

# Florida

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to examine as many as possible of the ballots set aside as either undervotes or overvotes.

Undervotes involved about 62,000 ballots where voting machines were unable to detect a choice for any presidential candidate, while about 113,000 overvotes were read by machines as possibly containing more than one choice.

The goal of the news organizations was not to learn who really "won" Florida; the Electoral College already had determined Bush was the winner following a U.S. Supreme Court decision that ended further counting and led to Gore's concession.

The aim was to provide a valuable historical record by thoroughly assessing tens of thousands of ballots that no one had fully examined.

Much of the legal wrangling focused on how votes were defined, and the ballot review did, too, calculating results under different standards - for example, whether to count as votes "hanging chads" on punch-card ballots or ballots marked with an "X" instead of the required filled-in oval on optical scan ballots.

Completing two partial recounts that Gore unsuccessfully pursued in court showed Bush maintaining a lead ranging between 225 and 493 votes - meaning Bush still would have won if the U.S.

Supreme Court had allowed a partial statewide recount to continue.

Under any standard that tabulated all disputed votes statewide, however, Gore erased Bush's advantage and emerged with a tiny lead that ranged from 42 to 171 votes.

Strikingly, all these outcomes were closer than even the narrow 537 votes of Bush's official victory. With numbers that tiny, experts said it would be impossible to interpret the survey results as definitive.

Under the most inclusive standards, the study showed up to 24,653 potentially salvageable overvotes and undervotes among the 12 presidential candidates who ran in Florida.

The Florida election review was developed by the AP, CNN, The New York Times, The Palm Beach Post, The St. Petersburg Times, Tribune Publishing, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. Tribune newspapers include the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, the Orlando Sentinel and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Ft. Lauderdale.

This media consortium hired the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago to view each untallied ballot and gather information about how it was marked.

Founded in 1941, the center is a not-for-profit corporation whose charter is to

advance the methodology of public opinion surveys and provide accurate survey data.

The consortium used computers to sort and tabulate votes, based on varying scenarios that had been raised during the postelection scramble in Florida.

A NORC supervisor said county officials sometimes had difficulties identifying the exact ballots that went untallied on Election Day. Because of that, along with the possibility that ballot observers mistook some data in such a mammoth tabulation, it would be impossible to guarantee which candidate prevailed if the margins were within a few hundred votes, he said.

"As that differential between the two candidates becomes smaller and smaller, there's the potential that the inherent variability in the data could be larger than that minimal difference," said Kirk Wolter, senior vice president for statistics and methodology, who helped supervise the project for NORC. Wolter spoke before the results were known.

As President Bush and the nation address a host of new concerns after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, those who once were embroiled in the Florida political contest - on either side - had little reaction.

Bush would not comment directly, Fleischer said, adding: "It's over."

# Clinton

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ward Jimi Hendrix. Amidst the guitar funk flossing, Clinton and his family of P-Funkers returned. "Ready or not, here we come," shouted musician/vocalist Peanut, and it was on again with "One Nation Under A Groove."

By now there had been so many drinks spilled on me I felt like being served up at the bar. It was just a party now, and obvious, as noted earlier by a band member, that funk had been dropped like a bomb, and they wanted us to let through, let it get funky, and funky it had gotten. They sang "Something Stink, Something Stink Like Skunk, and I want it now." Something was in the air, which is for sure. They even threw into the crowd some CDs, entitled: "Drugs, The Prescription for Miss-America." After reviewing it, however, it appears that the only George Clinton collaboration was on the cut, "Sanitation Engineer."

Rumor was circulating throughout the crowd that he usually played six



Belita Woods took the audience in a mellow direction during her solo at the HOB.

Photo by John Broussard

hours, and was heading there now. Just when I wondered where they could possibly go from here, the three horn players stepped out and blew the roof off the joint.

It was really interesting how the music and all that accompanied it this night had simply swept the crowd off its feet.

It was an absolute testimonial to the universal cohesiveness of music. Clinton reminded us, "Take your time, don't be in a hurry. S \_ \_ t, does it feel right?" I know it felt right to Clinton because he was sandwiched between two young humping and grinding hotties. Being 60 only gave him the experience he needed to handle them both, and handle them

he did.

Reaching that fifth hour, we had lost about half of the audience. Keep in mind, most of the crowd stood the entire time. Even though I am sure many of the remaining funkateers enjoyed the last number, his version of "Whole Lot of Shaking Going On," some just couldn't pull the funk out of that one. Still reaching and begging for more, some Clinton fans just never get enough. But, for me, five hours was more than enough.

For those of you who missed being funkacized by the Funk Master, George Clinton, last weekend, "Ain't No Party Like A P-Funk Party!"

# Dance

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pressed appreciation for the gathering. Atkins said, "I'm enjoying this. It's very heartwarming. You look back and you say, 'did I really do enough to deserve such honor?' When you see people coming out to help you celebrate days like today, it's truly heartwarming."

Atkins went on to say, "I like the paths that my career took and the progression. All of it has been interesting, and as long as there's something for me to do, I'm very happy. I'm doing a lot of college dates. I'm enjoying my career at this stage of it."

Several of the attendees, including family, friends and fellow entertainers, expressed their admiration and appreciation for the famed choreographer.

Pat Sherrod, Atkins' son, said, "I think that my father, being the giant that he is, has revolutionized modern dance. He was the big influence in changing the way that groups did their choreography and in their approach to the music. He has influenced all the groups today."

Norma Miller, more commonly known as the "Queen of Swing," stated, "I thought it was a good idea to let our youngsters know about the careers of some of the people who live here in Las Vegas, and they never see them. Here is a man who created a style with some of the headliners here in Las Vegas - Gladys Knight, The O'Jays, the Temptations. They played Las Vegas, but no one knows



Former television personality, Alice Keys, left, joins Prince Spencer and Mickie McMillan for the event.

what goes into their appearance. The man who made their 'appearance' is Cholly Atkins, who lives right here in Las Vegas."

Ruth Brown, a Tony Award winning blues legend, echoed Miller's sentiments. She stated, "he deserves this honor. I'm so happy that so many young people know about him."

The next time you see a group that seems to effortlessly move about the stage and flawlessly belt out tunes, think of Cholly Atkins, because this master of the dance probably influenced them.

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