to some Fox staffers, angry at what they see as Ellis exaggerating his role. Some are calling him "John 'Alexander Haig' Ellis," declaring himself to be in charge.

Whatever the Yale graduate's job description, it remains unclear why a television network allowed him to call the election for his cousin.

"You factor that in to everything else, but John is a professional," Moody says. "It would be as strange not to hire him because of who he's related to as to hire him especially because of who he's related to."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

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Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 16:56:57 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Harry Shearer does exit polls
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011141655210.16871-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Harry Shearer does exit polls--and does them no favor. Even worse, he's not that funny.....

-- Jim

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http://inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,14776_11_23_1,00.html

Monday, November 13 03:19 p.m.

SHEARER: A Simple Remedy to TV Exit Polls Run Amok

By Harry Shearer

So now the finger-pointing starts, and many fingers are aimed at the broadcast and cable news networks. The massive dual screwups on the Sunshine State (adding to our language the now-unforgettable phrase, 'We're taking back Florida!') have Republicans complaining about the discouragement of voters from the Panhandle to the Pacific and Democrats bitching about their Maalox bills. Rep. Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana, has already threatened Congressional hearings, the surest sign that somebody smells some fish.

Well, welcome to the club. We in California have been bitching, to no avail, for years about vote projections starting to rain upon us at 4 o'clock in the afternoon every Election Day. Now that Americans are discovering that this is only one of the many stupidities endemic in our election process, maybe something will be done. Probably, given Congressman Tauzin's proclivities, the wrong thing will be done.

First, a smidgin of background. Voter News Service, the outfit that provides exit-poll results to all the broadcasters and wire agencies, was set up as a monopoly in the early '90s (roughly the time that news was required to become a 'profit center' at the networks). The basic insight was: Why should we compete in gathering raw votes and running exit polls when we can all pool the same data? The answer, of course, is that under this system when one outlet is wrong, they all go horribly bad.

But let's assume for a moment that exit-poll data actually fall under the rubric of 'information.' A lot of huers and cryers are insisting that the networks refrain from releasing that material until (a) some polls close, (b) all polls close, or (c) hell freezes over. Personally, I feel the networks do too much withholding as it is. When I see Dan or Pete promoting a story for tomorrow night's news, I want to scream back: 'If you know it tonight, why don't you tell me tonight?' The incentives in our system should always point in the direction of disclosure.

The federal government, of course, is, or should be, foreclosed from even tiptoeing into this area by a little thing called the First Amendment. If Tom Brokaw wants to get on the air at 4 p.m. Pacific and yell, 'Everybody in California, leave the polls and go lie down,' he has a constitutional right to do so. You might not understand him, given the number of L's in that sentence, but he has the right to say it.

The solution does not rest, I suggest, with either the networks or the government. It resides where it should, with the voters. There is no constitutional requirement that voters speak to exit-pollsters. There is, in fact, a strong suggestion that they shouldn't. The ballot is secret. Yakking about it to a total stranger three seconds after you've left the

booth would seem to compromise that secrecy.

So why does anyone participate in exit polls? Ego, probably. It appeals to us that somebody from some big consortium cares about what we think, how we choose. It doesn't occur to most of us at the time that by so indulging our desire to feel involved we are helping to screw up somebody else's election.

The networks could be intimidated into running public-service spots that equate talking to exit-pollsters with giving away nuclear secrets. Sure it would be against their selfish interests in having hot numbers to peddle, but they've been known cravenly to scurry away from their self-interest under public pressure before. However the message got to the voters, one thing is clear: If every single person leaving the polls said four simple words -- 'None of your business' -- to anyone who approached with a clipboard, voters from the Panhandle to the Pacific could punch their holes in peace, and Congress could get back to the serious business of raising money for the next campaign.

http://inside.com/story/Story_Cached/0,2770,14776_11_23_1,00.html

Copyright (C) 2000 Powerful Media, Inc. -- Inside.com

=====
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 19:00:52 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <Pine.GSO.3.96.1001114105332.27604A-100000@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu>
Subject: Re: The Way We Win
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

I am afraid we may be heading for the worst of all possible worlds:

Several Florida counties request to recount ballots

The Florida Secretary of State, Bush's campaign co-chair, denies the requests finding the rationale insufficient.

With the 300 vote lead he currently has plus the foreign ballots, Bush is declared the winner. (Though I am mindful of Phil Meyer's "straight line" interpretation of the "trend" in the foreign vote over the last 3 elections which, by my eyeball calculations, could result in a popular vote TIE {straight line the trends and it predicts to about a 300 vote Gore margin in this vote}).

The counties proceed with their recounts anyway, revealing that if their recounts are included, Gore would be President.

So the Presidential election is decided in the courts, probably in favor of the loser of both the electoral and popular vote.

Mike O'Neil

Michael O'Neil, Ph.D.
mike.oneil@alumni.brown.edu

----- Original Message -----

From: Alice Robbin <aarobbin@indiana.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 9:02 AM
Subject: Re: The Way We Win

> The day after the election, last Wednesday, I made two predictions
> concerning increases in applications for immigration and for citizenship
> as a result of the world's assessment of the outcome of our election. When
> friends wrote to me about a "crisis of legitimacy," I replied that "there
> is no 'crisis,' our political institutions are strong, and they are the
> envy of the world." I also predicted that Americans would support the
> process of recounting, including its delays, and would accept whatever
> outcome (i.e., Bush or Gore) was eventually decided upon. Thus far,
> polling data seem to support the latter, and we will just have to see
> about the former predictions. Count me optimistic and naive...

>

>

> *****

> Alice Robbin, Associate Professor
> School of Library and Information Science
> Indiana University
> 005A Main Library
> 1320 East 10th Street
> Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
> Office: (812) 855-5389 Fax: (812) 855-6166
> Email: aarobbin@indiana.edu

>

>

>

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 01:04:17 -0600
From: rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu
Received: from norcmail.uchicago.edu (norcmail.uchicago.edu [128.135.45.4])
by genesis1.norc.uchicago.edu (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id AAA08224;
Wed, 15 Nov 2000 00:58:02 -0600
Received: from ccMail by norcmail.uchicago.edu (ccMail Link to SMTP
R8.30.00.7)
id AA974271267; Wed, 15 Nov 2000 00:54:28 -0600
Message-Id: <0011159742.AA974271267@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
X-Mailer: ccMail Link to SMTP R8.30.00.7
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>, <aapornet@usc.edu>, <rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu>

Subject: Re: AAPORNET digest 1578
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Description: "cc:Mail Note Part"

To James Murphy, Jim Wolfe, and Jim Benninger.

I enjoyed the exchange. Here is two cents worth of input, no doubt worth every penny. Try looking at it this way. The vote count should represent the relative support of candidates by all voters. But there is error in the data collection process and in the measuring process. The error comes from at least two sources, the voter (didn't punch completely, voted for two candidates, voted for the wrong candidate) or from the vote counting process. Under some conditions, the error may be considered stochastic, that is random error or error distributed normally around an unknown true value. Under other conditions the error may be biased, that is, more actual votes for Gore than Bush suppressed intentionally or accidentally, or more actual votes for Bush than Gore suppressed intentionally or accidentally. Or more votes for Buchanan due to a poorly constructed ballot. Most likely both random error and bias are going on in this case.

In a sense the obtained votes are a sample of the actual votes because they are a subset of actual votes cast. The sample has error, the error may be random (stochastic) or biased, but it is impossible to determine in any mathematical sense the nature or degree of error since we don't understand all of the processes that generated the error and had no control over them by way of a predetermined design. I hope this has not totally misrepresented these tried and true important properties of sampling and measurement.

One solution, completely impractical but possibly statistically defensible, is to draw random samples of registered voters in each county, perhaps proportional to size and to collect their votes and use these to determine who wins in the state. Why would this help? 1) because with fewer voters we would have a better chance of insuring fewer errors in the data collection. 2) Because of our imposed scientific design we would understand much better the nature of the source of error and the degree of bias in the samples and may be able to compute something close to a correct standard error. and 3) we might be better able to convince a sample of registered voters to have a higher turnout rate just because there are fewer people to focus on, so that the results represent a broader group, registered voters, rather than actual voters..

There are obvious problems, For example, what do you do when the sample does not give enough power to determine whether a small difference is significant. And this scheme is no doubt completely unconstitutional, probably at both the federal and state levels. There may be many more problems as well. But when you go about measuring in a controlled scientific way your problems are more likely to be knowable and controllable, leading to a more precise, less biased representation of the voters' choice. At least there is hope of some order using this method, compared to the current chaos. However, in my humble opinion real politics sometimes prefers chaos to order.

A completely deterministic process, to me, would be where one or more individuals collude to change or suppress votes in favor of one candidate over the other, and their efforts are successful.

Reply Separator

Subject: AAPORNET digest 1578
Author: <aapornet@usc.edu> at INTERNET
Date: 11/13/00 4:00 AM

AAPORNET Digest 1578

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Florida Balloting, especialy Palm Beach
by Scheuren@aol.com
- 2) No subject given
by smitht@norcmail.uchicago.edu
- 3) Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
by "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
- 4) RE: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
by "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
- 5) Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
by Scott Keeter <skeeter@osfl.gmu.edu>
- 6) Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
by Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
- 7) Re: Florida ballot
by Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
- 8) On Close Election Mythology`
by "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
- 9) Re: On Close Election Mythology`
by "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
- 10) Re: Florida recount results--predicting the final outcome
by Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
- 11) Talk About Slim Margins . . .
by dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
- 12) Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
by Jim Wolf <Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net>
- 13) Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
by "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
- 14) Re: On Close Election Mythology--Reply to J.P. Murphy
by James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
- 15) Thanks But No Thanks
by "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:27:22 -0500
From: "Barry Hollander" <barry@arches.uga.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

References: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011141652240.16871-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

The Bush cousin at Fox is an interesting little sidebar, but not all that important. Now, anyone upset because he was feeding VNS results to the campaign needs to be careful since it's my understanding that this is something of a traditional activity among certain journalists at newspapers and networks. All done quietly, often in trade for access or good quotes, and so on.

But, having a cousin of a candidate on the desk (or in any journalistic role) is a violation of basic ethics. Shouldn't happen. Ever.

Did Ellis play a role in the calling of Florida for Gore earlier in the evening, or was he not on duty then? Did Fox even call it for Gore when the others did?

Finally, is it me, or is VNS being just too quiet in this whole affair? Or have I missed a nice long story on the innards of how the process worked, didn't work, and so on, complete with VNS explanations other than stock pr quotes.

Barry Hollander
Associate Professor
College of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
706.542.5027

email: barry@arches.uga.edu
web: <http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander>

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 09:05:20 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPOEILCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700
In-Reply-To: <003f01c04f07\$c90cd280\$e623c080@grady.uga.edu>

Finally, is it me, or is VNS being just too quiet in this whole affair? Or have I missed a nice long story on the innards of how the process worked, didn't work, and so on, complete with VNS explanations other than stock pr quotes.

VNS is a creature of the networks, and has been barred from saying very much. Rather they are taking the fall for this!!!

Passing the buck.

Andy Beveridge

```
=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 09:28:09 -0500
From: Elizabeth.Ann.Martin@census.gov
Received: from deliver.tco.census.gov (inet-gw.census.gov [148.129.143.2])
        by info.census.gov (8.11.0/8.11.0) with ESMTTP id eAFESQG01269
        for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 15 Nov 2000 09:28:27 -0500 (EST)
Received: from it008nthqln.tco.census.gov (it008nthqln.tco.census.gov
[148.129.123.82])
        by deliver.tco.census.gov (8.11.0/8.11.0/v3.12) with SMTP id
eAFESQs23661
        for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 15 Nov 2000 09:28:26 -0500
Received: by it008nthqln.tco.census.gov (Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.5 (863.2 5-20-
1999)) id 85256998.004EF6AC ; Wed, 15 Nov 2000
09:22:29 -0500
X-Lotus-FromDomain: BOC
Sender: Elizabeth.Ann.Martin@census.gov
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-ID: <85256998.004EF4AE.00@it008nthqln.tco.census.gov>
Subject: RE: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline
```

I believe the argument would be that a conflict of interest existed (nepotism does not seem to apply to this situation). Ellis had a conflict of interest between loyalty to his Bush cousins, and the impartiality and objectivity required of his position. That there was a real conflict of interest, as well as the appearance of one, is suggested by the fact that (by his account) he was in constant communication with his cousins throughout the night. Of course, we don't know if he was urged to call the state for Bush, but he might well have felt some pressure to do so, especially given his earlier, erroneous call for

Gore. In any case, his relationship to the candidate creates at least the appearance of a conflict of interest and calls into question the impartiality of Fox's projection.

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Is the assertion being made that five major news networks were duped by a Bush relative? And, what, if anything, should we make of the fact that the Bush relative also previously called Florida for Gore?

-----Original Message-----
From: Philip Meyer [mailto:pmeyer@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2000 2:19 PM
To: AAPOR list
Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox (fwd)

FYI ...

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Tue, 14 Nov 2000 09:45:36 -0800
From: Peter Y. Sussman <pys@sirius.com>
To: spj-ethics@ccrc.wustl.edu
Subject: Election night nepotism at Fox

The Washington Post reports that the man in charge of election night coverage for Fox News -- and the man who made the first decision to call Florida for Bush and hence the election -- is the first cousin of Bush brothers Jeb and George W. and was in frequent contact with them during Election Night. Fox's decision to "give" Florida to Bush was followed

within minutes by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC. It was that initial decision that first created the impression that lingers to this day that the state was won by Bush, affecting public perceptions of all subsequent actions by Bush and Gore and their supporters.

The story is at

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

```
=====  
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 10:12:12 -0500  
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>  
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>  
Subject: VNS, Fox and Ellis  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

In the following story (which says that for the time being at least Fox is standing by Ellis) from the MSNBC website

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/490072.asp>

This is the how the article ends:

But taking disciplinary action against Ellis now might be taken as Fox's admission of culpability in making a wrong call. All of the networks have blamed faulty VNS data for the election-night miscues.

WHAT WENT WRONG

Meanwhile, CBS is the first network to call for a full-scale investigation of how the results in Florida were twice called wrong on the air. The inquiry will be handled by a panel that includes CBS News veteran Linda Mason, the network's head of surveys Kathleen Frankovic and Kathleen Hall Jamison, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Their report will make recommendations on whether any changes should be made to the process of calling races.

Mason said the investigation is not motivated by criticism from Washington. "There are a number of us that are very upset with what happened," she said. "Election time used to be a time when the networks established their credibility. Suddenly to call it wrong twice, we've lost a lot of our credibility and we want to get back. The ultimate goal is that something like this doesn't happen again."

--

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

```
=====  
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 10:54:14 -0500 (EST)  
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>  
X-Sender: pmeyer@login1.isis.unc.edu  
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>  
Subject: Re: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
```

In-Reply-To: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011141652240.16871-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011151045150.37660-100000@login1.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

The other networks followed Fox's Bush call within four minutes. That's four independent decisions in a very small span of a very long night. Of course they are looking at the same data. But are the data so clear and free of ambiguity that five independent observers, each ignorant of what the others were saying, would make the same decision in the same short span of time?

Or are they aware of what the other networks are doing and taking that information into the calculation? Maybe even feeling a little bit of pressure to conform? Would somebody who knows more about the process than I do offer an opinion? To the public, I'm afraid that it might look like a case of follow-the-leader.

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 11:07:38 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: A timely quote ...
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A12B4CA.4B1433E0@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win95; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001114174644.02f909c0@mail.mindspring.com>

How is this for a timely quotation, from the dean (no pun intended) of experts on American elections, Walter Dean Burnham:

"if the historically progressive role of the middle class has been played out, it is only too evident that the American middle class is peculiarly subject to threat and anxiety both of the international and domestic transformations which have unfolded since World War II... Whatever the outcome may be, the crisis of our time is at bottom a crisis of traditional Lockian ideology and institutions in an age marked by their increasingly obvious irrelevancy to the policy choices at hand. The Chinese have a proverbial curse: 'May you live in interesting times.' We surely do; and whatever course of our history as we pass through the greatest of transitional crises may be, the American political system is not likely to emerge unchanged from its ordeal."

"Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics", pp.

192-193. (Note: this was published in 1970; how is that for insight?).

Frank Rusciano

dick halpern wrote:

> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 11:03:13 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Jim Wolf <Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
In-Reply-To: <0011159742.AA974271267@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Ken Rasinski's recent (and thoughtful) comments add another interesting angle to the representativeness of elections.

But I will reiterate that election results are not estimates of anything. They are a complete enumeration of the only units that count: the votes of eligible voters.

Elections are not designed to reflect the wishes of the entire population. Elections are a "convenience sample" at best that include only those respondents who chose to vote. Factor in the electoral college system and process drifts further away from the wishes of the majority.

If we want our elections to reflect the will of the U.S. population, we will need to implement the "completely impractical" solution Ken presented of conducting a sample survey with rigorous methods to promote a high response rate. Then we could discuss margins of error.

The rhetorical question (please do not respond to the list!) is: should we elect people based on a system that estimates the will of the population or based on one that only counts the opinions of voters?

Jim Wolf Jim-Wolf@att.net

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 11:13:35 -0500 (EST)
From: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
X-Sender: arobbin@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu
Reply-To: Alice Robbin <arobbin@indiana.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Design issues in voting ballots
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.96.1001115111127.3269C-100000@ariel.ucs.indiana.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

You may be interested in this usability study that was conducted in 1998 and published in "Information Design Journal":

Disenfranchised by Design
<http://cryptome.org/dis-vote.htm>

(Click to get to pdf version of the article.)

Alice Robbin, Associate Professor
School of Library and Information Science
Indiana University
005A Main Library
1320 East 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
Office: (812) 855-5389 Fax: (812) 855-6166
Email: arobbin@indiana.edu

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 10:17:09 -0600
From: "Stuefen, Randy" <rstuefen@usd.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Talk About Slim Margins . . .
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2448.0)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="windows-1252"

I agree that elections are not designed to reflect the wishes of the entire population but do not think elections are a "convenience sample". Elections are counts from a population of interest that includes only people that 1) are registered to vote and 2) exercise that option. Elections are a census count of that population of interest.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Wolf [mailto:Jim-Wolf@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: November 15, 2000 10:03 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Talk About Slim Margins . . .

Ken Rasinski's recent (and thoughtful) comments add another interesting angle to the representativeness of elections.

But I will reiterate that election results are not estimates of anything. They are a complete enumeration of the only units that count: the votes of eligible voters.

Elections are not designed to reflect the wishes of the entire population. Elections are a "convenience sample" at best that include only those respondents who chose to vote. Factor in the electoral college system and process drifts further away from the wishes of the majority.

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will need to implement the "completely impractical" solution Ken presented of conducting a sample survey with rigorous methods to promote a high response rate. Then we could discuss margins of error.

The rhetorical question (please do not respond to the list!) is: should we elect people based on a system that estimates the will of the population or based on one that only counts the opinions of voters?

=====
Jim Wolf Jim-Wolf@att.net

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 16:20:39 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Royal Decree fyi
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----_NextPart_000_079B_01C04F1F.FE6CD660"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_079B_01C04F1F.FE6CD660
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

BY ROYAL DECREE:=20
=20
(Just received this from England)
=20
Subject: HRH Proclamation=20
=20
London, 10th November 2000=20
=20
To the citizens of the United States of America,=20
=20
Following your failure to elect a President of the USA=20
to govern yourselves and, by extension, the free world, we hereby give =

notice of the revocation of your independence. Her Sovereign Majesty =
Queen=20
Elizabeth II will resume a monarch's duties over all states, =
commonwealths and=20
other territories.=20
=20
To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, please comply =
with=20
the following acts:=20
=20
1. Look up "revoke" in a dictionary=20

2. Learn at least the first 4 lines of "God save the Queen"=
 3. Start referring to "soccer" as football=
 4. Start driving on the left side of the road.=
 5. Start carrying umbrellas everywhere.=
 6. Declare war on Quebec=
 =
 Tax collectors from Her Majesty's Government will be=
 with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all revenues due =
 (backdated=
 to 1776).=
 =
 Thank you for your cooperation and... cheerio!=
 =

```

-----_NextPart_000_079B_01C04F1F.FE6CD660
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
  
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http-equiv=Content-Type>
<META content="MSHTML 5.00.2614.3500" name=DGENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY bgColor=#ffffff>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2><STRONG>BY ROYAL=
DECREE</STRONG>:&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; (Just received =
this from=
England)<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; <STRONG>Subject: HRH=
Proclamation&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; London, 10th November =
2000&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; To the citizens of the United =
States=
of America,&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; Following your failure to =
elect a=
President of the USA&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; to govern yourselves&nbsp;and, by=
extension, the free world, we hereby give&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; notice of the=
revocation&nbsp;of your independence. Her Sovereign Majesty=
Queen&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; Elizabeth II will resume a&nbsp;monarch's duties =
over all=
states, commonwealths and&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; other=
territories.&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; To aid in the =
transition to a=
British Crown&nbsp;Dependency, please comply with&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; the =
following=
acts:&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 1. Look up "revoke" in a=
dictionary&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 2. Learn at least the first 4 lines of "God =
save=
the&nbsp;Queen"&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 3. Start referring to "soccer" as=
football&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 4. Start driving on the left side of the=
road.&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 5. Start carrying umbrellas =
everywhere.&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; 6.=
Declare war on Quebec&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<BR>&nbsp; Tax =
  
```

collectors from=20
Her Majesty's Government will be
 with you shortly =
to ensure=20
the acquisition of all revenues due (backdated
 to=20
1776).

 Thank you for your =
cooperation=20
and... cheerio!
 =

</DIV></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_000_079B_01C04F1F.FE6CD660--

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 11:31:41 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A12BA6D.A7AEAB5C@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win95; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011141652240.16871-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

Before we get into a wrangle over the effects of John Ellis's call, can we have a few questions clarified?

(1) Was Ellis's first call for Gore based upon VNS projections? Alternately, was he following the other networks' lead in the call? If either or both of these is true, then his call for Gore is not proof of either bias or the lack thereof.

(2) Was Ellis's second call based upon VNS projects? Alternately, was he following the lead of the other networks in the call? Several stories have answered "no" to both questions, but we must have an accurate answer before any accusation of bias is entertained.

(3) Did the other networks follow Fox's call without consulting the VNS? If so, it would support the assumption that Ellis's call influenced them. If the VNS call coincided with Ellis's statement, though, the fact that he called it first has no relevance.

Can we get accurate answers to these questions?

Frank Rusciano

James Beniger wrote:

> Here is more recent reporting--by The Washington
> Post's Howard Kurtz--on the influence of John Ellis,
> first cousin of George W. and Jeb Bush, in his role
> as head of Fox News's Election Night decision desk,
> and his impact on the presidential election coverage

> of other news media.

> -- Jim

> -----
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> -----

> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

> Tuesday, November 14, 2000; Page C01

> Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News

> By Howard Kurtz
> Washington Post Staff Writer

> In yet another bizarre twist to an already surreal campaign, the head of
> Fox News's Election Night decision desk--who recommended calling Florida,
> and the election, for George W. Bush--turns out to be Bush's first
> cousin.

> Even as he was leading the Fox decision desk that night, John Ellis was
> also on the phone with his cousins--"Jebbie," the governor of Florida,
> and the presidential candidate himself--giving them updated assessments
> of the vote count.

> Ellis's projection was crucial because Fox News Channel put Florida in
> the W. column at 2:16 a.m.--followed by NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC within four
> minutes. That decision, which turned out to be wrong and was retracted by
> the embarrassed networks less than two hours later, created the
> impression that Bush had "won" the White House.

> Which is why media circles were buzzing yesterday with the question of
> why Fox had installed a Bush relative in such a sensitive post.

> "Appearance of impropriety?" asks Fox Vice President John Moody, who
> approved Ellis's recommendation to call Florida for Bush. "I don't think
> there's anything improper about it as long as he doesn't behave
> improperly, and I have no evidence he did. . . . John has always
> conducted himself in an extremely professional manner."

> But Moody admits that Ellis's Election Night conversations with the
> cousins "would cause concern."

> Ellis--whose mother, Nancy Ellis, is the sister of former president
> George Bush--boasted to the New Yorker that "everyone followed us." He
> also said the morning after the election that "Jebbie'll be calling me
> like eight thousand times a day." Ellis did not respond to an interview
> request yesterday.

> Ellis's support for his cousin was hardly a secret. He wrote in The
> Washington Post's Outlook section nine days ago that the Texas governor
> is "smart, engaging, enormously energetic, possessed of dynamic
> leadership skills, funny, wry [and] optimistic," as opposed to "the
> morally berserk universe of the Clintons."

> Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism,
> said: "The notion that you'd have the cousin of one presidential

> candidate . . . in a position to call a state is unthinkable. Fox's call
> precipitated all the other networks' calls. That call--wrong,
> unnecessary, misguided, foolish--has helped create a sense that this
> election went to Bush, was pulled back and he is waiting to be restored."
>
> Critics say the Ellis connection will reinforce Fox's reputation as a
> conservative network whose anchors include Tony Snow, a former Bush White
> House staffer, and such commentators as Newt Gingrich. Fox maintains it
> merely provides a balanced alternative to the liberal networks. But, says
> Rosenstiel, "the marketing slogan 'We report, you decide' is obliterated
> by the fact that one candidate's first cousin is actually deciding, and
> then they report."
>
> Marvin Kalb, Washington executive director of Harvard's Shorenstein press
> center, calls Ellis "a fine writer and columnist, and he's always
> sensitive about his relationship with his first cousin. His mother is
> very, very close with former president Bush. Therefore I am puzzled as to
> why he'd put himself in a position where he would seem to be the one
> making the call for his cousin. It clearly conveys the wrong impression."
>
> As a Boston Globe columnist last year, Ellis wrote after some reader
> complaints: "I am loyal to my cousin. . . . I put that loyalty ahead of
> my loyalty to anyone else outside my immediate family. That being the
> case, it is not possible for me to continue writing columns about the
> 2000 presidential campaign."
>
> Ellis worked for NBC News as a producer and researcher in the political
> unit from 1978 through March 1989, soon after President Bush took office.
> Fox says it hired Ellis this year for work during the primaries and on
> Election Night. He also worked for Fox in 1998 when, Moody says, he
> called George Bush's reelection in Texas (though that was a landslide).
>
> Ellis, who lives in Irvington, N.Y., was among those briefing Fox News
> President Roger Ailes last Tuesday night, but he was not a total Bush
> loyalist. At 7:52 p.m., Fox called Florida for Al Gore based on Ellis's
> recommendation, though Fox was not the first to make that projection.
> After Fox's report, according to the New Yorker, Jeb Bush called and
> asked Ellis: "Are you sure?"
>
> The Gore call, based heavily on exit polls from Voter News Service, also
> turned out to be wrong and was retracted by the networks two hours later.
>
> At 2 a.m., Ellis called his cousins to say it was "statistically
> impossible" for Gore to win Florida. "Their mood was up, big-time," Ellis
> told the New Yorker's Jane Mayer. "It was just the three of us guys
> handing the phone back and forth--me with the numbers, one of them a
> governor, the other the president-elect. Now that was cool."
>
> But it was decidedly uncool to some Fox staffers, angry at what they see
> as Ellis exaggerating his role. Some are calling him "John 'Alexander
> Haig' Ellis," declaring himself to be in charge.
>
> Whatever the Yale graduate's job description, it remains unclear why a
> television network allowed him to call the election for his cousin.
>
> "You factor that in to everything else, but John is a professional,"
> Moody says. "It would be as strange not to hire him because of who he's

> related to as to hire him especially because of who he's related to."
>
> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

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> *****

=====
Date: 15 Nov 2000 11:42:06 -0500
Message-ID: <-1237833972rmatovic@ssk.com>
Sender: Rebecca Matovic <rmatovic@ssk.com>
From: Rebecca Matovic <rmatovic@ssk.com>
Subject: Re:Talk About Slim Margins . . .
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
X-Mailer: QuickMail Pro 2.0 (Mac)
X-Priority: 3
MIME-Version: 1.0
Reply-To: Rebecca Matovic <rmatovic@ssk.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-Ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id IAA02082

On Thursday, January 4, 1940, Stuefen, Randy <rstuefen@usd.edu> wrote:
>
> Elections are a census
>count of that population of interest.
>

Well put and exactly right. The problems we are experiencing now are in no way "sampling error" -- they are data collection and enumeration errors.

-- Rebecca Matovic

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:57:14 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
In-Reply-To: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPOEILCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011150827410.9555-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

I think that both Kathy F. and Warren M. (among several others) have been

prominent, forthcoming and effective in discussing VNS operations and procedures in the mass media--the textbook way to diffuse bad publicity. As a result, I think that coverage of VNS has been much fairer, more favorable, and more muted than anyone could have anticipated, under the circumstances. One good result, I think, is that public discussion has moved away from the existence and procedures of VNS to the question of whether it ought to be a "monopoly" (not my word) for all media sources, which I find a reasonable topic (again, under the circumstances). All this is hardly reason to celebrate, I admit, but compared to what we might have reasonably expected to happen, I think we have good cause to exhale very slowly (breathe at least a half-sigh of relief), under circumstances which could have hardly been anticipated, except in hindsight--which I will admit is my own personal favorite style of anticipating unexpected crises.

-- Jim

On Wed, 15 Nov 2000, Andrew A. Beveridge wrote:

> Finally, is it me, or is VNS being just too quiet in this whole
> affair? Or have I missed a nice long story on the innards of
> how the process worked, didn't work, and so on, complete
> with VNS explanations other than stock pr quotes.
>
>
> VNS is a creature of the networks, and has been barred from saying
> very much. Rather they are taking the fall for this!!!
>
> Passing the buck.
>
>
> Andy Beveridge

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 12:05:39 EST
From: RFunk787@aol.com
Received: from RFunk787@aol.com
by imo-r04.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.32.) id 5.d0.d7437af (9251)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 15 Nov 2000 12:05:40 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <d0.d7437af.27441c63@aol.com>
Subject: Can America afford clean elections?
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: srailla 4.61 [en] (Win95; I) sub 106

Recent, and still on-going, events relating to the presidential election, plus an article in the Wall Street Journal, "With All the Glitches, The Wonder Is Why The System Survives: Local Governments Lack The Money to Replace Old Machines, Pay Staff" (Nov 9, 2000, p 1) provoked me to question whether the US of A can actually afford to conduct clean elections.

My reasoning is that elections are administered at the county or local levels, and these levels of government are poorly funded. Therefore, there

has long been a tolerated level of slippage and corruption in the process, which only this year, due to the closeness of the race, got 'way out of hand and became so visible. Voting machinery most places is antiquated and often defective or inaccurate. It mostly sits around, taking up warehouse space, to be hauled out every couple years for a few days' use. To modernize it all would cost more than most localities would be willing to pay.

Regarding the corruption aspects of our system: I've heard reports that in North Philly absentee ballots were being handed out, and duly collected, in Black churches; that in Milwaukee students are reporting that they had no problem voting multiple times; that homeless were being bribed with cigarettes to fill out absentee ballots; that bogus voting cards were mailed to non-citizens -- a few anecdotal drops in a vast bucket of election fraud, often involving FELONIES, for goodness sakes. To properly police the voting rolls and voting procedures -- including clearing out dead people and those who have moved away, as well as sorting out fraudulent registrations -- would require legions of highly paid and highly skilled people, plus court resources for appropriate enforcement of election laws, lawyers etc etc. Taxpayers would simply not cough up the dough to fund it.

In other words, despite all our arrogant assertions of being a model democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world, yadda yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards. If this is the case, it renders such recent disputes as campaign financing, not to mention stochastic implications of multiple-hand-recounting and whether a Bush ally was involved in election-night projections (you mean, Gore allies weren't?), rather trivial by comparison.

Here's a suggestion: Since we claim that in electing our president we are choosing the most powerful political figure in the world, how about imposing on the United Nations to chip in for voting machinery upgrades, and to send, for our elections, an army of impartial (and perhaps well-armed) investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our own laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same, as we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many of whose members might number among the accused.

Well, any better ideas?

On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this, check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com

Ray Funkhouser

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 12:10:19 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Who is Counted in the Tally?
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBMEICCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

I heard Newt Gingrich use the VNS early call for Gore on election night as an example of why Census should not use statistical sampling. I recall the Supreme Court ruled that only actual enumeration can be used for apportioning seats in the House of Representatives, but statistical sampling can be used for redistricting and for other issues. When Democrats argued for the use of statistical sampling, Republicans accused Democrats of creating "imaginary" Democrats, and Democrats accused Republicans of leaving out mostly urban minority and poor voters (estimated at 4 million in 1990). I guess the enumeration of registered voters who chose to vote, in this political climate, is proving to be as difficult as settling on what is an accurate Census count. Political elites are going to be discussing counting issues a lot over the next year (including who is accountable for pushing chads out of election ballots) ... Mark Richards

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 12:49:51 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login1.isis.unc.edu
To: AAPOR list <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: VNS
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011151248200.37660-100000@login1.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Tom Rosensteil of the Committee of Concerned Journalists puts the blame not on VNS, but on the way journalists behaved. His column is at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/comment/20001115/t000109495.html>

Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism	Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall	Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina	Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365	http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 10:08:02 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Can America afford clean elections?
In-Reply-To: <d0.d7437af.27441c63@aol.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011151004160.19999-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Wed, 15 Nov 2000 RFunk787@aol.com wrote:

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> democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world, yadda
> yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we
> literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards.

Ray,

Unless you are intending to be ironic here, "third-world election system" is largely oxymoronic.

-- Jim

```
=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 10:37:23 -0800
From: "Pinkus, Susan" <Susan.Pinkus@latimes.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

Maybe it was "follow the leader" - supposedly (and correct me if I'm wrong) VNS did not call a winner a second time (Bush) -they were still waiting to call it.

Susan Pinkus

-----Original Message-----

```
From: Philip Meyer [SMTP:pmeyer@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 7:54 AM
To: AAPORNET
Subject: Re: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call
For Fox News
```

The other networks followed Fox's Bush call within four minutes. That's four independent decisions in a very small span of a very long night. Of course they are looking at the same data. But are the data so clear and free of ambiguity that five independent observers, each ignorant of what the others were saying, would make the same decision in the same short span of time?

Or are they aware of what the other networks are doing and taking that information into the calculation? Maybe even feeling a little bit of pressure to conform? Would somebody who knows more about the process than I do offer an opinion? To the public, I'm afraid that it might look like a case of follow-the-leader.

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 14:12:44 -0500
From: Tucker_C <Tucker_C@bls.gov>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
=====

VNS never made the second call. See Rich Morin's article in Monday's Washington Post, p. A27.

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Rusciano [mailto:rusciano@rider.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:32 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Howard Kurtz: Bush Cousin Made Florida Vote Call For Fox News

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> and his impact on the presidential election coverage
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> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>

> Tuesday, November 14, 2000; Page C01

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> By Howard Kurtz
> Washington Post Staff Writer

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>
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>
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>
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>
> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14385-2000Nov13.html>
>

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>

>
> *****

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 14:11:19 -0600
From: "Steen, Bob" <steenb@fleishman.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: "Republic," not "Democracy"
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

I think it was the eighth grade when we were lectured on the differences between a true democracy, a representative democracy, a republic, a monarchy, etc. Too often we neglect to acknowledge that the United States of America is a republic. We are not a "model democracy" and never have been. The electoral college is a manifestation of this approach to government. The use of the word "states" in the United States of America is a constant reminder of this.

In keeping with our form of government, each state has the right to determine how to cast its electoral votes. We do not need a constitutional amendment to reduce the imbalances inherent in the electoral college approach to electing a president. Each state may legislate that electoral college votes be cast proportionate to the state's popular vote. This would significantly reduce the number of circumstances when the popular vote would yield a result different from the electoral college. If only a few large states took this approach, the one person-one vote principle would be greatly advanced. This certainly has to be a more reasonable approach than what is needed to change the U.S. constitution into something other than the republic that it is.

-----Original Message-----

From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:06 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Can America afford clean elections?

Recent, and still on-going, events relating to the presidential election, plus an article in the Wall Street Journal, "With All the Glitches, The Wonder Is Why The System Survives: Local Governments Lack The Money to Replace Old Machines, Pay Staff" (Nov 9, 2000, p 1) provoked me to question whether the US of A can actually afford to conduct clean elections.

My reasoning is that elections are administered at the county or local levels, and these levels of government are poorly funded. Therefore, there

has long been a tolerated level of slippage and corruption in the process, which only this year, due to the closeness of the race, got 'way out of hand

and became so visible. Voting machinery most places is antiquated and often defective or inaccurate. It mostly sits around, taking up warehouse space, to be hauled out every couple years for a few days' use. To modernize it all

would cost more than most localities would be willing to pay.

Regarding the corruption aspects of our system: I've heard reports that in North Philly absentee ballots were being handed out, and duly collected, in Black churches; that in Milwaukee students are reporting that they had no problem voting multiple times; that homeless were being bribed with cigarettes to fill out absentee ballots; that bogus voting cards were mailed

to non-citizens -- a few anecdotal drops in a vast bucket of election fraud,

often involving FELONIES, for goodness sakes. To properly police the voting rolls and voting procedures -- including clearing out dead people and those who have moved away, as well as sorting out fraudulent registrations -- would

require legions of highly paid and highly skilled people, plus court resources for appropriate enforcement of election laws, lawyers etc etc. Taxpayers would simply not cough up the dough to fund it.

In other words, despite all our arrogant assertions of being a model democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world, yadda yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards. If this is the case, it renders such recent disputes as campaign financing, not to mention stochastic implications of multiple-hand-recounting and whether a Bush ally was involved in election-night projections (you mean, Gore allies weren't?), rather trivial by comparison.

Here's a suggestion: Since we claim that in electing our president we are choosing the most powerful political figure in the world, how about imposing

on the United Nations to chip in for voting machinery upgrades, and to send, for our elections, an army of impartial (and perhaps well-armed) investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our own

laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same, as we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many of whose members might number among the accused.

Well, any better ideas?

On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this, check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com

Ray Funkhouser

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 15:28:25 -0800
From: Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
Reply-To: ande271@attglobal.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD {TLC;RETAIL} (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Who is Counted in the Tally?
References: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBMEICCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Are you willing and able to define "political elite?" I didn't know there was any such phenomenon in America.

Mark David Richards wrote:

> I heard Newt Gingrich use the VNS early call for Gore on election night as
> an example of why Census should not use statistical sampling. I recall the
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> apportioning seats in the House of Representatives, but statistical
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> for the use of statistical sampling, Republicans accused Democrats of
> creating "imaginary" Democrats, and Democrats accused Republicans of
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> out mostly urban minority and poor voters (estimated at 4 million in 1990).
> I guess the enumeration of registered voters who chose to vote, in this
> political climate, is proving to be as difficult as settling on what is an
> accurate Census count. Political elites are going to be discussing
> counting
> issues a lot over the next year (including who is accountable for pushing
> chads out of election ballots) ... Mark Richards

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 16:32:05 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
From: tmglp@cms.mail.virginia.edu
Received: from tetra.mail.virginia.edu by mail.virginia.edu id aa21179;
15 Nov 2000 16:28 EST
Received: from gj9k20b.Virginia.EDU (bootp-55-134.bootp.Virginia.EDU
[128.143.55.134])
by tetra.mail.Virginia.EDU (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id QAA18198;
Wed, 15 Nov 2000 16:28:33 -0500 (EST)
To: AAPORnet List server <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: School-parent questionnaires
Message-ID: <SIMEON.10011151605.R@gj9k20b.config.mail.virginia.edu>
X-Mailer: Simeon for Win32 Version 4.1.4 Build (40)

REV:20001115T222303Z
END:VCARD

-----=_NextPart_000_0094_01C04F20.5422F9E0--

=====
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 17:55:32 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Who is Counted in the Tally?
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBOEIJCNA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400
In-Reply-To: <3A131C19.E89ECAB3@attglobal.net>

In this context, just change "political elites" to "elected officials," or even "people"-that works for me.

As for political elites in "America," two books come to mind (I'm sure there are many more...):

--"American Elites," by Robert Lerner, Althea Nagai, and Stanley Rothman
--"Classes and Elites in Democracy and Democratization: A Collection of Readings," edited by Eva Etzioni-Halevy

Etzioni-Halevy writes, "elites may be distinguished from the rank and file or the public by their exertion or substantial power and influence over that public and over political outcomes. As distinct from class position which is seen as based on economic resources (although these may derive from, and give rise to, other resources) elite position is seen as based on various overlapping resources. These include, besides economic means, organization resources (control of organizations), political resources (public support), symbolic resources (knowledge and ability to manipulate symbols), and personal resources (such as charisma, time, motivation, and energy). Some elites-especially those whose positions are based on public support and on charisma-are usually also referred to as leaders."

Here is what James Madison wrote in The Federalist No. 10 about the difference between a democracy and a republic: "...a pure democracy, by which I mean a society consisting of a small number of citizens, who assemble and administer the government in person, can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction. ...Theoretic politicians, who have patronized this species of government, have erroneously supported that by reducing mankind to a perfect equality in their political rights, they would at the same time be perfectly equalized and assimilated in their possessions, their opinions, and their passions. A republic, by which I mean a government in which the

scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect and promises the cure for which we are seeking. ...The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are: first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens and greater sphere of country over which the latter may be extended. ...Under such a regulation it may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representatives of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose. On the other hand, the effect may be inverted. Men of factious tempers, of local prejudices, or of sinister designs, may by intrigue, by corruption, or by other means, first obtain the suffrages, and then betray the interests of the people. ... The federal Constitution forms a happy combination... the great and aggregate interests being referred to the national, the local and particular to the State legislatures."

Mark Richards

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Jeanne Anderson Research
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 6:28 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Who is Counted in the Tally?

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Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 18:02:17 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en

MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Neutral Bias
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I took a time-out from reading this morning's E-output to rinse some dishes. AAPORNET's posts had been mostly discussions of bias. I tuned in CNN for the latest on tally hassles. At that moment, CNN was predicting what the Fed was about to do: "The Fed seems to be shifting to a neutral bias." A "neutral bias"? That's not at all oxymoronic. The Fed tends to see the economic world as beset by a vast inflationary conspiracy and, in interpreting indicators, has leaned proudly toward an anti-inflationary bias. That's a very sensible stance.

In many other quarters, there is a bias toward the neutral bias. Many colleagues, for instance, are biased toward seeing all things as distributed with mean=0 and variance=1. The Prestige Press's editorials and the Network news are biased toward the neutralist, or one might say, "neuterist" bias. Many on the right perceive neuterism as liberal bias because they have little tolerance of wimpyness in loyalty to one's own family, team, town, country, religion, beliefs; or self interest..

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

Albert D. Biderman

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 18:02:37 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Humor--Another FL Ballot
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBIEIKNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

www.thebigshow.com/BITPAGES/2000ballot/flaballot.html

Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 15:51:37 -0800

From: "Ross, Robert" <rross@csuchico.edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: "Republic," not "Democracy"
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

A plan such as proportional representation, or the district plan used in Maine and Nebraska, gives an advantage to small states and creates in close elections the possibility of the popular vote winner losing the election. The proportional plan, for example, would have made Nixon the winner in 1960: 263.631 to 262.671; the district plan result would also go to Nixon: 278-245. I haven't done the calculation for this year, but I have no doubt that Dubya would win each easily.

For those interested in how states decided on electors in the early years of the republic, I've given a short description below.

States can indeed decide the manner in which electors are chosen; in 1789, the state legislature picked electors in five states; two states had a general ticket popular election; two states held a popular vote by district; one state held a statewide popular vote but the legislature chose if one did not receive a majority; and one state had an election in each congressional district, the legislature then to choose from among the two highest vote getters as well as picking two at-large electors. (Rhode Island and North Carolina had yet to ratify the constitution.) But with the rise of political parties, the general ticket general election quickly became the norm (except in South Carolina where the legislature continued to select until the Civil War). As Jefferson pointed out in 1800, "while ten states choose either by their legislature or by a general ticket, it is folly or worse for the other six not to follow."

