



panel di u

— m — s ett

of extremism.” The reality, Stile said, was that Romney had shown political agility in getting Democratic politicians to go along with his Massachusetts health care plan as governor.

The panel split on the effects of Hurricane Sandy and the candidates’ ability to communicate.

DiMicco said the hurricane had no effect on most of the nation. Avery said the hurricane came after polls showed Obama was beginning to pull away from Romney.

But Stile said that it seemed like the hurricane helped close the deal for Obama. It gave Obama “this additional veneer of bipartisanship, showing him in action and showing him working across the aisle with his new best friend (Republican New Jersey Gov.) Chris Christie.”

They also split about the role of Fox News and MSNBC, broadly seen as catering to conservative and liberal constituencies. DiMicco said he thought these dueling bubbles were to account for the exaggerated importance of the first debate.

Avery said the networks, by offering a specific perspective, were a disservice to the viewers. But Stile questioned their influence on the independent voters who determine most elections, particularly late in the election.

By late October, Stile said, “Either you’re really under a rock or you’ve been out on a scallop boat in the ocean for the last month.”

Contact Derek Harper:

609-272-7046

DHarper@pressofac.com

Follow Derek Harper on Twitter @dnharper