

Race, religion, realism mark election

The presidential race is over and I for one miss it. Some final thoughts: It may seem odd to judge a candidate based on how well his campaign is run rather than his qualifications, etc., but the people who run the campaigns are the ones who will run the country, so it's not such a bad idea.

When you voted for Bush, you voted for all the advisers and lackeys around him and *they're* the people who will determine how effective he is.

Based on Bush's first announcements, we can sleep soundly. James Baker will be the Secretary of State and Gov. John Sununu of New Hampshire will be chief of staff. Along with the other probable appointments, they make up a team that will be pragmatic, responsible and ready to put common sense ahead of ideology.

Some other positive comments on the most-commented election yet:

There was no coup — We take for granted our democratic process, to the point where almost half of the population didn't even bother to vote. Yes, an informed, active electorate is the ideal, but when so many people in the world struggle and die just for the possibility of voting, it's somehow comforting that we can treat it so casually.

The dirty campaigning was rather clean — Jesse Jackson is black. Michael Dukakis is Greek. His wife Kitty is Jewish. And none of this was made an issue by any of the other candidates. True, much was said

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in the media about how Jackson couldn't win because of his race. But the other candidates recognized that attacking an opponent because of his ethnic or racial background was unacceptable, and this is a step in the right direction.

Religion nudged into the mainstream — This is a change we may come to regret. When Kennedy ran for president, foolish talk about how the pope would be running the country was rampant. This election, two ordained ministers ran for the office and made such a practice acceptable.

I for one don't think someone can serve both God and man as a public servant in a democracy. But it is easy to imagine a situation where someone of the cloth would respect the rights of others while in office, while a layman might very well be fanatical and unremitting in applying his or her religious beliefs.

This question will come back to haunt us. For now we can rest assured that Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson were rejected for their ultra-radical ideas, not their religious affiliations and that's not so bad.

Michael Giltz thinks Geraldo Rivera and Morton Downey Jr. are irrefutable evidence of man's evolution from the apes.