> -----

> From: Steen, Bob
> Reply To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 12:11 PM
> To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> Subject: "Republic," not "Democracy"

>

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> monarchy, etc. Too often we neglect to acknowledge that the United States
> of America is a republic. We are not a "model democracy" and never have
> been. The electoral college is a manifestation of this approach to
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> a constant reminder of this.

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> In keeping with our form of government, each state has the right to
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:06 AM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Can America afford clean elections?

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Date: Wed, 15 Nov 2000 20:29:52 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Harris on Palm Ballot
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
boundary="-----0B5DFACB6D2EA51660362245"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.
-----0B5DFACB6D2EA51660362245

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Harris Interactive's George Terhanian, in a briefing carried by C-Span on a survey on the Florida vote controversy, uses items asked about the Palm County ballot to tout an advantage of an on-line interactive survey. His example is more revealing of an enhanced capacity for mischief. Harris asks questions about how accurately intended selections could be made using "the ballot." The question text and a display of "the ballot" on the same page. As has been discussed in a few posts to AAPORNET beginning a week ago, the Harris depiction is a reduced representation of the sample ballot used by the county. The poor representation by the sample ballot of the cognitive (and mechanical) challenges voters confronted in the polling place is an issue in active legal cases and in the public arguments of one side of the controversy. From an information design perspective, a host of important sources of perceptual distortion, cognitive confusion and mechanical error are not in the least represented by a schematic Harris used. Harris compounds the confusion by suggesting to respondents that someone who has attended to this voting controversy (who hasn't?) can approach the task in the same way as someone who arrived to cast a vote.

There have been a few fair representations and intelligent discussions in the mass media of the actual Palm County voting device, although none I have seen begins to exhaust the problems with it that are apparent to an information design specialist. Harris Interactive now increases the multiple ways in which controversy about this ballot relates to concerns of the survey profession.

I am attaching some comments I sent last week to an IDJ editor who asked me whether the Sun-Sentinel's display of that ballot:<<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/graphics/news/ballot.htm>> was indeed the best.

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

-----0B5DFACB6D2EA51660362245
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii;
name="palmballot.txt"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline;
filename="palmballot.txt"

Discussions here about uses of the "same ballot" elsewhere than in the actual vote casting in Palm Beach in the 2000 election need be careful about what they mean by "the ballot" and whether identifiably critical attributes of "the ballot" are indeed the same enough to sustain the premise of equivalence. For a great many meanings of "ballot" relevant to points at issue, the appropriate referent is the thin card the voter slid into the slot on the "butterfly" voting device and then cast after withdrawing it. For other meanings, "the ballot" is the entire apparatus, including the card and the little stylus for punching choices. I don't know what impediments could have existed to incorrect positioning of the card that were built into the

apparatus or by the visual and oral instructions. The best representation I've seen was a TV news enactment of a person voting with the actual device. It showed, for instance, the visual distortion of the alignment of text and punch holes from the view of a "voter of average height" and allowed a judgment of the size of the stylus relative to a hand. I don't whether or what practice models of the device were available for waiting voters.

Of course, all of these "objective" features of the device reveal possibilities of failure only in relation to the mental set, derived from previous voting and other forms-filling experience, that a voter brings to the booth. These possibilities will vary from voter depending upon how pressured for time they feel because of worry about opprobrium from delaying a long line or embarrassment about appearing stupid by taking too long. (Fear of not mastering the unfamiliar task, incidentally, we know to be a significant cause of not going to vote at all.)

-----0B5DFACB6D2EA51660362245--

=====
Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 09:36:51 +0200
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Hanne-Pernille Stax <hpstax@language.sdu.dk>
Subject: Conference on The Quantitative Interview
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id AAA13737

Call for participation from a north country far
- and not a word about sunny Florida...

** CONFERENCE ON THE QUANTITATIVE INTERVIEW **

- A Conference on Questions, Comprehension and Interaction
for People who Design, Analyse and Communicate
Questionnaire-based Interview Research

*PLACE: University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
*DATE: January 11-12th, 2001

*INVITED SPEAKERS:

Charles Antaki (Loughborough, UK):
Editing Questions to Cope with Respondents' Perceived Difficulties

Douglas Maynard (Wisconsin, USA):
The Ethnography of Survey Research: Variation in Practices & Refusal
Conversion

Hanneke Houtkoop-Steenstra (Utrecht, NL):
The Structure of Questioning Turns in Questionnaire Questions

Hanne-Pernille Stax (Odense, DK):
Respondents Comprehension of Scripted Interviews

*INFORMATION:

Hanne-Pernille Stax. E-mail: hpstax@language.sdu.dk
Institute of Language and Communication, University of Southern Denmark
Odense University, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark

*WEBSITE: <http://www.sdu.dk/Hum/MOVIN/confindex.html>

*OBJECTIVES: The aim of this conference is to exchange insights and experiences between applied questionnaire research and recent linguistic, sociological and psychological research in interview-interaction and questionnaire methodology.

The invited speakers will present new research into what happens when questionnaire questions are enacted into interviews. The objective is to discuss research findings, methodological issues and practical problems, and to formulate research questions for future studies and development of the quantitative interview.

*WHO should participate?: Researchers and professionals in applied questionnaire based research; linguists, psychologists and sociologists with interests in interview-methodology; and journalists who communicate questionnaire based research.

?

Hanne-Pernille Stax (Ph.d. candidate)
University of Southern Denmark: Odense University
Institute of Language & Communication
Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M
Denmark

<mailto:hpstax@language.sdu.dk>

Office (+ 45) 65 50 32 21

(+ 45) 65 50 31 00

Home (+ 45) 36 16 66 14

(+ 45) 22 14 03 04

Fax (+ 45) 65 93 24 83

Home: Bjørnsonsvej 41, DK-2500 Valby

=====
Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 13:51:30 +0100
From: pphmohler <mohler@zuma-mannheim.de>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.76 [en] (WinNT; U)

X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: "Republic," not" Democracy"
References: <951B30EE47A7D2118D4000A0C9EA357302D7E4B2@stlexgsrv01>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I am somewhat puzzled about the lineage of 'true democracy' to 'monarchy' - how about Britain? Some people make a distinction between such political constructs like 'constitutional monarchies', 'republikan dictatorships' , 'republican democracies' etc. In this view 'republic' indicates nothing but the case that a state is not a monarchy. But I may be wrong.
P. Mohler

"Steen, Bob" wrote:

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>
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> investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our
own
>
> laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same, as
> we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many of
> whose members might number among the accused.
>
> Well, any better ideas?
>

> On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this,
> check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com
>
> Ray Funkhouser

--

Peter Ph. Mohler
Executive Director GESIS
Director of ZUMA
Mannheim
Germany
+49-621-1246-173

=====
Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 09:54:28 -0500
From: John Mitchell <jmitchell@elementusa.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Who is Counted in the Tally?
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

The Lerner, Nagai, Rothman book is well done. I thought of it too yesterday when the question of political elites came up. They study classes of people by level of influence on political life in America. Pretty exhaustive study with lots of statistics for those who love 'em.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark David Richards [mailto:mark@bisconti.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 5:56 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Who is Counted in the Tally?

In this context, just change "political elites" to "elected officials," or even "people"-that works for me.

As for political elites in "America," two books come to mind (I'm sure there are many more...):

--"American Elites," by Robert Lerner, Althea Nagai, and Stanley Rothman
--"Classes and Elites in Democracy and Democratization: A Collection of Readings," edited by Eva Etzioni-Halevy

Etzioni-Halevy writes, "elites may be distinguished from the rank and file or the public by their exertion or substantial power and influence over that public and over political outcomes. As distinct from class position which is seen as based on economic resources (although these may derive from, and give rise to, other resources) elite position is seen as based on various overlapping resources. These include, besides economic means, organization resources (control of organizations), political resources (public support),

symbolic resources (knowledge and ability to manipulate symbols), and personal resources (such as charisma, time, motivation, and energy). Some elites-especially those whose positions are based on public support and on charisma-are usually also referred to as leaders."

Here is what James Madison wrote in The Federalist No. 10 about the difference between a democracy and a republic: "...a pure democracy, by which I mean a society consisting of a small number of citizens, who assemble and administer the government in person, can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction. ...Theoretic politicians, who have patronized this species of government, have erroneously supported that by reducing mankind to a perfect equality in their political rights, they would at the same time be perfectly equalized and assimilated in their possessions, their opinions, and their passions. A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect and promises the cure for which we are seeking. ...The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are: first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens and greater sphere of country over which the latter may be extended. ...Under such a regulation it may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representatives of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose. On the other hand, the effect may be inverted. Men of factious tempers, of local prejudices, or of sinister designs, may by intrigue, by corruption, or by other means, first obtain the suffrages, and then betray the interests of the people. ... The federal Constitution forms a happy combination... the great and aggregate interests being referred to the national, the local and particular to the State legislatures."

Mark Richards

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Jeanne Anderson Research
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 6:28 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Who is Counted in the Tally?

Are you willing and able to define "political elite?" I didn't know there was any such phenomenon in America.

Mark David Richards wrote:

> I heard Newt Gingrich use the VNS early call for Gore on election night as
> an example of why Census should not use statistical sampling. I recall
the
> Supreme Court ruled that only actual enumeration can be used for
> apportioning seats in the House of Representatives, but statistical
sampling
> can be used for redistricting and for other issues. When Democrats argued
> for the use of statistical sampling, Republicans accused Democrats of
> creating "imaginary" Democrats, and Democrats accused Republicans of
leaving

> out mostly urban minority and poor voters (estimated at 4 million in
> 1990).
> I guess the enumeration of registered voters who chose to vote, in this
> political climate, is proving to be as difficult as settling on what is an
> accurate Census count. Political elites are going to be discussing
> counting
> issues a lot over the next year (including who is accountable for pushing
> chads out of election ballots) ... Mark Richards

=====
Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 10:45:19 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: That's what it's all about
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="=====_8586856==_ .ALT"

-----_8586856==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

With all that is happening we all need a little chuckle.....If
nothing else, the news media, stand up comics and the lawyers are cleaning
up.....

Dick Halpern

THE PALM BEACH POKEY

You put your stylus in,
You put your stylus out,
You put your stylus in,
And you punch Buchanan out.
You do the Palm Beach Pokey
And you turn the count around,
That's what it's all about!

You put the Gore votes in,
You put the Bush votes out,
You put the Gore votes in,
And you do another count.
You do the Palm Beach Pokey
And you turn the count around,
That's what it's all about!

You bring your lawyers in,
You drag the whole thing out,
You bring your lawyers in,
And you put it all in doubt.
You do the Palm Beach Pokey
And you turn the count around,
That's what it's all about!

You let your doctors spin,
You let the pundits spout,
You let your doctors spin,

the GOP is launching a serious attack on election projections and potential bias among the networks in calling certain states and not others. I assume others are also listening or watching this. Fascinating stuff, including the citing of studies on voter suppression due to projections, the selective calling of Gore states as wins and Bush states as too close to call, etc.

Barry Hollander
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University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
706.542.5027

email: barry@arches.uga.edu
web: <http://www.grady.uga.edu/faculty/~bhollander>

Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 10:46:23 -0800
From: Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
Reply-To: ande271@attglobal.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD {TLC;RETAIL} (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Who is Counted in the Tally?
References: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBOEIJCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

My feeble attempt at humor did not merit the thoughtful reply that Mark Richards gave. Etzioni's definition is interesting, but must have been based on observations in other countries. Although "elected officials" is a perfectly good definition of "political elite," I guess I had in mind the concept of "elite" as "elect" in some spiritual sense "elu" is used in French that way sometimes, I believe." Going back to Etzioni's definition, it seems to me that elected officials here in the US have organizational resources but rarely deep political support (beyond votes in a formal election). "Knowledge and ability to manipulate symbols" is a quality seen rarely, if by that is meant "in the interest of societal/political cohesiveness." Witness the 2000 elections. "Charisma, time, energy and motivation" have not appeared in a package (one personage) for quite a while on the political scene.

The reason for my skepticism in the context of Mark's reference to "political elite" is that I do not believe there will be much *non-partisan* review of the election system as a result of the 2000 elections. But actually, Mark sounds as

though he would not disagree.

Mark David Richards wrote:

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> even "people"-that works for me.
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> overlapping resources. These include, besides economic means, organization
> resources (control of organizations), political resources (public support),
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>
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this
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> be perfectly equalized and assimilated in their possessions, their
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country
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> obtain the suffrages, and then betray the interests of the people. ... The
> federal Constitution forms a happy combination... the great and aggregate
> interests being referred to the national, the local and particular to the
> State legislatures."
>

> Mark Richards
>

> {From a previous message:}
> Political elites are going to be discussing
> counting
> > issues a lot over the next year (including who is accountable for pushing
> > chads out of election ballots) ... Mark Richards

Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 16:23:13 +0000
From: Nick Panagakis <mkshares@mcs.net>
Reply-To: mkshares@mcs.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Exit Polls
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Since exit polls have been the subject of much of the recent discussion here, I would like to to recommend some background reading on the subject.

There is an excellent review of exit poll methodology by Warren Mitofsky and Murray Edelman in Presidential Polls and the News Media, editors Lavrakos, Traugott, and Miller. See Chapter 6, A Review of 1992 VRS Exit polls by Mitofsky and Edelman.

Sometimes winners are called based on exit poll interviews only but in close races, actual vote returns are folded in in order to make a call. For example, in 1992, 67 of 114 calls were made on exit poll interviews only.

In the preceding chapter about improving the reporting of poll results, Warren also discusses his decision rules regarding making calls and releasing voting percentages.

By the way, exit polls for all races by state are available at the CNN site below. Based on the times posted, I believe they have been adjusted based on actual vote counts. Perhaps someone can confirm this.

<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2000/results/index.epolls.html>

Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 16:50:10 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Life Imitates Art
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
boundary="-----_NextPart_000_000A_01C04FED.48620240"
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

A good laugh can be therapeutic.

.jpg file attached.

(If you're virus phobic, I don't know what to tell you.)

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Voice (610) 408-8800
Fax (610) 408-8802
jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----=_NextPart_000_000A_01C04FED.48620240
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name="elctmax.jpg"
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Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 16:39:43 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: LA Co. Supervisors Move to Ban Early Exit Polls
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011161620410.6341-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Early fallout from The Presidential Election That Refused
to Die--is there a constitutional law expert in the house?
When they come to carry away the exit polls, are we going
to do nothing? Can television signals be made to stop at
a county boundary? Will there be any municipalities left
in Los Angeles County four years from now?

-- Jim

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http://www.sacbee.com/news/calreport/calrep_story.cgi?N306.HTML

November 15, 2000

CAL REPORT: sacbee

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISORS RECOMMEND BAN ON EARLY EXIT POLLS

LOS ANGELES (lat) -- Media outlets shouldn't release presidential exit poll results for any state until every polling place in the country has closed, supervisors representing the nation's most populous county declared Tuesday.

The two Republicans and three Democrats on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to send letters to the incoming president and congressional leaders urging legislation that would prevent the release of presidential election results until every state's polls have closed.

"For fairness here in the West it's essential that these types of announcements be withheld, accurate or inaccurate," said Cam Currier, aide to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, a Republican who introduced the motion.

Using exit-poll data, media outlets including The Associated Press projected Democratic Vice President Al Gore the winner of Florida's 25 electoral votes about 15 minutes before the polls closed in the Florida Panhandle.

That projection was withdrawn about two hours later -- as California's polls were closing -- when returns showed Republican Texas Gov. George W. Bush with the lead in Florida.

A group with Republican links sued television networks Tuesday on behalf of a Panhandle voter who contends the value of his vote was diminished by their projections. The executive director of the Committee for Honest Politics said another lawsuit was planned on behalf of Bay County voters in Panama City, Fla.

The projection for Gore, and another later projection election night that prematurely awarded Florida and the election to Bush, have led TV networks to conduct internal reviews about the miscues. On Tuesday, CBS appointed a three-member panel to investigate the mistakes.

Antonovich alleged in a news release that projections for Gore in Florida "discouraged not only Florida voters but also those who lived in states whose polls were still open."

"We must never send a false message to voters that their votes don't count," Antonovich said.

Currier said that if East Coast projections cause would-be voters to lose interest, that affects not just the presidential race, but the whole spectrum of state and local ballot issues as well.

http://www.sacbee.com/news/calreport/calrep_story.cgi?N306.HTML

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Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 22:06:39 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Neutral Bias
References: <85256999.0053DEF0.00@it008nthqln.tco.census.gov>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Betsy,

Thanks. Love it. You know me and interactive Q&A. I burned lots
bandwidth passing the ballot on.

Also liked the following article that I found a link to on the BET page
which came up when I voted, as one might expect, for Bush on the BET
ballot.

<<http://www.bet.com/HEADLINES/0,1821,C-1-75-130202,00.html>>

AL

Elizabeth.Ann.Martin@census.gov wrote:

> Al--as an old questionnaire designer, you'll get a kick out of this....
>
> http://www.bet.com/elections/florida_vote.html

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Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 19:41:54 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: House Commerce Committee Data on CNN Election Calls
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011161937040.15245-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Times Are EST & Declared Times Are From CNN

(Source: House Commerce Committee 11/16)

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
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Alabama	Bush	By 15	8:00 PM	8:25 PM	0:25
Alaska	Bush	By 31	12:00 AM	12:00 AM	0:00
Arizona	Bush	By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
Arkansas	Bush	By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
California	Gore	By 12	11:00 PM	11:00 PM	0:00
Colorado	Bush	By 9	9:00 PM	11:41 PM	2:41
Connecticut	Gore	By 17	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Delaware	Gore	By 13	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
DC	Gore	By 77	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Florida		49/49	8:00 PM	7:52 **	- 0:08
Georgia	Bush	By 12	7:00 PM	7:59 PM	0:59
Hawaii	Gore	By 18	11:00 PM	11:00 PM	0:00
Idaho	Bush	By 41	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	0:00
Illinois	Gore	By 12	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Indiana	Bush	By 16	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	0:00
Iowa	Gore	By 1	10:00 PM	5:00 AM	7:00
Kansas	Bush	By 21	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Kentucky	Bush	By 16	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	0:00
Louisiana	Bush	By 8	9:00 PM	9:21 PM	0:21
Maine	Gore	By 5	8:00 PM	11:10 PM	3:10
Maryland	Gore	By 17	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Massachusetts	Gore	By 27	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Michigan	Gore	By 4	8:00 PM	9:24 PM	1:24
Minnesota	Gore	By 2	9:00 PM	10:25 PM	1:25
Mississippi	Bush	By 15	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Missouri	Bush	By 4	8:00 PM	10:47 PM	2:47
Montana	Bush	By 24	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	0:00
Nebraska	Bush	By 30	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00

Nevada	Bush	By 3	10:00 PM	1:31 AM	4:31
New Hampshire	Bush	By 1	7:00 PM	12:07 AM	5:07
New Jersey	Gore	By 15	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
New Mexico	48/48	9:00 PM	10:22 **	1:22	
New York	Gore	By 25	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00
North Carolina	Bush	By 13	7:30 PM	8:09 PM	0:49
North Dakota	Bush	By 28	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00
Ohio	Bush	By 4	7:30 PM	9:19 PM	1:49
Oklahoma	Bush	By 22	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Oregon		47/47	11:00 PM	NC	NC
Pennsylvania	Gore	By 4	8:00 PM	9:24 PM	1:24
Rhode Island	Gore	By 29	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00
South Carolina	Bush	By 16	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	0:00
South Dakota	Bush	By 22	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00
Tennessee	Bush	By 3	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	3:00
Texas	Bush	By 21	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Utah	Bush	By 41	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	0:00
Vermont	Gore	By 10	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	0:00
Virginia	Bush	By 7	7:00 PM	7:33 PM	0:33
Washington	Gore	By 5	11:00 PM	12:08 AM	1:08
West Virginia	Bush	By 6	7:30 PM	10:46 PM	3:16
Wisconsin	48/48	9:00 PM	6:12 AM	9:12	
Wyoming	Bush	By 41	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00

 ** Later Retracted

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 Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 19:53:08 -0800

To: AApornet@usc.edu
From: "H.H.Kassarjian" <HKassarj@ucla.edu>
Subject: Election To Be Decided by Coin Flip?
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="===== _7274774== _ .ALT"

----- _7274774== _ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I suppose it could happen.

Hal Kassarjian

>
>ELECTION DECIDED BY COIN FLIP ?
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>
>Day One: In a fit of pique, and unable to settle the confusing ballot
>issues, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the presidential candidates to flip
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>a background check before using the pistols.
>
>(Note: The Sergeant at Arms was able to restrain the Chief Justice as he
>picked up both pistols and began chasing the candidates around the
courtroom.)

Hal Kassarjian
HKassarj@ucla.edu
Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669
FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325
-----7274774==.ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>
I suppose it could happen.

Hal Kassarjian

<blockquote type=cite cite><h1>ELECTION
DECIDED BY COIN FLIP ?</h1>

<div align="center">

</div>

<div align="center">

</div>

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<i>Note</i>: <i>The Sergeant at Arms was able to restrain the Chief Justice as he picked up both pistols and began chasing the candidates around the courtroom</i>.

</blockquote>

<div>*****</div>

<div>Hal Kassarjian</div>

<div>HKassarj@ucla.edu</div>

<div>Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669</div>

FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325

</html>

=====
Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 22:32:39 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Rep. Tauzin (R-LA) on Potential Election Coverage Bias
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011162217571.595-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

November 16, 2000

Statement of Commerce Committee Member Representative Billy
Tauzin (R-LA) on Potential Election Coverage Bias

"You recall, when last we met I was asked by one of you whether or not I thought there was prejudice in the reporting whether there was bias in the reporting. I told you I was not prepared to make such an allegation. I am prepared, with the information we now have ready to present to you, to tell you that I think there is now a presumption of bias in the reporting and that the networks will have a duty when they do come before us in our hearing to overcome that presumption.

But we'll have a hearing. And the burden will be on the networks and on VNS-Voter New Service - upon which apparently everybody depends now, to prove to this nation that the election coverage which now apparently has the effect of affecting the result of our presidential elections may, in fact, have been intentionally biased. That is a disturbing potential conclusion that we have preliminarily seen from this evidence.

But the common sense view of the evidence we've seen so far indicates something bad went wrong that night. That there were people out there ready to call states for Bush a lot less fervently than there were people willing to call states for Al Gore.

But our purpose will be to uncover the truth of these anomalies, to discern as much as we can about the effect it had on this election, because it could well have affected the total vote outcome. If voters in California, Washington State and other western states had not been suppressed, by the early news the election was lost to George W. Bush, it is no telling what the final count might have been. In fact, George W. Bush may well have won the popular vote in this country. We will never know, because of what happened."

that Table of the nine states George W. Bush carried by 6% or more
 the networks deceptively told the American people were "too close
 to call."

6% The networks called every single state Al Gore won by more than
 IMMEDIATELY. Below are the nine states George W. Bush carried by 6%
 or more that the networks deceptively told the American people were
 "too close to call" and the time that elapsed before Bush was
 finally declared the winner.

 Times Are EST & Declared Times Are From CNN

 (Source: House Commerce Committee 11/16)

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
Alabama	Bush By 15	8:00 PM	8:25 PM	0:25
Arizona	Bush By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
Arkansas	Bush By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
Colorado	Bush By 9	9:00 PM	11:41 PM	2:41
Georgia	Bush By 12	7:00 PM	7:59 PM	0:59
Louisiana	Bush By 8	9:00 PM	9:21 PM	0:21
North Carolina	Bush By 13	7:30 PM	8:09 PM	0:49
Virginia	Bush By 7	7:00 PM	7:33 PM	0:33
West Virginia	Bush By 6	7:30 PM	10:46 PM	3:16

Chronologically By Closing Times of Polls

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
Georgia	Bush By 12	7:00 PM	7:59 PM	0:59
Virginia	Bush By 7	7:00 PM	7:33 PM	0:33

North Carolina	Bush By 13	7:30 PM	8:09 PM	0:49
West Virginia	Bush By 6	7:30 PM	10:46 PM	3:16
Alabama	Bush By 15	8:00 PM	8:25 PM	0:25
Arkansas	Bush By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
Arizona	Bush By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
Colorado	Bush By 9	9:00 PM	11:41 PM	2:41
Louisiana	Bush By 8	9:00 PM	9:21 PM	0:21

Chronologically By Times Winner Declared

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Virginia	Bush By 7	7:00 PM	7:33 PM	0:33
Georgia	Bush By 12	7:00 PM	7:59 PM	0:59
North Carolina	Bush By 13	7:30 PM	8:09 PM	0:49
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In Increasing Size of Bush Winning Margin

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arizona	Bush By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
Arkansas	Bush By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
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In Increasing Length of Time to Declare

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Louisiana	Bush By 8	9:00 PM	9:21 PM	0:21
Alabama	Bush By 15	8:00 PM	8:25 PM	0:25
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=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 02:09:06 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: "Aapornet@Usc.Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Subjectivity in counting ballots
Message-ID: <NEBBKEFNCLONIIIEECEAPKECHCAA.mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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```

In the past couple of months we have scanned something in excess of 10,000 self-administered surveys using an electronic scanning system at least a

generation better than the punch cards used in Florida. After scanning we felt the need to manually review every item that did not unambiguously result in a single coded response. While this review technically involved subjectivity, in reality nearly all were clear-cut and easy decisions. Nearly every instance was either

a double punch in which one mark was clearly intended, the other a stray mark

a double punch where one could not determine the intent

a "no answer" where visual inspection made it clear there was intent (e.g., respondent circled the answer instead of filling the blank) or

a "no answer" where there really was no answer.

The degree of subjectivity was, in practice, trivial. While there were a significant number of cases where intent was not clear (and thus where one could not impute a response), there were only a trivial number of cases where reasonable people could disagree. The result of the "manual recount" was unquestionably a better, more accurate, count.

The argument that a manual recount is subjective is specious. With representatives of both parties present and inspecting every disputed ballot, it simply produces better data, a more accurate count.

Mike O'Neil

oneil@oneilresearch.com
www. oneilresearch.com

```
=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 02:30:27 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Election To Be Decided by Coin Flip?
Message-ID: <NEBBKEFNCLONIIIEECEAPIECICCAA.mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
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We had a tie election for state rep here a couple of years ago.

The governor settled the matter with a game of five-card stud.

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of H.H.Kassarjian
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2000 8:53 PM
To: AApornet@usc.edu
Subject: Election To Be Decided by Coin Flip?

I suppose it could happen.

Hal Kassarjian

ELECTION DECIDED BY COIN FLIP ?

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(Note: The Sergeant at Arms was able to restrain the Chief Justice as he picked up both pistols and began chasing the candidates around the courtroom.)

Hal Kassarjian
HKassarj@ucla.edu
Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669
FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325

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a tie election for state rep here a couple of years =
ago.</SPAN></FONT></DIV>
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class=3D150182009-17112000></SPAN></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT color=3D#0000ff face=3DArial size=3D2><SPAN =
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stud.</SPAN></FONT></DIV>
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owner-aapornet@usc.edu=20
[mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu]<B>On Behalf Of=20
```

H.H.Kassarjian
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2000 8:53=20
PM
To: AApornet@usc.edu
Subject: Election To Be =
Decided by=20

Coin Flip?

</DIV>I suppose it could=20
happen.

Hal Kassarjian

<BLOCKQUOTE cite type=3D"cite">

<H1>ELECTION DECIDED BY COIN FLIP=20
?</H1>

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</DIV>

<DIV align=3Dcenter><FONT face=3Darial =
size=3D3>
</DIV>

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size=3D3>

<FONT face=3Darial =
size=3D2>
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size=3D3>Day Five: Bush agreed in principle but refused to use the =
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Phone: 1 (818) 784-5669 FAX: 1 (818) 784-3325

-----_NextPart_000_0015_01C0503E.58C3DF40--

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 02:39:54 -0700
From: "Michael O'Neil" <mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: "Republic," not "Democracy"
Message-ID: <NEBBKEFNCLONIIIECEAPOECICCAA.mikeoneil@earthlink.net>
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charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200
In-reply-to: <3A13D851.DF56A2F4@zuma-mannheim.de>

Proportionally allocate electoral votes?

Some unintended consequences:

Small states with even numbers of electoral votes would be ignored by candidates (almost inevitable that they would split their votes). Small states with odd numbers of votes would be of interest if they were competitive.

Increases the value of tactical polling--candidates spend time in states where they are on the cusp, nearing a statistical threshold that would give them one more electoral vote.

President in a close election largely determined by the mathematics of rounding error.

Mike O'Neil
oneil@oneilresearch.com
www.oneilresearch.com

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of pphmohler
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2000 5:52 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: "Republic," not "Democracy"

I am somewhat puzzled about the lineage of 'true democracy' to 'monarchy' - how about Britain? Some people make a distinction between such political constructs like 'constitutional monarchies', 'republikan dictatorships', 'republican democracies' etc. In this view 'republic' indicates nothing but the case that a state is not a monarchy. But I may be wrong.
P. Mohler

"Steen, Bob" wrote:

> I think it was the eighth grade when we were lectured on the differences
> between a true democracy, a representative democracy, a republic, a
> monarchy, etc. Too often we neglect to acknowledge that the United States
> of America is a republic. We are not a "model democracy" and never have
> been. The electoral college is a manifestation of this approach to
> government. The use of the word "states" in the United States of America
is
> a constant reminder of this.
>
> In keeping with our form of government, each state has the right to
> determine how to cast its electoral votes. We do not need a
constitutional
> amendment to reduce the imbalances inherent in the electoral college
> approach to electing a president. Each state may legislate that electoral
> college votes be cast proportionate to the state's popular vote. This

would
> significantly reduce the number of circumstances when the popular vote would
would
> yield a result different from the electoral college. If only a few large
> states took this approach, the one person-one vote principle would be
> greatly advanced. This certainly has to be a more reasonable approach than
> what is needed to change the U.S. constitution into something other than
the
> republic that it is.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:06 AM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Can America afford clean elections?
>
> Recent, and still on-going, events relating to the presidential election,
> plus an article in the Wall Street Journal, "With All the Glitches, The
> Wonder Is Why The System Survives: Local Governments Lack The Money to
> Replace Old Machines, Pay Staff" (Nov 9, 2000, p 1) provoked me to
question
> whether the US of A can actually afford to conduct clean elections.
>
> My reasoning is that elections are administered at the county or local
> levels, and these levels of government are poorly funded. Therefore,
there
>
> has long been a tolerated level of slippage and corruption in the process,
> which only this year, due to the closeness of the race, got 'way out of
hand
>
> and became so visible. Voting machinery most places is antiquated and
often
> defective or inaccurate. It mostly sits around, taking up warehouse
space,
> to be hauled out every couple years for a few days' use. To modernize it
> all
> would cost more than most localities would be willing to pay.
>
> Regarding the corruption aspects of our system: I've heard reports that
in
> North Philly absentee ballots were being handed out, and duly collected,
in
> Black churches; that in Milwaukee students are reporting that they had no
> problem voting multiple times; that homeless were being bribed with
> cigarettes to fill out absentee ballots; that bogus voting cards were
mailed
>
> to non-citizens -- a few anecdotal drops in a vast bucket of election
> fraud,
> often involving FELONIES, for goodness sakes. To properly police the
voting
> rolls and voting procedures -- including clearing out dead people and
those
> who have moved away, as well as sorting out fraudulent registrations --
would
>

> require legions of highly paid and highly skilled people, plus court
> resources for appropriate enforcement of election laws, lawyers etc etc.
> Taxpayers would simply not cough up the dough to fund it.
>
> In other words, despite all our arrogant assertions of being a model
> democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world,
yadda
> yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we
> literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards. If
this
> is the case, it renders such recent disputes as campaign financing, not to
> mention stochastic implications of multiple-hand-recounting and whether a
> Bush ally was involved in election-night projections (you mean, Gore
allies
> weren't?), rather trivial by comparison.
>
> Here's a suggestion: Since we claim that in electing our president we
are
> choosing the most powerful political figure in the world, how about
imposing
>
> on the United Nations to chip in for voting machinery upgrades, and to
send,
>
> for our elections, an army of impartial (and perhaps well-armed)
> investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our
own
>
> laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same,
as
> we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many
of
> whose members might number among the accused.
>
> Well, any better ideas?
>
> On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this,
> check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com
>
> Ray Funkhouser

--

Peter Ph. Mohler
Executive Director GESIS
Director of ZUMA
Mannheim
Germany
+49-621-1246-173

Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 09:24:07 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Alas, Vote-Count Machines Are Only Human

Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id GAA04504

Hi folks,

The myth being propagated is that vote counting machines are infallible suggesting a 100% accuracy. Now, even the manufacturers of such machines say that if they achieve a 99.9% accuracy they will be happy. To quote from the article, "The maker of one type of card reader said the accuracy rate of his machine would be 99.9 percent, which could mean 3,450 votes were misread in Florida. Another manufacturer says that, under realistic conditions, the machines' error rate can be even higher, 1 percent or more, a potential misreading of 34,500 votes. "

Dick Halpern

+++++

November 17, 2000

New York Times

Alas, Vote-Count Machines Are
Only Human

By FORD FESSENDEN and CHRISTOPHER DREW

One of the central arguments that Gov. George W. Bush has made against the hand recounts in Florida is that machines are impartial and much more reliable than humans. The people who sell the voting systems that tallied 3.45 million votes in the contested state, as well as election officials across the country, say the machines can be, in ideal conditions, 99.99 percent accurate.

That sounds an awful lot like 100 percent.

could have misread

Mr. Bush's

conditions, with the
free of all those bits

But in Florida, that tiny error rate alone 345 votes - which happens to be more than current winning margin.

And that is under the most favorable machines perfectly maintained and whisked of loose paper known as chads.

the accuracy rate of
could mean 3,450
manufacturer says that,
error rate can be even
misreading of 34,500

study for the Federal
percent of the ballots
used in a Los

error, somebody
president of
punch-card readers for

that would be more
of 1 percent and

are not read correctly.

Dynamics Inc. of
of card readers,
said, "Like any
failure."

most precise way to count

be no way to get a
said Mr. Swartz,
Federal Election
systems. "It is totally

The maker of one type of card reader said
his machine would be 99.9 percent, which
votes were misread in Florida. Another
under realistic conditions, the machines'
higher, 1 percent or more, a potential
votes.

Theoretical accuracy rates aside, a 1975
Election Commission found that only 99.5
read accurately when the card readers were
Angeles County election.

"If you have 400,000 cards and not a single
has faked the results," said Robert Swartz,
Cardamation, which has been making
25 years.

"If you've got 400,000 and 1,000 errors,
likely," said Mr. Swartz, who has seen rates
higher.

The errors usually consist of choices that
John Hanna, sales manager for Peripheral
Plymouth Meeting, Pa., another manufacturer
whose accuracy he estimated at 99.9 percent,
electromechanical device, it can have a

Ultimately, industry officials said, the
ballots is by hand.

"The important thing here is that there may
100 percent accurate count by a machine,"
whose card readers are approved by the
Commission for use in punch-card voting

it is a carefully run

Inc., of

country, contend

systems can be as high as

and the chad is

president of customer

able to say, Gee, this

close races, manual

imperfections are resolved.

accurate," he said.

Harris, has said she

Republicans have

ballots by sight is

Democrats have

million votes were

punch cards were used

totaled 3.45 million

manual recount was a

in the computerized

valid vote. Courts in

that imperfectly

indented rather than

counted as votes.

reasonable that the most accurate way to do
recount."

Officials with Election Systems and Software

Omaha, which sells voting systems around the

that the accuracy of their punch-card

99.99 percent - "if the cards are quality

cleaned," said Todd Urosevich, vice

service.

"There isn't a voting technology you'd be

is perfect," Mr. Urosevich said. And in

recounts are the way the machine's

"A manual recount can be extremely

The Florida secretary of state, Katherine

will not consider manual recounts, and

asserted that the imprecise art of tallying

inevitably subject to political influence.

challenged her decision in court. Nearly six

cast in Florida's presidential ballot. The

to tally votes in 14 counties which together

votes.

Election officials in several states said a

simple and reliable way to correct mistakes

counts.

Standards differ about what constitutes a

Massachusetts and South Dakota have ruled

punched ballots, like those that are only

punched through completely, should be

But statewide guidelines in California allow

less leeway. A
be recorded as a
chad, hangs by a single
remain attached, the

B. McCormack,
said it had not been
manual recounts.

by 29 votes.
tempers sometimes
card with

have these
these standards."

the punch-card
throw them out,
"Who could fail to
all the attention this

ballot that has not been fully punched can
vote only if the paper punch square, or
corner. If two or more corners of the chad
ballot must be discarded.

Even though this rule sounds arcane, Conny
the Los Angeles County registrar-recorder,
hard to settle disputed elections through

A state Senate primary in 1998 was decided
During the recount, Ms. McCormack said,
flared as election officials examined each
representatives of both campaigns.

But, she said, "we told everybody that we
standards, and we are going to adhere to

She cautioned against a rush to get rid of
machines. "Just when everybody wants to
they're going to be perfect now," she said.
punch their chad all the way through after
has gotten?"

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 09:51:42 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Info Machines and Balloting
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

With a candidate who took all those initiatives for creation of the
internet, I am surprised that the Democrats do not realize that for an
information machine to be broken does not mean that it is has to have
a broken gear or an electrical short or any other such purely physical
problem. A crucial element of an information device is its
interface. When a an information device produces a high rate of

information transmission failure, it's broke. The Democrats down there still seem to believe that their weak case is the Palm county balloting device. The Secretary of State, however, has said that broken machines are a reason for recounting and being late. "Ok, ma'am, you've made our case," should have been the reply.

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 07:44:12 -0800
From: LPollack@psg.ucsf.edu
Received: by psg.ucsf.edu with Internet Mail Service (5.0.1460.8)
id <XBJ3RYL6>; Fri, 17 Nov 2000 07:44:32 -0800
Message-ID: <416EB4C5227AD411B2460090274CEA16019812@psg189.ucsf.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Election Comments
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.0.1460.8)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

The republicans seem to be trying to lay the groundwork for claiming the hand recounts are fraudulent in some way. One story has them claiming the Palm Beach County democrat who called for the handcount was seen handling the cards, holding them up, flexing them, etc. Of course they fail to mention this is what you do with "ambiguous" cards and that it is done in front of representatives of both parties plus the press. Even more ridiculous is the security guard who overnight found 78 chad on the floor. I see Rep. Tauzin's efforts as even more brazen in upping the ante - a grand conspiracy to not call states for Bush (alleged delays in most cases seem trivial and reasonable given standard practice of being "careful" in calling states that "switch parties" from the last election) which suppressed Bush voting in western states (argued extensively on AAPORNET previously with consensus that there is no evidence of a suppression effect) leading Tauzin to argue that Bush would have won the popular vote! Apparently we should not officially count votes that were cast but we should unofficially count votes that weren't cast. This all really seems directed at the party faithful ("If we lose, we didn't really lose").

Concerning the VNS calls on Florida and issues of nepotism at Fox, Warren Mitofsky has described how a confluence of several factors led to bad data from which everyone drew the same conclusion - a call for Gore. However, VNS is adamant they did NOT make the second call for Bush. That apparently originated at Fox although all the other networks made the same call a few minutes later. My understanding is that the man at Fox says that given the vote counts in Florida at the time he determined there was no way Bush could lose Florida so he made the call. That analytic conclusion we now know was at best extremely premature. Did the desks at the other networks make the same conclusion based on the same data? If so, why? That's where analyses of "what went wrong" should concentrate. People need to lay out how they came to the conclusion to make the call. If the other networks state that they followed Fox's lead without doing their own analyses (which makes them sheep), then admittedly the onus is on Fox. Is it possible that connections to the Bush family influenced that decision-making process? Maybe, but no one can make such judgements until the numbers that were available at the time are laid out and the decision-making process elucidated by the ones who made the decisions.

Lance M. Pollack, Ph.D.
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
University of California, San Francisco
lpollack@psg.ucsf.edu <mailto:lpollack@psg.ucsf.edu>

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 15:24:23 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0002231250160.33016-100000@login1.isis.unc.edu>
<4.2.0.58.20000223172547.00d2bd30@pop.mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: Exit Poll Data Released Before Polls Close
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Warren's wise words of 10 months ago...
----- Original Message -----
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2000 10:35 PM
Subject: Re: Exit Poll Data Released Before Polls Close

> There is a better reason for not releasing exit poll data during the
> voting
> day than its possible influence on voter turnout, as important as that
> consideration might be. During the day, an exit poll is not a fair
> reflection of the electorate. It is not a fair reflection until the end of
> the day when the voting and the polling is complete. A reporter would not
> release half collected or half processed information on any other story. I
> am surprised at Phil for recommending it in the case of exit polling.
> Slate's Jack Shafer should know better also. Why would any reporter
> knowingly report a story that had an excellent chance of being wrong? What
> ever happened to reporting with the goal of "getting it right"? You cannot
> do that half way through the voting day.
> warren mitofsky
>
>
> >Philip Meyer wrote:
> > >
> > > There's nothing wrong with citizens considering the actions of
> > > other
> > > citizens when making their own voting decisions. That's one of the
> > > components of deliberative democracy -- from the New England town
> > > meetings
> > > to the present day. I'm all for ending the voluntary
> > > censorship of exit polls. Hooray for Slate!
> > >
> > > =====
> > > Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085

> > > CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
> > > University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
> > > Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
> > > =====
>
>
> Mitofsky International
> 1 East 53rd Street - 5th Floor
> New York, NY 10022
>
> 212 980-3031 Phone
> 212 980-3107 FAX
> mitofsky@mindspring.com

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 09:52:52 -0600 (CST)
From: Carolyn White <cswhite@ux6.cso.uiuc.edu>
Message-Id: <200011171552.eAHFqqH28234@ux6.cso.uiuc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Restrictions on mail-in ballots
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-MD5: jiKn7apXdjp56jKS311bhQ==

A week or so ago Ted Kopel had a town meeting format on Night Line. Students at George Washington Law school asked questions related to election issues of a panel of law professors.

One question asked concerned what regulations there are regarding postmarks on mail-in ballots from overseas and how the postmarks would be validated. I thought the response from one of the panelists was that there were no postmark restrictions -- only that the ballot HAD to be here by tonight at midnight.

A colleague recently told me that was not the case; there are rules regarding the postmarks of the mail-in ballots. Another person told me their daughter who is overseas in the military was told she could not have an absentee ballot mailed to her because her military address is not a house/street address.

Just what are the regulations in Florida on these ballots that are to be counted and certified tonight?

Carolyn S. White

=====
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 12:53:27 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Suspended in time with "leaky pipes"

Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBMEJPCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400
In-Reply-To: <3A142B7E.15450EA6@attglobal.net>

More often than not one doesn't know ones plumbing is fragile until the water starts leaking through the ceiling (especially in old houses)! Before the election, there was some public discussion of low voter turnout, voter apathy, some talk about the closeness of the contest-and in that context a bit of discussion about the Electoral College... but I don't recall any discussion about the mechanics of voting or whether the system could even handle an increase in voter turnout. Interesting what 10 days can do in the way of informing large numbers of people about details and moving an issue onto the public policy agenda. Most people probably never thought about different ballot designs, error rates, or even that some ballots might not be counted for one reason or another. Regardless of who wins this contest, one side will likely feel it wasn't fair... but as long as there is movement to fix it, most people will probably be satisfied. I expect a lot of discussion about how to improve and strengthen the system so that most of the public can agree it is as fair as possible. Not sure how long it will take for people to get bored with the subject, but this is a legitimacy question... and political elites (including representatives) take legitimacy seriously because their authority is in their ability to claim (and have people believe) they fairly earned the right to represent and legislate on behalf of the people. But I doubt two-thirds of the next Congress would pass a proposal to amend the Constitution to move to a direct/popular Presidential vote (and now that Hillary Clinton has "proposed" it, some members of Congress will NEVER support it-as one Senator already pointed out, she's only 1 Senator of 100!). There may be some money coming down the pipes to patch things up (that might get media coverage across the land, send the "right" signal) ... and maybe the next President will set up a bi-partisan commission to identify areas both parties they can agree on and make recommendations for reform. The U.S. isn't known for long-term planning (that national attention deficit disorder thing...), but it usually responds rapidly once a problem (or potential crisis!) is identified... at least for a while. Cheers, Mark

The Washington Afro-American (Nov. 18-24, 2000) ran this editorial (abbreviated):

Let's fix our disgraceful voting system so the USA can be a real democracy "The voting debacle in Florida has taught the USA that the way we elect candidates to office is out-of-date, dishonest and inefficient. We need a better way to elect our government officials, which would be above suspect. It is disgraceful that in this day of computer technology that a small state like Florida has to count and recount its votes in a presidential election to discover that hundreds of votes have been given to the wrong candidate. Equally disgraceful was the confusing ballot, the ballots that conveniently 'got lost,' and the ballots that were double punched. But the real shame is the way African Americans and other minority voters were treated.

...

There are many plans being offered as to how to solve this problem before

the next election. One way would be to first find out how widespread the corruption is in ALL STATES. This may require a recount of ballots in 10-15 suspected states, which have been known to 'steal elections.' Once it is known how widespread the problem is, the Congress should devise a new system for every city, town, county and state, which would use the latest technology, and would be above suspicion. If we can put a man on the moon, find ships buried deep on the ocean floor for years and devise ways and means to have our computers tell us everything we want to know about everything, certainly we can devise an efficient way to elect our government officials, including the most powerful person in the world, the president of the United States. It is up to the people in America to make sure the Florida nightmare never repeats itself. We pray that in the future, Election Day would be the day that candidates for office are elected with deliberate speed-no fuss."

Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 16:02:58 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login2.isis.unc.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Exit Poll Data Released Before Polls Close
In-Reply-To: <133a01c050ac\$f9af8300\$fccdd6cd@rmw>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011171602130.35442-100000@login2.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

This (chuckle) is rapidly becoming a non-problem since nobody will believe exit poll results anyway!

Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 <http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer>

On Fri, 17 Nov 2000, Bob Worcester wrote:

> Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 15:24:23 -0000
> From: Bob Worcester <worc@mori.com>
> Reply-To: aapornet@usc.edu
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Re: Exit Poll Data Released Before Polls Close
>
> Warren's wise words of 10 months ago...
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>
> To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
> Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2000 10:35 PM
> Subject: Re: Exit Poll Data Released Before Polls Close
>
>
> > There is a better reason for not releasing exit poll data during the

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> > day than its possible influence on voter turnout, as important as that
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> >
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> > > > =====
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> > > > =====
> >
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> > Mitofsky International
> > 1 East 53rd Street - 5th Floor
> > New York, NY 10022
> >
> > 212 980-3031 Phone
> > 212 980-3107 FAX
> > mitofsky@mindspring.com
>
>

Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000 14:19:52 -0800
From: "Ross, Robert" <rross@csuchico.edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: "Republic," not "Democracy"
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

The PR proposal that has been considered would eliminate electors and make an exact mathematical allocation of the electoral vote carried to as many decimal places as you like. One advantage would be removing the "unfaithful elector" potential from the system. The advantage to small states can be seen, using this year's vote, in comparing Wyoming where about 71,000 votes would equal 1 electoral vote with California where it would take about 179,000 to equal one electoral vote. These are the extremes, of course.

> -----

> From: Michael O'Neil
> Reply To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Sent: Friday, November 17, 2000 1:39 AM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: RE: "Republic," not" Democracy"

>

>

> Proportionally allocate electoral votes?

>

> Some unintended consequences:

>

> Small states with even numbers of electoral votes would be ignored by
> candidates (almost inevitable that they would split their votes). Small
> states with odd numbers of votes would be of interest if they were
> competitive.

>

> Increases the value of tactical polling--candidates spend time in states
> where they are on the cusp, nearing a statistical threshold that would
> give
> them one more electoral vote.

>

> President in a close election largely determined by the mathematics of
> rounding error.

>

>

>

> Mike O'Neil
> oneil@oneilresearch.com
> www.oneilresearch.com

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of
> pphmohler

> Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2000 5:52 AM

> To: aapornet@usc.edu

> Subject: Re: "Republic," not" Democracy"

>

>

> I am somewhat puzzled about the lineage of 'true democracy' to 'monarchy'

> -

> how

> about Britain? Some people make a distinction between such political
> constructs

> like 'constitutional monarchies', 'republikan dictatorships', 'republican
> democracies' etc. In this view 'republic' indicates nothing but the case
> that a

> state is not a monarchy. But I may be wrong.

> P. Mohler
>
> "Steen, Bob" wrote:
>
>> I think it was the eighth grade when we were lectured on the differences
>> between a true democracy, a representative democracy, a republic, a
>> monarchy, etc. Too often we neglect to acknowledge that the United
> States
>> of America is a republic. We are not a "model democracy" and never have
>> been. The electoral college is a manifestation of this approach to
>> government. The use of the word "states" in the United States of America
> is
>> a constant reminder of this.
>>
>> In keeping with our form of government, each state has the right to
>> determine how to cast its electoral votes. We do not need a
> constitutional
>> amendment to reduce the imbalances inherent in the electoral college
>> approach to electing a president. Each state may legislate that
> electoral
>> college votes be cast proportionate to the state's popular vote. This
> would
>> significantly reduce the number of circumstances when the popular vote
> would
>> yield a result different from the electoral college. If only a few large
>> states took this approach, the one person-one vote principle would be
>> greatly advanced. This certainly has to be a more reasonable approach
> than
>> what is needed to change the U.S. constitution into something other than
> the
>> republic that it is.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
>> Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:06 AM
>> To: aapornet@usc.edu
>> Subject: Can America afford clean elections?
>>
>> Recent, and still on-going, events relating to the presidential
> election,
>> plus an article in the Wall Street Journal, "With All the Glitches, The
>> Wonder Is Why The System Survives: Local Governments Lack The Money to
>> Replace Old Machines, Pay Staff" (Nov 9, 2000, p 1) provoked me to
> question
>> whether the US of A can actually afford to conduct clean elections.
>>
>> My reasoning is that elections are administered at the county or local
>> levels, and these levels of government are poorly funded. Therefore,
> there
>>
>> has long been a tolerated level of slippage and corruption in the
> process,
>> which only this year, due to the closeness of the race, got 'way out of
> hand
>>
>> and became so visible. Voting machinery most places is antiquated and
> often

> > defective or inaccurate. It mostly sits around, taking up warehouse
> space,
> > to be hauled out every couple years for a few days' use. To modernize
> it
> > all
> > would cost more than most localities would be willing to pay.
> >
> > Regarding the corruption aspects of our system: I've heard reports that
> in
> > North Philly absentee ballots were being handed out, and duly collected,
> in
> > Black churches; that in Milwaukee students are reporting that they had
> no
> > problem voting multiple times; that homeless were being bribed with
> > cigarettes to fill out absentee ballots; that bogus voting cards were
> mailed
> >
> > to non-citizens -- a few anecdotal drops in a vast bucket of election
> > fraud,
> > often involving FELONIES, for goodness sakes. To properly police the
> voting
> > rolls and voting procedures -- including clearing out dead people and
> those
> > who have moved away, as well as sorting out fraudulent registrations --
> would
> >
> > require legions of highly paid and highly skilled people, plus court
> > resources for appropriate enforcement of election laws, lawyers etc etc.
> > Taxpayers would simply not cough up the dough to fund it.
> >
> > In other words, despite all our arrogant assertions of being a model
> > democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world,
> yadda
> > yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we
> > literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards. If
> this
> > is the case, it renders such recent disputes as campaign financing, not
> to
> > mention stochastic implications of multiple-hand-recounting and whether
> a
> > Bush ally was involved in election-night projections (you mean, Gore
> allies
> > weren't?), rather trivial by comparison.
> >
> > Here's a suggestion: Since we claim that in electing our president we
> are
> > choosing the most powerful political figure in the world, how about
> imposing
> >
> > on the United Nations to chip in for voting machinery upgrades, and to
> send,
> >
> > for our elections, an army of impartial (and perhaps well-armed)
> > investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our
> own
> >
> > laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same,

> as
> > we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many
> of
> > whose members might number among the accused.
> >
> > Well, any better ideas?
> >
> > On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this,
> > check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com
> >
> > Ray Funkhouser
>
> --
> Peter Ph. Mohler
> Executive Director GESIS
> Director of ZUMA
> Mannheim
> Germany
> +49-621-1246-173
>
>
>
>

=====
Date: Sat, 18 Nov 2000 09:12:32 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: House Commerce Committee Data on CNN Election Calls
In-Reply-To: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011161937040.15245-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

These are at not the correct times for projections. The list is seriously
in error.
warren mitofsky

At 07:41 PM 11/16/00 -0800, James Beniger wrote:

> Times Are EST & Declared Times Are From CNN
> -----
> (Source: House Commerce Committee 11/16)
>
>
> State Final Vote Polls Close Declared
Time -----
> Alabama Bush By 15 8:00 PM 8:25 PM 0:25
> Alaska Bush By 31 12:00 AM 12:00 AM
0:00
>

>	Arizona	Bush By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
>					
>	Arkansas	Bush By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
>					
>	California	Gore By 12	11:00 PM	11:00 PM	
0:00					
>					
>	Colorado	Bush By 9	9:00 PM	11:41 PM	2:41
>					
>	Connecticut	Gore By 17	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Delaware	Gore By 13	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	DC	Gore By 77	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Florida	49/49	8:00 PM	7:52 **	- 0:08
>					
>	Georgia	Bush By 12	7:00 PM	7:59 PM	0:59
>					
>	Hawaii	Gore By 18	11:00 PM	11:00 PM	
0:00					
>					
>	Idaho	Bush By 41	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	
0:00					
>					
>	Illinois	Gore By 12	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Indiana	Bush By 16	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Iowa	Gore By 1	10:00 PM	5:00 AM	7:00
>					
>	Kansas	Bush By 21	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Kentucky	Bush By 16	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Louisiana	Bush By 8	9:00 PM	9:21 PM	0:21
>					
>	Maine	Gore By 5	8:00 PM	11:10 PM	3:10
>					
>	Maryland	Gore By 17	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Massachusetts	Gore By 27	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Michigan	Gore By 4	8:00 PM	9:24 PM	1:24
>					
>	Minnesota	Gore By 2	9:00 PM	10:25 PM	1:25
>					
>	Mississippi	Bush By 15	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Missouri	Bush By 4	8:00 PM	10:47 PM	2:47
>					
>	Montana	Bush By 24	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	
0:00					
>					
>	Nebraska	Bush By 30	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00
>					
>	Nevada	Bush By 3	10:00 PM	1:31 AM	4:31

>						
>	New Hampshire	Bush By 1	7:00 PM	12:07 AM		5:07
>						
>	New Jersey	Gore By 15	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	New Mexico	48/48	9:00 PM	10:22 **		1:22
>						
>	New York	Gore By 25	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	North Carolina	Bush By 13	7:30 PM	8:09 PM	0:49	
>						
>	North Dakota	Bush By 28	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	Ohio	Bush By 4	7:30 PM	9:19 PM	1:49	
>						
>	Oklahoma	Bush By 22	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	Oregon	47/47	11:00 PM			NC
>						
NC						
>						
>	Pennsylvania	Gore By 4	8:00 PM	9:24 PM	1:24	
>						
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>						
>	Tennessee	Bush By 3	8:00 PM	11:00 PM		3:00
>						
>	Texas	Bush By 21	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	Utah	Bush By 41	10:00 PM		10:00 PM	
0:00						
>						
>	Vermont	Gore By 10	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	0:00	
>						
>	Virginia	Bush By 7	7:00 PM	7:33 PM	0:33	
>						
>	Washington	Gore By 5	11:00 PM		12:08 AM	
1:08						
>						
>	West Virginia	Bush By 6	7:30 PM	10:46 PM		3:16
>						
>	Wisconsin	48/48	9:00 PM	6:12 AM	9:12	
>						
>	Wyoming	Bush By 41	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	0:00	
>						

 ** Later Retracted

>*****

Warren Mitofsky

Mitofsky International
1 East 53rd Street - 5th Floor
New York, NY 10022

212 980-3031
212 980-3107 FAX

=====
Date: Sat, 18 Nov 2000 10:18:44 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: Warren Mitofsky <mitofsky@mindspring.com>
cc: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: House Commerce Committee Data on CNN Election Calls
In-Reply-To: <5.0.0.25.2.20001118090832.038elda0@pop.mindspring.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011180953100.8268-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Warren,

I have just finished sending a copy of these data to CNN with a request for verification, and asking also that a copy be sent to the House Commerce Committee. If any other of you AAPORNETers have corrections, I urge you to do the same. Can you imagine what the world would be like if House Committees were operating with incorrect data? I wouldn't mind if they dropped this subject entirely, of course, but because they don't seem about to do so, accuracy seems the next best thing we might ask, especially since the actual data are entirely out of our hands.

-- Jim

On Sat, 18 Nov 2000, Warren Mitofsky wrote:

> These are at not the correct times for projections. The list is seriously
> in error.

> warren mitofsky

>

>

> At 07:41 PM 11/16/00 -0800, James Beniger wrote:

> >*****

Date: Thu, 16 Nov 2000 19:41:54 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@almaak.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: House Commerce Committee Data on CNN Election Calls
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011161937040.15245-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Times Are EST & Declared Times Are From CNN

(Source: House Commerce Committee 11/16)

State	Final Vote	Polls Close	Declared	Time
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Alabama	Bush By 15	8:00 PM	8:25 PM	0:25
Alaska	Bush By 31	12:00 AM	12:00 AM	0:00
Arizona	Bush By 6	9:00 PM	11:51 PM	2:51
Arkansas	Bush By 6	8:30 PM	12:12 AM	3:42
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Minnesota	Gore	By 2	9:00 PM	10:25 PM	1:25
Mississippi	Bush	By 15	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	0:00
Missouri	Bush	By 4	8:00 PM	10:47 PM	2:47
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** Later Retracted

>
> Warren Mitofsky
> *****
> Mitofsky International
> 1 East 53rd Street - 5th Floor
> New York, NY 10022
>
> 212 980-3031
> 212 980-3107 FAX

=====
Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 10:10:10 -0500
From: "Marcello, Melissa" <mmarcello@swrworldwide.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Cc: "Riggins, Phil" <PRiggins@Shandwick.com>
Subject: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World Opinion
Polling
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Hi All,

After consulting with a number of colleagues on this question, I thought I'd post it to the list.

Our company recently did a multi-country phone survey which included a number of items in the instrument that used a zero to ten scale. After taking a look at the topline results, we noticed that certain countries' respondents (e.g. Italy and Spain) tended to give responses at the end pts on the scale--many 0-3, or 8-10; others tended to give a lot of middle range responses (e.g. Germany), etc.

So, the question that remains is whether the results are a reflection of true variance in opinion, or something else--affect, maybe. Has anyone done any work that suggests that we need to control for cultural difference in scaled questions? Since we have mostly topline data (the questions were on an omnibus) and not a dataset to work with, we don't have the ability to do a lot of fancy stats (which was my suggestion).

Obviously there are issues related to question wording across the countries, but I am most interested in finding out what you think about whether we need to control for the scaling issue.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Melissa Marcello

Melissa Marcello
Senior Research Analyst
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202-352-7462 Mobile
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Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 10:28:09 -0500
From: "Larry Cohen" <lcohen@srhc.sarnoff.com>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.61 [en]C-CCK-MCD (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Some Election 2000 Humor
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

This crossed my desk and I thought some AAPOR netters ought to find this entertaining!! I apologize for any double posting.

In olden times, it could be decades before major events were cast in verse. But the Great 2000 Election Controversy is so big that a bunch of all-star poets have come out of retirement to quickly set the story to rhyme.

For starters, history buff Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

Listen, my children, don't dare ignore,
The midnight actions of Bush and Gore
In early November, the year ought-ought,
Hard to believe the mess they wrought.
Two billion bucks of campaign bounty
All came down to Palm Beach County.
What result could have been horrider
Than the situation we found in Florider?

Edgar Allen Poe is his usual gloomy self:

Once upon a campaign dreary, one which left us weak and weary
O'er many a quaint and curious promise of political lore
While we nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came yapping,
As of some votes overlapping, energy-zapping to the core
Tis a mess here, we all muttered, as the network anchors stuttered,
Stuttered over Bush and Gore.

Could there be another election with such a case of misdirection,
One with such a weak selection, yet fraught with tension to the core?
Quoth the ravers, Nevermore.

Britain's Edward Lear's limerick is lighter:

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I regret to admit that all my knowledge is
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I thought that I would never see
The networks all so up a tree.

Walt Whitman is lyrical, as always:

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trips not done
The ship has weather'd every rack, but nobody knows
who's won

Alfred Noyes rhythmically rumbles:

And still of an autumn night they say, with the White House on the
line,
When the campaigns a ghostly galleon and both candidates cry, Tis mine!

When the road is a ribbon of ballots, all within easy reach,
A highwayman comes riding, Riding, Riding,
A highwayman comes riding, and punches two holes in each.

Dr. Seuss takes a look at election officials:

I cannot count them in a box
I cannot count them with a fox
I cannot count them by computer

I will not with a Roto-Rooter
I cannot count them card-by-card
I will not cause its way too hard
I cannot count them on my fingers
I will not while suspicion lingers
I'll leave the country in a jam
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Dr Clement Moore adopts a holiday theme:

Twass the month before Christmas, when all through the courts,
All the plaintiffs made stirring bad ballot reports

Which leaves the problem:

Perhaps the best way to stop complaints that are raucous
is start over again, with the Iowa caucuses.

--

Larry Cohen
Consumer Financial Decisions
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609 734 2094 FAX
lcohen@sric.sarnoff.com e-mail
<http://future.sri.com/CFD> URL

Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 10:35:42 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Riggins, Phil" <PRiggins@Shandwick.com>
Subject: Re: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World
Opinion
Polling
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

I recall seeing some published work recently (maybe someone will have the citation) on differences between African-Americans and non-minorities in use of such scales, and I have seen that effect in some of my own work on ethnic beauty products. (All U.S.) You need to get a statistician to look at the data and consider the pros and cons of standardization or other forms of

adjustment.

It's too late now (apparently) but I think the best way of dealing with this problem is to use semantically anchored scales that are less subject to this type of distortion.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.

Voice (610) 408-8800

Fax (610) 408-8802

jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Marcello, Melissa <mmarcello@swrworldwide.com>

To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>

Cc: Riggins, Phil <PRiggins@Shandwick.com>

Date: Monday, November 20, 2000 10:12 AM

Subject: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World Opinion Polling

>Hi All,

>

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>

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>

>

>Melissa Marcello

>Senior Research Analyst

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>700 13th Street, NW
>Suite 250
>Washington, DC 20005
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>202-352-7462 Mobile
>www.swrworldwide.com
>
>

Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 11:10:52 -0500
From: Michael Butterworth <MXB@cbsnews.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Some Election 2000 Humor -Reply
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain
Content-Disposition: inline

A.E. Housman contributed this:

When it was November seven, the election clerk said to me,
Cast votes for Al or W, but be sure the chad falls free.
But it was November seven, no use to talk to me.

When it was November seven, the clerk said to me again
The unpunched ballot is never given in vain.
It's paid with counts aplenty, and manual recounts too,
And now it's November twenty, and oh 'tis true, 'tis true.

>>> "Larry Cohen" <lcohen@sric.sarnoff.com> 11/20/00 10:28am >>>
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this
entertaining!! I apologize for any double posting.

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Larry Cohen
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lcohen@srhc.sarnoff.com e-mail
<http://future.sri.com/CFD> URL

=====
Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 09:43:02 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: VARIETY: Election from hell fuels cynicism toward media
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011200940260.8661-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

This signed editorial by the Editor-in-Chief of
Daily Variety attacks exit polling at both its
beginning and its end, with more general attacks
on media news coverage--especially by the major

television networks--sandwiched between. It appears in this morning's printed editions.

-- Jim

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http://dailynews.yahoo.com/htx/nm/20001119/en/industry-bart_1.html

Sunday November 19 9:56 PM ET

Election from hell fuels cynicism toward media

By Peter Bart, Daily Variety Editor-in-Chief

HOLLYWOOD (Variety) - One clear by-product of this totally screwed up election is that people have become even more cynical about the media, and with good reason.

We've learned that all the networks were basing their voter projections on the same pathetic puddle of data. We've learned that the bozo who first called the election for Bush on the Fox News Channel was essentially working for the Bush campaign. We've read that the networks promise they'll do things differently next time, but no one quite believes that either.

It's healthy in a democracy when voters don't believe their politicians, but unhealthy when disbelief rubs off on the supposedly free press. Yet consider the sorry record of the past couple of years. From the Lewinsky affair to the railroading of Wen Ho Lee, the Los Alamos nuclear scientist, the press has seemed at once arbitrary and arrogant.

As news organizations increasingly become the toys of global mega-companies, there are ever more signs of bogus synergies and cross-plugging that bolster this pervasive cynicism.

As evidence, tune in an ABC show called ``The View'' starring Barbara Walters, a veritable cathedral of product placement.

Campbell Soup employees roam the audience with the show's co-hosts, who are veteran news reporters, cajoling the audience to talk about their favorite flavors and soup-sipping techniques, even demanding renditions of that mawkish ditty ``M'm, M'm Good.''

``The shocking thing is that nobody is trying to disguise it,''' Robert Thompson, a professor of TV and film at Syracuse University, told Shelly Branch of the Wall Street Journal. ``It's absolutely shameless.''

Under the new rules of TV, advertisers like Campbell Soup increasingly are being allowed to infiltrate the content of the shows. Product placement has given way to product tyranny.

Walters' flacks are quick to point out that ``The View'' falls under the auspices of ABC's entertainment division; this sort of thing would not be

allowed were the news division in charge. Nonetheless, reporters from established news shows appear with Walters, thus compromising their credibility.

Cozy arrangements like this exemplify the synergistic subterfuge emerging from the mega-companies. They are all about announcing brave new initiatives, while cutting costs that undermine those initiatives.

The monumental headache of integrating the corporate cultures of Time, AOL and CNN entered another phase last week with the elevation of Walter Isaacson, managing editor of Time magazine, to a new role as the prime link between these entities.

Isaacson is a shrewd corporate player who well remembers his company's previous synergistic forays, ranging from the disastrous Operation Tailwind documentary on CNN to the tepid CNN-Entertainment Weekly ``NewsStand'' series.

Initiatives such as these will be dwarfed once the AOL powerhouse gains momentum, so he must face some urgent questions: What will be the ``value added'' for the consumer once corporate cultures converge? Will there be credible material out there to edify or entertain, or will it come down to yet another celebration of cross-plugging?

To be sure, mega-companies don't discuss their secret synergies, but the networks at least have to be more open about Election Night gaffes.

Roger Ailes, the ideologue who runs Fox News, now insists the networks should no longer rely on one exit polling service. He's also examining whether John Ellis, a Bush cousin who manned the Fox news election desk, violated rules by exchanging exit poll data with his relatives on the Bush campaign.

Meanwhile, media gadfly Steven Brill added his voice to those suggesting the networks should have their own exit polling services rather than sharing one. And Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-La.) wants to bring the principal newsies before his House Commerce Committee to explain their missteps -- not to mention their ``liberal bias.''

Voters would be more motivated to go to their polling places, he suggests, if they believed their votes would be fairly counted and reported.

Otherwise we'd all do well to drop by Barbara Walters' show and share our soup-sipping experiences. I always felt their black bean tasted like one of those hot mud baths -- do you think Barbara would want to hear about that?

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/htx/nm/20001119/en/industry-bart_1.html

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=====
Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 11:51:29 -0600

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Robert Godfrey <rgodfrey@facstaff.wisc.edu>

Subject: RE: "Republic," not "Democracy"

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

At 2:19 PM -0800 11/17/00, Ross, Robert wrote:

>The PR proposal that has been considered would eliminate electors and make
>an exact mathematical allocation of the electoral vote carried to as many
>decimal places as you like. One advantage would be removing the "unfaithful
>elector" potential from the system. The advantage to small states can be
>seen, using this year's vote, in comparing Wyoming where about 71,000 votes
>would equal 1 electoral vote with California where it would take about
>179,000 to equal one electoral vote. These are the extremes, of course.

What gets lost in all these discussions about helping small States make a difference in the Electoral College system, is the system's clear violation of one of the most basic tenets of our democratic system, namely, the principle of one person, one vote, as today's op-ed piece in the New York Times pointed out.

=====

November 20, 2000

It Pays to Win the Small States

By ALEX KEYSSAR

DURHAM, N.C. As the protracted election of 2000 plays out, the nation's attention has narrowed again and again: to a few "battleground" states out of 50; then to just one state, Florida; to just a few counties; and even to one county's confusing ballot. But when the lens is broadened again, a deeper reality emerges in the battle of George W. Bush and Al Gore: the bias in the Electoral College toward small states.

It seems clear now that Al Gore won the popular vote. Yet this time the Electoral College apparently did not fall into line. The small-state bias, not the fate of Florida, helps explain why.

States with large populations do get more electoral votes, of course, than those that have relatively few people. Each state gets electoral votes equal to the number of its representatives to the House, which are allocated in proportion to population. But then something else is added: an electoral vote for each senator. And that seemingly small addition has a surprisingly powerful effect.

South Dakota's electoral vote, for example, is tripled by the senatorial "add-on" of two electoral votes, while New York's electoral weight is increased by only 6 percent. And so in New York, one electoral vote represents 550,000 people, while in South Dakota it represents 232,000.

Mr. Bush generally did well in states with small populations, winning

19 of the 26 states that have fewer than 10 electoral votes each. By winning so many small states, he gained a clear Electoral College advantage.

Mr. Gore won, for example, 22 electoral votes representing 10.4 million people in Massachusetts and Minnesota. Mr. Bush got more 24 by winning votes representing only 6.1 million people spread across six small states.

Or, to look at the numbers another way, first count as a wash the seven small states won by Mr. Gore and seven closely comparable small states won by Mr. Bush. That leaves Mr. Bush winning an additional 12 small states with a total population roughly equal to that of California. From those states, he will receive 73 electoral votes, compared with California's 54. That difference is enough to tilt the outcome of the election.

That difference also violates the principle of one person, one vote that most of us believe in and that, according to a series of Supreme Court decisions in the 1960's, lies at the heart of our democracy. "To say that a vote is worth more in one district than in another would . . . run counter to our fundamental ideas of democratic government," the court announced in 1964. "Legislators," wrote Chief Justice Earl Warren, "represent people, not trees or acres." Yet 18 million people in New York now get 33 electoral votes for the presidency while fewer than 14 million people in a collection of small states also get 33.

Much has been said in recent days about the real or alleged "disenfranchisement" of voters in Florida and elsewhere. As we ponder that critical word, we would do well to keep in mind Justice Warren's conclusion that "the right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen's vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise."

Those who tout the virtues of the Electoral College should confront the mathematical reality of the inequities they are defending.

Alex Keyssar, professor of history and public policy at Duke, is author of "The Right to Vote."

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=====
Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 13:37:51 -0600
From: "Barbara Burrell" <TI0BCB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Job announcement
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline

Public Opinion Laboratory Director

The Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University seeks candidates for the position of Director. The Director is responsible for overall administrative leadership of the Lab including budgeting, staff and resource allocation, client development and funded projects, and delivery of surveys and reports. The Director is expected to play a leadership role in expanding the Lab's external research mission in Illinois and nationally, and in securing external funding. In collaboration with the associate director, the Director oversees day to day operations management, personnel development, and submission of research proposals and contract-bids. The Director also promotes survey research and training among faculty and students at the university through collaborative projects.

Established in 1982, the Public Opinion Lab is a full service survey research center located within the Social Science Research Institute, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Lab presently operates with an associate director, six professional staff, student assistants, and a 32-station CATI facility, and conducts telephone, mail, and Internet surveys, and other survey services, for national, state, and local government agencies, research centers, and non-governmental organizations. The Director of POL reports to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is a member of the policy board of the Social Science Research Institute.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in a social science discipline and a record of excellence in scholarship and funded survey research; a minimum of three years of management experience in operating a professional survey facility is highly desirable. This position is a full-time 12-month administrative appointment, and may include a joint tenure-track appointment in the College, depending on candidate qualifications.

Northern Illinois University, a Carnegie Research Extensive University and a member of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, is located in the northeastern Illinois region, 60 miles west of Chicago. Preference will be given to applications received by February 15, 2001, however, applications will be accepted until position is filled. A letter of application, curriculum vita, and names of at least three individuals who have been asked by the candidate to provide letters of reference should be sent to: Frederick L. Kitterle, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. For more information on this position go to the POL website at <http://www.pol.niu.edu>. AA/EEO

Barbara Burrell
Interim Director
Public Opinion Laboratory
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-753-9657

=====
Date: Sun, 19 Nov 2000 16:47:00 -0700
From: Fred Solop <Fred.Solop@NAU.EDU>
Subject: Job Announcement
X-Sender: solop@jan.ucc.nau.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <4.3.1.2.20001119163428.00b76b90@jan.ucc.nau.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 4.3.1
Content-type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="Boundary_(ID_TaNeUSz7941oToy8+4hqlQ)"

--Boundary_(ID_TaNeUSz7941oToy8+4hqlQ)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Research Specialist

The Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University is seeking a Research Specialist to analyze data and write research reports; assist in proposal development; coordinate and conduct library/computer searches for research information; assist in the presentation of research information, and program survey research software. This person should have knowledge of survey research methods, excellent communication and writing skills, and computer skills including familiarity with MS Office, SPSS and Ci3/CATI software.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a field appropriate to the assignment AND two years related research experience; OR, an equivalent combination of experience, training, and/or education.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's degree in appropriate field preferred.

Application Deadline: Open until further notice.

An NAU job application is required for all Classified Staff and Service Professional positions. Applications can be accessed at www.nau.edu/hr and a full job description can be accessed at <http://www.nau.edu/hr/jobs/postings/all/552884.htm> or requested by calling the Human Resources Department at (520) 523-2223. Mail to Northern Arizona University, Human Resources Department, PO Box 4113, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-4113 or fax to (520) 523-2220.

NAU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. Women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Fred Solop, Ph.D.
Director
Social Research Laboratory
PO Box 15301
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
E-mail: Fred.Solop@nau.edu
(520) 523-3135 -- phone
(520) 523-6654 -- fax
www.nau.edu/~srl

--Boundary_(ID_TaNeUSz7941oToy8+4hqlQ)
Content-type: text/html; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

<html>
Research Specialist

The Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University is
seeking a Research

Specialist to analyze data and write research reports; assist in proposal
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and writing

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and Ci3/CATI software.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a field appropriate
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two years related research experience; OR, an equivalent combination of
experience, training,

and/or education.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's degree in appropriate field
preferred.

Application Deadline: Open until further notice.

An NAU job application is required for all Classified Staff and Service
Professional positions. Applications can be accessed at
<font
color="#0000FF"><u>www.nau.edu/hr</u>
and a full job description can be accessed at
<a href="http://www.nau.edu/hr/jobs/postings/all/552884.htm"
eudora="autourl"><font
color="#0000FF"><u>http://www.nau.edu/hr/jobs/postings/all/552884.<a
href="http://www.nau.edu/hr/jobs/postings/all/552884.htm"
eudora="autourl">htm</u>
or requested by calling the Human Resources Department at (520) 523-2223.
Mail
to Northern Arizona University, Human Resources

Department, PO Box 4113, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-4113 or fax to (520) 523-2220.

<i><u>NAU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. Women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply</i>.

</u>

Fred Solop, Ph.D.

Director

Social Research Laboratory

PO Box 15301

Northern Arizona University

Flagstaff, AZ 86011

E-mail: Fred.Solop@nau.edu

(520) 523-3135 -- phone

(520) 523-6654 -- fax

<a href="http://www.nau.edu/~srl"

eudora="autourl">www.nau.edu/~srl</html>

--Boundary_(ID_TaNeUSz7941oToy8+4hqlQ)--

=====
Date: Mon, 20 Nov 2000 20:16:27 -0500

From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>, "Y1967-L@Aya. Yale. Edu" <y1967-l@aya.yale.edu>

Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

Subject: How the Grinch Stole Election Day

Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPOENCCGAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

X-Priority: 3 (Normal)

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

I am afraid I could not stop myself from forwarding this!
Kill me now.

Andy Beveridge

How the Grinch Stole Election Day

By Frank Cammuso and Hart Seely

(With respects to Theodor S. Geisel.)

Every Chad
Down in Chad-ville
Liked voting a lot ...
But the Grinch,
Who lived just north of Chad-ville
Did NOT!

The Grinch hated voting! He thought it a bore.
Now, please don't ask why. Could be Bush, could be Gore.
It could be his heart bled with liberal mush.
It could be, perhaps, that he listened to Rush.
But I think the real reason his trust was so shattered
Was the great Grinchy view that his vote never mattered.

BUT
Whatever the reason,
Lack of trust, lack of goals,
The Grinch dreaded that day when Chads went to the polls.
He just hated those speeches and negative ads,
And when push came to shove, he just hated the Chads.
He just hated their theme parks, their football-team rooters,
He just hated their gun laws, their barmaids at Hooters.
He just hated their weather, even hated their hate.
And he hated that they were a battleground state.

"So they're making their choices," he snarled with a sneer.
"This 'Decision Two Thousand' is practically here!
"They'll struggle to choose 'tween a crumb and a bum,
" 'Cause a voter's a voter, no matter how dumb."
Then he growled, his Grinch fingers nervously drumming,
"I MUST find a way to keep outcomes from coming!"

For tomorrow, he knew ...
All the flag-waving souls,
Would again waste their efforts on Clintons or Doles.
And by then, oh, the polls! Oh, the polls! Polls! Polls! Polls!
That's the one thing he hated! The POLLS! POLLS! POLLS! POLLS!

So the Chads, rich and poor, and by bus, car, or boat,
They would vote! And they'd vote!
And they'd VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!
They would vote to ban smoking or clearing your throat.
They would even vote laws in for curbing your goat.

And THEN ...
They'd sing that anthem. It always came later.
Be they Bush-ites or Gore-ites or ites of Ralph Nader.
They'd stand close together, and though still full of fight,
They'd stand and they'd sing, by that dawn's early light.

And the more the Grinch thought of Election Day's ring,
The more the Grinch thought, "I must stop this whole thing!
"Why, for two hundred years I've put up with it now!
"I MUST stop these outcomes from coming!
"... But HOW?"

Then he got an idea!
Yes, a legal idea!
THE GRINCH
GOT AN AWFUL BUT LEGAL IDEA!

"I know just what to do!" The Grinch laughed with a jig.
And he wove from his goat a Sam Donaldson wig.
And into the mirror he spoke with grand rancor,
"With this helmet of hair, they'll all think I'm an anchor!"

"All I need are some ballots ..."
The Grinch looked around.
But since ballots were private, there were none to be found.
So he made his own ballot, printing letters quite little,
And he scattered the names, running holes down the middle,
And he stuck it together with Chad-berry spittle.
And he said, "They'll need Einstein to figure this riddle!"

THEN
He loaded his boxes, and without looking nervous
Put a sign on his van that said "Voter News Service."
THEN
The Grinch pulled away in his van with a screech
Toward the pads of the Chads in a place called "Palm Beach."

When he came to the first polling place in the square,
All the lines were quite long. Thoughtful talk filled the air,
As the Chads chatted merits of managed health care.
"Vote early and often," the Grinch said with a grin.
And he marched to the front of the line and stepped in.

There he left all his ballots, the strange ones with punches,
And instructions that said, "Please punch punches in bunches."
As he slunk out the door toward the nearest Grand Hyatt,
He could hear what you'd think was an Elián riot.
The Cohens sisters Esther, Mitzi, and Shannon,
Just realized that their votes had all gone to Buchanan!

At a place in Dade County near a middle-school yard,
The Grinch donned a shirt that said, "Polling Place Guard."
And he eyeballed each Chad and said, "Where is your card?
"Voter card? Motor card? Credit card? Diner's?
"Face card? Race card? Baseball card? Shriners?"
And he turned them away. Then the Grinch, like a fox,
Stuffed all of his ballots and locked the lockbox!

Then old Grinch returned home to go "LIVE" on TV.
He had waited quite late: (It was now eight oh three.)
So the Grinch Network News first projected a score:
"Now with one percent in, we pick Chad-ville for GORE."
Every Gore-ite in Chad-ville said, "GIVE US SOME MORE!"

So he pulled more projections straight out of his stack.
Then, "Oh, dear!" said the Grinch, "I must take it all back!"
So the Grinch Network News, in grand fairness to all
Now reported that Chad-ville was "TOO CLOSE TO CALL."

"Don't be mad, all you Chads, for this isn't a scandal,
"It was just," the Grinch said, "we forgot the Panhandle.
"The science of sampling can leave one out-simplified."
So the Chads were left hanging and pregnant and dimpled.
And the stress of it all put George Bush among the pimples!

Then the Grinch raised a finger for the night's final push.
"Election Day's done, and the winner is BUSH."
After all, George was leading at least by a dozen.
(And whenever it's close, always go with your cousin.)
"Play the music, the songs, pop the corks, sing the praises,
" 'Cause with Bush as the winner, you're all getting raises!"
And then the Grinch yawned, "This election stuff's hokey,
Good-bye 'till next year! And now back to you, Cokie."

And the Grinch, he went back to his old Grinchy pad.
But en route, he was nabbed by a little Chad lad
Who had stayed up all night (quite ignoring his dad).
He stared at the Grinch and said, "Sir, who's our leader?
"Is it Bush? Is it Gore? Or, my choice, Derek Jeter?"
And the Grinch simply smiled: This day couldn't be sweeter.

They were finding out now that no outcome was coming!
They were seeing it now, all their dumbness and dumbering.
"They're just waking up!" he said. "Here's what they'll do!
"Their mouths will hang open a minute or two
"And the Chads down in Chad-ville will all cry, 'WE'LL SUE!' "

As he stared down at Chad-ville, the Grinch popped his eyes,
But the scene that he saw brought a shocking surprise.
All the Chads down in Chad-ville, Chad lads and Chad dads,
They were counting the votes, they were counting the chads!
He hadn't stopped an outcome from coming.
IT CAME!
SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, IT CAME JUST THE SAME!

As the Grinch with his head buried deep in the sand
Sat puzzling and puzzling, "They will count them by hand?"
Yes, it came with the lawsuits, it came with the lawyers,
It came with Tim Russert, it came with Bill Moyers.
When the ballots were plucked and the counting was done
The last margin of victory turned out to be ... ONE!
And if the Grinch had just voted,
... HIS GUY WOULD HAVE WON!
And what happened then ...
Well ...
In Chad-ville they say
That the Grinch's small district
Grew three sizes that day.

'Cause the minute his mood had come out of its slump,
The Grinch said, "Hmm! I could be running this dump!"
So he formed a committee to do all the work
And he ...
HE HIMSELF!
The Grinch ran for town clerk!

=====
Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2000 13:19:49 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: We Have Traced You To This Address !!! (fwd)
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011211316300.29497-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=X-UNKNOWN
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8BIT

Folks,

I have just received the following unsolicited message (no, Friend@public.com is *not* an address I have ever owned). I forward this to AAPORNET simply to illustrate the following point: If survey and market research is going to have a successful future on the Internet and Web ("successful" including general population surveys, representative samples, respectable response rates, and candid and truthful responses), the public images created by messages like this one must be addressed now, while there remains some hope of countering such images. One possible way would be for academic, other nonprofit and commercial research organizations to come together in an organized, highly visible and sustained effort to promote respect and protection for individual privacy rights. I'm hoping that you all will have even better ideas.....

-- Jim

P.S. Yes, I do understand that the likely product offered for sale here is nothing new and no big deal--I mean to address not the product itself, but rather the public image of Internet and Web privacy promoted and exploited by spams like this.

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Tue, 21 Nov 00 11:48:15 EST
From: InternetInvestigator@excite.com
To: Friend@public.com
Subject: We Have Traced You To This Address !!!

Now you can learn EVERYTHING about your friends, neighbors, enemies, employees, co-workers, your boss, even yourself!

Is there someone online that you want to find out more about?

Are they exploring areas of the internet that they shouldn't be?

It's time for you to see for yourself and find out what they are really doing online!

Don't let suspicions become paranoia, uncover the truth now before it's too

late!

Many people hire a private investigator to observe, track and record what their husband, wife, boyfriend/girlfriend and children are doing. Be your own private investigator. Get the full details of the hidden truth. Now you can investigate anyone secretly, and in the privacy of your own home!

Get your hands on the most powerful IDetect ME ware available today! With it, you can find out who they are talking to and more importantly what they are talking about!

See and record every word typed in:

- E-mails
- Private Messages
- Chat Rooms
- Message Boards
- ICQ & IRC

Find out who they are talking to and what they are saying. Find out what type of chatrooms they are going in. Record and check out all the web sites they are visiting or searching for! Best of all, they don't have to be using the same computer as you! IDetect ME can find all this out by using just their IP Address! And with all the easy to use tools, finding out an IP is one of the easiest features!

Need to find out about someone who's not online? With Spy-Soft, you can locate anyone by their name, phone number, state license plate number, social security number, even e-mail address. You can even find unlisted phone numbers!

Credit checks are easy and free with IDetect ME. Never pay again just to see a copy of your's or anyone else's credit report!

Take a look at some of the other features packed into IDetect ME's powerful tools...

- Look at anyone's criminal records
- Examine their driving record
- Locate people who have changed their name
- Locate birth parents and adoptees
- Anonymously surf the internet
- Locate long lost friends
- Locate e-mails, phone numbers, or addresses.
- Get a Copy of Your FBI file.
- FIND DEBTORS and locate HIDDEN ASSETS.
- Check DRIVING and CRIMINAL RECORDS.
- Locate old classmates, missing family member, or a LONG LOST LOVE.
- Do Background Checks on EMPLOYEES before you hire them.
- Investigate your family history, birth, death and SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS!
- Discover how UNLISTED phone numbers are located.
- Check out your new or old LOVE INTEREST.

- Verify your own CREDIT REPORTS so you can correct WRONG information.
- Track anyone's Internet ACTIVITY; see the sites they visit.
- Explore SECRET WEB SITES that conventional search engines have never found.
- Discover little-known ways to make UNTRACEABLE PHONE CALLS.
- Check ADOPTION records; locate MISSING CHILDREN or relatives.
- Dig up information on your FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, or BOSS!
- Discover EMPLOYMENT opportunities from AROUND THE WORLD!
- Locate transcripts and COURT ORDERS from all 50 states.
- CLOAK your EMAIL so your true address can't be discovered.
- Find out how much ALIMONY your neighbor is paying.
- Discover how to check your phones for WIRETAPS.

WARNING: You may be shocked or overwhelmed by the results of what you find!!!

IDetect ME is simple to install and use and will work on any PC or Macintosh that has an internet connection.

To order IDetect ME, send in the order form below.

R-ID#: 154

Send To.....

vCash
7013 Foothill Blvd
Tujunga Ca, 91042

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[] Please rush me IDetect ME for just...\$29.99.

[] Include \$8.00 for EXPRESS Shipping and handling.

» Please make checks and money orders payable to vCash.

Important! Please circle one:

Is your computer a [PC] or a [Macintosh]?

Note After purchasing our program, we are not responsible for your use of it.

=====
Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2000 16:32:15 -0500
From: Rich Clark <rich@csra.uconn.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Master of Survey Research Program
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

Please pass on the following program description to anyone you believe may be interested:

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SURVEY RESEARCH
at the University of Connecticut

The Master's of Survey Research (MSR) program at the University of Connecticut is an intensive, professional program specially deigned to meet the needs of survey research practitioners. The program, which is designed to be completed in one academic year, concentrates on the development of practical skills applied to survey research work. Financial aid and/or graduate assistantships are available to nearly all students accepted into the program. Study with the professionals at the nationally renowned Roper Center for Public Opinion Research and at the Center for Survey Research and Analysis.

Students are selected on the basis of their undergraduate academic performance, practical work experience, and career goals. The application deadline is for the MSR Program is February 15. For more information and an application, contact Richard Clark at Department of Political Science, (860) 486-3373, or by e-mail (rich@csra.uconn.edu).

To be accepted in the MSR program, applicants must be accepted by the University of Connecticut Graduate School and comply with their admissions requirements and deadline. For more information on the Graduate School admissions, contact the Graduate Center at <<http://www.research.uconn.edu/>>.

Richard L. Clark, Ph.D.
Department of Political Science
U-1024, University of Connecticut
341 Mansfield Road
Storrs, CT 06269-1032
860-486-3373 (voice)
860-486-6655 (fax)
richard.l.clark@uconn.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2000 16:54:49 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.76 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: We Have Traced You To This Address !!! (fwd)
References: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011211316300.29497-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

The only surprising thing is that you haven't gotten one of these before.

This is the well-known "Internet Spy" scam, with only the name changed to "IDetect Me", possibly because the original has become so notorious by now.

It is irritating, but no more than the junk faxes I receive every week or so from the Gartner Group, an allegedly legitimate research organization. Spam is aggravating, but not illegal, whereas junk faxes are.

Jan Werner

James Beniger wrote:

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>
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> of countering such images. One possible way would be for academic, other
> nonprofit and commercial research organizations to come together in an
> organized, highly visible and sustained effort to promote respect and
> protection for individual privacy rights. I'm hoping that you all will
have
> even better ideas.....
>
> -- Jim
>
> P.S. Yes, I do understand that the likely product offered for sale here is
> nothing new and no big deal--I mean to address not the product
itself,
> but rather the public image of Internet and Web privacy promoted and
> exploited by spams like this.
>
> *****
>
> ----- Forwarded message -----
> Date: Tue, 21 Nov 00 11:48:15 EST
> From: InternetInvestigator@excite.com
> To: Friend@public.com
> Subject: We Have Traced You To This Address !!!
>

> Now you can learn EVERYTHING about your friends, neighbors, enemies,
> employees, co-workers, your boss, even yourself!
>
> Is there someone online that you want to find out more about?
>
> Are they exploring areas of the internet that they shouldn't be?
>
> It's time for you to see for yourself and find out what they are really
doing
> online!
>
> Don't let suspicions become paranoia, uncover the truth now before it's too
> late!
>
> Many people hire a private investigator to observe, track and record what
> their husband, wife, boyfriend/girlfriend and children are doing. Be your
> own private investigator. Get the full details of the hidden truth. Now you
> can investigate anyone secretly, and in the privacy of your own home!
>
> Get your hands on the most powerful IDetect ME ware available today! With
it,
> you can find out who they are talking to and more importantly what they are
> talking about!
>
> See and record every word typed in:
>
> E-mails
> Private Messages
> Chat Rooms
> Message Boards
> ICQ & IRC
>
> Find out who they are talking to and what they are saying. Find out what
type
> of chatrooms they are going in. Record and check out all the web sites
they
> are visiting or searching for! Best of all, they don't have to be using
the
same
> computer as you! IDetect ME can find all this out by using just their IP
Address!
> And with all the easy to use tools, finding out an IP is one of the easiest
features!
>
> Need to find out about someone who's not online? With Spy-Soft, you can
locate anyone
> by their name, phone number, state license plate number, social security
number, even
> e-mail address. You can even find unlisted phone numbers!
>
> Credit checks are easy and free with IDetect ME. Never pay again just to
see a copy of
> your's or anyone else's credit report!
>
> Take a look at some of the other features packed into IDetect ME's powerful
tools...
>


```

> - Look at anyone's criminal records
> - Examine their driving record
> - Locate people who have changed their name
> - Locate birth parents and adoptees
> - Anonymously surf the internet
> - Locate long lost friends
> - Locate e-mails, phone numbers, or addresses.
> - Get a Copy of Your FBI file.
> - FIND DEBTORS and locate HIDDEN ASSETS.
> - Check DRIVING and CRIMINAL RECORDS.
> - Locate old classmates, missing family member, or a LONG LOST LOVE.
> - Do Background Checks on EMPLOYEES before you hire them.
> - Investigate your family history, birth, death and SOCIAL SECURITY
RECORDS!
> - Discover how UNLISTED phone numbers are located.
> - Check out your new or old LOVE INTEREST.
> - Verify your own CREDIT REPORTS so you can correct WRONG information.
> - Track anyone's Internet ACTIVITY; see the sites they visit.
> - Explore SECRET WEB SITES that conventional search engines have never
found.
> - Discover little-known ways to make UNTRACEABLE PHONE CALLS.
> - Check ADOPTION records; locate MISSING CHILDREN or relatives.
> - Dig up information on your FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, or BOSS!
> - Discover EMPLOYMENT opportunities from AROUND THE WORLD!
> - Locate transcripts and COURT ORDERS from all 50 states.
> - CLOAK your EMAIL so your true address can't be discovered.
> - Find out how much ALIMONY your neighbor is paying.
> - Discover how to check your phones for WIRETAPS.
>
>
> WARNING: You may be shocked or overwhelmed by the results of what you
> find!!!
>
> IDetect ME is simple to install and use and will work on any PC or
> Macintosh that has an internet connection.
>
>
> To order IDetect ME, send in the order form below.
>
> -----
>
> R-ID#: 154
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>
> Send To.....
>
> vCash
> 7013 Foothill Blvd
> Tujunga Ca, 91042
>
>
>
> Your Name _____
>
> Address _____
>
> City _____ State _____ Zip _____
>

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> [] Please rush me IDetect ME for just...\$29.99.
>
> [] Include \$8.00 for EXPRESS Shipping and handling.
>
> » Please make checks and money orders payable to vCash.
>
> Important! Please circle one:
>
> Is your computer a [PC] or a [Macintosh]?
>
> *Note* After purchasing our program, we are not responsible
> for your use of it.

```
=====
Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2000 21:19:26 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Curt Anderson, AP: CBS Head Details Wrong Florida Calls
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011212056360.26809-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII
```

I welcome your comments on the CBS News version of the major networks' mistaken election night calls, as submitted to the House Commerce Committee's telecommunications panel, and summarized here by Curt Anderson of the Associated Press. -- Jim

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www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20001121/aponline162817_000.htm

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2000; 4:28 p.m. EST

CBS Head Details Wrong Florida Calls

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- The networks' mistaken early calls Election Night that Al Gore -- and later George W. Bush -- had won Florida were due in part to flawed exit polls in the Tampa area and a "significant computer error" in Volusia County's election agency, the CBS News chief told Congress.

CBS News President Andrew Heyward said in a letter to Rep. Billy Tauzin, chairman of the House Commerce Committee's telecommunications panel, that his network's initial call for Gore at 7:50 p.m. EST on Nov. 7 was based on Voter News Service exit polls and actual vote data, interpreted through tested statistical models.

But at about 9:20 p.m., Heyward said in the letter released Tuesday, CBS found that exit poll results in the Tampa area had overstated Gore's lead

and that tabulated votes in Duval County were probably wrong. That call was retracted at 9:54 p.m.

When the networks then erroneously called Florida for George W. Bush a few hours later, Heyward said, "another series of confusions took place -- including what at this juncture appears to be a very significant computer error made by the Volusia County Elections Department -- which led to another series of bad calls by the television networks and newspapers across the nation."

That mistake has been traced to a faulty government computer disk.

Tauzin, R-La., is investigating what led to the early election calls, how they affected voter turnout where the polls were still open and whether any inherent biases were involved, partisan or otherwise. Tauzin, planning congressional hearings in January, on Tuesday released responses from the networks and The Associated Press to a series of questions he has asked in preparation.

CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox, CNN and the AP make up the consortium that uses Voter News Service exit polls and actual results to project election results. The AP never called Florida for Bush but did give, and then retract, the state's critical 25 electoral votes to Gore earlier in the night.

Although Tauzin received responses from all six news organizations, Heyward went into the most detail about what led to the mistaken early Florida calls. He said the matter will be thoroughly reviewed by a three-person panel headed by Linda Mason, CBS' vice president of public affairs.

"We were as good as the information we were getting from sources we trusted," Heyward said. "In this case, that information was not good, and neither were we."

Top executives at ABC, CNN, Fox and NBC also said they had begun intensive internal examinations of what went wrong and assured Tauzin of their future cooperation.

CNN Chairman Tom Johnson stressed that "there was no intentional bias in the election night reporting" at his network.

"Nothing is more upsetting than to make an incorrect projection," added Robert C. Wright, NBC's president and chief executive officer.

Tauzin has indicated it may be time to update a 1985 agreement between Congress and the networks on when races should be called so all of a state's polls would have to be closed, not just most of them.

On that point, CBS' Heyward noted that in Florida "it would be extremely difficult to argue any impact on turnout" because all but 5.8 percent of the state's precincts were closed when the call for Gore came at 7:50 p.m. EST -- and the rest closed 10 minutes later.

Republicans have complained that the initial Florida call for Gore might have depressed voter turnout in California and elsewhere, tipping the balance in close House races and helping Gore to a lead in the national popular vote.

Meanwhile, the senior Democrat on the Commerce Committee, Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, has complained to Tauzin that no Democrats have been involved in the investigation. Of particular interest, he said, is the presence at Fox of a Bush cousin in a position to influence when the network called state results.

"If the work of this committee on this important inquiry is to have credibility, bipartisan cooperation is necessary," Dingell said.

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20001121/aponline162817_000.htm

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=====
Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 01:47:44 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "aapornet@usc.edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Poulos column on Fla error (ABC News)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

I have converted the column to text, below. because of attachment shyness,

Note Paulos seems unaware of elaborations by Mitofsky and CBS on the "wrong calls."

Albert D. Biderman
anoder@american.edu

> How (and What) to Count
> Margins of Error vs. Margins of Victory
>
>
> Judge Myriam Lehr, a member of the Miami-Dade canvassing board, inspects a ballot as lawyer John Young takes a close look during the manual count of ballots in Miami, Nov. 20, 2000. (Marta Lavandier/AP Photo)
>
>
> By John Allen Paulos
> Special to ABCNEWS.com
> Nov. 20 - The belief that we can simply count the votes in Florida and award the election to the candidate receiving the plurality

of them may be unfounded.

> The margin of error in the recounts may very well be much larger than the difference in vote totals between the candidates. I 'm being hyperbolic here, but measuring this very small difference with the gross Florida election apparatus is akin to measuring the width of a DNA molecule with a yardstick.

> Uncertain Votes

> Consider there were more than 100,000 ballots discounted throughout the state of Florida. In Palm Beach County there were 3,000 to 4,000 dubious Buchanan voters and 19,000 or so cases of ballot and chad problems. There were also count problems in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties and 20,000 ballots from African-American neighborhoods in Duval County discounted because of confused double-voting. (These latter numbers go a long way toward explaining VNS's early call of Florida for Gore; the exit polls reflected people's sometimes mistaken beliefs about whom they had voted for.)

> The Bush side can also point to perhaps a few thousand votes lost in the panhandle because the media called the state an hour before the polls had closed there, to unconscious biases in the manual recount, and to the controversy over the discounting of unpostmarked military ballots from overseas.

> Add to this the usual problems of counting 6 million of anything - and all these figures overwhelm the present vote difference between the candidates.

>

> Numbers in Dispute

> Even a partial recount of 1 percent of Miami-Dade county's vote which led to

only six more votes for Gore would, when extrapolated, lead to a net 600 more Gore votes. Likewise, a sample hand count

last week of 1 percent of Palm Beach County's votes resulted in 19 more votes for Gore, which extrapolates to an outcome-changing 1,900 more Gore votes county-wide. Recounts in Republican counties would likely lead to a net increase of votes for Bush as well, but there seem to be many fewer errors and irregularities there.

> In a situation such as this when, as engineers sometimes put it, the ratio of noise to signal is so high, there may not be a definitive fact of the matter. The issue can't be decided unless a reasonable definition of what constitutes a vote is settled upon, that is, unless there is litigation.

> Going to court is the proper course, not a premature "high-minded" concession. Avoiding the courts and fetishizing the "accuracy" of an incomplete machine count is disingenuous. Why should one mindlessly defer to a machine when, for example, a hanging chad on a ballot clearly indicates a voter's intentions?

>

> Big Picture Shrinks Figures

> The situation may be clarified with another metaphor. Imagine that a prehistoric bone was found in 1992 and carbon-dating techniques indicated it was about 10 thousand years old. It would be ludicrous

to say the bone is now 10 thousand and 8 years old.

The margin of error in the 10 thousand-year estimate is much greater than 8 years. Similarly, the margin of error in the vote count

in Florida is more than an order of magnitude greater than the total number of votes now separating the candidates and, like the 10 thousand-year figure, it is what is paramount in this election.

> The vote count may remain forever statistically too close to call, but if there is to be any hope of deciding this election, it seems that we must let the courts determine reasonable (albeit debatable) protocols and definitions and then hope that the resulting vote clearly picks the next president of the United States.

> But then there's always the possibility of flipping a specially-minted Gore-Bush coin in the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

>

> Professor of mathematics at Temple University, John Allen Paulos is the author of several best-selling books, including Innumeracy and A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper. His Who's Counting? column on ABCNEWS.com appears on the first day of every month.

>

>

=====
Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 12:10:02 +0100
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Edith de Leeuw <edith1@xs4all.nl>
Subject: Unsolicited 'spam' & feelings of privacy
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi all, for what it is worth:

In reaction to Jan Werner and James Beniger below.

Whether or not SPAM is legal or not is not the issue here. What is the important part is: "what reactions do mass-Spam like this have on the general public".

There are two important points.

First of all, unsolicited mail or telephone calls are not only irritating they also provide a potential respondent with the wrong 'script', as we learned the hard way in telephone surveys. Example of wrong script: when the phone rings, one expects a 'sales pitch', so many telephone survey researchers now begin their introduction with ' I am not selling anything...' . Other example: many advices of Don Dillman, regarding paper-mail surveys (1978) were based on emphasizing this was not 'junk mail' but a serious and respectable survey. We now face the same problem with SPAM. And throwing away unwanted mail is even easier on the computer. Your message is just one mouse-click away from the waste paper bin!

This first point mainly addresses non response problems.
My second point concerns both non response and data quality

The second, even more worrisome part regards feelings of confidentiality and privacy.

In surveys we have two problems: first how to get persons to respond, secondly how to get them to respond truth-fully.

This particular 'internet spy' spam is an extra risk. People associate e-mail with junk-mail, but above all they associate Internet with a highly

untrustworthy medium that any-one can look in and find out about what they said. Not completely untrue of course. So one of the points on the agenda for successful Internet surveys is 'confidentiality'. How to assure confidentiality?. A possibility (but that depends on laws in different countries) is encryption combined with an icon that the respondent recognizes as this is a 'safe' message. Extremely important is the ethics: what do we do with the bad guys. Going back to 'old-fashioned' survey methods like mail and telephone: both the postal system and the telephone system in most countries have laws protecting the confidentiality of the messages sent. Laws covering the net have yet to be made (although in some countries, great progress is made).

In short, I greatly support Jim's plea. We really should make an effort while there is still time.

For those interested: in the proceedings of the 1997 Sawtooth-conference there is an article of Karlan Witt, followed by a reaction by Edith de Leeuw (me) that addresses some of these points.

Warm regards, from a cold and windy Amsterdam,

Edith

>
>This is the well-known "Internet Spy" scam, with only the name changed
>to "IDetect Me", possibly because the original has become so notorious
>by now.
>
>
>It is irritating, but no more than the junk faxes I receive every week
>or so from the Gartner Group, an allegedly legitimate research
>organization. Spam is aggravating, but not illegal, whereas junk faxes
>are.
>
>
>Jan Werner
>_____
>
>
>
>James Beniger wrote:
>I have just received the following unsolicited message (no,
Friend@public.com
> is *not* an address I have ever owned). I forward this to AAPORNET
simply to
> illustrate the following point: If survey and market research is going to
> have a successful future on the Internet and Web ("successful" including
> general population surveys, representative samples, respectable response
> rates, and candid and truthful responses), the public images created by
> messages like this one must be addressed now, while there remains some
hope
> of countering such images. One possible way would be for academic, other
> nonprofit and commercial research organizations to come together in an
> organized, highly visible and sustained effort to promote respect and
> protection for individual privacy rights. I'm hoping that you all will
have
> even better ideas.....
>
>

-- Jim

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UABsAGUAYQBzAGUAIABlAG4AdABlAHIAIABhACAAbgB1AG0AYgBlAHIAIABiAGUAdAB3AGUAZQBv
ACAaJQAxACAAYQBvAGQAIaA1ADIALgAoAFAAAbABlAGEAcwB1ACAABZABpAHMAawAgAGQAcgBp
bQBvAHIAZQAgAHQAaABhAG4AIAA1ADEAIABjAGgAYQByAGEAYwB0AGUAcgBzAC4AFwBQAGwAZQBh
AHMAZQAgAHMAZQBzAGUAYwB0ACAAYQAgAGIAdQB0AHQAbwBuAC4AKgBQAGwAZQBhAHMAZQAgAGUA
bgB0AGUAcgAgAGEAbgAgAGkAbgB0AGUAZwBlAHIAIABiAGUAdAB3AGUAZQBvACAAMAAGAGEAbgBk
ACAAMgA1ADUALgAgAFAAAbABlAGEAcwB1ACAABZABpAHMAawAgAGQAcgBpAHYAZQAgAHAAbwBzAGkAdABpAHYA
ZQAgAGkAbgB0AGUAZwBlAHIALgAgAFAAAbABlAGEAcwB1ACAABZABpAHMAawAgAGQAcgBpAHYAZQAg
AGUAIABhAG4AZAAvAG8AcgAgAHQAaQBtAGUALgAYAFABABlAGEAcwB1ACAABZABpAHMAawAgAGQAcgBp
YQAgAGMAdQByAHIAZQBvAGMAeQAuAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABIAITgBvACAABZABpAHIAbWbY
ACAAbwBjAGMAdQByAHIAZQBkAC4ALQBBAG4AIAB1AG4AawBuAG8AdwBuACAABZABpAHIAbWbYACA
bwBjAGMAdQByAHIAZQBkACAAAdwBoAGkAbABlACAAYQBjAGMAZQBzAHMAaQBvAGcAIAA1ADEALgAR
ACUAMQAqAHcAYQBzACAAbgBvAHQAIABmAG8AdQBvAGUALgAcACUAMQAqAGMAbWbWbTAAHAYQB0AG4A
cwAgAGEAbgAgAGkAbgB2AGEAbABpAGQAIABwAGEAdABoAC4APQA1ADEAIABjAG8AdQBzAGQAIABu
AG8AdAAgAGIAZQAgAG8AcABlAG4AZQBkACAAYgBlAGMAYQB1AHMAZQAgAHQAaABlAHIAZQAgAGEA
cgBlACAAdABvAG8AIABtAGEAbgB5ACAABwBwAGUAbgAgAGYAAQBsAGUAcwAuABgAQQBjAGMAZQBz
AHMAIAB0AG8AIAA1ADEAIAB3AGEAcwAgAGQAZQBvAGkAZQBkAC4ALgBBAG4AIABpAG4AdgBhAGwA
aQBkACAABZABpAGwAZQAgAGYAYQBvAGQAbABlACAAdwBhAHMAIABhAHMAcWbVAGMAaQBhAHQAZQBk
ACAAdwBpAHQAaAAgACUAMQAuADwAJQAxACAAYwBvAHUAbAbkACAAbgBvAHQAIABiAGUAIABYAGUA
bQBvAHYAZQBkACAAYgBlAGMAYQB1AHMAZQAgAGkAdAAgAGkAcwAgAHQAaABlACAAYwB1AHIAcGBl

>who have until now been unaware that there is a world outside your borders)
>will appoint a minister for America without the need for further elections.
>Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire will be
>circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

>

>To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules
>are introduced with immediate effect:

>

>1. You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then
>look up "aluminium". Check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at
>just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it. Generally, you should raise
>your vocabulary to acceptable levels. Look up "vocabulary". Using the same
>twenty seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you
>know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. Look up
>"interspersed".

>

>2. There is no such thing as "US English". We will let Microsoft know on
>your behalf.

>

>3. You should learn to distinguish the English and Australian accents. It
>really isn't that hard.

>

>4. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as the
>good guys.

>

>5. You should relearn your original national anthem, "God Save The Queen",
>but only after fully carrying out task 1. We would not want you to get
>confused and give up half way through.

>

>6. You should stop playing American "football". There is only one kind of
>football. What you refer to as American "football" is not a very good game.
>The 2.15% of you who are aware that there is a world outside your borders
>may have noticed that no one else plays "American" football. You will no
>longer be allowed to play it, and should instead play proper football.
>Initially, it would be best if you played with the girls. It is a difficult
>game. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby
>(which is similar to American "football", but does not involve stopping for
>a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like
>nancies). We are hoping to get together at least a US rugby sevens side by
>2005.

>

>7. You should declare war on Quebec and France, using nuclear weapons if
>they give you any merde. The 98.85% of you who were not aware that there is
>a world outside your borders should count yourselves lucky. The Russians
>have never been the bad guys. "Merde" is French for "shit".

>

>8. July 4th is no longer a public holiday. November 8th will be a new
>national holiday, but only in England. It will be called "Indecisive Day".

>

>9. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and it is for your
>own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean.

>

>10. Please tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us crazy. Thank you
>for your cooperation.

>

>

>

>|
>| Thomas LeGrand Associate Professor - Professeur agrégé |
>| Département de démographie // Université de Montréal |
>| C.P. 6128, succ. Centre-ville // Montréal, Qc H3C 3J7 CANADA |
>| legrand@demo.umontreal.ca (514) 343-7262 Fax: (514) 343-2309 |
>|

Claire Durand
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durandc@socio.umontreal.ca
<http://alize.ere.umontreal.ca/~durandc>

"Si vous connaissez une seule société, vous n'en connaissez aucune."
"If you know only one society, you don't know any".

Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 10:55:48 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Chad happens
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBAELKCNA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Happy Thanksgiving...

<http://politicalhumor.about.com/comedy/politicalhumor/mbody.htm?once=true&>

Walt Handelsman, New Orleans, LA -- The New Orleans Picayune

Joe Heller, Wisconsin -- The Green Bay Press-Gazette

Joe Heller, Wisconsin -- The Green Bay Press-Gazette

Editorial cartoons from The New York Observer and Roll Call

R.J. Matson, NY -- Editorial cartoons from The New York Observer and Roll Call

Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 09:54:45 -0800 (PST)

From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Lessons in Spam: A Nordstrom E-Mail Goes Astray
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011220929210.8048-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On spam as destroying public trust in Internet research:

Me, I'm with Edith. Here's just another example of how spam erodes public trust in the Internet, thereby diminishing its effectiveness for survey and market research, not only via the spam itself, but also through news coverage of the results.

What I find the most telling passage:

"One of the Nordstrom.com e-mails, addressed to a woman named Diana, was instead sent to a business e-mail address based on the name of one of Diana's co-workers, a man named Mike. It was not Mike's actual e-mail address. But because the address contained the Internet domain name of Diana and Mike's employer, an investor relations firm in Manhattan, the message made its way to their employer's e-mail server computer. Confused? So was the e-mail server, which also forwarded the message to a list of the employer's business contacts.

In an interview, Mike, who asked that his full name not be published, said he had never entered a Nordstrom store."

-- Jim

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www.nytimes.com/2000/10/30/technology/30SPAM.html

October 30, 2000

LESSONS IN SPAM:
A NORDSTROM E-MAIL GOES ASTRAY

By SUSAN STELLIN

Nordstrom is a prestigious retailer that prides itself on customer service. But an e-mail marketing campaign last week for its Web site, Nordstrom.com, illustrates the pitfalls of relaxing standards on protecting customer information.

The mailing list was compiled by the Acxiom

Corporation, a data supplier in Little Rock, Ark.

For a fee, the company takes a client's customer data and matches it with names and e-mail addresses in Acxiom's own database.

Using customer names provided by Nordstrom, Acxiom generated a list of e-mail addresses to which a subcontractor then sent a promotional message from the store's Web site.

"Dear CUSTOMER NAME," the message began, "We'd like to thank you for being a Nordstrom customer, and let you know about all that we have to offer online 24 hours a day."

In at least one case, the Acxiom list was inaccurate. One of the Nordstrom.com e-mails, addressed to a woman named Diana, was instead sent to a business e-mail address based on the name of one of Diana's co-workers, a man named Mike.

It was not Mike's actual e-mail address. But because the address contained the Internet domain name of Diana and Mike's employer, an investor relations firm in Manhattan, the message made its way to their employer's e-mail server computer.

Confused? So was the e-mail server, which also forwarded the message to a list of the employer's business contacts.

In an interview, Mike, who asked that his full name not be published, said he had never entered a Nordstrom store.

Diana, who also requested anonymity, said she had purchased something in a Nordstrom catalog in the past. But both said they had never given Nordstrom an e-mail address.

What does Nordstrom have to say about an e-mail marketing campaign that raises questions about accuracy and privacy?

Shasha Richardson, a spokeswoman for Nordstrom.com, said it was the first time the company had tried to gather e-mail addresses in this manner, and would not necessarily do so again. She did not comment on the misdirected e-mail. "Right now, we're evaluating feedback from our customers," she said. "Based on that we'll determine if we continue doing this."

She also noted that the promotional e-mail gave recipients the option of asking to be dropped

from Nordstrom's e-mail list.

While Acxiom would not comment on the Nordstrom mailing, Allison Marr, an Acxiom product manager, acknowledged that the company does not verify the e-mail addresses in its database, most of which are bought from other companies that have collected the information from customers.

Dan McLean, vice president for sales and marketing at Boomerang.com, the subcontractor that transmitted the Nordstrom mailing, said matching e-mail addresses with customer data from other sources was a challenge.

"There are a couple things in the process that may cause odd things to happen," Mr. McLean said. "It's not an exact science by any stretch of the imagination."

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=====
Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 12:25:21 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Robert Godfrey <rgodfrey@facstaff.wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Lessons in Spam: A Nordstrom E-Mail Goes Astray
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

At 9:54 AM -0800 11/22/00, James Beniger wrote:

> On spam as destroying public trust in Internet research:
>
> Me, I'm with Edith. Here's just another example of how spam erodes
> public trust in the Internet, thereby diminishing its effectiveness
> for survey and market research, not only via the spam itself, but
> also through news coverage of the results.

Wait, you've seen nothing yet. If you haven't read today's piece in the New York Times on the subject of tracking people through e-mail cookies go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/22/technology/22NET.html>

Here is a snippet of the article:

"New e-mail software that makes certain kinds of monitoring easy and nearly imperceptible. At a time when many Internet users have come to grips with advertisers tracking their anonymous trail of clicks across the World Wide Web, the frontier of the electronic privacy wars is shifting to the more personal realm of the e-mail in box.

Marketing companies now regularly keep tabs on which prospective customers open their e-mail solicitations, and at what time of day, arguing that consumers benefit because the information is used to devise more personalized promotions. Individuals who have used e-mail tracking services say they feel entitled to monitor their own correspondence in a medium where it is so easily passed along or ignored.

But privacy advocates contend that such practices open a new window of surveillance on a traditionally private sphere of communications. They compare it to having someone who leaves a message on your answering machine a telemarketer, say, or your mother alerted the moment you listen to it. More troubling, they say, is that the same technology can be used to match a recipient's e-mail address with previously anonymous records of the Web sites visited from that person's computer.

Connecting the data collected through files known as cookies with an e-mail address, the privacy advocates argue, will be irresistible to marketers seeking to identify the buying habits and personal tastes of individual consumers. The linked databases, they say, could also be consulted by law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, employers and others who would need only an e-mail address to look up a record of an individual's activities on the Web."

Cheers and Happy Thanksgiving,

Robert Godfrey
UW-Madison

Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 11:40:19 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: Robert Godfrey <rgodfrey@facstaff.wisc.edu>
cc: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Lessons in Spam: A Nordstrom E-Mail Goes Astray
In-Reply-To: <p04320401b641bee30e1b@[24.10.212.149]>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011221124110.22183-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=X-UNKNOWN
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8BIT

Robert,

Yes, I did see Amy Harmon's article on the front page of today's Times, and indeed was in the process of posting it to one of my courses when I found your message to AAPORNET. Because I'd already taken the trouble, here it is in its entirety--just another good reason not to entrust one's personal privacy to the Net and--by extension--to Internet pollsters. Harmon's piece has already raised some stir around the Net--I have seen it posted and discussed on several other lists. So what might AAPOR and other research associations and organizations do to counter such bad publicity?

-- Jim

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www.nytimes.com/2000/11/22/technology/22NET.html

November 22, 2000

SOFTWARE TO TRACK E-MAIL
RAISES PRIVACY CONCERNS

By AMY HARMON

It was during a recent job search that Donald Bell gave in to the temptation to bug his own e-mail. Mr. Bell, 55, had e-mailed dozens of résumés to prospective employers and received scant response. Naturally he wondered: was he being rejected, or had his messages gone unread?

Anyone who has been left hanging knows it is the sort of nagging question that is rarely answered. But thanks to a furtive application of a feature common to the latest e-mail programs, Mr. Bell was able to learn, undetected, that the intended recipients were indeed opening his messages. With a service he found on the Internet, he could even tell precisely when a recipient read his e-mail messages and if the message was sent on to anyone else.

"It feels a little naughty, because you can't do this with postal mail," said Mr. Bell, who has since started his own company in San Francisco and sometimes uses the e-mail service to check whether colleagues forward messages that he considers confidential. "But e-mail is a different animal. You have to just reach into your heart and decide what you're going to do."

Mr. Bell is not alone in taking advantage of new e-mail software that makes certain kinds of monitoring easy and nearly imperceptible. At a time when many Internet users have come to grips with advertisers' tracking their anonymous trail of clicks across the World Wide Web, the frontier of the electronic privacy wars is shifting to the more personal realm of the e-mail "in" box.

Marketing companies now regularly keep tabs on which prospective customers open their e-mail solicitations, and at what time of day, arguing that consumers benefit because the information is

used to devise more personalized promotions. Individuals who have used e-mail tracking services say they feel entitled to monitor their own correspondence in a medium where it is so easily passed along or ignored.

But privacy advocates contend that such practices open a new window of surveillance on a traditionally private sphere of communications. They compare it to having someone who leaves a message on your answering machine -- a telemarketer, say, or your mother -- alerted the moment you listen to it. More troubling, they say, is that the same technology can be used to match a recipient's e-mail address with previously anonymous records of the Web sites visited from that person's computer.

Connecting the data collected through files known as cookies with an e-mail address, the privacy advocates argue, will be irresistible to marketers seeking to identify the buying habits and personal tastes of individual consumers. The linked databases, they say, could also be consulted by law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, employers and others who would need only an e-mail address to look up a record of an individual's activities on the Web.

"You can buy 50,000 addresses of people who subscribe to *The New Yorker*," said Richard M. Smith, chief technology officer of the Privacy Foundation. "But you don't know what articles they're reading in it, or what books they've bought or what medical problems they've been researching lately. That's very much a possibility within this technology."

The technology in question is seemingly innocuous: the ability of the latest e-mail programs to send and display images. E-mail senders use the feature, based on the Web's computer language, to create colorful messages known as HTML mail.

But many also use it to embed tiny images that are invisible to the recipients. Marketers call them pixel tags and say they are used to gauge the success of e-mail campaigns. Privacy advocates prefer a more ominous name -- Web bugs.

The instant someone opens an e-mail message that contains instructions to display a graphic file, his or her computer automatically fetches the image from a specified location on the Internet. By adding a unique identifying code to those instructions, a sender can record when a

particular recipient retrieves the image, and, thus, when the e-mail message is opened.

Subsequent retrieval of the image can tell the sender how often the message is reopened, and sometimes whether it has been forwarded (though not the precise forwarding address).

Direct marketers, the most frequent users of the technique, say it is akin to the standard practice among Internet advertisers of tracking which banners Web surfers click on.

"I don't see any privacy issues there because the data is secure and never sold," said William Park, chief executive of Digital Impact, an e-mail marketing company that has designed campaigns for dozens of clients. "From the marketing perspective, if you're not opening that e-mail it might be we're sending it on the wrong day of the week, or the subject line is really boring, or the subject line is really cryptic."

The emergence of HTML mail may well make reading e-mail messages more like visiting a Web site, with all the attendant privacy risks. But for many Internet users, such risks may seem more acceptable on the Web than they do in their "in" box.

Sophisticated Internet users know that when they click on a Web advertisement they are probably exposing themselves to scrutiny, and that it is possible to reject the files that record such behavior.

But few are aware of the tracking capability of HTML mail. And while some e-mail programs, like Microsoft Outlook and Eudora, give users the option of screening images out, others, like America Online 6.0 and Web-based Hotmail do not.

Some recipients of e-mail newsletters say they do not mind if the sender knows when they open a message, particularly if the aim is to alert them to a sale or a new product. But others argue that it violates their right to communicate, or not, without being observed. And particularly in a country where postal mailboxes are protected by federal law, the notion that reading e-mail messages is no longer a private act may prove disconcerting.

"We would shudder if regular letters were implanted with secret signals that alerted their senders when they were opened," said Jeffrey Rosen, author of "The Unwanted Gaze: The

Destruction of Privacy in America" (Random House, 2000). "It seems to invade both the privacy of the home and in some sense the privacy of the mind."

Still, the practice is becoming more common. About 60 percent of e-mail users have software that can read HTML mail, according to the online research firm Jupiter Media Metrix, a number expected to grow significantly as America Online users install version 6.0, the first update to include the feature, released last month.

As advertising on Web sites proves increasingly ineffective, many companies like Eddie Bauer and Borders are relying more heavily on e-mail solicitations whose value lies in part in the ability to track recipient response. How many subscribers actually open e-mail has also become an important measurement by which e-mail newsletter companies like Lifeminders sell advertising. Companies that send unsolicited bulk e-mail use tracking to increase the value of their address lists by weeding out those who never open their messages.

And individuals can use Postel Services, the Korean company whose service Mr. Bell used to learn the fate of his job applications. Messages routed through its servers have tiny graphic files appended before being sent on. When the recipient opens the message, Postel is alerted and in turn alerts the sender.

Soobok Lee, the company's founder, said about 30,000 people had used the service since its introduction in May, in addition to several companies that had purchased licenses to track all of their correspondence. The first 30 messages a month are free, after which Postel charges 2 cents a message.

But whatever the utility or etiquette involved in monitoring the opening of a single e-mail message, it is the potential for that act to open a door to far more personal information that some find most unsettling.

The main object of concern is advertising companies like DoubleClick, Engage and 24/7 Media that already track the Web travels of tens of millions of Internet users, anonymously, by way of cookies.

The first time someone visits a site where DoubleClick places advertisements, for instance, the company deposits an identifying code -- No.

1234, say -- on the visitor's computer. After that, every time the computer with cookie No. 1234 visits one of the several thousand sites that contract with DoubleClick, the company records the visit.

DoubleClick and others use the information gleaned from cookies to choose which advertisement from the hundreds of clients they represent is most suited to an individual's tastes. They may know, for instance, that No. 1234 has recently visited sites related to quitting smoking, sport utility vehicles and the Green Party -- but they have generally had no way of knowing who No. 1234 is.

The opportunity to identify the person behind the cookie comes when one of the advertising firms sends HTML mail to a consumer on behalf of a client, tagged with a unique identifier to track when it is opened. When the recipient opens such a message, the cookie code is exposed to the sender's server computer, which can compare it with those stored in its own database. At that moment, No. 1234 could be revealed as joe@computer.com.

After drawing scrutiny this year from the Federal Trade Commission, the major advertisers have vowed to refrain from linking personally identifiable information to anonymously collected data without permission from the consumer. But privacy advocates say consumers may consent unwittingly, and they note that voluntary privacy policies are easily modified.

Another practice, which involves using e-mail as a kind of Trojan horse to deliver a cookie file, recently prompted the Michigan attorney general's office to warn that it would sue one Web site, Evite, under the state's Consumer Protection Act unless it began to inform consumers.

Party organizers use Evite, a San Francisco-based online invitation service, to send e-mail HTML invitations. In addition to collecting the official R.S.V.P.'s, Evite is able to tell the organizer who opened the mail without responding, and who did not open it. Those who open the invitation receive a cookie from Evite, which would not otherwise be possible unless they visited its Web site.

Privacy advocates speculate that the company could "rent" the cookie and the e-mail address it is associated with to other sites.

Evite's chief executive, Josh Silverman, declined to be interviewed, citing continuing negotiations with the Michigan attorney general. He said in a statement that the cookies Evite delivered were not linked to addresses.

But Nick Ragouzis, a technically savvy business consultant in San Francisco who discovered Evite's invisible pixel in an invitation he received recently, said that alone was enough to make him feel his privacy had been invaded.

"I don't really care that they know I opened this particular message," Mr. Ragouzis said. "But they never asked me. And there would be other messages that I would care about. I feel I should be asked."

Mr. Ragouzis said he told the host of the party, Jad Duwaik, to refrain from sending him future Evite invitations and asked that he stop using the company's services altogether. But Mr. Duwaik, who organizes networking events for entrepreneurs, said the information provided by Evite about how many of the invitees open the message helped him gauge interest in his parties.

"It's something I feel uncomfortable with as a consumer," Mr. Duwaik said. "But as an organizer it's just too useful to give up."

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=====
Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 16:57:47 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Robert Godfrey <rgodfrey@facstaff.wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Lessons in Spam: A Nordstrom E-Mail Goes Astray
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii" ; format="flowed"

At 11:40 AM -0800 11/22/00, James Beniger wrote:

> Robert,
>

> Yes, I did see Amy Harmon's article on the front page of today's Times,
> and indeed was in the process of posting it to one of my courses when I
> found your message to AAPORNET.

>So what might AAPOR and other research associations and
>organizations do to counter such bad publicity?

Thanks Jim for your note and the article. As for your question, I don't think we've yet reached the stage of any backlash over privacy, at least for the average person, but we're heading that way. If I speculated, I would suspect it would have to involve a well publicized incident revolving around a person's story (compromised information leading to scandal or something medically related), perhaps a celebrity, for this issue to really resonate in the society at large. I do however think, that we, the public opinion community, must make some efforts. What form that would take, I don't have any suggestions at the moment. Perhaps some of our colleagues will.

Robert Godfrey

```
=====
Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 01:11:29 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World
Opinion
Polling
In-Reply-To: <350BE276DD6DD411B8BE00508B691953271DCE@WAS01EXSVR03>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
```

Melissa Marcello's observation is interesting and something to think about when conducting research studies across various countries with the object of eventually comparing responses. During the years when I was conducting multi-country research for Coca-Cola we found that there were differences in the way people in different countries responded to the same five, seven and 11 point attitude scales. Specifically, folks in Spain, Italy Mexico and Brazil, for example, tended to be more positive in their responses -- that is they tended to avoid responding at the negative end of any attitude scale. While we speculated as to why we were never able to identify the real reasons. One thought was that there are some cultures which frown on the giving of negative responses to strangers -- it might have simply been considered bad manners. Remember, too, that we were asking questions about their attitudes toward everyday food and drink products -- not politics.

What we did do, however, was to thoroughly pre test every questionnaire in every country where it was to be used. Fact that a questionnaire or specific questions worked in one country was never a guarantee that it would work in the same way in others. We also alerted readers of our analyzed findings to the fact that when making direct comparisons of attitude findings across countries caution was recommended. While there probably is some statistical way to correct for these differences it should be remembered that the differences will probably reflect not only specific question formats but question content. It is inconvenient but one size never fits all.

Dick Halpern

At 10:10 AM 11/20/00, you wrote:
>Hi All,

>
>After consulting with a number of colleagues on this question, I thought I'd
>post it to the list.
>
>Our company recently did a multi-country phone survey which included a
>number of items in the instrument that used a zero to ten scale. After
>taking a look at the topline results, we noticed that certain countries'
>respondents (e.g. Italy and Spain) tended to give responses at the end pts
>on the scale--many 0-3, or 8-10; others tended to give a lot of middle range
>responses (e.g. Germany), etc.
>
>So, the question that remains is whether the results are a reflection of
>>true variance in opinion, or something else--affect, maybe. Has anyone done
>any work that suggests that we need to control for cultural difference in
>scaled questions? Since we have mostly topline data (the questions were on
>an omnibus) and not a dataset to work with, we don't have the ability to do
>a lot of fancy stats (which was my suggestion).
>
>Obviously there are issues related to question wording across the countries,
>but I am most interested in finding out what you think about whether we need
>to control for the scaling issue.
>
>Thanks in advance for your help.
>
>Sincerely,
>Melissa Marcello
>
>
>
>Melissa Marcello
>Senior Research Analyst
>SWR Worldwide
>700 13th Street, NW
>Suite 250
>Washington, DC 20005
>202.585.2559 Direct
>202-352-7462 Mobile
>www.swrworldwide.com

Date: Wed, 22 Nov 2000 22:31:48 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "H.H.Kassarjian" <hkassarj@ucla.edu>
Subject: Membership Directory
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I noticed that the membership directory is not on our Web page. Is there some reason, or some objection to having our names and addresses available to the world and all the search engines? I think it would be convenient and it should not be too much trouble since I presume the list is already in an electronic data base of some sort. Does anyone have an opinion on this suggestion?
Hal Kassarjian

Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 06:47:23 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Happy Birthday to Us!
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011230620040.3922-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

AAPORNETters,

This Thanksgiving Day also marks AAPORNET's sixth anniversary. On a Wednesday morning six years ago, the day before Thanksgiving 1994, 260 AAPOR members found something unexpected on their computer screens: a message introducing our digital version of AAPOR as "a meeting place" (as the published volume of our history is titled) amid the clutter of the Internet.

"Your Internet address has been added to AAPORNET, a news and discussion list available only to members of the American Association for Public Opinion Research," the message began. "AAPORNET is intended both to help launch AAPOR's 50th Anniversary celebrations and to explore new means of communication and other benefits for members as AAPOR moves into its second half-century and on into the new millennium. Please keep AAPORNET in mind, both as a means to communicate with the AAPOR membership and as a source of professional information from others, including the AAPOR Secretariat and Council."

AAPORNET had just five days earlier been approved as an experiment by the AAPOR Executive Council at its November 18 meeting--led by then-President Andy Kohut--in New York City. Impetus for the idea had come from the 30-member AAPOR Conference Committee, which had been meeting online since the previous May--on the private Internet list AAPOR50--to plan AAPOR's first of two 50th Anniversary Conferences. Begun with the 260 still-functioning Internet addresses in the 1993-94 AAPOR Directory, AAPORNET grew--after only one week--to include 409 subscribers (then 30 percent of the total AAPORNET membership) in ten countries.

Because of this favorable response from AAPOR members, AAPORNET soon lost its experimental status: The Executive Council agreed at its January 13, 1995 meeting in Washington, D.C., to continue our list indefinitely. Today AAPORNET has more than 900 subscribers.

And so we begin today our 7th year on AAPORNET, which should eventually bring us an end to The Presidential Election That Refused to Die, now well into Day #17 with no obvious end yet in sight--and who might imagine what else?

So Happy Thanksgiving--and Happy Birthday to us all!

Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 08:19:05 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: NYT: ABC Tightens Its Rules on Declaring Election Winner
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011230806030.8527-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
X-Cursor-Pos: : 0
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/23/politics/23MEDI.html>

November 23, 2000

THE MEDIA

ABC TIGHTENS ITS RULES ON DECLARING WINNERS

By PETER MARKS

Seeking to prevent repeats of the erroneous projections that made election night such an embarrassment for the networks, officials of ABC News said yesterday that they would no longer call a contest in any state until all of its polls had closed and would try to "insulate" their analysts from competitive pressures to project a winner prematurely.

On election night, ABC News was the last of the major networks to call a winner in the presidential race in Florida, and yesterday it became the first to announce some preliminary results of the investigation into what went wrong. Early on the evening of Nov. 7, the networks declared Vice President Al Gore the winner in Florida; four hours later, they reversed themselves and called the state for Gov. George W. Bush. Both calls, which some network executives later acknowledged were based on faulty data and misleading returns, had to be retracted.

The projections prompted a Louisiana congressman to promise Congressional hearings on the activities of the Voter News Service. The service, which conducts surveys of voters leaving the polls and collects raw vote totals, is a joint operation of the networks and The Associated Press. All the networks have announced internal reviews of their election-projection systems and of V.N.S., as it is widely known.

The networks were not alone in making erroneous calls after the election. As the results of Florida trickled in, The New York Times printed more than 100,000 copies of its Nov. 8 issue declaring that Mr. Bush had apparently won, and other newspapers made similar calls.

None of ABC's preliminary findings dealt directly with how the erroneous numbers had come to be disseminated. And though some in academia and

government have raised questions about the desirability of the networks' sharing information from a single source, ABC officials pointed out that the V.N.S. record for accuracy over the years had been strong.

Paul Friedman, executive vice president and managing editor of ABC News, said, "I think we should not lose sight of the fact that this is a system that has worked remarkably well, with remarkably few errors."

Among the most significant positions enumerated by the network was the vow to withhold projections until all the polls in a given state had closed. Florida's panhandle, which stretches far west of the peninsula, is in the Central, rather than Eastern, time zone, and so the polls there remain open an hour later than the rest of the state. On election night, many of the networks had called the state for Mr. Gore beginning about 7:50 p.m., 10 minutes before the polls closed in nearly a dozen panhandle counties. Bush campaign officials argue that the projection depressed their turnout in those counties in the closing minutes, and those votes might have been decisive.

ABC News officials note that theirs was the only network that did not call Florida until after the 8 p.m. closing in the panhandle, an also-ran status that would not normally have been a point of pride for the network. Still, Mr. Friedman said, the issue of calling a state with a divided time zone has "always been a bone of contention," and the decision should put the question to rest.

The network said it was also addressing the problem of how to deal with the pressure to call elections after competing decision desks had already projected winners. Mr. Friedman said, for instance, that ABC would no longer allow televisions in the rooms in which its teams of election-night analysts were making projections.

"If for 10 to 20 minutes you see the other network guy up there making George Bush the next president, it gets a little tough," he said, adding that efforts would also be made to curb "excitable producers" from contacting analysts and applying extra pressure.

ABC's rivals are in various stages of their own examinations. This week, for instance, CNN named three outside observers to assist in its internal review: Ben J. Wattenberg, senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute; Joan Konner, former dean of the Columbia University's School of Journalism, and James V. Risser, former director of the John S. Knight journalism fellowships at Stanford University.

NBC, CBS and Fox are also conducting reviews of their own.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/23/politics/23MEDI.html>

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Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 13:17:22 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday to Us!
In-Reply-To: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011230620040.3922-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Thanks, Jim. Something else to give thanks for! And thanks to you for helping to make all this possible!

Dick Halpern

At 09:47 AM 11/23/00, you wrote:

> AAPORNETters,
>
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> what else?

>
> So Happy Thanksgiving--and Happy Birthday to us all!
>
>
>*****

=====
Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 18:19:15 -0000
From: "Bob Worcester" <worc@mori.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
References: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011230620040.3922-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday to Us!
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

What a great job James has done for us all! Well done James.
----- Original Message -----
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2000 2:47 PM
Subject: Happy Birthday to Us!

>
>
>
> AAPORNETters,
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>
> So Happy Thanksgiving--and Happy Birthday to us all!
>
>
> *****
>
>

=====
Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 14:21:33 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday to Us!
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A1D6E3C.9FD7E755@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.51 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win98; U)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011230620040.3922-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

Without getting overly sentimental, I would like to add my thanks, not only
to
Jim, but to all our colleagues who have responded to queries over the years
with advice, information, and just plain good conversation.

James Beniger wrote:

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>
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> So Happy Thanksgiving--and Happy Birthday to us all!
>
> *****

Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 14:51:16 EST
From: ANDYKO@aol.com
Received: from ANDYKO@aol.com
by imo-d06.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.33.) id 5.32.ce5203e (3969)
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 23 Nov 2000 14:51:17 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <32.ce5203e.274ecf34@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday to Us!
To: aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 114

And, special thanks to Jim for taking the initiative in the first place to do
this and fathering it along ever since!

Andy Kohut

Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2000 19:15:52 -0600
From: "Dr. Ulises Beltran" <ulisesb@mail.internet.com.mx>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.61 [en] (Win95; I)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World
Opinion
Polling
References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001123004626.02e73850@mail.mindspring.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

This is a very important issue for anyone doing comparative research. We are part of the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems. We have results for more than 15 countries on some political questions, some of them using scales. A rapid comment.

It would be a mistake to generalize on this issue. Respondents of the same country tend to answer in the center of the scale to some questions and use the entire scale in others. For instance, in some questions about personal political efficacy, German respondents tend to answer in the center, use the entire scale to evaluate political parties and use the extremes of the scale when responding to questions about their perceptions of the economic situations. In Mexico, respondents tend to answer in the extremes questions about political efficacy, in the extremes when evaluating minor political parties, and at the center of the scale when they evaluate the economic situation.

More research on this issue could be very enlightening to many important issues of public opinion research.

Ulises Beltrán
México

dick halpern wrote:

> Melissa Marcello's observation is interesting and something to think about
> when conducting research studies across various countries with the object
> of eventually comparing responses. During the years when I was conducting
> multi-country research for Coca-Cola we found that there were differences
> in the way people in different countries responded to the same five, seven
> and 11 point attitude scales. Specifically, folks in Spain, Italy Mexico
> and Brazil, for example, tended to be more positive in their responses --
> that is they tended to avoid responding at the negative end of any attitude
> scale. While we speculated as to why we were never able to identify the
> real reasons. One thought was that there are some cultures which frown on
> the giving of negative responses to strangers -- it might have simply been
> considered bad manners. Remember, too, that we were asking questions about
> their attitudes toward everyday food and drink products -- not politics.
>
> What we did do, however, was to thoroughly pre test every questionnaire in
> every country where it was to be used. Fact that a questionnaire or
> specific questions worked in one country was never a guarantee that it

> would work in the same way in others. We also alerted readers of our
> analyzed findings to the fact that when making direct comparisons of
> attitude findings across countries caution was recommended. While there
> probably is some statistical way to correct for these differences it should
> be remembered that the differences will probably reflect not only specific
> question formats but question content. It is inconvenient but one size
> never fits all.
>
> Dick Halpern
>
> At 10:10 AM 11/20/00, you wrote:
> >Hi All,
> >
> >After consulting with a number of colleagues on this question, I thought
> I'd
> >post it to the list.
> >
> >Our company recently did a multi-country phone survey which included a
> >number of items in the instrument that used a zero to ten scale. After
> >taking a look at the topline results, we noticed that certain countries'
> >respondents (e.g. Italy and Spain) tended to give responses at the end pts
> >on the scale--many 0-3, or 8-10; others tended to give a lot of middle
> range
> >responses (e.g. Germany), etc.
> >
> >So, the question that remains is whether the results are a reflection of
> >>true variance in opinion, or something else--affect, maybe. Has anyone
> done
> >any work that suggests that we need to control for cultural difference in
> >scaled questions? Since we have mostly topline data (the questions were
> on
> >an omnibus) and not a dataset to work with, we don't have the ability to
> do
> >a lot of fancy stats (which was my suggestion).
> >
> >Obviously there are issues related to question wording across the
> countries,
> >but I am most interested in finding out what you think about whether we
> need
> >to control for the scaling issue.
> >
> >Thanks in advance for your help.
> >
> >Sincerely,
> >Melissa Marcello
> >
> >
> >
> >Melissa Marcello
> >Senior Research Analyst
> >SWR Worldwide
> >700 13th Street, NW
> >Suite 250
> >Washington, DC 20005
> >202.585.2559 Direct
> >202-352-7462 Mobile
> >www.swrworldwide.com

=====
Date: Sat, 25 Nov 2000 03:16:32 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Otto Lerbinger <olerbing@bu.edu>
Subject: Re: Revocation part II
In-Reply-To: <4.3.2.7.2.20001122094438.00b657c0@poste.umontreal.ca>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Claire: Thanks for Part II of the revocation. I'm glad we're able to
laught at the whole situation. How soon will it be over/

Good to year from you,

Otto Lerbinger

=====
Date: Fri, 24 Nov 2000 17:07:50 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Manfred Kuechler <mkuechle@hunter.cuny.edu>
Subject: Re: Bugged e-mail (NYT front page article of 11/22/00)
In-Reply-To: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011221124110.22183-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
References: <p04320401b641bee30e1b@[24.10.212.149]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

At 11:40 AM 11/22/00 -0800, Jim Beninger wrote:

>Yes, I did see Amy Harmon's article on the front page of today's
>Times, and indeed was in the process of posting it to one of my courses
>when I found your message to AAPORNET. Because I'd already taken the
>trouble, here it is in its entirety--just another good reason not to
>entrust one's personal privacy to the Net and--by extension--to Internet
>pollsters. Harmon's piece has already raised some stir around the Net--I
>have seen it posted and discussed on several other lists. So what might
>AAPOR and other research associations and organizations do to counter
>such bad publicity?

I don't think that there is much AAPOR or any other organization can do.
People just need to become a bit more knowledgeable about using the
Internet and to choose their software and its configuration options
carefully. Public pressure, however, could help to convince software makers
to pay sufficient attention to privacy issues and make such choices more
obvious.

Case in point: the bugging of e-mail to learn secretly about a recipient's
opening of a message sent (discussed in the NYT article) can easily be
defended against by using the right e-mail product (e.g., Eudora) and by
setting its configuration options accordingly (the default setting won't
do). BTW, there is nothing even remotely illegal about how this bug works,
so don't wait for the government or the lawyers to step in.

If you are interested to test whether you are vulnerable to this "receipt

bug" -- given how you have configured the mail software you use, send me a brief message and I will sent you a test message in return which will tell you whether you are vulnerable or not and also offer some hints on guarding against this bug. Commonly used screening products (like "WebWasher") don't help with this e-mail receipt bug -- though they do a great job in reducing ads when browsing the web and they do catch some "webbugs". MK.

Manfred Kuechler, Sociology Department at Hunter College (CUNY)
<http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/faculty/kuech.html>
Note that "manfred.kuechler@verizon.net" is an alias for
"kathman@bellatlantic.net"

=====
Date: Fri, 24 Nov 2000 22:04:37 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Rasmussen Research Commentary
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Rasmussen research offered an interesting commentary about their recent findings and how weighting by party affiliation of voters can make a substantial difference in their projections. Some of you may have already seen this so please forgive the posting.

Dick Halpern

++++
+
++++

Dear Subscriber:

During Campaign 2000, Rasmussen Research conducted surveys on 97 separate elections involving candidates and one ballot issue (the South Carolina lottery). Among the 96 statewide elections, we established a solid record. However, our national presidential tracking poll was not as close to the mark as we would demand of ourselves. We underestimated the share of the vote Al Gore would receive, and as a result, we projected a larger victory for George W. Bush.

Ever since the closeness of the race became apparent on Election Night, we have been reviewing our data to understand what happened. While we cant give a completely definitive answer just yet, we have some strong hints and wanted to share our findings with you.

We were immediately puzzled by the disconnect between our results on the state level and those on the national level. In fact, our state-by-state numbers implied a much closer race than our national tracking poll. Specifically, when we combined all of the state data on an appropriate pro rata basis, we found Bush leading by just 4 points, not the 9 that we projected nationally.

Some of our state data included significantly higher support for Ralph Nader than he received on Election Day. Adjusting our state numbers for that reality implied would have made our projection even closer to the final outcome.

Another puzzle was that our screening process did not provide an appropriate estimate of who turned out to vote. Simply put, we had too many Republicans in our sample. For a variety of reasons, our firm has never weighted by party. However, if we had weighted the data before the election to include an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, we would have shown Bush leading by 2 points.

Had we weighted our data to match the partisan mix reported by the Voter News Service on Election Night, we would have shown Gore leading by a point.

On the night after the election, we conducted a survey with a looser screen for likely voters. In that survey, we found 5% of the voters we identified would not have been included in our sample using our standard screening process. These voters overwhelmingly supported Al Gore.

Our screening process was developed through experimentation and practice. Much of the work involved primaries, special elections, and the Congressional Elections. All of these elections had lower turnout than the Presidential Election. While far from definitive, it seems plausible our tighter screen worked well for these lower turnout elections but worked against us in the Presidential Election. Still, its unclear why that would have affected our results on the national level, but not on the state level.

We are continuing to explore the data for further clues to enable us to improve our performance in future elections.

Thanks for your support.
Scott Rasmussen

Click below for a link to this newsletter:
www.portraitofamerica.com/html/poll-1532.html

Click below to learn about our investor data:
www.portraitofamerica.com/html/poll-1515.html

Click below to compare POA and actual results:
www.portraitofamerica.com/html/poll-1515.html

Click below to read about top campaign issues:
www.portraitofamerica.com/html/poll-1526.html

Click below to unsubscribe to this newsletter:
www.portraitofamerica.com/newsletter/remnews.cfm

=====
Date: Sat, 25 Nov 2000 10:31:15 -0500

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>

Subject: May Either Man Win -- NY Times op ed

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative;

boundary="=====_541063==_ .ALT"

-----_541063==_ .ALT

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Hi Folks,

Based on his analysis of recent research findings, Andy Kohut raises a critical question in this morning's NY Times : "The question then becomes how to make the most of the public's tolerance. Put another way, is it inevitable that the public's acceptance of the new president will be drowned out by shrill partisan voices?"

Dick Halpern

New York Times, November 25, 2000

May Either Man Win

By ANDREW KOHUT

WASHINGTON -- With each twist and turn in this extraordinary election saga, commentators have marveled at the public's patience with the uncertainty and wondered when it would run out. The

The simple fact is that most Americans have been tolerant and temperate for the same reason that the election was so close in the first place. George W. Bush vs. Al Gore is not a compelling choice, except to the strong partisans among us. At the same time, the public is not indifferent to the outcome of the election, as TV news ratings and opinion surveys show.

Americans recognize the importance of what's happening in Florida but are not ready to take to the streets over it. So far, polling has found Americans willing to embrace either outcome of the election and to accept the inevitable ambiguities. A Gallup poll several days ago, when the legal maneuvering was already well underway, found 79 percent of respondents believing it impossible for the Florida recount to be completely accurate, yet 8 out of 10 said they would accept either candidate as the legitimate winner of the election. An ABC-Washington Post survey conducted a week earlier found nearly 7 out of 10 saying that no matter which man lost the recount, the loser shouldn't challenge it, even if the loser thought the voting was not entirely fair.

While voters want as much fairness as possible, their willingness

to accept a less than perfect outcome reflects both a realism about
=20 the way we run elections and a lack of passion about either candidate.
On Election Day a Voter News Service exit poll found few voters=
=20 saying they would be excited if Mr. Bush were elected (21 percent) and=
even fewer if saying they would be if Mr. Gore won (17 percent).=20
Similarly, a small percentage of voters said they would be scared by a=20
victory for either man =97 26 percent if Mr. Bush won and 23 percent if the=
winner was Mr. Gore.
Further, there are few deep divisions in the electorate that=20
might boil over as a result of the outcome of this particular election.=
Longstanding underlying partisan and ideological fault lines were evident=20
when on Nov. 7, Republicans went for Mr. Bush and Democrats for Mr. Gore,=
while independents were divided evenly between the two. But there was=
=20 little rancor. A post-election survey by the Pew Research Center for=
People and the Press found fewer people than in previous elections=20
saying their votes were against one candidate rather than for the other. This=
=20 is good news for the prospect of the public getting behind the next=20
president, but there are caveats.
First, the public has so far seemed ready to go along with a
of the votes court-influenced determination of the fairest possible recount=20
challenges in Florida. But whether citizens will accept a series of legal=20
taken by Pew once the Florida vote is certified is an open question. Polls=20
Florida and by ABC and The Washington Post in the first week of the=
should not recount found two-thirds majorities saying that the candidates=20
in challenge the recount once it had been completed. The sharp rise=
partisan acrimony since then could be changing opinions.
Moreover, Americans would be likely to have an even more=

According to this column, more than a hundred attempts have been made to change the system. It may be impossible to abolish the electoral college because 38 states (75%) would have to ratify such an amendment and legislators in the smaller and middle size states would not vote against their self interest.

As for reform away from the winner-take-all award of electoral votes, why should Democratic or Republican controlled legislatures in states of any size vote to share their electoral votes with the opposing party? The chances of that seem just as remote.

I don't know when Maine and Nebraska started allocating by district. But based on the National Journal, since 1960 all of their electoral votes have gone to one candidate anyway.

Nick

"Ross, Robert" wrote:

> A plan such as proportional representation, or the district plan
> used in Maine and Nebraska, gives an advantage to small states and creates
> in close elections the possibility of the popular vote winner losing the
> election. The proportional plan, for example, would have made Nixon the
> winner in 1960: 263.631 to 262.671; the district plan result would also go
> to Nixon: 278-245. I haven't done the calculation for this year, but I
have
> no doubt that Dubya would win each easily.

>
> For those interested in how states decided on electors in the early
> years of the republic, I've given a short description below.

>
> States can indeed decide the manner in which electors are chosen;
in
> 1789, the state legislature picked electors in five states; two states had
a
> general ticket popular election; two states held a popular vote by
district;
> one state held a statewide popular vote but the legislature chose if one
did
> not receive a majority; and one state had an election in each congressional
> district, the legislature then to choose from among the two highest vote
> getters as well as picking two at-large electors. (Rhode Island and North
> Carolina had yet to ratify the constitution.) But with the rise of
> political parties, the general ticket general election quickly became the
> norm (except in South Carolina where the legislature continued to select
> until the Civil War). As Jefferson pointed out in 1800, "while ten states
> choose either by their legislature or by a general ticket, it is folly or
> worse for the other six not to follow."

> > -----
> > From: Steen, Bob
> > Reply To: aapornet@usc.edu
> > Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 12:11 PM
> > To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
> > Subject: "Republic," not "Democracy"
> >

> > I think it was the eighth grade when we were lectured on the differences
> > between a true democracy, a representative democracy, a republic, a
> > monarchy, etc. Too often we neglect to acknowledge that the United
States
> > of America is a republic. We are not a "model democracy" and never have
> > been. The electoral college is a manifestation of this approach to
> > government. The use of the word "states" in the United States of America
> > is
> > a constant reminder of this.
> >
> > In keeping with our form of government, each state has the right to
> > determine how to cast its electoral votes. We do not need a
> > constitutional
> > amendment to reduce the imbalances inherent in the electoral college
> > approach to electing a president. Each state may legislate that electoral
> > college votes be cast proportionate to the state's popular vote. This
> > would
> > significantly reduce the number of circumstances when the popular vote
> > would
> > yield a result different from the electoral college. If only a few large
> > states took this approach, the one person-one vote principle would be
> > greatly advanced. This certainly has to be a more reasonable approach
than
> > what is needed to change the U.S. constitution into something other than
> > the
> > republic that it is.
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: RFunk787@aol.com [mailto:RFunk787@aol.com]
> > Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2000 11:06 AM
> > To: aapornet@usc.edu
> > Subject: Can America afford clean elections?
> >
> >
> > Recent, and still on-going, events relating to the presidential election,
> > plus an article in the Wall Street Journal, "With All the Glitches, The
> > Wonder Is Why The System Survives: Local Governments Lack The Money to
> > Replace Old Machines, Pay Staff" (Nov 9, 2000, p 1) provoked me to
> > question
> > whether the US of A can actually afford to conduct clean elections.
> >
> > My reasoning is that elections are administered at the county or local
> > levels, and these levels of government are poorly funded. Therefore,
> > there
> >
> > has long been a tolerated level of slippage and corruption in the
process,
> >
> > which only this year, due to the closeness of the race, got 'way out of
> > hand
> >
> > and became so visible. Voting machinery most places is antiquated and
> > often
> > defective or inaccurate. It mostly sits around, taking up warehouse
> > space,
> > to be hauled out every couple years for a few days' use. To modernize it
> > all

> > would cost more than most localities would be willing to pay.
> >
> > Regarding the corruption aspects of our system: I've heard reports that
> > in
> > North Philly absentee ballots were being handed out, and duly collected,
> > in
> > Black churches; that in Milwaukee students are reporting that they had no
> > problem voting multiple times; that homeless were being bribed with
> > cigarettes to fill out absentee ballots; that bogus voting cards were
> > mailed
> >
> > to non-citizens -- a few anecdotal drops in a vast bucket of election
> > fraud,
> > often involving FELONIES, for goodness sakes. To properly police the
> > voting
> > rolls and voting procedures -- including clearing out dead people and
> > those
> > who have moved away, as well as sorting out fraudulent registrations --
> > would
> >
> > require legions of highly paid and highly skilled people, plus court
> > resources for appropriate enforcement of election laws, lawyers etc etc.
> >
> > Taxpayers would simply not cough up the dough to fund it.
> >
> > In other words, despite all our arrogant assertions of being a model
> > democracy, the richest nation on earth, the leader of the free world,
> > yadda
> > yadda yadda, it appears we have a third-world election system that we
> > literally cannot afford to bring up to our vaunted high standards. If
> > this
> > is the case, it renders such recent disputes as campaign financing, not
> > to
> >
> > mention stochastic implications of multiple-hand-recounting and whether a
> > Bush ally was involved in election-night projections (you mean, Gore
> > allies
> > weren't?), rather trivial by comparison.
> >
> > Here's a suggestion: Since we claim that in electing our president we
> > are
> > choosing the most powerful political figure in the world, how about
> > imposing
> >
> > on the United Nations to chip in for voting machinery upgrades, and to
> > send,
> >
> > for our elections, an army of impartial (and perhaps well-armed)
> > investigators and observers, whose mission is to ensure that we obey our
> > own
> >
> > laws? We might enlist the World Court to adjudicate violations of same,
> > as
> > we could hardly expect impartial treatment by our own legal system, many
> > of
> > whose members might number among the accused.
> >

> > Well, any better ideas?
> >
> > On the other hand, for those who still have a sense of humor about this,
> > check out this week's edition of www.theonion.com
> >
> > Ray Funkhouser
> >
> >

Date: Sun, 26 Nov 2000 14:20:49 -0600
From: "Diane O'Rourke" <DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World Opinion
Polling

In our study of "social cognition and responses to survey questions among culturally diverse populations" (based on 400 cognitive interviews), we indeed found differences in the use of scales by various cultural groups (in our case, 100 Puerto Rican, 100 Mexican American, 100 African American, and 100 non-Hispanic white respondents).^{*} All three minority groups were more likely to select "extreme" responses ("strongly" instead of "somewhat" agree or disagree) when answering 18 health locus-of-control questions. These findings are consistent with many others in the literature. Some of those references can be found in the citation below.

^{*}Johnson, T. et al. (title as above) in Survey Measurement and Process Quality, edited by Lars Lyberg et al., NY: Wiley, 1997, pp. 87-113.

Diane O'Rourke
Univ. of IL Survey Research Laboratory

>>> Marcello, Melissa <mmarcello@swrworldwide.com> 11/20/00
09:10am >>>
Hi All,

After consulting with a number of colleagues on this question, I thought I'd post it to the list.

Our company recently did a multi-country phone survey which included a number of items in the instrument that used a zero to ten scale. After taking a look at the topline results, we noticed that certain countries' respondents (e.g. Italy and Spain) tended to give responses at the end pts on the scale--many 0-3, or 8-10; others tended to give a lot of middle range responses (e.g. Germany), etc.

So, the question that remains is whether the results are a reflection of true variance in opinion, or something else--affect, maybe. Has anyone done any work that suggests that we need to control for cultural difference in scaled questions? Since we have mostly topline data (the questions were on an omnibus) and not a dataset to work with, we don't have the ability to do a lot of fancy stats (which was my suggestion).

Obviously there are issues related to question wording across the countries, but I am most interested in finding out what you think about whether we need to control for the scaling issue.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Melissa Marcello

Melissa Marcello
Senior Research Analyst
SWR Worldwide
700 13th Street, NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
202.585.2559 Direct
202-352-7462 Mobile www.swrworldwide.com

```
=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 09:41:09 -0500
From: Leo Simonetta <simonetta@artsci.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Membership Directory
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain
```

One of the problems with posting all the information in the directory is that it contains email addresses. There are some individuals/companies that SPAM which use Web Spiders to search for pages that contain email addresses and download those addresses into their database for future use. I personally have not found this to be a problem though I know others have.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

```
> -----Original Message-----
> From: H.H.Kassarjian [SMTP:hkassarj@ucla.edu]
> Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2000 1:32 AM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Membership Directory
>
> I noticed that the membership directory is not on our Web page. Is there
> some reason, or some objection to having our names and addresses
> available
> to the world and all the search engines? I think it would be convenient
> and it should not be too much trouble since I presume the list is already
> in an electronic data base of some sort. Does anyone have an opinion on
> this suggestion?
```


> Hal Kassarjian

```
=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 09:59:06 -0500
From: "Marcello, Melissa" <mmarcello@swrworldwide.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World
Opinion
Polling
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
Content-Type: text/plain;
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

Thanks everyone for your commentary on this issue. I'm very glad to have a "chad-free" discussion on issues of import to survey researchers.

-----Original Message-----

```
From: Diane O'Rourke [mailto:DOroureke@SRL.UIC.EDU]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2000 3:21 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Controlling for Differences in Response Patterns in World Opinion
Polling
```

In our study of "social cognition and responses to survey questions among culturally diverse populations" (based on 400 cognitive interviews), we indeed found differences in the use of scales by various cultural groups (in our case, 100 Puerto Rican, 100 Mexican American, 100 African American, and 100 non-Hispanic white respondents).^{*} All three minority groups were more likely to select "extreme" responses ("strongly" instead of "somewhat" agree or disagree) when answering 18 health locus-of-control questions. These findings are consistent with many others in the literature. Some of those references can be found in the citation below.

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Diane O'Rourke
Univ. of IL Survey Research Laboratory

```
>>> Marcello, Melissa <mmarcello@swrworldwide.com> 11/20/00
09:10am >>>
Hi All,
```

After consulting with a number of colleagues on this question, I thought I'd post it to the list.

Our company recently did a multi-country phone survey which included a number of items in the instrument that used a zero to ten scale. After taking a look at the topline results, we noticed that certain countries' respondents (e.g. Italy and Spain) tended to give responses at the end pts on the scale--many 0-3, or 8-10; others tended to give a lot of middle range responses (e.g. Germany), etc.

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Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Melissa Marcello

Melissa Marcello
Senior Research Analyst
SWR Worldwide
700 13th Street, NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
202.585.2559 Direct
202-352-7462 Mobile www.swrworldwide.com

```
=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 09:07:58 -0600
From: David_Moore@gallup.com
Received: by EXCHNG7 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
        id <W7XADG0G>; Mon, 27 Nov 2000 09:08:00 -0600
Message-ID: <D18E70780D62D1119580006008162F90011A0209@EXCHNG3>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Membership Directory
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
        charset="iso-8859-1"
```

Currently, the AAPOR Council is considering putting the Directory on line, but accessible by members only. The Blue Book is accessible by anyone, for obvious reasons.

To get a "members-only" site, it will require a bit of time for programming and getting relevant access numbers to members.

Any comments about the "members-only" approach?

David

Chair,
AAPOR Publications and Information Committee

-----Original Message-----

From: Leo Simonetta [mailto:simonetta@artsci.com]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2000 9:41 AM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: Membership Directory

One of the problems with posting all the information in the directory is that it contains email addresses. There are some individuals/companies that SPAM which use Web Spiders to search for pages that contain email addresses and download those addresses into their database for future use. I personally have not found this to be a problem though I know others have.

--

Leo G. Simonetta
Art & Science Group, Inc.
simonetta@artsci.com

> -----Original Message-----

> From: H.H.Kassarjian [SMTP:hkassarj@ucla.edu]
> Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2000 1:32 AM
> To: aapornet@usc.edu
> Subject: Membership Directory

>

> I noticed that the membership directory is not on our Web page. Is there
> some reason, or some objection to having our names and addresses
> available
> to the world and all the search engines? I think it would be convenient
> and it should not be too much trouble since I presume the list is already
> in an electronic data base of some sort. Does anyone have an opinion on
> this suggestion?
> Hal Kassarjian

=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 10:24:28 -0500
From: "Evans Witt" <evans.witt@psra.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Membership Directory
Message-ID: <000601c05886\$22c26100\$042d2d0a@nbcnews>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook 8.5, Build 4.71.2173.0
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2314.1300
In-Reply-To: <D18E70780D62D1119580006008162F90011A0209@EXCHNG3>

The members-only approach, while a bit more difficult to implement, would be a good service for AAPOR members, particularly if the listing online included email, address and phone numbers, just as the printed directory does. For those of us who travel a lot, being able to look up someone's number online would be very helpful.

Evans

=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 08:38:26 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Membership Directory
In-Reply-To: <D18E70780D62D1119580006008162F90011A0209@EXCHNG3>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011270801410.1717-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Mon, 27 Nov 2000 David_Moore@gallup.com wrote:

> Currently, the AAPOR Council is considering putting the Directory on line,
> but accessible by members only. The Blue Book is accessible by anyone, for
> obvious reasons.
>
> To get a "members-only" site, it will require a bit of time for programming
> and getting relevant access numbers to members.
>
> Any comments about the "members-only" approach?

David,

One obvious advantage of "members-only" pages on public sites is that the site owners can then charge for admission to those pages. AAPOR might increase its membership by placing valued data (most likely data sets--like member email addresses) on such restricted pages. Because all academics and most AAPOR members are committed by their professions to free expression and circulation of information, however, this must be done with considerable care, it seems to me. One possibility: Selected (very, very selected) discussions on AAPORNET, over the past six years, arranged by broad subject and searchable by any alphanumeric string. Everyone on AAPORNET already has this resource, of course, except that searching is cumbersome and time-consuming, and produces much garbage (as in "I cast pearls, you discard garbage"). In short, I think an AAPOR board of Archive Editors could produce a major and continually evolving text on public opinion and survey theory, methods and research findings. And imagine having the wisdom of all that talent we have had online over the past six years recorded forever on our membership Website. Conference abstracts could also be used in much the same way; the AAPORNET archives have the advantage that they are already in digital form and thus already searchable; the Conference abstracts have the advantage that they do not require editing.

I post this to AAPORNET because I welcome continued discussion of the possibilities raised by David Moore.

-- Jim

Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 10:50:02 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Don Ferree <gferree@ssc.wisc.edu>
Subject: RE: Membership Directory
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

>Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 09:46:29 -0600
>To: <evans.witt@psra.com>
>From: Don Ferree <gferree@ssc.wisc.edu>
>Subject: RE: Membership Directory
>
>I would agree with Evan's point. And, BTW, "member only services" (if they
>really can be that) provide another incentive for people to belong and keep
>their information current.
>
>Don
>
>
>
>At 10:24 AM 11/27/2000 -0500, Evans Witt wrote:
>>The members-only approach, while a bit more difficult to implement, would
be
>>a good service for AAPOR members, particularly if the listing online
>>included email, address and phone numbers, just as the printed directory
>>does. For those of us who travel a lot, being able to look up someone's
>>number online would be very helpful.
>>
>>Evans
>>

G. Donald Ferree, Jr.
Associate Director for Public Opinion Research
University of Wisconsin Survey Center
1800 University Avenue
Madison WI 53705
608-263-3744/262-1688 (V) 608-262-8432 (F)
gferree@ssc.wisc.edu

Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 15:31:32 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: FYI: Poll, Census, and ... English First angle
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBKEMHCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

ABCNEWS/Washington Post poll: 6 in 10 Say Gore Should Concede
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/DailyNews/poll1001127.html>

///

National Review: PR Coup-The public backs a Bush win.
<http://www.nationalreview.com/daily/nr112700.shtml>

///

National Review
If Gore Wins, GOP Loses House in 2002
Gore-Daley "census sampling" at stake.
By Jim Boulet Jr., executive director, English First
<http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/comment112200d.shtml>

Republican and Democratic partisans agree on one thing: If Gore wins, the Republicans will gain seats in the House of Representatives in 2002. This conventional wisdom is based on historical facts - but it is, nonetheless, dead wrong. The reason is an innovation pushed by the Clinton-Gore administration known as "census sampling."

The Clinton-Gore administration has sought to correct what they claim is an "undercount" by the national census. They claim that there are some people who do not return census forms to the government and who will not respond to a visit from a census taker - in particular, poor people, residents of big cities, and illegal aliens.

For this reason, the U.S. Census Bureau wants to guess how many illegal aliens and other people do not fill out the Census and add its guess to the official census figures. This procedure, dubbed "census sampling," was strongly defended by William M. Daley, now chairman of Gore 2000, but secretary of commerce at the time.

Both Daley and Gore know that if they can hold the White House, they can rig the census. Once a Gore administration finishes fiddling with the census figures, the mandatory reapportionment of congressional seats that must follow a national census would be strongly biased in favor of the Democrats. A biased census count would mean that more Republicans and fewer Democrats will lose their seats in the 2002 election.

Thus, if a Gore administration can keep control of the Census Bureau's computer keys, it could easily enshrine Democratic dominance in Congress until 2012. Republican party chairman Jim Nicholson once calculated that census sampling would mean "losing 24 or more GOP congressional seats; losing 113 GOP state senate seats; [and] losing 297 GOP state house seats." How would this happen? On February 14, 1999, the New York Times demonstrated how census sampling would impact just two Pennsylvania congressional seats: "The 1990 census failed to count nearly 15,000 people in the 2nd District and counted more than 4,300 in the 13th District twice, according to an analysis by Democratic redistricting experts who used estimates from the Census Bureau. Those missed tend to be renters, the poor, children, transient people and those with low levels of education--people who tend not to vote. But whether they vote is irrelevant, redistricting experts say. Every person added to Mr. Fattah's Democratic district through an adjustment based on sampling reduces the need to move a person...into the Second District."

The bottom line is that every "virtual person" created by sampling allows another real person (and probable Democratic voter) to remain in an otherwise Republican district.

The impact of sampling goes well beyond partisan politics. Census sampling also means fewer pro-English congressmen and more anti-English congressmen, if the list of "official Census Partners" on the U.S. Department of Census

web site is any clue.

The list includes anti-English activist groups like the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the National Education Association (NEA), the Southern Poverty Law Center (which successfully sued to revoke Alabama's official English law), TESOL (Teachers Of English to Speakers of Other Languages), the AFL-CIO (which has announced its plans to try to unionize illegal aliens) and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Political power isn't the only thing at stake. Census sampling will cost taxpayers real money. A Leadership Conference on Civil Rights issue brief, Census 2000 An Overview, notes the importance of census data. Review this list with an eye to the potential impact of corrupted census data: Census data directly affects decisions made on all matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, veterans' services, public health care, rural development, the environment, transportation and housing. Many Federal programs are statutorily required to use decennial data to develop, evaluate and implement their programs; Federal, state, and county governments use census information to guide the annual distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in critical services; Congressional seats are reapportioned and legislative districts are drawn based on decennial census data; and, The data are also used to monitor and enforce compliance with civil rights statutes, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and employment, housing, lending, and education anti-discrimination laws. (It is also worth noting that the Leadership Conference's web site includes a November 17 press release entitled: "Democracy At Risk: Voting-Rights Complaints Mounting In Florida." These folks know where their bread is buttered.)

The partisan and ideological impact of census sampling might be more tolerable if this sampling technique truly meant a more accurate census. It doesn't.

Lawrence Osborne, writing in The New Republic, reported that the General Accounting Office report on the census found that a sampled survey conducted after the 1990 census was inaccurate at "smaller geographic levels, such as census tracts." Osborne added that this is "precisely the information that affects districting and disbursement of federal monies."

Osborne also found that "errors will inevitably be magnified as the estimates become more detailed." An unnamed member of the Census 2000 Advisory panel told Osborne that "sampling's margin of error for a given block may reach ten to 15 percent. This means that for a block actually containing 100 residents, it's possible the bureau would determine its population to be anywhere from 85 to 115 - hardly an insignificant difference."

Professor Peter Skerry of the Brookings Institution warned readers of the Los Angeles Times of yet another problem with sampling: "Another risk involves the possibility of an incorrect adjustment. Advocates never mention it, but in 1992, census officials discovered that the original adjusted numbers that Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher had rejected for reapportionment a year earlier were found to be incorrect. Just imagine the imbroglio if the 1990 reapportionment had used adjusted numbers that then needed to be readjusted."

Michael Weinstein, in the New York Times, noted still another problem with sampling that may sound familiar to those following the Florida election recount: "If sampling does a better job locating missing households in one state than in another, the distribution of House seats and Federal spending could be made less fair."

There is also the now-familiar problem of human error. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the ranking Democrat on the House Census Subcommittee and an ardent advocate of sampling, managed to provoke a giggle from the Washington Post on this front. She had written about Thomas Jefferson counting "heads in the existing 13 states." Then, "200 years, 39 states...later, the task remains infeasible." The Post did some quick arithmetic: "Thirteen states plus 39? 52 states? So much for sampling. Actual enumeration might still yield 50."

Efforts by Congressional Republicans to address this problem legislatively were consistently stymied by President Clinton, who threatened to shut down the government if the Republicans tried to stop his administration's efforts to contaminate census data.

The Clinton-Gore-Daley intransigence on sampling ultimately provoked a successful lawsuit by members of Congress against the practice. On January 25, 1999, the Supreme Court ruled, in the case of Department of Commerce v. U.S. House of Representatives, that the sampled data could not be used to determine congressional reapportionment between states. (Full disclosure: English First Foundation filed an amicus curiae brief with the Supreme Court in this case.)

Unfortunately, the Court said nothing about using the sampled data for congressional and state-legislative reapportionment within a state. With its unerring instinct for legal loopholes, the Clinton-Gore administration announced that the sampling process would begin in June, 2000.

On September 28, Daley's replacement as secretary of commerce, Norman Mineta, announced that the decision to release sampled data as official census figures will be left to the Director of the Census.

A Director of the Census appointed by a Bush administration may well (and correctly) rule against the use of adjusted data. A Director of the Census appointed by a Gore administration can be expected to insist on the use of the figures derived from census sampling. Al Gore and Bill Daley know what is really at stake in the Florida recount. If they can steal this election, they can not only seize the White House, but the Congress too.

=====
Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 16:02:20 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Virus Alert: This just might be real!
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi Folks,

I always hesitate to send out virus warnings since the vast majority are

phony. BUT...I just received an attachment from Argentina (Florida_.exe) which my Norton anti virus software detected and stopped in its tracks. The attachment was supposed to be a joke about how to vote for Al Gore.

If this alert turns out to be false, my apologies in advance.

Dick Halpern

Date: Mon, 27 Nov 2000 18:52:27 -0500
Message-Id: <200011272352.SAA63546@garnet3.acns.fsu.edu>
X-Sender: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Light Version 1.5.2
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Susan Losh <slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday to Us! (belated)

This was just about the time I started actively using my e-mail account after having had it for six months. When I signed on I had 163 messages. I said to a colleague, "how can this be? I just started actively using this thing?" Every message was from AAPOR, just waiting for my access.

Colleagues, thanks for your informed support when I "took on" (then joined) FSU's Human Subjects Committee to educate our IRB about RDD.

Thanks for your references and contacts that led to working with my students on attitudes about jury duty.

Thanks for your comments on evaluating higher education administrators this year.

Thanks for all the information, the debate, the entertainment, and yes, even the poetry.

Thanks to Jim and to everyone who has educated me!

Happy holidays,

Susan

Susan Carol Losh, PhD.
slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

visit the site at:
<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~slosh/Index.htm>

850-644-8778 (Voice Mail available)
Educational Research Office 850-644-4592
FAX 850-644-8776

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE!

I HAVE JUST JOINED THE FACULTY AT:

The Department of Educational Research
307L Stone Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee FL 32306-4453

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 00:27:01 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Sadly, the virus is a worm and it is real
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi folks,

About the virus I reported earlier, it is real.

But, it is not called Florida_.exe. The latter is a program into which the virus was inserted, According to Norton, it's name is w95.mtx. Norton states "It is a windows virus with a worm component that spreads via e mail. It also patches wsock32.dll" Norton classifies it as fairly common but doesn't indicate what damage it causes. My guess is that it's designation as W95 suggests that it is quite old.

So, unless you have an activated Norton anti virus application or something similar, you will enjoy all the benefits. As I said, the way it was sent to me was from an Argentinean friend who got it from someone in the States. It is supposed to be a "joke" which is supposed to show you what happens when you cast a vote for Gore.

Hope this is helpful!

Dick Halpern

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 02:11:21 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Sadly, the virus is a worm and it is real
References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

dick halpern wrote:

> Hi folks,
>
> About the virus I reported earlier, it is real.
>
> But, it is not called Florida_.exe. The latter is a program into which the
> virus was inserted, According to Norton, it's name is w95.mtx. Norton
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> me was from an Argentinean friend who got it from someone in the States. It
> is supposed to be a "joke" which is supposed to show you what happens when
> you cast a vote for Gore.
>
> Hope this is helpful!
>
> Dick Halpern

I believe I had experience Friday night with this creature. My experience is similar to what another AAPORNET subscriber reported: the mail counter showing a flood of new messages waiting for downloading. In my case, I was able to determine that the worm was at work on my POP server, not on my local system. The cure (it worked) was to delete all my messages from the server. I was able to do this myself by using the <www.mailstart.com> service that lets you check any existing POP3 server mail account for which you have the user name and password (scary, huh?).

For anyone who doesn't dig the above, I'll try below to describe my experience and remedy with a little more detail.

When I opened Outlook Express on Friday, there were 764 messages (rather than the maybe 10-20 I'd expect) that it wanted to download from my mail server. I aborted the mail program in a hurry. Then I tried with a Netscape mail program. Same flood of messages there waiting to download. Next, I noticed that my Inbox contained multiple unmarked copies of messages I had previously marked "Read." I then went to a notebook system I hadn't used recently and found the same inbox flood waiting there. That indicated the problem might be at my POP server. I confirmed that my ISP's server held that flood of undownloaded messages for me. After being sure there was nothing there important that I hadn't previously downloaded, I deleted from the POP3 server all of my messages. One can do these steps by using an e-mail checking service available at: <<http://www.mailstart.com>>. The messages I deleted were not all from AAPORNET, however, unlike what another member of the list experienced. I have not had any e-mail problems since doing that.

This is one time I hope you have no use for the message..

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 07:42:32 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.76 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Sadly, the virus is a worm and it is real
References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>
<3A235A99.E2B36E46@american.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

MailCall is a free utility from PC Magazine that checks your POP3 server for messages manually or periodically, fetches the headers and allows you to view them and delete selected messages on the server without retrieving them. You can adjust the header length fetched to include the first few lines of each message, making it easy to check for things you don't want to retrieve at all.

I personally find it indispensable for managing my email. You can get it from: <http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/pctech/content/18/05/ut1805.001.html>

Jan Werner

"Albert D. Biderman" wrote:

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> password (scary, huh?).
>
>
> found the same inbox flood waiting there. That indicated the problem might be
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> undownloaded messages for me. After being sure there was nothing there
> important that I hadn't previously downloaded, I deleted from the POP3 server
> all of my messages. One can do these steps by using an e-mail checking
> service available at: <<http://www.mailstart.com>>.

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:17:22 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Manfred Kuechler <mkuechle@hunter.cuny.edu>
Subject: Re: Sadly, the virus is a worm and it is real
In-Reply-To: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>

Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

At 12:27 AM 11/28/00 -0500, dick halpern wrote:

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>

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>virus was inserted, According to Norton, it's name is w95.mtx. Norton
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>mail. It also patches wsock32.dll" Norton classifies it as fairly common
>but doesn't indicate what damage it causes. My guess is that it's
>designation as W95 suggests that it is quite old....

The virus was discovered in late August 2000 (not *that* old) and the major
anti-virus program started protecting against it in late August (e.g.,
with dat file 4095 [for removal], 4093 [for detection], if you use
McAfee/NAI). So, you only get hit if you have not updated your anti-virus
software for almost three months or you failed to set it up properly so
that e-mail attachments get scanned automatically.

The vicious attachment can come under many different names, see:

http://vil.nai.com/vil/virusSymptoms.asp?virus_k=98797

This list of over 30 names does not even include "Florida_.exe" as reported
by Dick. Some of these names sound innocent enough like "hanson.scr". As it
is easy to simply change the name of the attachment, make sure to update
your anti-virus software as it will look at the internal structure of the
file not just the name.

It's a combination of virus/worm/backdoor and it alters your
"winsock32.dll" file, an essential component of connecting to the Internet.
Otherwise, it does not seem to destroy any of your files or software. Full
information at:

http://vil.nai.com/vil/virusSummary.asp?virus_k=98797

One of the problems is that you may not even notice that your station is
infected, but you are spreading the worm nevertheless.

M.

Manfred Kuechler, Sociology Department at Hunter College (CUNY)

<http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/faculty/kuech.html>

Note that "manfred.kuechler@verizon.net" is an alias for
"kathman@bellatlantic.net"

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 09:42:13 -0600

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: "Richard C. Rockwell" <richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>

Subject: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

In-Reply-To: <3A235A99.E2B36E46@american.edu>

References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Some AAPORNETer may be interested in trying to use survey and voting data
to develop an answer to the following question: Is it credible that roughly
10,750 voters in Miami-Dade County cast no vote for President, although
they voted? The answer may prove important in the contested election.
These ballots have been prominently mentioned by David Boies, who (somewhat

misleadingly) says they are ballots that have never been counted. According to media reports, they were counted in both the initial tabulation and in the automatic recount, but no vote for President was recorded from them.

The possible rule (an "other evidence rule") that a voter who cast a straight line Democrat or Republican vote for all offices except President would be counted as having voted for the Presidential candidate of the otherwise-preferred party has the potential of overriding the voter's wish NOT to cast a vote for President. This could be the case even where a dimpled chad exists. As I considered casting such a none-vote myself, I would judge such a rule to be unfair.

A survey in Miami-Dade would probably need a substantial sample size to make 10,750 none-votes credible, as it is very rare behavior among the hundreds of thousands of votes cast there. The ballots themselves may yield obscure or contentious evidence, such as dimples of unknown origin. Indeed, the argument for counting a dimple would seem weak for a ballot that was otherwise successfully voted. But there are at least three independent sources of information on this issue:

(1) Post-election surveys, such as the National Election Studies. How many non-votes have historically been reported? A problem here is that, post-election, respondents tend to over-report having voted in the election and to over-report having voted for the winning candidate. However, even a small incidence of none-votes would be indicative.

(2) Exit polls, which should be much less affected by the tendency to over-report voting. They should also pick up none-votes, if such were cast. The 2000 exit polls would be best, but archived exit polls could also be examined. I doubt that the sample size for Miami-Dade 2000 would be sufficient to cast much light on those 10,750 ballots, but that sample would be most interesting nevertheless.

(3) Actual votes cast for President vs. actual votes cast for other offices. I've looked at 2000 results from three states, in each of which the total number of votes cast for President exceeded the total number of votes cast for Senator in 2000. However, this does not exactly tell us that people will cast a Presidential vote more often than another vote. A Federal law (1976?) mandates that any U.S. citizen should be able to cast a special Presidential Election ballot, for that race alone, even without having registered. One simply has to show up at the polling place in some states. One is not permitted to cast a vote for any office other than President. The effect of this would be to increase the number of Presidential votes cast. In Connecticut, there was a special ballot, and the media reported that it was in high demand - so much so that some polling places ran out of them. As would be expected, the states differ in how they have implemented this law, and none of them that I have seen makes readily available information on the number of special Presidential Election ballot votes cast. But it may be possible to obtain information on how many such ballots were handed out, or at worst, on how many such ballots were distributed to polling places. That count could then be subtracted from the number of Presidential votes cast and then compared to the number of votes cast for another office - and the corrected total might well be lower in the Presidential race, giving some credibility to the claim that some of those voters intended to cast no vote for President.

Richard C. ROCKWELL
Executive Director, The Roper Center & Institute for Social Inquiry
Professor of Sociology
341 Mansfield Road, U-164
Storrs, CT 06269-1164 USA
V +1 860 486-4440
F +1 860 486-6308
richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 09:46:15 -0500
From: "Santos, Robert" <RSantos@ui.urban.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: DC/AAPOR: Election polling (Dec. 6) -- LAST CALL!
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

Final Call!

See what the experts have to say about the (ongoing, never-ending) election!

EMail or call in your RSVP to Audrey Kindlon by Friday (Dec. 1) -- see instructions below!

Rob Santos
Chapter President

Topic: Election 2000 in Perspective

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 6, 2000, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Norman, USA Today
Claudia Deane, Washington Post

***** NEW LOCATION *****

Location: The Urban Institute
Conference Room 5A (Fifth Floor)
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC
Entrance on 21st St. between L & M Streets

Report to Receptionist on the fifth floor for directions to conference room.

Metro:

DuPont Circle, Red Line
Take the South Exit, proceed south on 19th St. for 2 blocks to M Street;
Turn right onto M Street and proceed 2 blocks to 21st Street;
Turn left onto 21st Street and proceed half a block to Entrance
Entrance is on west side of 21st, between M & L Streets

RSVP:

To be placed on the visitors list, send e-mail to
audrey.kindlon@us.pwcglobal.com or dc-aapor.admin@erols.com
or call Audrey Kindlon at 301-897-4413 by Friday, December 1.

Abstract:

The Year 2000 presidential election offered unprecedented levels of tracking polls and related voter research, offering insights into the dynamics of the voter decisionmaking over the course of the presidential campaign. This talks will present an overview of the polling results through summer and fall of 2000, leading to Election Day and its result. The role of voter research and media in the campaign will also be discussed.

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:16:39 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Wash Post-ABC News Poll: Bush Gains Edge In Public Opinion
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011280808170.8292-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

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<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63436-2000Nov27.html>

Tuesday, November 28, 2000; Page A10

Bush Gains Edge In Public Opinion

By Claudia Deane and Richard Morin
Washington Post Staff Writers

Vice President Gore faces a formidable new opponent in his bid to win the presidency: public opinion, which has sided initially with Texas Gov. George W. Bush as he attempts to lay final claim on the White House, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The survey, conducted Sunday night, found that slightly more than half of Americans believe the vote count in Florida was accurate and six in 10 want Gore to concede. A similar percentage of those surveyed--56 percent--also approved of the decision by the Florida secretary of state to deny a request by Palm Beach election officials to extend Sunday's deadline for completing their hand recount.

But the country remains divided over whether indented punch-card ballots should have been counted as legitimate votes in South Florida. Nearly

half--48 percent--said these "dimpled" ballots should not be counted, while 45 percent said they should.

The survey also found that the country's initial reaction to developments over the weekend in Florida has been starkly partisan. Democrats have rallied around Gore, as Republicans even more strongly embraced Bush.

"Number one, Bush has definitely won. Number two, I think they ought to get it over with," said John Holmberg, 54, a Bush voter in Orlando interviewed in the Post-ABC News poll.

Stacey Foust disagrees. "My point of view is that all of the votes should have been counted," said Foust, 24, a college student and mother of three in Junction City, Ore. "I just want the whole thing over. But I think what's fair is fair, and I think we should just let it go a few more weeks."

With both Bush and Gore seeking to gain the public relations advantage, the survey suggests that political independents and moderates once again are critical to how this post-election drama plays out. And on question after question, a clear majority initially have joined Republicans in supporting Bush.

A total of 607 randomly selected adults were interviewed Sunday night after Bush was certified as the winner in Florida. The margin of sampling error for the overall results is plus or minus 4 percentage points. These results should be interpreted cautiously because of the practical difficulties of doing a survey in a single night, as well as the sometimes unsettled nature of public opinion immediately following a major news event.

In other ways, the Post-ABC News survey suggests time may be quickly running out for Gore. More than half of those interviewed--57 percent--say they want the controversy resolved within a week.

"I'm satisfied with Florida's count now," said Glenn Krohn, 29, a salesman in Chattanooga who voted for Bush. "In my opinion Gore should concede this election, and they should work on the laws and the voting systems so this doesn't happen again."

Overall, 60 percent of those interviewed want Gore to abandon his presidential bid. Even a small but significant proportion of Gore's supporters--about one in four--want him to give up. Still, two in three Gore supporters said he should continue pursuing the matter, with a third willing to wait past Christmas for a resolution.

"What's a month, compared to four years that we have to live with this person?" said Elizabeth Ketsios Zweiback, 30, a designer in Chicago who favors Gore.

According to the poll, three in four Republicans believe the vote counts in Florida were accurate, and so do six in 10 political independents. But nearly six in 10 Democrats--57 percent--say they have little or no confidence in the Florida results.

Roger Ruleman, 50, a small businessman in Waldorf, Md., and a Gore supporter, was disappointed with the decision to stop the recounts.

"Don't tell me how much money I've got if you've stopped counting. Don't tell me I've only got two or three thousand . . . I've got something over there in that other bank that wasn't counted."

Others see the recount as little more than a mess. "It's sad we've gone from what we were used to--a general election where people were voting--to hanging chads, dimples and trying to divine votes through prophecy," said Roy Steffen, 54, a Bush voter and registered nurse in Chula Vista, Calif. "It's souring people I know toward the whole electoral process."

About six in 10 Americans approved of the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in the election drama. Although the Bush campaign requested that involvement, Bush's backers are roughly split on the court's decision to step in. Two in three Gore supporters approve of the high court becoming involved.

"It's the highest office in the land, and I think the highest court in the land should be the one to decide," Krohn said.

Democrats and Republicans do agree on at least one issue: Majorities in each party do not want the Florida legislature to get involved in resolving the election.

One sign that Bush supporters may have dug in their heels deeper than Democrats: While about half--53 percent--of the vice president's backers say they will consider Bush "legitimately elected" if he becomes president, the majority of Bush supporters--60 percent--say they would not consider Gore a legitimate victor.

If Gore were to eventually win, "I'll feel like it's a big fraud," said Dennis Dehart, 28, a carpet layer and Bush voter in Dennison, Minn.

One final problem for the vice president in the week ahead: His supporters seem to be paying less attention. About half of Bush's backers are following the election "very closely," compared to about a third of Gore's supporters.

Still, many voters are struck with a sense of the historic moment. "I'm 77 years old, and never in my life have I seen one carried out like this," said Dorothy Allison of Ottumwa, Iowa. "I've never seen one this close, and this kind of battling back and forth. Probably we never will again."

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:37:45 -0600
From: "Stephen M. Johnson" <johnsons@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU>
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
In-reply-to: <3.0.6.32.20001128094213.00d8d2b0@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>

X-Sender: johnsons@oregon.uoregon.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3.0.6.32.20001128083745.01237e50@oregon.uoregon.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.6 (32)
Content-type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
References: <3A235A99.E2B36E46@american.edu>
<5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>

One argument that I have recently heard is that the voting machines used wear out in some fashion, so that they tend to be less likely to punch a ballot at the top, since the top part of the ballot is used in every local election. Consequently the voting machines get more wear on that portion, and are more likely to fail to count votes for President. Has anyone else heard of this and does anyone know if it is true or not?

Steve Johnson
Associate Director
Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

At 09:42 AM 11/28/00 -0600, you wrote:

>Some AAPORNETer may be interested in trying to use survey and voting data
>to develop an answer to the following question: Is it credible that roughly
>10,750 voters in Miami-Dade County cast no vote for President, although
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>the media reported that it was in high demand - so much so that some
>polling places ran out of them. As would be expected, the states differ in
>how they have implemented this law, and none of them that I have seen makes
>readily available information on the number of special Presidential
>Election ballot votes cast. But it may be possible to obtain information
>on how many such ballots were handed out, or at worst, on how many such
>ballots were distributed to polling places. That count could then be
>subtracted from the number of Presidential votes cast and then compared to
>the number of votes cast for another office - and the corrected total might
>well be lower in the Presidential race, giving some credibility to the
>claim that some of those voters intended to cast no vote for President.

>
>-----
>Richard C. ROCKWELL
>Executive Director, The Roper Center & Institute for Social Inquiry
>Professor of Sociology
>341 Mansfield Road, U-164
>Storrs, CT 06269-1164 USA
>V +1 860 486-4440
>F +1 860 486-6308
>richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu
>

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:49:40 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: LA TIMES Analysis: Both Sides Turn to Court of Public Opinion
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011280832180.9815-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

This piece quotes one of AAPOR's favorite
nonpartisan pollsters...

-- Jim

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http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/decision2000/lat_assess001128.htm

November 28, 2000

NEWS ANALYSIS

Both Sides Now Turn to Court of Public Opinion

By DOYLE McMANUS, Times Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON--It is as if the nation were split between two parallel universes--one Republican, one Democratic.

In one, the election is over, the president-elect has been chosen, and it's time to get on with a transition to an orderly future. George W. Bush has defeated Al Gore in Florida not once, but four times. Anyone who wants another recount is just delaying the inevitable.

In the other, the election is still wide open--in fact, it's anybody's guess who will win. Texas Gov. Bush won a plurality of votes that were counted, but Vice President Gore won a plurality of the votes that were cast. Anyone who opposes another recount is just blocking the will of the voters.

With Florida's recounts over, at least for now, and a long list of lawsuits a week or more from being decided, Democrats and Republicans turned Monday to the other major front in their postelection battle: public opinion.

And each side unleashed all the weapons of modern image-craft to try to convince voters in the middle that its version of reality is closer to the truth.

Democrats, led by candidate Gore in an evening broadcast, made a plea for patience.

Republicans, including candidate Bush, offered the allure of "closure" and a return to business-as-almost-usual. Bush put in a day's work at the Texas state Capitol in Austin, while vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney mildly declared the transition underway in rented office space in Washington.

What each side wants is clear. The Republicans hope the public, and at least some Democrats in Congress, will tire of the long process of contesting the election and coalesce behind the idea that Bush has won.

On the other side, the Democrats are working desperately to keep that door from closing--to keep the public thinking of this election as a race that still is open.

"Every morning, we get up and proclaim the good news: It's still too close to call!" Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Jenny Backus said, jokingly.

As long as Democrats and independents in the public consider the issue open, Backus and other Democratic operatives say, Gore still has

breathing room to contest the results in Florida's state courts. (They have given up on hoping for support from committed Republicans.)

But if the public begins to think of the election as over and of Bush as president-elect, they worry that Gore's political options may disappear even if his legal options do not.

That's why strategists on both sides are obsessively reading public opinion polls--including some that each party commissioned privately--and just as frantically monitoring the tone of television broadcasts, newspaper headlines and inside-the-Beltway gossip.

"What are you hearing?" a Gore advisor asked a reporter, and then quickly supplied his own answer: "We still have a shot at this." But it sounded like a question as well as an assertion.

So far, the polls suggest that the Democrats do still have a shot, if a slim one.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released Monday found that 60% of those questioned believe Gore should concede the election, and 35% believe he should not.

Those numbers appeared clear, but--naturally enough--they set off intense partisan debate about their real meaning.

To Republicans, the majority in favor of a Gore concession was a strong signal that they are making progress.

"Those numbers are stronger than they were two weeks ago," GOP pollster Bill McInturff said. "A majority of people believe it was close, but Bush is ahead, and he is likely to win the presidency."

McInturff forecast continuing erosion of support for Gore's lawsuits contesting the Florida results and, if Gore suffers any significant legal setbacks, a sudden collapse.

If Florida's courts refuse to restart vote counting in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, McInturff said, "quicker than people imagine, the public reaction will be: He's lost, it's time to tie this up."

But to Democrats, the same poll offered evidence that the public is still patient, still willing to let Gore play out his hand in Florida's courts.

The survey showed the public still split evenly when asked which candidate it wanted to see win (43% for Bush, 42% for Gore) and found that 60% would accept a Gore victory if that was the outcome of the legal process.

"It doesn't look like people have moved very much, or that they have washed their hands of the whole thing," said Peter D. Hart, a Democratic pollster.

A nonpartisan pollster, Andrew Kohut of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, warned that surveys on this issue are more difficult to interpret than most. "The voters are flying blind, and so

are the pollsters," he said.

He noted that the ABC-Post poll was taken Sunday evening, immediately after Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris officially certified Bush as the winner in the state, and could thus reflect a transitory swing of opinion in Bush's favor.

Later polls, taken after Gore's television statement Monday evening, could swing back, he suggested.

Meanwhile, both camps sought to shape public opinion.

The Democrats rolled out a phalanx of congressional leaders, led by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who traveled to Florida to show that their party is solidly united behind Gore. Two Democratic senators who nearly broke ranks last week by suggesting that Gore not pursue his appeals to the bitter end, Louisiana's John B. Breaux and Paul D. Wellstone of Minnesota, were persuaded to fall back in line as well.

In their public statements, Democrats began defining the deadline for the legal process as Dec. 12, the last day for Florida to name its presidential electors. The aim, one Democratic advisor said, is to win public acceptance of two more weeks for Gore to act--and to avoid the public fixating on the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, which could come as early as Dec. 5, as an end point.

On the Republican side, GOP members of Congress continued passing through Florida's television camera-infested landscape as well. But the main focus of Republican strategy was more subtle: the image, made available each day, of Bush and Cheney engaged in the quiet work of governing.

"They're doing it quite well," pollster Hart said admiringly. "Who's looking like a president-elect? That is working to Bush's advantage."

Indeed, several Democratic advisors said they are worried that Bush is preparing to take the next step, and designate retired Gen. Colin L. Powell as his intended nominee for secretary of State.

"That's their ace in the hole," one said.

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/decision2000/lat_assess001128.htm

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 11:50:08 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Ashley Grosse <agrosse@umich.edu>
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

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by genesis1.norc.uchicago.edu (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id LAA19368
for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 28 Nov 2000 11:06:11 -0600
Received: from ccMail by norcmail.uchicago.edu (ccMail Link to SMTP
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id AA975430917; Tue, 28 Nov 2000 11:01:57 -0600
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To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: <moore-whitney@norcmail.uchicago.edu>
Subject: Information on diary data collection research requested.
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Description: "cc:Mail Note Part"

Please post the following from NORC. Send responses directly to
moore-whitney@norcmail.uchicago.edu.

Does anyone out there know of research that has been conducted on
diary data collection, particularly with computer-assisted technology
(for example, palm pilots, pen-based hand held equipment, small or
large laptops, etc.)?

Thanks for your help,

Ken Rasinski

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 13:05:05 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
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According to the 1996 National Election Studies, 1.3% of those who said they voted in the November election also said they did not vote for President.

96PO: Did R vote for president

Frequency	Percent	Valid	Percent	Cumulative	Percent
Valid 1. Yes, voted for President	1160	67.7	98.7	98.7	
5. No, didn't vote for President	15	.9	1.3	100.0	
Total	1175	68.6	100.0		
Missing 0. Inap, R did not vote (5,6,8,9 in D1);	539	31.4			
Total	1714	100.0			

Ashley Grosse
Director of Studies
National Election Studies
University of Michigan
ISR, office 4118
voice: 734.764.5494 fax: 734.764.3341

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voted by looking at the ballots.</FONT></SPAN></DIV>
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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 14:40:15 -0500
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
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X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)
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 charset="iso-8859-1"

Given that 600k voted in Miami-Dade and 10.75k did not register a vote, which is 1.79%, the NES data below seems to suggest that Miami-Dade is not atypical.

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew A. Beveridge [mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 1:05 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

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31.4
Total 1714 100.0

Ashley Grosse
Director of Studies
National Election Studies
University of Michigan
ISR, office 4118
voice: 734.764.5494 fax: 734.764.3341

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[mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000
1:05

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From: Huffman, John P. [mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000

2:40 PM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

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<DIV align=left class=OutlookMessageHeader dir=ltr>-----Original Message-----
From: Andrew A. Beveridge [mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 1:05 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
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Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

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Ashley:

Have the NES 1996 self-reported claims of having voted in the election ever been validated? And, if so, is there any difference in the percentage of validated votes between those who said they voted for president and those who said they did not? And is there any additional evidence on this question from earlier NES validation studies?

George Bishop

At 02:54 PM 11/28/2000 -0500, you wrote:

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>>> Ashley Grosse
>>> Director of Studies
>>> National Election Studies
>>> University of Michigan
>>> ISR, office 4118
>>> voice: 734.764.5494   fax: 734.764.3341
>>> *****
>>
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<dd>According to the 1996 National Election Studies, 1.3% of those who said they voted in the November election also said they did not vote for President.

<dd>96P0: Did R vote for president

<dd> Frequency Percent Valid Percent Cumulative Percent

<dd>Valid 1. Yes, voted for President 1160 67.7 98.7 98.7

<dd> 5. No, didn't vote for President 15 .9 1.3 100.0

<dd> Total 1175 68.6 100.0

<dd>Missing 0. Inap, R did not vote (5,6,8,9 in D1); 539 31.4

<dd>Total 1714 100.0

<blockquote type=cite cite>

<dd>*****

<dd>Ashley Grosse

<dd>Director of Studies

<dd>National Election Studies

<dd>University of Michigan

<dd>ISR, office 4118

<dd>voice: 734.764.5494 fax: 734.764.3341

<dd>*****

</blockquote></blockquote>

</dl>

</html>

-----_17206150==_ .ALT--

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 15:41:21 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0069_01C05951.A83766C0"
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----_NextPart_000_0069_01C05951.A83766C0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

According to an article published by World Net Daily, there were 625,433 =
votes in Miami Dade.

How does the 1.3% figure behave over time -- say for the three or four =
prior presidential elections?

Also, one wonders what that proportion looks like in large urban centers =
such as Miami, Los Angeles, Houston, etc.

And is the 10,750 figure the "uncounted" which presumably includes =
no-vote plus multiple votes, or the no-vote only? Some writers are =
using 9,000 as the no-vote figure. (1.3% appears to be "no vote" only.)

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
Voice (610) 408-8800
Fax (610) 408-8802
jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----Original Message-----

From: George Bishop 513-556-5078 <george.bishop@uc.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu <aapornet@usc.edu>
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 3:29 PM
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

Ashley:

Have the NES 1996 self-reported claims of having voted in the election =
ever been validated? And, if so, is there any difference in the =
percentage of validated votes between those who said they voted for =
president and those who said they did not? And is there any additional =
evidence on this question from earlier NES validation studies?

George Bishop

At 02:54 PM 11/28/2000 -0500, you wrote:=20

I thought that this was interesting. It uses data from the National =
Election Study (NES) done by the U. of M.

-----Original Message-----=20

From: Huffman, John P. [mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com]=20

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 2:40 PM=20

To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'=20

Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade =
County?

Given that 600k voted in Miami-Dade and 10.75k did not register =
a vote, which is 1.79%, the NES data below seems to suggest that =
Miami-Dade is not atypical.=20

-----Original Message-----=20

From: Andrew A. Beveridge [mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu]=20

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 1:05 PM=20

To: aapornet@usc.edu=20

Cc: Andrew A. Beveridge=20

Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade =
County?

And how many voted for two candidates? Seems to me it would be =
easy enough to tell if they=20

really voted by looking at the ballots.=20

=20

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Total 1175 68.6 100.0=20

Missing 0. Inap, R did not vote (5,6,8,9 in D1); 539 31.4=20

Total 1714 100.0=20

*****=20
Ashley Grosse=20
Director of Studies=20
National Election Studies=20
University of Michigan=20
ISR, office 4118=20
voice: 734.764.5494 fax: 734.764.3341=20
*****=20

-----_NextPart_000_0069_01C05951.A83766C0
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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<DIV><FONT size=3D2>According to an article published by World Net =
Daily, there=20
were 625,433 votes in Miami Dade.</FONT></DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT size=3D2>How does the 1.3% figure behave over time -- say for =
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<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT size=3D2>Also, one wonders what that proportion looks like in =
large=20
urban centers such as Miami, Los Angeles, Houston, etc.</FONT></DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT size=3D2>And is the 10,750 figure the "uncounted" which =
presumably=20
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<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT size=3D2>James P. Murphy, Ph.D.<BR>Voice (610) =
408-8800<BR>Fax (610)=20
408-8802<BR><A=20
href=3D"mailto:jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com">jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com</A></FONT></D=
IV>
<BLOCKQUOTE=20
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0px; PADDING-LEFT: 5px">
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2><B>-----Original =
Message-----</B><BR><B>From:=20
</B>George Bishop 513-556-5078 &lt;<A=20
=
href=3D"mailto:george.bishop@uc.edu">george.bishop@uc.edu</A>&gt;<BR><B>T=
```

o:=20

aapornet@usc.edu <<A=20 href=3D"mailto:aapornet@usc.edu">aapornet@usc.edu>
Date:=20 Tuesday, November 28, 2000 3:29 PM
Subject: RE: 10,750=20 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade=20

County?

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<BLOCKQUOTE> <DL>

<DD>-----Original Message-----=20

<DD>From: Huffman, John P. [<A=20

href=3D"mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com"=20

eudora=3D"autourl">mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com]=20

<DD>Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 2:40 PM=20

<DD>To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'=20

<DD>Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in = Miami-Dade=20

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<DD>-----Original Message-----=20

<DD>From: Andrew A. Beveridge [<A=20

href=3D"mailto:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu"=20

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<DD>Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 1:05 PM=20

<DD>To: aapornet@usc.edu=20

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<DD>Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in = Miami-Dade=20

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    President.<BR><BR>
    <DD>96PO: Did R vote for president=20
    <DD>&nbsp; Frequency Percent Valid Percent Cumulative Percent=20
    <DD>Valid 1. Yes, voted for President 1160 67.7 98.7 98.7=20
    <DD>&nbsp; 5. No, didn't vote for President 15 .9 1.3 100.0=20
    <DD>&nbsp; Total 1175 68.6 100.0=20
    <DD>Missing 0. Inap, R did not vote (5,6,8,9 in D1); 539 31.4=20
    <DD>Total 1714 100.0 <BR><BR><BR><BR><BR><BR>
    <BLOCKQUOTE cite type=3D"cite">
    <DD>*****=20
    <DD>Ashley Grosse=20
    <DD>Director of Studies=20
    <DD>National Election Studies=20
    <DD>University of Michigan=20
    <DD>ISR, office 4118=20
    <DD>voice: 734.764.5494&nbsp;&nbsp;  &nbsp;    fax: 734.764.3341=20
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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 12:59:52 -0800
From: Janet Streicher <jstreicher@knowledgenetworks.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Posting
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
    charset="iso-8859-1"

```

Please see job posting below. If interested, please forward your resume to jobs@knowledgenetworks.com
Thanks

DIRECTOR, CUSTOM RESEARCH

Knowledge Networks is the world's first and only end-to-end marketing intelligence company. We combine Web-based information gathering with statistically valid research methods and proprietary modeling techniques. We're helping a growing number of America's leading companies to manage

their brand and company strategies through better understanding of their customers and markets. We have the following prime opportunity available in our New York office:

Director, Custom Research

Working within a custom research practice, candidates will provide project management leadership for a variety of commercial clients. Responsibilities include client management, problem solving, survey development and design, overseeing scripting, data collection, and data extraction, as well as the preparation of research findings and analysis. Directors will also contribute to identifying and securing follow-on business in existing accounts. Experienced candidates should possess strong custom research process and language skills. Excellent written presentation and report skills required.

Knowledge Networks offers highly competitive salaries and commissions, plus a generous stock option plan. Please e-mail your resume to: jobs@knowledgenetworks.com.

Knowledge

N E T W O R K S

Janet L. Streicher
Vice-President, Managing Director
jstreicher@knowledgenetworks.com

212 Fifth Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10010
Phone 646.742.5337 Fax 212.689.3012
www.knowledgenetworks.com

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 16:43:47 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Bill Williams <wwilliam@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu>
Subject: Canadian Elections

Seems to me this deserves some comparative thought. Comments?

<bold>Canada Hand-Counts Votes in 4 Hours</bold> <italic>Tue Nov 28 18:36:00 2000 GMT</italic> OTTAWA (AP) - Florida vote canvassers, take note. Within four hours after the last polls closed in Canada's parliamentary election, officials at 50,000 polling stations had hand-counted virtually every one of nearly 13 million paper ballots.=20

There were glitches, to be sure - an angry voter seized a ballot box in Nova Scotia and threw it into a polluted lagoon. But overall, Canada's federal elections system, which uses no counting machines, had a smooth

Election Night.=20

=46rom Newfoundland to Yukon, across the world's second-largest country, roughly 150,000 election workers fanned out Monday to a far-flung network of polling stations. Even in the biggest cities, no one station serves more than 500 registered voters - most of the officers entrusted with the hand-counting had to handle no more than 300 or 400 ballots.=20

Pierre Blain, a spokesman for Elections Canada, said the system stresses transparency, with each party entitled to deploy a representative to watch the polling station chief count the ballots.=20

Any complaints can be registered with national elections officials; recounts are conducted automatically in cases of extremely narrow victory margins.=20

Though some of Monday's 301 parliamentary races were close, the overall result was clear-cut: Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Party won its third straight majority government while increasing its seats in the House of Commons from 161 to 173.=20

Blain, in a telephone interview Tuesday, politely declined to pass judgment on the electoral chaos in Florida, which was compounded by the use of different voting systems in various counties.=20

``All the democracies must look at their systems themselves,'' Blain said. ``It's not for somebody from another country to look at them.' '=20

``The most important thing is that people must vote,'' he said. ``I'm sure the workers in Florida did their best.'' The Canadian system, in place for a century, uses traditional paper ballots, to be marked with an ``X'' beside the name of the preferred parliamentary candidate. There are no hanging chads, no questions about mechanical snafus.=20

In Nova Scotia, though, there was little that election officials could do when a man ran off with a ballot box and threw it into a waste-treatment lagoon.=20

Alexander MacKenzie, who had sought compensation for living near the polluted water, was arrested for the theft, spent Monday night in jail, then was released pending a Dec. 18 court appearance.=20

The box was recovered with the ballots still legible, but under Canadian law they were discarded because they had been removed from official supervision. The polling station contacted the 125 people who had cast ballots; about 70 returned to vote again.=20

There were some systematic glitches, as well. At some polling stations, people arrived to find they were not on the list of eligible voters; many were confused even though most were permitted to vote if they had valid identification and spare time to register on the spot.=20

Perhaps the biggest disappointment for Elections Canada was the meager voter turnout of 63 percent - the lowest in more than 75 years.=20

``Everywhere in the world, there seems to be a trend of turnout going down,' Blain said. ``Our task is simply to make sure there are no impediments for those who want to vote.'`=20

=20

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W. H. Williams

Executive Director, Hunter College Big Apple Poll

Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Hunter College, City University of New York

695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

212-772-4656/5300

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 17:01:36 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>,
 "Richard C. Rockwell" <richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
Cc: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: RE: Ballots vs. secondary evidence
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPOEBNCHAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700
In-Reply-To: <3.0.6.32.20001128153555.00de00a0@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Richard C. Rockwell [mailto:richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu]
> Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 4:36 PM
> To: Andrew A. Beveridge
> Subject: ballots vs. secondary evidence
>
>
> Andy, I am trying to see if any light can be shed on the validity of the
> following statement, which has already been made in various forms:
>
> "It is simply not credible that a voter who voted for Democrats for all
> other offices would not have voted for Gore as President. The stylus must
> have failed. The ballot should count for Gore."
>
> This is a somewhat extreme casting of the statement, but the sentiment
> that this must be the case is indeed there for some. And the ballots
> themselves will be able to speak to the validity of this statement only if
> there is some physical evidence of a failed vote for President.

The Illinois Supreme court case, assesses any indention as an attempted (and failed) vote. I don't think a small sample, such as the NES, can shed much light on this

The fact of the matter is that the "Undervote" and "Overvote" occurred with a much higher proportion in minority areas. In Miami Dade according to one regression using Precinct registration data, which includes age, race and Hispanic status, for every extra 100 blacks there were 11 more disqualified ballots; for every 100 people over 65 there were 6.6 more disqualified ballots. What is going on is the voting intention of the Blacks and the Aged are being thwarted in the urban areas, because it is only in such areas that these VOTOMATIC machines exist.

In areas with paper or paper scanned (such as in Volusia County) there is a much lower "Undervote" and "Overvote." The Votomatic has up to a 4 percent error rate, while other systems have about 1 percent. Furthermore, the votomatic is more likely to be used in Urban areas.

Andy Beveridge

>

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 16:42:32 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

In-Reply-To: <3.0.6.32.20001128083745.01237e50@oregon.uoregon.edu>
References: <3.0.6.32.20001128094213.00d8d2b0@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
<3A235A99.E2B36E46@american.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Even machines wear out. Way, way back in the dark ages we used IBM punch cards with IBM model 80. Then, with the advance of technology, came IBM model 101 which was marvelous since it could tabulate on two columns at once! (although it could take hours to properly program for each individual run) But, it still used IBM punch cards and it was not unusual for tabulations run twice to disagree because one or more cards were screwed up. Hand inspection of each card was the only route to salvation. Sometimes, because the machines were in such heavy demand for use, some parts did wear out and did cause errors. Thus, it shouldn't come as any great surprise that vote counting machines using a similar technology would, on occasion, run erroneous counts.

One way of looking at the vote count results: if your accountant made the same errors you might be in deep trouble. The IRS might demand a full audit and there might be penalties to boot for incorrect reporting.

Dick Halpern

At 09:37 AM 11/28/00, you wrote:

>One argument that I have recently heard is that the voting machines used
>wear out in some fashion, so that they tend to be less likely to punch a
>ballot at the top, since the top part of the ballot is used in every local
>election. Consequently the voting machines get more wear on that portion,
>and are more likely to fail to count votes for President. Has anyone else
>heard of this and does anyone know if it is true or not?
>Steve Johnson
>Associate Director
>Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 17:58:31 -0500
From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>
Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
References: <3.0.6.32.20001128094213.00d8d2b0@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>
<3A235A99.E2B36E46@american.edu>
<5.0.0.25.2.20001128162731.030acaf0@mail.mindspring.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The problem with the Votomatic ballots used in Florida and many other places is not the equipment used to count the ballots, but that they use pre-perforated cards and a stylus to push out the perforated

section--the chad that we have all come to know so well.

Anyone who has ever worked with pre-perforated cards knows that the chads have a tendency not to separate cleanly from the rest of the card, and when that happens, running the card through a machine will often actually push the chad back into its hole, so that the vote will not be counted.

In the olden days, we often removed an incorrect punch in a Hollerith card by picking up a chad with a pencil eraser and pushing it back into the punch hole, then duplicating the "corrected" card in a keypunch or reproducing machine.

Punching a card with a keypunch produces a clean perforation that will count properly with nearly zero error rate, no matter how many times it is read through a sorter or card reader.

There are other voting systems that use cards that are not pre-perforated and a machine or spring-loaded mechanism to punch the vote into the ballot, and these have virtually no counting error. However, these machines cost more than the Votomatic, which has no mechanical parts, and are therefore less common.

Jan Werner

dick halpern wrote:

>
> Even machines wear out. Way, way back in the dark ages we used IBM punch
> cards with IBM model 80. Then, with the advance of technology, came IBM
> model 101 which was marvelous since it could tabulate on two columns at
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> >heard of this and does anyone know if it is true or not?
> >Steve Johnson
> >Associate Director
> >Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 17:09:58 -0600
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: "Garrett J. O'Keefe" <gjokeefe@facstaff.wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: "How's that again?" Department
In-Reply-To: <3A24091F.E76AFB39@american.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="=====_126003772==_._ALT"

-----_126003772==_._ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

AAPOR Colleagues:

I assume there has been some kind of transmission error in the message below, and/or our reputable friends at Gallup have something to explain to us? Whichever, it's pretty bizarre!

Garrett O'Keefe

At 02:35 PM 11/28/00 -0500, you wrote:

>
> Copied from:
>>
>>
>> Politics from All Politics from CNN.com 11/28/2000 12:58 Web posted at:
>> 11:07 p.m. EST (0407 GMT) CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Do you
>> think the media have been paying too much attention or the right amount of
>> attention to the election situation in Florida? Yes 47% No 51
>> CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Which comes closer to your view -
-
>> there has been permanent harm done to the United States as a result of the
>> election process this year, or there has been no permanent harm done to
the
>> United States as a result of the election process this year? Yes 37%
>> No 62
>
>

Garrett J. O'Keefe, Ph.D.
Professor of Life Sciences Communication and Environmental Studies
440 Henry Mall
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Voice: (608) 262-1843
Fax: (608) 265-3042
E-mail: gjokeefe@facstaff.wisc.edu
Web: <http://www.wisc.edu/agjournal>
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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 15:14:32 -0800
From: Earl Babbie <babbie@chapman.edu>
Reply-To: babbie@chapman.edu
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.73C-CCK-MCD {C-UDP; EBM-APPLE} (Macintosh; U; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Bipartisanship
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Whoever eventually becomes president, I'm willing to bet the extent of his bipartisanship will be to nominate the loser as ambassador to Chad.

Earl

--

kth Law of CyberSpace: We are all, as individuals, in over our heads.

Earl Babbie
babbie@chapman.edu
http://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/socsci/sociology/Faculty/Babbie/
Tel: 714-997-6565
Fax: 714-281-6213
A day without cancer is like. . .a day without cancer.

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 15:39:14 -0800
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: Linda Bourque <lbouque@ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: "How's that again?" Department
In-Reply-To: <4.1.20001128170545.01987c00@facstaff.wisc.edu>
References: <3A24091F.E76AFB39@american.edu>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----_26212386==_ .ALT"

-----_26212386==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I wondered exactly the same thing!

Linda Bourque

At 05:09 PM 11/28/00 -0600, you wrote:

>
> AAPOR Colleagues:
>
> I assume there has been some kind of transmission error in the message
below,
> and/or our reputable friends at Gallup have something to explain to us?
> Whichever, it's pretty bizarre!
>
> Garrett O'Keefe
>
> At 02:35 PM 11/28/00 -0500, you wrote:
>>
>> Copied from:
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Politics from All Politics from CNN.com 11/28/2000
>>> 12:58 Web posted at: 11:07 p.m. EST (0407 GMT) CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL
>>> November 26-27 Do you think the media have been paying too much attention
>>> or the right amount of attention to the election situation in Florida?
>>> Yes 47% No 51 CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Which
>>> comes closer to your view -- there has been permanent harm done to the
>>> United States as a result of the election process this year, or there has
>>> been no permanent harm done to the United States as a result of the
>>> election process this year? Yes 37% No 62
>>
>>
>
>
>
>
> _____
>
> Garrett J. O'Keefe, Ph.D.
> Professor of Life Sciences Communication and Environmental Studies
> 440 Henry Mall
> University of Wisconsin-Madison
> Madison, WI 53706
> Voice: (608) 262-1843
> Fax: (608) 265-3042
> E-mail: gjokeefe@facstaff.wisc.edu
> Web: <http://www.wisc.edu/agjournal>

-----_26212386==_ .ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>
I wondered exactly the same thing!

Linda Bourque

At 05:09 PM 11/28/00 -0600, you wrote:

<blockquote type=cite cite>AAPOR Colleagues:

<Previous message thread attachments deleted>

A 1996 national survey can be a source of innocent academic merriment for speculations about Miami-Dade voting in 2000, but there is little justification for extrapolating a far-out value from that survey to a major point in a weighty controversy when extensive data are available specific to the situation at issue. With all respect and gratitude to colleagues who have contributed to this thread, I find preferable either the Sun-Sentinel's analysis, favorable in its conclusion to the outlook for Gore, or the Miami Herald's, which reaches a contrary conclusion. I find it easier to evaluate and supplement them. For instance, I would also wish to consider, as a court possibly may, whatever quantitative implications there might be in the contentions, whether based on engineering analyses or on local experience, regarding an excess failure rate of punch attempts for vote-recording in the column(s) nearest the edge of Votamatics of the applicable vintage, whether the reportedly high number of minority, first-time voters were particularly prone to making balloting mistakes or to be thwarted by the mechanism.

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu

>From Sun-Sentinal:

> Analysis: Gore would gain votes in Miami-Dade

>

> By ELLIS BERGER and JOHN MAINES Staff Writers

> Web-posted: 11:43 p.m. Nov. 27, 2000

>

Published Tuesday, November 28, 2000, in the Miami Herald:

>

> Analysis: Gore's possible gain overestimated

> Miami-Dade's recount alone likely would not shift outcome

> BY PETER WHORISKEY

> pjwhoriskey@herald.com

>

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 17:29:01 -0600 (CST)
From: ALLAN L MCCUTCHEON <amccutch@unlserve.unl.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: "How's that again?" Department
In-Reply-To: <4.1.20001128170545.01987c00@facstaff.wisc.edu>
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.02.10011281718060.94926-100000@unlserve.unl.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

You have a sharp eye (probably two!) Prof. O'Keefe. Today's Gallup "topline" shows the first set of percentages as

Too much	47%
Right amount	51%

and not as 'yes' and 'no,' respectively.

The topline shows the second set of percentages as

Has been permanent harm	37%
No permanent harm	62%

A good lesson in the value of proofreading web pages.

ALM

On Tue, 28 Nov 2000, Garrett J. O'Keefe wrote:

>
> AAPOR Colleagues:
>
> I assume there has been some kind of transmission error in the message
below,
> and/or our reputable friends at Gallup have something to explain to us?
> Whichever, it's pretty bizarre!
>
> Garrett O'Keefe
>
> At 02:35 PM 11/28/00 -0500, you wrote:
> >
> > Copied from:
> >>
> >>
> >> Politics from All Politics from CNN.com 11/28/2000 12:58 Web posted at:
> >> 11:07 p.m. EST (0407 GMT) CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Do
you
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of
> >> attention to the election situation in Florida? Yes 47% No
51
> >> CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Which comes closer to your view
--
> >> there has been permanent harm done to the United States as a result of
the
> >> election process this year, or there has been no permanent harm done to
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> Garrett J. O'Keefe, Ph.D.
> Professor of Life Sciences Communication and Environmental Studies
> 440 Henry Mall
> University of Wisconsin-Madison
> Madison, WI 53706

> Voice: (608) 262-1843
> Fax: (608) 265-3042
> E-mail: gjokeefe@facstaff.wisc.edu
> Web: http://www.wisc.edu/agjournal

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 18:43:10 EST
From: MILTGOLD@aol.com
Received: from MILTGOLD@aol.com
by imo-r10.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v28.34.) id 3.b0.ccd1460 (25099);
Tue, 28 Nov 2000 18:43:10 -0500 (EST)
Message-ID: <b0.ccd1460.27559d0e@aol.com>
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
To: johnsons@oregon.uoregon.edu, aapornet@usc.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL for Macintosh sub 147

In a message dated 11/28/00 11:32:16 AM, johnsons@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU writes:

<< One argument that I have recently heard is that the voting machines used wear out in some fashion, so that they tend to be less likely to punch a ballot at the top, since the top part of the ballot is used in every local election. Consequently the voting machines get more wear on that portion, and are more likely to fail to count votes for President. Has anyone else heard of this and does anyone know if it is true or not? >>

Is it at all possible that among older Florida voters with some arthritic difficulty in their hands or wrists, that there was a "practice effect" and they could not handle the voting apparatus when trying their first voting selection (US President) and thereafter with this practice, managed to exert enough pressure and sufficiently remove the chad when voting for other offices?

I know I haven't read of this possibility in the press, but if voters started at the top office/top of the ballot, it might have happened.

Milton R. Goldsamt, PhD
Research Statistician
U. S. Dept of Justice
miltgold@aol.com

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 21:02:27 -0800
From: Jeanne Anderson Research <ande271@attglobal.net>
Reply-To: ande271@attglobal.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en]C-CCK-MCD {TLC;RETAIL} (Win95; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
References: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128002204.02c81a00@mail.mindspring.com>
<3.0.6.32.20001128094213.00d8d2b0@opinion.isi.uconn.edu>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

One question would be whether the "dimpled" chads are clustered in a relatively few ballot punch cards. That is, did some people not have the strenght or whatever it took to punch out entire chads, and therefore produced punch cards with several dimpled chads? Alternatively, are there more dimpled/hanging chads per 100 or so "votes" for President than for each of the other offices? A case might be made that the Presidency, being the first office on the ballot, would be a "training ground" that a person would, after having sensed that more pressure than expected would be necessary, went on to press harder for the others. This, it seems to me, would suggest that the dimpled Presidential chad was an expression of intent.

"Richard C. Rockwell" wrote:

> Some AAPORNETer may be interested in trying to use survey and voting data
> to develop an answer to the following question: Is it credible that roughly
> 10,750 voters in Miami-Dade County cast no vote for President, although
> they voted? The answer may prove important in the contested election.
> These ballots have been prominently mentioned by David Boies, who (somewhat
> misleadingly) says they are ballots that have never been counted.
> According to media reports, they were counted in both the initial
> tabulation and in the automatic recount, but no vote for President was
> recorded from them.
>
> The possible rule (an "other evidence rule") that a voter who cast a
> straight line Democrat or Republican vote for all offices except President
> would be counted as having voted for the Presidential candidate of the
> otherwise-preferred party has the potential of overriding the voter's wish
> NOT to cast a vote for President. This could be the case even where a
> dimpled chad exists. As I considered casting such a none-vote myself, I
> would judge such a rule to be unfair.
>
> A survey in Miami-Dade would probably need a substantial sample size to
> make 10,750 none-votes credible, as it is very rare behavior among the
> hundreds of thousands of votes cast there. The ballots themselves may
> yield obscure or contentious evidence, such as dimples of unknown origin.
> Indeed, the argument for counting a dimple would seem weak for a ballot
> that was otherwise successfully voted. But there are at least three
> independent sources of information on this issue:
>
> (1) Post-election surveys, such as the National Election Studies. How many
> non-votes have historically been reported? A problem here is that,
> post-election, respondents tend to over-report having voted in the election
> and to over-report having voted for the winning candidate. However, even a
> small incidence of none-votes would be indicative.
>
> (2) Exit polls, which should be much less affected by the tendency to
> over-report voting. They should also pick up none-votes, if such were
> cast. The 2000 exit polls would be best, but archived exit polls could
> also be examined. I doubt that the sample size for Miami-Dade 2000 would

> be sufficient to cast much light on those 10,750 ballots, but that sample
> would be most interesting nevertheless.
>
> (3) Actual votes cast for President vs. actual votes cast for other
> offices. I've looked at 2000 results from three states, in each of which
> the total number of votes cast for President exceeded the total number of
> votes cast for Senator in 2000. However, this does not exactly tell us
> that people will cast a Presidential vote more often than another vote. A
> Federal law (1976?) mandates that any U.S. citizen should be able to cast a
> special Presidential Election ballot, for that race alone, even without
> having registered. One simply has to show up at the polling place in some
> states. One is not permitted to cast a vote for any office other than
> President. The effect of this would be to increase the number of
> Presidential votes cast. In Connecticut, there was a special ballot, and
> the media reported that it was in high demand - so much so that some
> polling places ran out of them. As would be expected, the states differ in
> how they have implemented this law, and none of them that I have seen makes
> readily available information on the number of special Presidential
> Election ballot votes cast. But it may be possible to obtain information
> on how many such ballots were handed out, or at worst, on how many such
> ballots were distributed to polling places. That count could then be
> subtracted from the number of Presidential votes cast and then compared to
> the number of votes cast for another office - and the corrected total might
> well be lower in the Presidential race, giving some credibility to the
> claim that some of those voters intended to cast no vote for President.

>
> -----
> Richard C. ROCKWELL
> Executive Director, The Roper Center & Institute for Social Inquiry
> Professor of Sociology
> 341 Mansfield Road, U-164
> Storrs, CT 06269-1164 USA
> V +1 860 486-4440
> F +1 860 486-6308
> richard@opinion.isi.uconn.edu

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 22:39:33 -0500
From: "Albert D. Biderman" <abider@american.edu>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.7 [en] (Win98; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: "How's that again?" Department
References: <3A24091F.E76AFB39@american.edu>
<4.1.20001128153858.009df720@pop.bol.ucla.edu>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The original message in this thread was my cut and paste from CNN's
site:

<<http://www.cnn.com/2000/ALLPOLITICS/stories/11/27/cnn.poll/index.html>>

It was an accurate copy from the original CNN display.

I apologize should I have created any confusion by my not having signed the original message. I often forget to reactivate the signature after turning it off while sending, say, a love letter. I know it's bad practice to leave the source of a message or originator of a thread unknown to readers whose e-mail does not show the "From"-headers of received messages and I regret doing that.

I appreciate ALLAN L MCCUTCHEON's showing us how Gallup's "Top Line" printed the items. He may well be correct in assuming that a simple copy reading failure was at fault here; the kind of thing that calls for special caution when doing a quickie like this poll was. I am prompted to wonder, however, how faithful reports of multi-option survey items are to how interviewers are instructed and equipped to ask these questions and record the answers. For instance, there are procedures that prevent double negative traps for interviewer or respondent and others that create them. I can think of survey counterparts of the Palm Beach Ballot error, where there was a simple path to giving and recording Response A, but complex and potentially confusing ones for recording any other alternative. In my experience, this kind of ambiguity in the National Crime Survey interview produced data that fueled controversies about rape incidence and about "gun use."

Albert D. Biderman
abider@american.edu.

Linda Bourque wrote:

> Part 1.1Type: Plain Text (text/plain)

=====
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 23:32:10 -0500
To: aapornet@usc.edu
From: dick halpern <rshalpern@mindspring.com>
Subject: Palestinian Survey: Attitudes towards Peace Process
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi folks,

While we are swimming in the US Election turmoil here is an interesting and depressing set of findings from a survey recently conducted among Palestinians. The findings suggest that the chances for any kind of Mid-East conflict resolution seem pretty slim. Full results can be obtained from the web site: www.birzeit.edu/dsp/ A full analysis and interpretation is provided.

Dick Halpern

++++
Sometimes people say it's just the leaders and that the Palestinian man in the street really doesn't support the fight against Israel and the Jews. Here is a recent Palestinian survey that clearly shows the PA tactics being employed have won the full support of it lay people.

----- Birzeit University Development Studies Programme

The Palestinian Intifada and the Peace Process 6-8 November 2000

Time & Date of publication: Evening, 13 November 2000

Date of field research: 6-8 November 2000

Sample size: 1,234 Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Number of field researchers: 55 male and female researchers Number of sample locations: 75 locations Percentage of error: (+ or - 3%)

Development Studies Programme Telephone: 972-2-2959250 Fax: 2958117

e-mail: dsp@palnet.com - www.birzeit.edu/dsp/

The Palestinian Intifada and the Peace Process - Detailed Results The Peace process

1. Do you believe that peace is possible between Palestinians and Israelis if East Jerusalem is not the capital of a Palestinian state? Yes 5.6 no 92.0 not sure 2.3
2. If East Jerusalem comes under Palestinian sovereignty, will you accept Israeli sovereignty over West Jerusalem? Yes 21.1 no 74.3 not sure 4.6
3. Do you believe that peace is possible between Palestinians and Israelis if Israel does not recognize the right of Palestinian refugees to return? Yes 4.9 no 91.5 not sure 3.5
4. Do you think that there is a real chance that all refugees will return from abroad ? Yes 44.4 no 44.5 not sure 11.2
5. Do you think that the peace process that started in 1993 will lead to a sovereign Palestinian state? Yes 33.7 no 50.8 not sure 15.5
6. Have your living conditions improved or deteriorated since the start of the peace process in 1993? Improve 14.3 deteriorate 45.0 no change 40.8
7. Do you think that the Oslo Accords and the subsequent agreements have lead to positive changes that benefit Palestinians? Yes 16.5 fair 24.2 no 54.9 not sure 4.3
8. Do you think that there is a chance for peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis? Yes 32.6 no 60.2 not sure 7.2
9. Do you support or oppose the continuation of the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis on the basis of the UN resolutions (including 242 and 33 ? I support 57.8 I oppose 34.8 not sure 7.4
10. If negotiations continue, who should guide and watch over them? USA 3.2 UN 38.9 Others 39.9 not sure 18.0
11. Do you think Ehud Barak is a leader the Palestinian leadership can negotiate with? Yes 8.8 no 84.9 not sure 6.3
12. Do you support or oppose military attacks against American targets in the region? Support 72.9 oppose 21.7 not sure 5.4
13. In the case of establishing an independent Palestinian State,

would you view a friendship between a Palestinian and an Israeli positively? Yes 30.7 no 64.8 not sure 4.5 The current Intifada

1. Do you support the continuation of the current Intifada?
Yes 75.1 no 20.6 not sure 4.3

2. What means should the intifada adopt if it is to be successful?
Peaceful means 24.2 military means 32.2 a combination 38.9 not sure 4.8

3. Do you support or oppose the participation of children (under 18 in the confrontations? Support 23.5 oppose 74.1 not sure 2.3

4. In your opinion, what is the ultimate goal of the current Intifada? 10.1 reinforce the position of Palestinian negotiators 68.3 liberation an independent state 16.3 there is no clear goals 5.3 others (specify -----)

5. In general, do you think that the current Intifada will contribute positively to achieving Palestinian national goals? Yes 76.7 no 13.8 not sure 9.5

6. Do you think that the current Intifada will continue for -----?
Days 7.8 months 29.8 years 24.4 don't know 38.0

7. Do you think that Palestinian society is ready for a long-term and intensifying conflict? Yes 54.9 no 37.7 not sure 7.4

8. Do you support or oppose military attacks against Israeli targets at the present time? Support 80.0 oppose 15.1 not sure 4.9

9. If you support military attacks, what should be the target of these attacks? 11.7 Support only against military targets 03.0 support only against settlers 33.1 against both military & settlers 00.4 against civilians in the 1948 proper 62.3 against all Israelis regardless

Team leader: Dr. Nader Said. Research team: Ayman Abdul-Majid, Ayoub Mustapha, Maisa Jayousi, Ghassan Abu Hatab, Rania al-Asmar.

Technical and administrative team: Noran Nassif, Raqia Abu Ghoush, Nibal Thawabteh, Nawal Abu-Hadid, Shahnaz Jubran, Abed Khooli.

* Translation: Vera Noufal; English Editing: Peter Leckman. Steering Committee: Ramzi Rihan: Vice-President for Planning and Development (Birzeit University) Jamil Hillal:

Senior researcher, member of the advisory committee for the Palestinian Human Development Report Reema Hamami:

Coordinator of the Post-Graduate Programme at the Women's Studies Institute (Birzeit University) Mu'in Rajab:

Professor of Economics (Al-Azhar University) Jamil Rabah:

Survey Research Expert
Manhal Shaath: Doctorate in statistics (Al-Azhar University)

=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 00:21:29 -0500
From: "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
To: "Aapornet@Usc. Edu" <aapornet@usc.edu>,
 "Valerie Mamrosh" <Beav1978@aol.com>,
Cc: "Y1967-L@Aya. Yale. Edu" <y1967-1@aya.yale.edu>,
 "Andrew A. Beveridge" <andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
Subject: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA
Message-ID: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGCPCFJBPIECGCHAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2911.0)
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2919.6700

>From Wednesday's Times

Racial Pattern in Demographics of Error-Prone Ballots
By JOSH BARBANEL and FORD FESSENDEN

When Florida's votes were counted on Election Day, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas had a tiny but possibly decisive edge: the majority of the state's black voters, Vice President Al Gore's most reliable voters, stalwart supporters, cast their ballots on punch cards that are more prone to voter error and miscounts.

Across the state, nearly 4 percent of the type of punch-card ballots most widely used in Florida were thrown out because the machines read them as blank or invalid. By contrast, the more modern, optical scanning systems rejected far fewer votes - only about 1.4 percent of those cast.

A New York Times analysis shows that 64 percent of the state's black voters live in counties that used the punch cards while 56 percent of whites did so. While black voters made up 16 percent of the vote on Election Day, that small difference, the analysis suggests, could have had a decisive effect on an election decided by only a few hundred votes out of nearly six million. Exit polls show that blacks voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Gore.

Vice President Al Gore raised the issue of the disproportionate effect of the punch-card ballot yesterday as he defended the Democrats' demands for recounts in three counties that used them. "The old and cheap, outdated machinery is usually found in areas with populations that are of lower income, minorities, seniors on fixed incomes," Mr. Gore said.

In Florida, county officials determined in each county what kinds of machines to use for voting. In some of the counties where punch cards are used, the officials are Republicans; in others, they are Democrats.

While Mr. Gore was citing the differences in voting systems as part of his argument for a recount, Allan J. Lichtman, chairman of the Department of History at American University in Washington, who has testified in dozens of voting rights lawsuits, said they could violate federal law, even if the variations were not intentional or politically motivated.

"If minorities have less of an opportunity to participate fully in the process, that's a direct violation of the Voting Rights Act," Mr. Lichtman said.

When optical ballot scanners are used, voters mark their choice with a pencil next to the name of their candidate. This appears to make them less susceptible to voter error.

The large number of ballots in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties in which the paper punch-card machines detected no choice for president has stirred controversy. Democrats say many of these ballots were failed attempts to cast votes; Republicans say these voters had no preference for either candidate or failed to register their choice correctly.

A survey of several large Florida counties turned up an anomaly: Floridians whose ballots were read by the machines as not registering a choice for president were much more likely to have voted with computer punch cards.

In Orange County, the largest to use the optical equipment, only 1 in 300 ballots was blank in the presidential race. In Manatee and Brevard Counties, the rate approached 1 in 800. Mr. Bush easily carried Manatee and Brevard Counties while Mr. Gore prevailed in Orange.

The punch-card-voting counties, by contrast, had sharply higher numbers of people tallied as having no vote for president. In Miami-Dade, the Florida county with the most votes cast, the machines read 1 in 60 ballots as having no vote for president. In Hillsborough, near Tampa, it was 1 in 67. And in Pinellas County, it was 1 of 96.

Mr. Gore won Miami-Dade and Pinellas while Mr. Bush carried Hillsborough.

The Times analysis showed that registered Democrats in Florida were only slightly more likely to vote in counties that use punch-card machines than Republicans. But 63 percent of Mr. Gore's votes were counted on the type of punch-card machines at issue in Palm Beach County, compared with 55 percent of Mr. Bush's.

Statewide, the pattern was reversed on the optical scan systems. Forty percent of the Bush votes were tallied on these systems, compared with 33 percent for Mr. Gore.

The impact of these differences on the outcome will never be known but their potential magnitude is evident in Miami-Dade County, where predominantly black precincts saw their votes thrown out at twice the rate as Hispanic precincts and nearly four times the rate of white precincts. In all, 1 out of 11 ballots in predominantly black precincts were rejected, a total of

9,904.

Had all people cast ballots that could be counted along the same lines as their neighbors, Mr. Gore would have gained nearly 7,000 votes.

Florida voters cast their ballots in a patchwork of different voting technologies. Nearly 60 percent of voters cast ballots on the punch ballot system, while more than a third use optical scanning system. Some small counties use paper ballots, or mechanical voting machines.

Each county makes its own decisions on which type of machine to use, and there have been no indications that the choice of machine is designed to favor any party or candidate.

Chuck Smith, a systems administrator in Hillsborough County, said that the county had long been aware of limitations of the punch ballot system used there and had been working for years on a successor system.

But he said that when he headed a study of alternatives for three Florida counties, he found that the optical scanning system was costly to set up, and was prone to other problems. Instead, he said, the county is waiting for the state to approve companies that could supply an electronic voting system.

He said companies had been slow to provide the state with software and equipment for testing, but he expected that process to speed up, once the books are finally closed on the presidential election.

"I think it will move much faster now," he said.

Across the country, the punch-card systems have resulted in significantly higher numbers of uncounted ballots. In 467 counties that used punch cards with pre-punched cards in the 1996 presidential election, according to a New York Times analysis, 661,000 of the 25 million ballots were not counted, or 2.6 percent of the total.

In 729 counties that used optical scanning technology, 1.9 percent of the ballots cast had no votes for president counted, according to the Times analysis of data provided by Election Data Services, a nonpartisan consulting firm in Washington.

But in areas where the voting technology prevents voting for more than one person in a race - on lever machines, for instance - the percentage of voters who cast no presidential vote was low this year. In Connecticut, only one half of 1 percent of those who went to the polls failed to cast a presidential vote.

Andrew A. Beveridge
209 Kissena Hall
Department of Sociology
Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
Phone: 718-997-2837
Fax: 718-997-2820
E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>

Home Office
50 Merriam Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
Phone: 914-337-6237
Fax: 914-337-8210

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2000 22:38:19 -0800 (PST)
From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>
To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Breakup of Voter News Service Urged by Antitrust Advocacy Group
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.4.21.0011282226510.8402-100000@almaak.usc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

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www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20001128/aponline124909_000.htm

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2000; 12:49 p.m. EST

Breakup of Voter News Service Urged

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- An antitrust advocacy group urged the Justice Department to try to breakup Voter News Service, arguing the joint venture contributed to the major television networks' making the same mistakes in declaring a winner of the presidential race in Florida.

Writing for the American Antitrust Institute, University of Baltimore law professor Robert H. Lande said that the five television networks -- ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and CNN -- and The Associated Press combined their exit polling operations in the joint venture to save money. "Since they all relied upon the same pooled data, they all made the same error," Lande wrote.

Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona said Tuesday, "Like any letter we receive, we'll take a look at it."

The networks, AP and VNS itself called Florida for Vice President Al Gore Tuesday evening, Nov. 7. Hours later, they all retracted that call. Early Wednesday, the networks called Florida for Texas Gov. George W. Bush, only to later retract that call as well. The AP and VNS did not call Florida for Bush.

The VNS partners are independently reviewing their election night performances to prevent future errors. VNS officials were not immediately

available for comment.

The antitrust institute, composed of academics, lawyers and businessmen, advocates more aggressive antitrust policy and calls itself "centrist" and "a counterweight to conservative influence."

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20001128/aponline124909_000.htm

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Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:12:14 -0500
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Canadian Elections
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
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This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

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 charset="iso-8859-1"

This would seem to answer the question that none of the lawyers could answer before the Florida Supreme Court, namely, how could we reasonably expect a County to hand count ballots within 7 days after the polls close.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Williams [mailto:wwilliam@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 4:44 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Canadian Elections

Seems to me this deserves some comparative thought. Comments?

Canada Hand-Counts Votes in 4 Hours Tue Nov 28 18:36:00 2000 GMT OTTAWA (AP)
- Florida vote canvassers, take note. Within four hours after the last polls closed in Canada's parliamentary election, officials at 50,000 polling stations had hand-counted virtually every one of nearly 13 million paper ballots.

There were glitches, to be sure - an angry voter seized a ballot box in Nova

Scotia and threw it into a polluted lagoon. But overall, Canada's federal elections system, which uses no counting machines, had a smooth Election Night.

>From Newfoundland to Yukon, across the world's second-largest country, roughly 150,000 election workers fanned out Monday to a far-flung network of polling stations. Even in the biggest cities, no one station serves more than 500 registered voters - most of the officers entrusted with the hand-counting had to handle no more than 300 or 400 ballots.

Pierre Blain, a spokesman for Elections Canada, said the system stresses transparency, with each party entitled to deploy a representative to watch the polling station chief count the ballots.

Any complaints can be registered with national elections officials; recounts are conducted automatically in cases of extremely narrow victory margins.

Though some of Monday's 301 parliamentary races were close, the overall result was clear-cut: Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Party won its third straight majority government while increasing its seats in the House of Commons from 161 to 173.

Blain, in a telephone interview Tuesday, politely declined to pass judgment on the electoral chaos in Florida, which was compounded by the use of different voting systems in various counties.

``All the democracies must look at their systems themselves,'' Blain said. ``It's not for somebody from another country to look at them.''

``The most important thing is that people must vote,'' he said. ``I'm sure the workers in Florida did their best.''

The Canadian system, in place for a century, uses traditional paper ballots, to be marked with an ``X'' beside the name of the preferred parliamentary candidate. There are no hanging chads, no questions about mechanical snafus.

In Nova Scotia, though, there was little that election officials could do when a man ran off with a ballot box and threw it into a waste-treatment lagoon.

Alexander MacKenzie, who had sought compensation for living near the polluted water, was arrested for the theft, spent Monday night in jail, then was released pending a Dec. 18 court appearance.

The box was recovered with the ballots still legible, but under Canadian law they were discarded because they had been removed from official supervision. The polling station contacted the 125 people who had cast ballots; about 70 returned to vote again.

There were some systematic glitches, as well. At some polling stations, people arrived to find they were not on the list of eligible voters; many were confused even though most were permitted to vote if they had valid identification and spare time to register on the spot.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment for Elections Canada was the meager voter turnout of 63 percent - the lowest in more than 75 years.

``Everywhere in the world, there seems to be a trend of turnout going down,' Blain said. ``Our task is simply to make sure there are no impediments for those who want to vote.''

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W. H. Williams

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Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Hunter College, City University of New York
695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021
212-772-4656/5300

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size=2>-----Original Message-----
From: Bill Williams
[mailto:wwilliam@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November
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To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Canadian
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<P>W. H. Williams </P>

<P>Executive Director, Hunter College Big Apple Poll </P>

<P>Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics </P>

<P>Hunter College, City University of New York </P>

<P>695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 </P>

<P>212-772-4656/5300 </P></BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

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Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:04:45 -0600
From: David_Moore@gallup.com
Received: by exchng10.gallup.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
id <W0JG29MW>; Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:03:05 -0600
Message-ID: <D18E70780D62D1119580006008162F90011A023C@EXCHNG3>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: "How's that again?" Department
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Here is a copy of the topline with all of the questions included for that survey. It is in a WORD document (WORD 97, SR-2). The questions that are relevant to the message below are #13 and #12 respectively.

David W. Moore
The Gallup Organization
47 Hulfish Street
Princeton, NJ 08542
(609) 924-9600
david_moore@gallup.com

Have you been briefed?
Click the link to receive the Gallup Tuesday Briefing, our weekly e-mail publication.
< <http://www.gallup.com/update/contact.asp>
<<http://www.gallup.com/update/contact.asp>> >

-----Original Message-----

From: Garrett J. O'Keefe [mailto:gjokeefe@facstaff.wisc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 6:10 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: "How's that again?" Department

AAPOR Colleagues:

I assume there has been some kind of transmission error in the message below, and/or our reputable friends at Gallup have something to explain to us? Whichever, it's pretty bizarre!

Garrett O'Keefe

At 02:35 PM 11/28/00 -0500, you wrote:

Copied from:

Politics from All Politics from CNN.com 11/28/2000

12:58

Web posted at: 11:07 p.m. EST (0407 GMT) CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Do you think the media have been paying too much attention or the right amount of attention to the election situation in Florida? Yes 47% No 51 CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL November 26-27 Which comes closer to your view -- there has been permanent harm done to the United States as a result of the election process this year, or there has been no permanent harm done to the United States as a result of the election process this year? Yes 37% No 62

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Precinct 216 had modem trouble, so workers fed its memory card into the headquarters' central computer. "Gore just went backward," an election watcher said.

"You're tired," Lowe replied. "You must be seeing things." Then another observer chimed in: Gore's count had gone backward.

Lowe ordered all of the precincts reviewed. At 1:24 a.m., the review showed that 412 of 585 registered voters in Precinct 216 had cast ballots - but that they had given 2,813 votes to Bush! Gore had a negative vote: minus 16,022. Ralph Nader's negative vote was even greater. The problem was traced to an error in the memory card.

Bad information means bad call

Meanwhile, the decision desks of the five networks and The Associated Press, owners of Voter News Service (VNS), were looking at models that included the negative Gore count. "That contributed to a statewide number that made it look like Bush was more than 50,000 ahead of Gore, with 97% reported and about 180,000 votes still to be counted," recalls Warren Mitofsky, who headed the CNN/CBS decision desk. "You can't make up 50,000 out of 180,000. I would have made that call without hearing anybody else's call."

Mitofsky is the dean of election-night estimators. His moves are watched by the other decision desks. "Warren is just so knowledgeable, you do take that into consideration," says Paul J. Lavrakas, who has been an election consultant for VNS.

But what none of the decision-makers knew was that Bush's lead then really was closer to 30,000. The estimation model correctly was forecasting it would drop by 30,000, so the right number would have projected a tie - which in fact it did later in the morning after the Volusia error was fixed.

The real vote in Precinct 216 was 22 for Bush and 193 for Gore. Nader got one.

Not all made the call

The VNS side of this story has yet to be told. VNS' head, Murray Edelman, gave a previously scheduled talk after the election to the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, but would not discuss the case. That's a pity, because both VNS and the AP deserve credit for never jumping on that early morning Bush bandwagon. We'd all like to know what they saw that the networks missed.

When they created VNS, the networks intended it to do everyone's calls. But in 1994, the AP and ABC jumped ship, with each doing its own projecting from the pooled data. The others followed - at the cost of disconnecting analysts from their data.

Networks do check each other. But they all feel the same pressure: If viewers are scanning channels, who are they watching? The anchor with the winner's name or the one who admits he hasn't figured it out yet? With a system like that, we don't need a conspiracy theory.

Philip Meyer, who holds the Knight Chair in Journalism at the University of North Carolina, is a USA TODAY consultant and member of its board of contributors.

```
=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism  Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall                    Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina            Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365              http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====
```

```
=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 09:54:27 -0500 (EST)
From: Howard Schuman <hschuman@umich.edu>
X-Sender: hschuman@galaxian.gpcc.itd.umich.edu
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Palestinian Survey: Attitudes towards Peace Process
In-Reply-To: <5.0.0.25.2.20001128232751.02cce620@mail.mindspring.com>
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.4.10.10011290933480.8608-100000@galaxian.gpcc.itd.umich.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII
=====
```

Although it is interesting to see such results, circulating survey marginals as though they speak for themselves is apt to be highly misleading, even if sampling and other standard methodological concerns have been adequately addressed. In addition to the fact that varying question wording can alter answers appreciably and that the interviewing context can do the same on responses to interviewers, there can be rapid changes in attitudes and actions depending on the larger political context. A few years ago somewhat similar claims were made about Israeli survey results and they did not anticipate the potential support for later negotiations. We need to keep in mind the limitations of survey marginals in telling us about the future, the more so in the volatile world of Israelis and Palestinians. Howard

On Tue, 28 Nov 2000, dick halpern wrote:

```
> Hi folks,
>
> While we are swimming in the US Election turmoil here is an interesting and
> depressing set of findings from a survey recently conducted among
> Palestinians. The findings suggest that the chances for any kind of
> Mid-East conflict resolution seem pretty slim. Full results can be obtained
> from the web site: www.birzeit.edu/dsp/ A full analysis and
> interpretation is provided.
>
> Dick Halpern
> ++++++
> Sometimes people say it's just the leaders and that the Palestinian
> man in the street really doesn't support the fight against Israel and
> the Jews. Here is a recent Palestinian survey that clearly shows the
> PA tactics being employed have won the full support of it lay people.
```

>
> -----
> ----- Birzeit University Development Studies Programme
>
> The Palestinian Intifada and the Peace Process 6-8 November 2000
>
> Time & Date of publication: Evening, 13 November 2000
> Date of field research: 6-8 November 2000
> Sample size: 1,234 Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
> Number of field researchers: 55 male and female researchers Number of
> sample locations: 75 locations Percentage of error: (+ or - 3%)
> Development Studies Programme Telephone: 972-2-2959250 Fax: 2958117
> e-mail: dsp@palnet.com - www.birzeit.edu/dsp/
>
> The Palestinian Intifada and the Peace Process - Detailed Results The
> Peace process
>
> 1. Do you believe that peace is possible between Palestinians and
> Israelis if East Jerusalem is not the capital of a Palestinian state?
> Yes 5.6 no 92.0 not sure 2.3
>
> 2. If East Jerusalem comes under Palestinian sovereignty, will you
> accept Israeli sovereignty over West Jerusalem? Yes 21.1 no 74.3 not
> sure 4.6
>
> 3. Do you believe that peace is possible between Palestinians and
> Israelis if Israel does not recognize the right of Palestinian
> refugees to return? Yes 4.9 no 91.5 not sure 3.5
>
> 4. Do you think that there is a real chance that all refugees will
> return from abroad ? Yes 44.4 no 44.5 not sure 11.2
>
> 5. Do you think that the peace process that started in 1993 will lead
> to a sovereign Palestinian state? Yes 33.7 no 50.8 not sure 15.5
>
> 6. Have your living conditions improved or deteriorated since the
> start of the peace process in 1993? Improve 14.3 deteriorate 45.0 no
> change 40.8
>
> 7. Do you think that the Oslo Accords and the subsequent agreements
> have lead to positive changes that benefit Palestinians? Yes 16.5 fair
> 24.2 no 54.9 not sure 4.3
>
> 8. Do you think that there is a chance for peaceful coexistence
> between Palestinians and Israelis? Yes 32.6 no 60.2 not sure 7.2
>
> 9. Do you support or oppose the continuation of the peace process
> between Palestinians and Israelis on the basis of the UN resolutions
> (including 242 and 33 ? I support 57.8 I oppose 34.8 not sure 7.4
>
> 10. If negotiations continue, who should guide and watch over them?
> USA 3.2 UN 38.9 Others 39.9 not sure 18.0
>
> 11. Do you think Ehud Barak is a leader the Palestinian leadership
> can negotiate with? Yes 8.8 no 84.9 not sure 6.3
>
> 12. Do you support or oppose military attacks against American

> targets in the region? Support 72.9 oppose 21.7 not sure 5.4
>
> 13. In the case of establishing an independent Palestinian State,
> would you view a friendship between a Palestinian and an Israeli
> positively? Yes 30.7 no 64.8 not sure 4.5 The current Intifada
>
> 1. Do you support the continuation of the current Intifada?
> Yes 75.1 no 20.6 not sure 4.3
>
> 2. What means should the intifada adopt if it is to be successful?
> Peaceful means 24.2 military means 32.2 a combination 38.9 not sure
> 4.8
>
> 3. Do you support or oppose the participation of children (under 18
> in the confrontations? Support 23.5 oppose 74.1 not sure 2.3
>
> 4. In your opinion, what is the ultimate goal of the current
> Intifada? 10.1 reinforce the position of Palestinian negotiators 68.3
> liberation an independent state 16.3 there is no clear goals 5.3
> others (specify -----)
>
> 5. In general, do you think that the current Intifada will contribute
> positively to achieving Palestinian national goals? Yes 76.7 no 13.8
> not sure 9.5
>
> 6. Do you think that the current Intifada will continue for -----?
> Days 7.8 months 29.8 years 24.4 don't know 38.0
>
> 7. Do you think that Palestinian society is ready for a long-term and
> intensifying conflict? Yes 54.9 no 37.7 not sure 7.4
>
> 8. Do you support or oppose military attacks against Israeli targets
> at the present time? Support 80.0 oppose 15.1 not sure 4.9
>
> 9. If you support military attacks, what should be the target of
> these attacks? 11.7 Support only against military targets 03.0 support
> only against settlers 33.1 against both military & settlers 00.4
> against civilians in the 1948 proper 62.3 against all Israelis
> regardless
>
>
> Team leader: Dr. Nader Said. Research team: Ayman Abdul-Majid,
> Ayoub Mustapha, Maisa Jayousi, Ghassan Abu Hatab, Rania al-
> Asmar.
>
> Technical and administrative team: Noran Nassif, Raqia Abu
> Ghoush, Nibal Thawabteh, Nawal Abu-Hadid, Shahnaz Jubran,
> Abed Khooli.
>
> * Translation: Vera Noufal; English Editing: Peter Leckman.
> Steering Committee: Ramzi Rihan: Vice-President for Planning
> and Development (Birzeit University) Jamil Hillal:
>
> Senior researcher, member of the advisory committee for the
> Palestinian Human Development Report Reema Hamami:
>
> Coordinator of the Post-Graduate Programme at the Women's

> Studies Institute (Birzeit University) Mu'in Rajab:
>
> Professor of Economics (Al-Azhar University) Jamil Rabah:
>
> Survey Research Expert
> Manhal Shaath: Doctorate in statistics (Al-Azhar University)
>
> ---
>

=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 07:24:44 -0800
From: LPollack@psg.ucsf.edu
Received: by psg.ucsf.edu with Internet Mail Service (5.0.1460.8)
id <X5KCPJD7>; Wed, 29 Nov 2000 07:25:22 -0800
Message-ID: <416EB4C5227AD411B2460090274CEA16019837@psg189.ucsf.edu>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.0.1460.8)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

All of these arguments beg for hand counts of apparent "nonvoting ballots". To the argument that the number of nonvotes hasn't changed much I would say you have simply established what proportion of voters are commonly disenfranchised (some by intent, some not). It is just that elections are rarely this close so these ballots would have NO INFLUENCE ON THE OUTCOME, the operative phrase in most statutes about recounts. Given the closeness of this particular race, it would appear the circumstances demand an examination of these ballots to determine if disenfranchisement was the result of mechanical failure rather than personal choice.

Let us also not forget that the original election night tally had Bush ahead by 1700+ votes (1785 sticks in my mind). Due to the closeness of the outcome, Florida statute required a recount which as I understand it was done entirely by machine, no hand recounts. The result was a Bush lead in the vicinity of 500+ votes, a drop of around 1200 votes. I for one did not expect that to happen. While this is only .02% out of 6 million votes cast, it's an almost two-thirds drop in the spread. This suggests to me that there was some differential impact of something, and voting method seems a likely culprit.

Lance M. Pollack, Ph.D.
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
University of California, San Francisco
lpollack@psg.ucsf.edu <mailto:lpollack@psg.ucsf.edu>

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew A. Beveridge [SMTP:andy@troll.soc.qc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 9:21 PM
To: Aapornet@Usc. Edu; Valerie Mamrosh
Cc: Y1967-L@Aya. Yale. Edu; Andrew A. Beveridge
Subject: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA

>From Wednesday's Times

Racial Pattern in Demographics of Error-Prone Ballots
By JOSH BARBANEL and FORD FESSENDEN

When Florida's votes were counted on Election Day, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas had a tiny but possibly decisive edge: the majority of the state's black voters, Vice President Al Gore's most reliable voters, stalwart supporters, cast their ballots on punch cards that are more prone to voter error and miscounts.

Across the state, nearly 4 percent of the type of punch-card ballots most widely used in Florida were thrown out because the machines read them as blank or invalid. By contrast, the more modern, optical scanning systems rejected far fewer votes - only about 1.4 percent of those cast.

A New York Times analysis shows that 64 percent of the state's black voters live in counties that used the punch cards while 56 percent of whites did so. While black voters made up 16 percent of the vote on Election Day, that small difference, the analysis suggests, could have had a decisive effect on an election decided by only a few hundred votes out of nearly six million. Exit polls show that blacks voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Gore.

Vice President Al Gore raised the issue of the disproportionate effect of the punch-card ballot yesterday as he defended the Democrats' demands for recounts in three counties that used them. "The old and cheap, outdated machinery is usually found in areas with populations that are of lower income, minorities, seniors on fixed incomes," Mr. Gore said.

In Florida, county officials determined in each county what kinds of machines to use for voting. In some of the counties where punch cards are used, the officials are Republicans; in others, they are Democrats.

While Mr. Gore was citing the differences in voting systems as part of his

argument for a recount, Allan J. Lichtman, chairman of the Department of History at American University in Washington, who has testified in dozens of voting rights lawsuits, said they could violate federal law, even if the variations were not intentional or politically motivated.

"If minorities have less of an opportunity to participate fully in the process, that's a direct violation of the Voting Rights Act," Mr. Lichtman said.

When optical ballot scanners are used, voters mark their choice with a pencil next to the name of their candidate. This appears to make them less susceptible to voter error.

The large number of ballots in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties in which the paper punch-card machines detected no choice for president has stirred controversy. Democrats say many of these ballots were failed attempts to cast votes; Republicans say these voters had no preference for either candidate or failed to register their choice correctly.

A survey of several large Florida counties turned up an anomaly: Floridians whose ballots were read by the machines as not registering a choice for president were much more likely to have voted with computer punch cards.

In Orange County, the largest to use the optical equipment, only 1 in 300 ballots was blank in the presidential race. In Manatee and Brevard Counties, the rate approached 1 in 800. Mr. Bush easily carried Manatee and Brevard Counties while Mr. Gore prevailed in Orange.

The punch-card-voting counties, by contrast, had sharply higher numbers of people tallied as having no vote for president. In Miami-Dade, the Florida county with the most votes cast, the machines read 1 in 60 ballots as having no vote for president. In Hillsborough, near Tampa, it was 1 in 67. And in Pinellas County, it was 1 of 96.

Mr. Gore won Miami-Dade and Pinellas while Mr. Bush carried Hillsborough.

The Times analysis showed that registered Democrats in Florida were only slightly more likely to vote in counties that use punch-card machines than Republicans. But 63 percent of Mr. Gore's votes were counted on the type of punch-card machines at issue in Palm Beach County, compared with 55 percent of Mr. Bush's.

Statewide, the pattern was reversed on the optical scan systems. Forty percent of the Bush votes were tallied on these systems, compared with 33 percent for Mr. Gore.

The impact of these differences on the outcome will never be known but their potential magnitude is evident in Miami-Dade County, where predominantly black precincts saw their votes thrown out at twice the rate as Hispanic precincts and nearly four times the rate of white precincts. In all, 1 out of 11 ballots in predominantly black precincts were rejected, a total of 9,904.

Had all people cast ballots that could be counted along the same lines as their neighbors, Mr. Gore would have gained nearly 7,000 votes.

Florida voters cast their ballots in a patchwork of different voting technologies. Nearly 60 percent of voters cast ballots on the punch ballot system, while more than a third use optical scanning system. Some small counties use paper ballots, or mechanical voting machines.

Each county makes its own decisions on which type of machine to use, and there have been no indications that the choice of machine is designed to favor any party or candidate.

Chuck Smith, a systems administrator in Hillsborough County, said that the county had long been aware of limitations of the punch ballot system used there and had been working for years on a successor system.

But he said that when he headed a study of alternatives for three Florida counties, he found that the optical scanning system was costly to set up, and was prone to other problems. Instead, he said, the county is waiting for

the state to approve companies that could supply an electronic voting system.

He said companies had been slow to provide the state with software and equipment for testing, but he expected that process to speed up, once the books are finally closed on the presidential election.

"I think it will move much faster now," he said.

Across the country, the punch-card systems have resulted in significantly higher numbers of uncounted ballots. In 467 counties that used punch cards with pre-punched cards in the 1996 presidential election, according to a New York Times analysis, 661,000 of the 25 million ballots were not counted, or 2.6 percent of the total.

In 729 counties that used optical scanning technology, 1.9 percent of the ballots cast had no votes for president counted, according to the Times analysis of data provided by Election Data Services, a nonpartisan consulting firm in Washington.

But in areas where the voting technology prevents voting for more than one person in a race - on lever machines, for instance - the percentage of voters who cast no presidential vote was low this year. In Connecticut, only one half of 1 percent of those who went to the polls failed to cast a presidential vote.

Andrew A. Beveridge
209 Kissena Hall
Department of Sociology
Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597
Phone: 718-997-2837
Fax: 718-997-2820
E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>

Home Office
50 Merriam Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
Phone: 914-337-6237
Fax: 914-337-8210

Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 10:41:27 -0500
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: "Aapornet (E-mail)" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Position Posting Nielsen Media Research
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2651.58)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

New Position Posting

Nielsen Media Research (NMR) is seeking applicants for an open salaried Senior Research Analyst to work on the Internet Ratings Panel.

This is a new position within NMR's Methodological Research Department and is located in our Tampa (Dunedin) Florida office. Relocation assistance is available.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This position includes the following duties and activities:

- * Write and Maintain survey collection instruments
- * Initiate and design Research projects
- * Execute data collection and data analysis activities for research projects and routine reporting
- * Train associates in procedures used to conduct research projects

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

BS/BA in Social Science, Statistics or equivalent

Knowledge of:

 Mechanics of research design for telephone, mail or in-person surveys
 Call Center Operations
 Microsoft Office, (Excel, Powerpoint and Word)

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Masters degree in Social Science, Statistics or equivalent
Knowledge of sampling theory
Knowledge of Internet or Internet applications
Familiarity with SAS, SPSS or other data analysis software

Interested parties should contact Kelly Feeney, Nielsen Media Research, 375 Patricia Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698-8190; Office: 727-738-3476; Fax: 727-738-3012; Email: FeeneyK@TVRatings.com <mailto:FeeneyK@TVRatings.com>

Please indicate JOB POSTING #KF81500SRA on all correspondence.

NMR strongly encourages the application of women and minorities to all open positions.

John Huffman
Statistical and Methodological Research
Nielsen Media Research
Dunedin, FL 34898
727.738.3000 ext 5648
john_huffman@tvratings.com

=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 10:56:44 -0500
From: Frank Rusciano <rusciano@rider.edu>
Subject: Re: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Message-id: <3A25273C.2AC5C20F@rider.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.72 [en]C-CCK-MCD {RIDER} (Win95; I)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT
X-Accept-Language: en
References: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPIECGCHAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

I noted this in the New York Times also. The question under the Voting Rights Act, though, may hinge on whether these ballots were "intentionally" distributed in areas where there were higher concentrations of racial minorities, or whether this was just an "accident" of location due to these areas being poorer and therefore less prone to use more modern methods. I would argue that it doesn't matter-- disenfranchisement has apparently occurred regardless of intent here. However, the present U.S. Supreme Court, to my knowledge (and I am not an expert here), tends to use the harder to prove standard of "intent" in many cases.

Frank Rusciano

"Andrew A. Beveridge" wrote:

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> By JOSH BARBANEL and FORD FESSENDEN
>
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> only
> one half of 1 percent of those who went to the polls failed to cast a
> presidential vote.
>
> Andrew A. Beveridge
> 209 Kissena Hall
> Department of Sociology
> Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
> Flushing, NY 11367-1597
> Phone: 718-997-2837
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> E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
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>
> Home Office
> 50 Merriam Avenue
> Bronxville, NY 10708
> Phone: 914-337-6237
> Fax: 914-337-8210

Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 10:14:40 -0600
From: Linda Owens <lindao@SRL.UIC.EDU>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Characteristics of listed and unlisted households

Can someone give me a few references for research that
describes the differences between listed and unlisted
households?
thanks,
Linda Owens

Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:14:45 -0800
From: Earl Babbie <babbie@chapman.edu>
Reply-To: babbie@chapman.edu
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.73C-CCK-MCD {C-UDP; EBM-APPLE} (Macintosh; U; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA
References: <NEBBIBIOIKDMKGC PFJBPIECGCHAA.andy@troll.soc.qc.edu>

<3A25273C.2AC5C20F@rider.edu>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854"; x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Institutional racism is a hard sell, because Americans have such an individualist bias in such matters. Remember, an earlier Supreme Court refused to judge the death penalty racist unless individual jurors would admit that they made their decisions based on race. Clear statistical patterns (which the court didn't deny) just didn't cut it.

In a more perfect world, the crisis in Florida would result in a call for social scientists to analyze the data and offer interpretations, just as medical experts would be called in to account for a strange distribution of some disease.

At the very least, the teachers among us have a new batch of course materials.

And the more aggressive secondary analysts will eventually tell us who really won.

My personal prediction is that Bush will be inaugurated on January 20th, will serve two years under a cloud, resulting in a Democratic takeover of the Congress in 2002, which body will impeach Bush for vote tampering, a shocking development that gives Cheney a heart attack--and Dick Gephardt finally becomes president. Or something like that.

Earl

Frank Rusciano wrote:

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> However, the present U.S. Supreme Court, to my knowledge (and I am not an expert here), tends to use the harder to prove standard of "intent" in many cases.
>
> Frank Rusciano
>

--

kth Law of CyberSpace: We are all, as individuals, in over our heads.

Earl Babbie
babbie@chapman.edu

Tel: 714-997-6565
Fax: 714-281-6213

<http://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/socsci/sociology/Faculty/Babbie/>

A day without cancer is like. . .a day without cancer.

=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 08:19:50 -0800
From: Bill McCready <BMcCready@knowledgenetworks.com>
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: RE: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

It does seem odd that many of our counties are having their citizens vote by pushing a round peg through a square hole.

Bill McCready

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Werner [mailto:jwerner@jwdp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 4:59 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: 10,750 none-votes for President in Miami-Dade County?

The problem with the Votomatic ballots used in Florida and many other places is not the equipment used to count the ballots, but that they use pre-perforated cards and a stylus to push out the perforated section--the chad that we have all come to know so well.

Anyone who has ever worked with pre-perforated cards knows that the chads have a tendency not to separate cleanly from the rest of the card, and when that happens, running the card through a machine will often actually push the chad back into its hole, so that the vote will not be counted.

In the olden days, we often removed an incorrect punch in a Hollerith card by picking up a chad with a pencil eraser and pushing it back into the punch hole, then duplicating the "corrected" card in a keypunch or reproducing machine.

Punching a card with a keypunch produces a clean perforation that will count properly with nearly zero error rate, no matter how many times it is read through a sorter or card reader.

There are other voting systems that use cards that are not pre-perforated and a machine or spring-loaded mechanism to punch the vote into the ballot, and these have virtually no counting error. However, these machines cost more than the Votomatic, which has no

mechanical parts, and are therefore less common.

Jan Werner

dick halpern wrote:

>
> Even machines wear out. Way, way back in the dark ages we used IBM punch
> cards with IBM model 80. Then, with the advance of technology, came IBM
> model 101 which was marvelous since it could tabulate on two columns at
> once! (although it could take hours to properly program for each
individual
> run) But, it still used IBM punch cards and it was not unusual for
> tabulations run twice to disagree because one or more cards were screwed
> up. Hand inspection of each card was the only route to salvation.
> Sometimes, because the machines were in such heavy demand for use, some
> parts did wear out and did cause errors. Thus, it shouldn't come as any
> great surprise that vote counting machines using a similar technology
> would, on occasion, run erroneous counts.
>
> One way of looking at the vote count results: if your accountant made the
> same errors you might be in deep trouble. The IRS might demand a full
audit
> and there might be penalties to boot for incorrect reporting.
>
> Dick Halpern
>
> At 09:37 AM 11/28/00, you wrote:
> >One argument that I have recently heard is that the voting machines used
> >wear out in some fashion, so that they tend to be less likely to punch a
> >ballot at the top, since the top part of the ballot is used in every
local
> >election. Consequently the voting machines get more wear on that
portion,
> >and are more likely to fail to count votes for President. Has anyone
else
> >heard of this and does anyone know if it is true or not?
> >Steve Johnson
> >Associate Director
> >Oregon Survey Research Laboratory

Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 12:39:13 -0500
From: "Harry Basehart" <HHBASEHART@ssu.edu>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Re: Palestinian Survey: Attitudes towards Peace Process
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Disposition: inline
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by usc.edu id JAA16233

Len: A follow-up e-mail.

Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 13:09:59 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBIENGCAAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
In-Reply-To: <3A25273C.2AC5C20F@rider.edu>
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

This reminds me of the equity issues raised by the environmental justice movement (which Senator and Vice President Gore supported), and their definition of racism. Seems that in this case there are questions of procedural equity (relating to the fairness of the rules, regulations, and enforcement) and social equity (related to race, ethnicity, class, etc.). Environmental justice advocates argue that racism is prejudice plus power/privilege (conscious or not, intentional or not). They examine outcomes of (seemingly fair) institutional procedures by race (EX: because a higher proportion of noxious facilities nationwide are located in areas with the highest percentages of people of color this can be considered environmental racism). Some have commented that this is not so much about race as about economics.

If the N.Y. Times article is correct it would seem that people living in areas with more effective voting machines are privileged (at least when there is a close vote). If the outcome disadvantages (disenfranchises) African-Americans more than others, and if the issue is not addressed, I suspect many will consider this a form of institutional racism. Mark Richards

-----Original Message-----

From: owner-aapornet@usc.edu [mailto:owner-aapornet@usc.edu] On Behalf Of Frank Rusciano
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2000 10:57 AM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Re: Why Vote Counting Wasn't Fare in FLA

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Frank Rusciano

"Andrew A. Beveridge" wrote:

> >From Wednesday's Times

>

> Racial Pattern in Demographics of Error-Prone Ballots

> By JOSH BARBANEL and FORD FESSENDEN

>

> -----

--

> ----

>

> When Florida's votes were counted on Election Day, Gov. George W. Bush of
> Texas had a tiny but possibly decisive edge: the majority of the state's
> black voters, Vice President Al Gore's most reliable voters, stalwart
> supporters, cast their ballots on punch cards that are more prone to voter
> error and miscounts.

>

> Across the state, nearly 4 percent of the type of punch-card ballots most
> widely used in Florida were thrown out because the machines read them as
> blank or invalid. By contrast, the more modern, optical scanning systems
> rejected far fewer votes - only about 1.4 percent of those cast.

>

> A New York Times analysis shows that 64 percent of the state's black
voters
> live in counties that used the punch cards while 56 percent of whites did
> so. While black voters made up 16 percent of the vote on Election Day,
that

> small difference, the analysis suggests, could have had a decisive effect
on

> an election decided by only a few hundred votes out of nearly six million.
> Exit polls show that blacks voted overwhelmingly for Mr. Gore.

>

> Vice President Al Gore raised the issue of the disproportionate effect of
> the punch-card ballot yesterday as he defended the Democrats' demands for
> recounts in three counties that used them. "The old and cheap, outdated
> machinery is usually found in areas with populations that are of lower
> income, minorities, seniors on fixed incomes," Mr. Gore said.

>

> In Florida, county officials determined in each county what kinds of
> machines to use for voting. In some of the counties where punch cards are
> used, the officials are Republicans; in others, they are Democrats.

>

> While Mr. Gore was citing the differences in voting systems as part of his
> argument for a recount, Allan J. Lichtman, chairman of the Department of
> History at American University in Washington, who has testified in dozens
of

> voting rights lawsuits, said they could violate federal law, even if the
> variations were not intentional or politically motivated.

>

> "If minorities have less of an opportunity to participate fully in the
> process, that's a direct violation of the Voting Rights Act," Mr. Lichtman
> said.

>

> When optical ballot scanners are used, voters mark their choice with a

> pencil next to the name of their candidate. This appears to make them less
> susceptible to voter error.
>
> The large number of ballots in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami- Dade
counties
> in which the paper punch-card machines detected no choice for president
has
> stirred controversy. Democrats say many of these ballots were failed
> attempts to cast votes; Republicans say these voters had no preference for
> either candidate or failed to register their choice correctly.
>
> A survey of several large Florida counties turned up an anomaly:
Floridians
> whose ballots were read by the machines as not registering a choice for
> president were much more likely to have voted with computer punch cards.
>
> In Orange County, the largest to use the optical equipment, only 1 in 300
> ballots was blank in the presidential race. In Manatee and Brevard
Counties,
> the rate approached 1 in 800. Mr. Bush easily carried Manatee and Brevard
> Counties while Mr. Gore prevailed in Orange.
>
> The punch-card-voting counties, by contrast, had sharply higher numbers of
> people tallied as having no vote for president. In Miami-Dade, the Florida
> county with the most votes cast, the machines read 1 in 60 ballots as
having
> no vote for president. In Hillsborough, near Tampa, it was 1 in 67. And in
> Pinellas County, it was 1 of 96.
>
> Mr. Gore won Miami-Dade and Pinellas while Mr. Bush carried Hillsborough.
>
> The Times analysis showed that registered Democrats in Florida were only
> slightly more likely to vote in counties that use punch-card machines than
> Republicans. But 63 percent of Mr. Gore's votes were counted on the type
of
> punch-card machines at issue in Palm Beach County, compared with 55
percent
> of Mr. Bush's.
>
> Statewide, the pattern was reversed on the optical scan systems. Forty
> percent of the Bush votes were tallied on these systems, compared with 33
> percent for Mr. Gore.
>
> The impact of these differences on the outcome will never be known but
their
> potential magnitude is evident in Miami-Dade County, where predominantly
> black precincts saw their votes thrown out at twice the rate as Hispanic
> precincts and nearly four times the rate of white precincts. In all, 1 out
> of 11 ballots in predominantly black precincts were rejected, a total of
> 9,904.
>
> Had all people cast ballots that could be counted along the same lines as
> their neighbors, Mr. Gore would have gained nearly 7,000 votes.
>
> Florida voters cast their ballots in a patchwork of different voting
> technologies. Nearly 60 percent of voters cast ballots on the punch ballot
> system, while more than a third use optical scanning system. Some small

> counties use paper ballots, or mechanical voting machines.
>
> Each county makes its own decisions on which type of machine to use, and
> there have been no indications that the choice of machine is designed to
> favor any party or candidate.
>
> Chuck Smith, a systems administrator in Hillsborough County, said that the
> county had long been aware of limitations of the punch ballot system used
> there and had been working for years on a successor system.
>
> But he said that when he headed a study of alternatives for three Florida
> counties, he found that the optical scanning system was costly to set up,
> and was prone to other problems. Instead, he said, the county is waiting
for
> the state to approve companies that could supply an electronic voting
> system.
>
> He said companies had been slow to provide the state with software and
> equipment for testing, but he expected that process to speed up, once the
> books are finally closed on the presidential election.
>
> "I think it will move much faster now," he said.
>
> Across the country, the punch-card systems have resulted in significantly
> higher numbers of uncounted ballots. In 467 counties that used punch cards
> with pre-punched cards in the 1996 presidential election, according to a
New
> York Times analysis, 661,000 of the 25 million ballots were not counted,
or
> 2.6 percent of the total.
>
> In 729 counties that used optical scanning technology, 1.9 percent of the
> ballots cast had no votes for president counted, according to the Times
> analysis of data provided by Election Data Services, a nonpartisan
> consulting firm in Washington.
>
> But in areas where the voting technology prevents voting for more than one
> person in a race - on lever machines, for instance - the percentage of
> voters who cast no presidential vote was low this year. In Connecticut,
only
> one half of 1 percent of those who went to the polls failed to cast a
> presidential vote.
>
> Andrew A. Beveridge
> 209 Kissena Hall
> Department of Sociology
> Queens College and Grad Ctr/CUNY
> Flushing, NY 11367-1597
> Phone: 718-997-2837
> Fax: 718-997-2820
> E-Mail: andy@troll.soc.qc.edu
> Website: <http://www.soc.qc.edu/Maps>
>
> Home Office
> 50 Merriam Avenue
> Bronxville, NY 10708
> Phone: 914-337-6237

> Fax: 914-337-8210

=====
Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 13:26:34 -0500
From: "Ratledge, Edward" <ratledge@UDe1.Edu>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Canadian Elections
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
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boundary="----_=_NextPart_001_01C05A31.E73D7BBC"

This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

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Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

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From: Huffman, John P. [mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2000 8:12 AM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: Canadian Elections

This would seem to answer the question that none of the lawyers could answer before the Florida Supreme Court, namely, how could we reasonably expect a County to hand count ballots within 7 days after the polls close.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Williams [mailto:wwilliam@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2000 4:44 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject: Canadian Elections

Seems to me this deserves some comparative thought. Comments?

Canada Hand-Counts Votes in 4 Hours Tue Nov 28 18:36:00 2000 GMT OTTAWA (AP)
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There were glitches, to be sure - an angry voter seized a ballot box in Nova Scotia and threw it into a polluted lagoon. But overall, Canada's federal

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>From Newfoundland to Yukon, across the world's second-largest country, roughly 150,000 election workers fanned out Monday to a far-flung network of polling stations. Even in the biggest cities, no one station serves more than 500 registered voters - most of the officers entrusted with the hand-counting had to handle no more than 300 or 400 ballots.

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Any complaints can be registered with national elections officials; recounts are conducted automatically in cases of extremely narrow victory margins.

Though some of Monday's 301 parliamentary races were close, the overall result was clear-cut: Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Party won its third straight majority government while increasing its seats in the House of Commons from 161 to 173.

Blain, in a telephone interview Tuesday, politely declined to pass judgment on the electoral chaos in Florida, which was compounded by the use of different voting systems in various counties.

``All the democracies must look at their systems themselves,'' Blain said. ``It's not for somebody from another country to look at them.''

``The most important thing is that people must vote,'' he said. ``I'm sure the workers in Florida did their best.''

The Canadian system, in place for a century, uses traditional paper ballots, to be marked with an ``X'' beside the name of the preferred parliamentary candidate. There are no hanging chads, no questions about mechanical snafus.

In Nova Scotia, though, there was little that election officials could do when a man ran off with a ballot box and threw it into a waste-treatment lagoon.

Alexander MacKenzie, who had sought compensation for living near the polluted water, was arrested for the theft, spent Monday night in jail, then was released pending a Dec. 18 court appearance.

The box was recovered with the ballots still legible, but under Canadian law they were discarded because they had been removed from official supervision. The polling station contacted the 125 people who had cast ballots; about 70 returned to vote again.

There were some systematic glitches, as well. At some polling stations, people arrived to find they were not on the list of eligible voters; many were confused even though most were permitted to vote if they had valid identification and spare time to register on the spot.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment for Elections Canada was the meager voter turnout of 63 percent - the lowest in more than 75 years.

``Everywhere in the world, there seems to be a trend of turnout going down,' Blain said. ``Our task is simply to make sure there are no impediments for those who want to vote.''

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W. H. Williams

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Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
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695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021
212-772-4656/5300

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again I doubt anyone could reasonably say a punch card ballot was designed to
be
hand counted as paper ballots are. Certainly there would be
</SPAN></FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT color=#0000ff face=Arial size=2><SPAN class=253312418-29112000>no
need to hold a paper ballot up to the light or look for a dimple with a
magnifying glass.</SPAN></FONT></DIV>
<BLOCKQUOTE dir=ltr style="MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">
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<P>Hunter College, City University of New York </P>

<P>695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 </P>

<P>212-772-4656/5300 </P></BLOCKQUOTE></BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

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Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 08:23:42 -0500
From: "Huffman, John P." <John_Huffman@tvratings.com>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: RE: Canadian Elections
MIME-Version: 1.0

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Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
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This message is in MIME format. Since your mail reader does not understand this format, some or all of this message may not be legible.

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My point exactly. Since it is up to the Canvassing Boards to design and implement a vote counting to scheme to comply with Florida law, one wonders why they designed and then implemented one that didn't comply.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ratledge, Edward [mailto:ratledge@UDel.Edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2000 1:27 PM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE: Canadian Elections

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<DIV class=OutlookMessageHeader dir=ltr align=left><FONT face=Tahoma

size=2>-----Original Message-----
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magnifying glass.</DIV>

<BLOCKQUOTE dir=ltr style="MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">
<DIV class=OutlookMessageHeader dir=ltr align=left><FONT face=Tahoma
size=2>-----Original Message-----
From: Huffman, John P.
[mailto:John_Huffman@tvratings.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November
29,

2000 8:12 AM
To: 'aapornet@usc.edu'
Subject: RE:
Canadian Elections

</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial color=#0000ff
size=2>This would seem to answer the question that none of the lawyers
could

answer before the Florida Supreme Court, namely, how could we reasonably
expect a County to hand count ballots within 7 days after the polls
close. </DIV>

<BLOCKQUOTE dir=ltr style="MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">
<DIV class=OutlookMessageHeader dir=ltr align=left><FONT face=Tahoma
size=2>-----Original Message-----
From: Bill Williams
[mailto:wwilliam@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu]
Sent: Tuesday,
November

28, 2000 4:44 PM
To: aapornet@usc.edu
Subject:
Canadian Elections

</DIV>
<P>Seems to me this deserves some comparative thought. Comments?
</P>

<P>Canada Hand-Counts Votes in 4 Hours <I>Tue Nov 28 18:36:00

2000
GMT</I> OTTAWA (AP) - Florida vote canvassers, take note. Within four
hours after the last polls closed in Canada's parliamentary election,
officials at 50,000 polling stations had hand-counted virtually every
one

of nearly 13 million paper ballots. </P>

<P>There were glitches, to be sure - an angry voter seized a ballot box
in

Nova Scotia and threw it into a polluted lagoon. But overall, Canada's
federal elections system, which uses no counting machines, had a smooth
Election Night. </P>

<P>From Newfoundland to Yukon, across the world's second-largest
country,
roughly 150,000 election workers fanned out Monday to a far-flung
network

of polling stations. Even in the biggest cities, no one station serves
more than 500 registered voters - most of the officers entrusted with
the

hand-counting had to handle no more than 300 or 400 ballots. </P>

<P>Pierre Blain, a spokesman for Elections Canada, said the system stresses transparency, with each party entitled to deploy a representative to watch the polling station chief count the ballots. </P>
<P>Any complaints can be registered with national elections officials; recounts are conducted automatically in cases of extremely narrow victory margins. </P>
<P>Though some of Monday's 301 parliamentary races were close, the overall result was clear-cut: Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Party won its third straight majority government while increasing its seats in the House of Commons from 161 to 173. </P>
<P>Blain, in a telephone interview Tuesday, politely declined to pass judgment on the electoral chaos in Florida, which was compounded by the use of different voting systems in various counties. </P>
<P>''All the democracies must look at their systems themselves,'' Blain said. ''It's not for somebody from another country to look at them.'' </P>
<P>''The most important thing is that people must vote,'' he said. ''I'm sure the workers in Florida did their best.'' The Canadian system, in place for a century, uses traditional paper ballots, to be marked with an 'X' beside the name of the preferred parliamentary candidate. There are no hanging chads, no questions about mechanical snafus. </P>
<P>In Nova Scotia, though, there was little that election officials could do when a man ran off with a ballot box and threw it into a waste-treatment lagoon. </P>
<P>Alexander MacKenzie, who had sought compensation for living near the polluted water, was arrested for the theft, spent Monday night in jail, then was released pending a Dec. 18 court appearance. </P>
<P>The box was recovered with the ballots still legible, but under Canadian law they were discarded because they had been removed from official supervision. The polling station contacted the 125 people who had cast ballots; about 70 returned to vote again. </P>
<P>There were some systematic glitches, as well. At some polling stations, people arrived to find they were not on the list of eligible voters; many were confused even though most were permitted to vote if they had valid identification and spare time to register on the spot. </P>
<P>Perhaps the biggest disappointment for Elections Canada was the meager voter turnout of 63 percent - the lowest in more than 75 years. </P>
<P>''Everywhere in the world, there seems to be a trend of turnout going down,'' Blain said. ''Our task is simply to make sure there are no impediments for those who want to vote.'' </P><P></P><P><I>Copyright © 2000 Associated Press. All rights reserved.

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<P>W. H. Williams </P>
<P>Executive Director, Hunter College Big Apple Poll </P>
<P>Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics </P>
<P>Hunter College, City University of New York </P>
<P>695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021 </P>
<P>212-772-4656/5300
</P></BLOCKQUOTE></BLOCKQUOTE></BLOCKQUOTE></BODY></HTML>

-----=_NextPart_001_01C05AD0.C2559560--

=====
Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 09:54:27 -0500
From: "Mark David Richards" <mark@bisconti.com>
To: <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: VILLAGE VOICE
Message-ID: <JAEPJNNBGDEENLLCIIIBEENKCNAA.mark@bisconti.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
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X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
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Here is a view from The City... What a history we have to keep sorting through ... What was that about the end of history?! The only solution to real or perceived inequity is to document and fix the problems, as many in this country have been trying to do for some time... I recall seeing data a couple years ago showing that most Americans believed the country had made progress in reducing race-related injustice. Haven't seen any demos by race on recent questions, probably because of sample sizes. (And we thought pollsters had counting issues!?) Mark Richards

VILLAGE VOICE
<http://villagevoice.com/issues/0048/fridgeway.shtml>

Slavery's Legacy Shackled the Black Vote-And Cost Gore Thousands of Ballots
Democracy in Chains
by Laura Conaway & James Ridgeway

They meant to vote for Al Gore. Many came from the black, poor, education-deprived neighborhoods of Jacksonville, and had never cast a ballot before. But they got on the buses in Duval County, Florida, and they went to the polls. They did just what the Democratic organizers instructed: Punch a hole on every page. And because the list of presidential contenders spilled over two pages, thousands and thousands of them-an estimated one-third of the voters in some precincts-punched the hole for Gore, then invalidated their choice by stamping a minor-party candidate on the following leaf. In all, 27,000 Duval ballots had to be thrown out.

Black people had backed Gore by ratios as high as 10 to one, but when they needed his help, he fled.

If Al Gore winds up losing this election by the skin of few hundred votes, he can chalk up his defeat not to the avowed support of Floridians for George W. Bush, not to badly designed ballots, but to a centuries-old national system of labor, education, and politics designed to keep African Americans from rising above the legacy of chattel slavery. Gore and his lawyers can hunt until doomsday for enough votes to prove he won, but they'll never rescue the botched ballots of the barely literate nor find a way to count the votes of minorities kept from the polls.

Duval County is only the starting point. Down to their foreshortened life expectancy, the black citizens there are the picture of a people held back. As recently as 1993, 47 percent of the county's residents were judged to be functionally illiterate, meaning they could read at a level no higher than ninth grade. Even well-educated citizens are often confused by the instructions in a voting booth, but those who can't make sense of an average newspaper have been disenfranchised long before Election Day. For this, some of Duval's black voters in particular were made to feel not merely unlearned, but dumb. "I kept looking around, pleading for help," a first-time voter told The New York Times. "But they just kept saying, 'Read it, read it.' "

Duval's African Americans were fortunate, in that at least they reached the polls. Hundreds of registered voters would tell the NAACP they were wrongly turned away from precincts across the state, because election clerks refused to accept their IDs, or polls in black districts closed early, or police set up roadblocks outside the halls. Despite their testimony, the U.S. Justice Department said no reason existed for the feds to intervene. After all, plenty of African Americans managed to vote, enough that they constituted 15 percent of Florida's turnout this year, up from 10 percent in 1996. With no help in sight, several black voters angrily filed suit.

And where were the big white guys as this scene played out? Republican Bush retreated to his ranch in Texas, where he plotted to bar recounts and began shaping his cabinet. That self-proclaimed people's champion, Ralph Nader, pontificated about plans to run Greens for Congress, but said little about the problems of people in Florida. Gore scrambled for Washington, D.C., where he could keep his eye on the slave-built White House while turning a deaf ear to the pleas of African Americans for justice.

Black people had backed Gore by ratios as high as 10 to one, but when they needed his help, he fled. After a year spent fulminating about education, Gore could have marched to Duval County and demanded to know why the schools there had failed so terribly that almost half the adults can't read a magazine. After building a campaign on pledges of better health care, he could have walked through the hospitals and cemeteries and asked why black babies die at a rate twice that of white ones. After riding the support of black citizens to a nationwide lead in the popular vote, he could have gone to the places where they lived, sat in their kitchens, and cried with them over the thousands of lost votes, the thousands of lost lives. Instead, Gore remained distant, aloof, mute, content to wave for the cameras as he passed out Thanksgiving meals—just like the other politicians.

Behind the wall of white silence, you could almost hear the ghost of slavery, rattling its bones.

In the first hundred years after the Civil War, newly enfranchised African Americans had little real access to the polls. Finally, Congress took its most important step toward enfranchising black citizens since Reconstruction, by enacting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The act banned

any practice that denies or abridges the right to cast a ballot, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and the requirement that an applicant to vote get a character "voucher" from an already-registered voter. It also afforded protection to minorities who speak different languages, by ordering interpreters and translated ballots at the polls.

The effect of this act has been substantial. The statute has led to better registration rates for blacks, which are now comparable to those of whites, and to the election of black officials. Now, in each state of the old Confederacy, African Americans hold at least one congressional seat and a large number of state legislative seats. In fact, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights notes, "the proportion of legislative seats held by blacks is approximately equal to their share of the population in several Southern states."

The white Republican governor of Arkansas complained on national radio that Democrats were bringing in black voters on buses "as if they were cattle in a truck."

African American success at the ballot box has turned up the heat on the simmering resentment white conservatives carry toward minority voters, who often support candidates in a powerful bloc. That anger spills all across the country, but it is expressed most explicitly in the South. A day before the election, The Economist reported, the white Republican governor of Arkansas complained on national radio that Democrats were bringing in black voters on buses "as if they were cattle in a truck."

The will to discourage such heavy black turnout is great-which is why the Voting Rights Act exists. But the law depends on federal oversight, an element of enforcement that appears to have been dropped altogether in this election. Discrimination at the polls continues under one subterfuge or another, and in Florida has led to the filing of several suits in this election. Black voters in that state allege their votes weren't counted, and cite various gimmicks to keep people of color from voting, such as shunting them from one polling place to another until the polls closed.

Minority voters who were registered and had voted for years were told they didn't appear on voter lists; voters without Florida IDs were turned away, though the law says they can cast "affidavit ballots." In some counties, minority voters say they were asked for a photo ID while white voters were not, or turned away even when they showed up with a voter card and photo ID. People who lacked a photo ID or weren't on the voting list were put into a "problem line," where they were told voting officials were trying to call headquarters to find out what to do. But the lines were jammed and they just couldn't get through. Discouraged, voters gave up and went home. The Leadership Conference writes, "Poll workers reportedly were instructed by their supervisors to be particularly 'strict' in challenging voter qualifications because of aggressive voter registration and turnout efforts that had been made in their communities in connection with the November 7 election."

In a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, who represents the Duval area, called for a federal investigation. "Clearly, we've got a major problem," wrote Brown, who said she has documented numerous cases of voters denied assistance. "Victims of and witnesses to Election Day irregularities and discriminatory practices at voting precincts have come forward in unprecedented numbers."

Even as Reno persisted in saying the federal government had little role in state elections-the same way presidents of old tiptoed around the issue of Southern segregation-civil rights leaders from reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson to Kweisi Mfume gathered testimony from black voters who'd

been harassed. Even as liberal news outlets like Salon argued the allegations should be ignored in favor of a swift end to the election deadlock, African Americans prepared lawsuits for violations of the Voting Rights Act. Even as Gore and Bush wrangled over hanging chads, African Americans reckoned with a world in which they still don't count. "It is apparent to us that we, as Black people, do not matter in Florida," The Amsterdam News editorialized on November 22. "We all have been ignored by both the Democratic and Republican parties, for they simply saw no need to call upon us, except to mount a picket line or to go to jail, singing and acting ugly."

In part, the electoral disaster in Duval County can be seen as a simple snafu. Election officials there have said they won't list candidates over two pages again, a design that led to the disqualification of thousands of ballots.

But the situation in Duval, where 27 percent of the residents are black, also stems from the lingering damages of slavery. Since the era when only the landed gentry were enfranchised, richer and better-educated people have been more likely to vote than the underprivileged. Today black kids across America funnel through underfunded schools, too often destined for curtailed job opportunities, dilapidated housing, and third-world health care—hardly the kinds of conditions that augur a high turnout of informed voters. Duval should be a center of affluence. It's home to Jacksonville (population 600,000), a naval air station, several large state offices, and an expanding financial hub. Scratch the surface, though, and you'll find nearly a quarter of the children living in poverty. Of Florida's 67 counties, Duval has the sixth-highest dropout rate. Statewide, Florida has not only an embarrassingly spiked rate of mortality among black babies, but its black adults have a much shorter life expectancy. Black women can expect to die about seven years younger than their white peers, as can black men, whose average age of death is 68.2 years. To find a similar average for white men, you'd have to look all the way back to 1959.

The creation of majority-black districts for local and state races has given African Americans a steady, if small, presence on town councils, in state assemblies, and on Capitol Hill. By gaining these measures of self-determination, African Americans have in part fulfilled the prediction of Marcus Garvey, who argued the only way for black people truly to be free was to found a nation-state of their own.

Though black people in the South were nearly unanimous in support for Gore, their votes were scattered across state lines and thus submerged through the electoral college as completely as if they'd never been cast.

Garvey's idea may sound revolutionary, but the courts have consistently ruled that without predominantly black districts, African Americans lack a fair chance at representation. When necessary, judges have redrawn electoral maps or scuttled at-large systems to ensure minorities have at least one seat.

Yet when it comes to electing a president, the Constitution mandates statewide contests and makes no provision for minority votes—whether from third-party backers or African Americans. As a result, white voters can easily overwhelm black ones, making places like Mississippi and Alabama near locks for Republican candidates, who then have little reason to consider minority concerns.

Given the roots of the electoral college, this comes as no surprise. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, none other than James Madison of Virginia

objected to the direct election of presidents, on the grounds that it would put Southern states-with their large population of slaves-at an insurmountable disadvantage. Madison advocated a system in which states would receive a number of electors based on the size of the general population, franchised or not. That tilted the table in favor of white Southerners, whose votes carried more weight.

Today the electoral college, however inadvertently, continues to hold back African Americans, who even in relatively black states like Florida form only 15 percent of the population. Though black people in the South were nearly unanimous in support for Gore, their votes were scattered across state lines and thus submerged through the electoral college as completely as if they'd never been cast.

Plenty of African Americans get no protection from the Voting Rights Act at all. About 4 million U.S. citizens, most of them minorities, are denied the right to vote because their states disenfranchise convicted felons. A report by the Sentencing Project two years ago predicts that one quarter of all black men in seven states will soon be disenfranchised. In 13 states, this disenfranchisement is permanent, applying alike to those in jail, on parole, or free. According to the NYU School of Law's Brennan Center for Justice, which has sued to overturn the felon statutes, such bans are a direct outgrowth of the antebellum South. "When Alabama adopted such a law in 1901," the Center said in a report, "John Knox, the politician presiding over the Constitutional Convention, stated that the aim of such provisions was to help preserve white supremacy without directly challenging the Constitution of the United States."

Schools were segregated, with Florida outdoing all the other former members of the Confederacy by not only making sure white and black pupils used different sets of books, but ensuring that the books were stored separately.

Today many prisoners of color are in jail because of the war on drugs, which has led to a quadrupling of the prison population since 1980, to nearly 2 million. Laws passed during this government assault have hammered away at black and Latino communities, calling for stiffer sentences for substances like crack cocaine, preferred by minorities, while remaining lenient on the powder preferred by whites. And though lots of these felons fit the demographics that vote Democratic, it was the Democratic Clinton administration that put its weight behind the effort to build more prisons to house more drug offenders.

In addition to routing former felons from the polling place, the laws can be used to intimidate and harass minority communities. A few months ago, nearly 12,000 Floridians were informed by the state Division of Elections that they had lost their voting rights because of felony convictions in other states, according to a report in Mother Jones. But the company hired by the state to compile that list of names made a massive mistake and misidentified thousands of people. When the error was fixed, 8000 people were once again made eligible, but not before they'd been made to fear the loss of federally guaranteed voting rights.

About the time of the Civil War, the New York Herald Tribune referred to Florida as the "smallest tadpole in the dirty pool of secession." Which in no way made it any less a part of the Deep South. Like all the other Southern states, Florida killed itself after the war trying to substitute a somewhat more subtle form of slavery for the real thing. Black Codes, aimed at maintaining white supremacy through segregation, prevented whites and blacks from riding in the same railroad cars. Schools were segregated, with

Florida outdoing all the other former members of the Confederacy by not only making sure white and black pupils used different sets of books, but ensuring that the books were stored separately. Poll taxes and the introduction of divisive primaries decimated the black vote.

With the toppling of segregation in the 1950s, white citizen councils sprang up to do openly what the robed Ku Klux Klan had done at night. The memory of the 1923 massacre at Rosewood was still fresh when Florida governor Leroy Collins in 1956 declared, "We are just as determined as any Southern state to maintain segregation."

Since World War II, "Florida's role as a shaper of what may or may not be the Deep South's last stand against creative federalism has been strangely underrated and usually ignored," Robert Sherrill writes in Gothic Politics in the Deep South. "One reason perhaps being that most of the country does not think of Florida as Deep South, forgetting that those Tallahassee legislators are operating about 20 miles from the Georgia border and about the same distance from Alabama. This is cracker country, moonshine country, stiff with the old social myths and political myopia."

Throughout the mid 1900s, Florida political deal makers viewed race as a legitimate topic. "The embers are always there," one mover and shaker told Sherrill. "You can fan it into flame or leave it smolder." When the Congress of Industrial Organizations tried to register black voters in Florida, George Smathers, the rising young political star who would become a senator, called the drive "the most dangerous invasion of carpetbaggers" since the Civil War. Today, the state is home to several of the most powerful white supremacists in the country, including Stormfront, an Internet-based hate group headquartered in West Palm Beach.

Though legally dead for more than a century, the chattel system re-emerged in Florida as late as 1991, when six sugar companies failed to pay migrant Caribbean workers promised wages, a practice labor groups likened to virtual slavery.

The aftereffects of slavery extend even to minorities newly arrived in this country.

The large community of Haitian Americans centered around Miami is a case in point. As Papa Doc Duvalier instituted a reign of terror against his opponents in Haiti during the 1960s, Haitians fled their homeland in a steady stream. Working in the States, they sent much of their money home and waited patiently for things to improve, so they could return. They eagerly awaited the return to power of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, but after the American troops landed and Aristide came back, things only got worse. In the last few years, Haitians here have abandoned their dream of going home and begun to seek U.S. citizenship. Across the Haitian communities, organizers patiently prepared people to become citizens, setting up community-based literacy programs and teaching people how to take the necessary tests and fill out government papers.

These immigrants came from a nation with its own legacy of black slavery. Seventy years before Lincoln emancipated American slaves, the slaves of Haiti overthrew their white masters in a violent revolution, then created the first independent black state since Europeans colonized Africa. Wary of a similar uprising by freemen in this country, Thomas Jefferson recommended they be sent to live in Haiti. By the time Haitians began immigrating to the States in great numbers, they brought with them a rich tradition of self-determination, balanced by the fear of tyranny.

It all came to a head with this election, when for the very first time, new Haitian American citizens, putting aside memories of election-day violence in their home countries, screwed up their nerve and went to the polls. What they encountered was a wall of resistance. "Several things happened,"

Marleine Bastien, a Haitian American organizer in Dade County, says. "They were told they couldn't vote because they didn't have a voter registration card. Some were threatened with deportation and intimidated in other ways. There were groups of people giving out information saying that voting Democratic is like voting for the devil and the Ku Klux Klan. "Some ballots had Gore-Lieberman next to a punch line that really was for Bush-Cheney," Bastien continues. "People in line were prevented from voting because of polling deadlines, even if they were in line before 7 p.m., the cutoff time. Many of these people are in the service industry and use public transportation. Some precincts were closed as early as 4:30 in the afternoon. They were denied help even though there were Creole speakers available. Election officials ordered the Creole translators not to speak." One union observer working out of West Palm Beach says most votes of 2000 Haitian union members were disallowed. "There was no Creole translation, but plenty of Spanish translators and a ridiculous ballot no one can understand," the observer says. "A lot of them just walked away. They didn't know what the fuck to do." What happened to the Haitians is what has always happened to the Haitians: vicious intimidation and discrimination by public officials who consider them less than human. In this and countless other ways, they have become the new inheritors of slavery's legacy, adding another link in its chains.

=====
Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 10:33:40 -0500 (EST)
From: Philip Meyer <pmeyer@email.unc.edu>
X-Sender: pmeyer@login5.isis.unc.edu
To: AAPOR list <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Paper ballots
Message-ID: <Pine.A41.4.21L1.0011301025260.13134-100000@login5.isis.unc.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

"Then again I doubt anyone could reasonably say a punch card ballot was designed to be hand counted as paper ballots are. Certainly there would be no need to hold a paper ballot up to the light or look for a dimple with a magnifying glass."

--

Many decades ago, I reported on a contested election in Osage County, Kansas, where the judges held the paper ballots up to the light and looked at them with a magnifying glass. They were searching for identifying markings that somebody who had been paid to vote a certain way would leave as evidence that he or she had indeed voted as promised. A lot of lawyers were around in that one, too.

There is not much new under the sun.

=====
Philip Meyer, Knight Chair in Journalism Voice: 919 962-4085
CB 3365 Carroll Hall Fax: 919 962-1549
University of North Carolina Cell: 919 906-3425
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3365 http://www.unc.edu/~pmeyer
=====

=====
Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 11:04:52 -0800
From: Richard <rmaullin@fmma.org>
To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: Job Posting:
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2448.0)
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

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Established opinion research public policy, elections, and market analysis company seeks Research Associate for Santa Monica office. Strong quantitative analysis and excellent writing/verbal skills are a prerequisite. Research Associate will work with others and independently for election oriented clients and public and private sector entities. Salary commensurate with skills/experience.

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Research Position
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates
2425 Colorado Avenue, Suite 180
Santa Monica, CA 90404

richard@fmma.com
310-453-6562 Fax

=====
Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 15:50:09 -0600
To: methods@list.unm.edu, aapornet@usc.edu, por@vance.irss.unc.edu
From: Peter Miller <p-miller@nwu.edu>
Subject: 2001 AAPOR Conference Reminder
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
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-----=_18939123==_.ALT
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Please forgive cross-posting.

The deadline for submission of proposals to participate in the 2001 AAPOR conference in Montreal, May 17-20 is (a fast-approaching) December 11.

The call for participation and instructions for proposal submission can be found at: <http://www.aapor.org/conference/call.html>

The AAPOR student paper competition submission instructions are available at: <http://www.aapor.org/conference/competition.html>

If you haven't already done so, please consider joining us at what promises to be a most interesting conference, and please spread the word to others.

Many thanks and best wishes.

Peter Miller
Department of Communication Studies
1881 Sheridan Road, Room 12
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. USA
p-miller@nwu.edu
847-491-5835

-----18939123==.ALT
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html>

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eudora="autourl">http://www.aapor.org/conference/call.html

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<div>Peter Miller</div>

<div>Department of Communication Studies</div>

<div>1881 Sheridan Road, Room 12</div>

<div>Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. USA</div>

<div>p-miller@nwu.edu</div>

847-491-5835

</html>

-----_18939123==_.ALT--

=====
Date: Thu, 30 Nov 2000 22:51:36 -0500
From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com>
To: "AAPORNET" <aapornet@usc.edu>
Subject: In Theory - Part II
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Today's New York Times contains a front page headline story on a major survey of interest. At page A30 there is the standard How the Poll Was Conducted sidebar. I have long felt that we can do a better job explaining our methods to the public, sometimes even making notes on what I feel would be better language. So it wasn't that hard to just pull the seven paragraphs apart and see how they might be improved. The suggested revisions below are offered as one person's attempt to do a little more than just complain. They are offered in a constructive spirit. I am sure that many on aapornet can do much better -- so I invite you to. P.S. There is no intention of picking on these two publishers; it just happens that I read the Times and care about what's in there. Maybe other media use different wording that would be harder or easier to improve. It's just an exercise -- but it is hoped a useful one!

(Apologies if any of the current text was copied incorrectly.)

CURRENT - The latest New York Times/CBS News Poll is based on telephone interviews conducted on Monday and Tuesday with 1,012 adults throughout the United States.

SUGGESTED - The latest New York Times/CBS News Poll is based on telephone interviews conducted on Monday and Tuesday with 1,012 persons age 18 and older residing in the U.S. (excluding Alaska and Hawaii).

COMMENT - There are surely people who do not know how we define adults -- so why not tell them? I may be mistaken about Alaska and Hawaii; this is just an impression but if they are not included we should tell them. And if they are included, maybe "throughout the U.S." could be strengthened.

CURRENT - The sample of telephone exchanges called was randomly selected by a computer from a complete list of more than 42,000 active residential exchanges across the country.

SUGGESTED - A computer was programmed to select (#) telephone exchanges (Area Code + first three digits) at random from the complete set of approximately 42,000 all across the country.

COMMENT - Computers don't think yet. Why not tell them how many exchanges are in the sample? The current statement may leave some readers with the impression that all 42,000 exchanges are in play for the interviewing. The expression in ()s may be unnecessary if most people know that. I'm not sure.

CURRENT - Within each exchange, random digits were added to form a complete telephone number, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey.

SUGGESTED - Within each selected exchange, random digits were added to form ten-digit telephone numbers, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household contacted, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey.

COMMENT - Minor edits; the point with "contacted" is to emphasize that a call is made and then some procedures are applied prior to the interview.

CURRENT - The results have been weighted to take account of household size and number of telephone lines into the residence and to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, age and education.

SUGGESTED - Preliminary results have been statistically adjusted to compensate for unequal probabilities of inclusion resulting from differences in the numbers of adults and telephone lines in the household, and to correct for accidental under- or over-sampling of any of five demographically-defined population segments.

COMMENT - I doubt people understand "results have been weighted to take account of..." and yet it sounds like something that must be obvious. Why not tell them more and let those who are challenged by the statement mull over it and most will figure it out. Also, the second part ("adjust for variation") lacks any sense of why one would do that when, I think, it can be made fairly obvious.

CURRENT - In theory, in 19 cases out of 20, the results based on such samples will differ by no more than three percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by seeking out all American adults.

SUGGESTED - In theory -- and assuming 100 percent cooperation among those contacted, results based on such samples will differ by no more than three percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained if every person in the country had been interviewed.

COMMENT - The statistical model is based on 100 percent cooperation. How can we talk about a confidence interval without explicit reference to that fact, especially in light of recent trends with response rates? On the second part, why shift over to "seeking out all American adults" when other language is more concrete and may make the point better?

CURRENT - For smaller subgroups, the margin of sampling error is larger.

SUGGESTED - For subgroups where there were fewer than 1,012 interviews, the margin of sampling error is larger than three percent.

COMMENT - "Smaller subgroups" is redundant. Are there "larger subgroups?" and if so does the statement apply to them? Plus many surveys over-sample small population groups of interest, further confusing this point (their smallness is no longer proportionate). Also, this statement refers to "sampling error" without explicitly or implicitly telling the reader what it is. It is hoped that in the suggested revision reference to "larger than three percent" permits the reader to get a better understanding of this by its connection to the earlier statement.

CURRENT - In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variation in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.

SUGGESTED - In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys -- variations in question wording and sequence, and in respondent involvement and comprehension, for example -- may result in additional margins of error that cannot be quantified.

COMMENT - Once again, I don't think we can ignore potential error arising from outright refusals, failure to comprehend, intentionally inaccurate responses (remember "Just lie!") and other problems emanating from respondents. At the same time, we provide some rationale for sticking with the quoted confidence interval by telling the reader that (for all practical purposes) error associated with these other factors cannot be quantified. Some may feel you end up at the same point so just leave it out. But to me this seems better.

SUGGESTED ADDENDUM - The New York Times/CBS News Poll methodology adheres to guidelines published by recognized academic, professional, government and industry experts in the field of survey research.

COMMENT - Perhaps high profile glamorous publishers like those referred to in this example would like to consider their own imprimaturs sufficient for public acceptance -- but why not take credit for sincere attempts to conform with best practices? I feel that a statement like this bolsters credibility; perhaps others disagree.

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