

Brazos County rejects charter 3 to 1

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It was apparent last night around 9, at the Texas Data Center in Bryan, that the voters of Brazos County, by a margin of three to one, were overwhelmingly objecting to the 1975 revision of the Texas Constitution. Ballot returns from across the state late Tuesday indicated that voters were rejecting the proposed revision anywhere from a

three-to-one to a five-to-one margin. A little more than a third of the registered voters turned out in Brazos County, with College Station voters generally favoring the amendments and Bryan residents rejecting them. It took only two hours for all the votes to be tabulated with reporters and election judges anxiously awaiting the final results. As each precinct turned in its votes, the defeat of the proposed revision in the county became more evident. County Judge William R. Vance, who said he was generally in favor of the new

constitution, said he thought the vote would be a little closer. Vance, who spent most of the night at the data center observing the tabulation process, said the voter turnout was higher than he had anticipated. "I was more disappointed that the judicial article failed than I was that the local government proposition was defeated," Vance said Tuesday night. "I think it will be interesting to see how Brazos County compares with the rest of the state when all of the returns are in." Joe R. Barron, presiding election judge,

said last night for the first time that he was opposed to the revision. "I was against the proposed new constitution because it mixed the good with the bad," Barron said. He said that he was not surprised that the amendments were voted down, but that they might pass in some of the more "liberal" cities. The voter turnout was as good as expected but it wasn't as good as it should have been, he said. There were 778 ballots cast out of 1,923 registered voters in precinct 12 at Sul Ross Elementary School in Bryan, which had

the largest number of voters of any precinct in that city. With 40 per cent of the registered voters voting, the separation of power and finance provisions drew the widest margins of defeat. At precinct 12, 227 people voted for, and 549 voted against the separation of powers provision. The finance provision failed with 233 for and 535 against. Precinct nine in College Station reflected the highest voter turnout, about 40 per cent, with 696 votes cast out of 1,731 registered voters.

Precinct 20 voters, at the Texas A&M University Center voted in favor of all eight propositions, showing 615 ballots cast out of 2,213 registered voters. The judiciary and the voting-election provisions won by the widest margins of more than 3 to 2. All eight propositions were favored in precinct 20 by a margin of 3 to 2. There were 160 absentee votes in the county which turned down all eight propositions. The finance and the local government provisions lost by the widest margins of about 3 to 2. (See p. 3 for how C.S. precincts voted.)

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Texans uphold past

State keeps old charter

Armies of Texans defended their century-old constitution Tuesday, beating back with cannonades of votes costly and heated efforts to revise the aged document. Unquestionably, voters smashed the proposed constitutional revision with margins ranging from 5-1 opposition in rural areas to 2-1 in metropolitan districts. It was a balloon launched in part by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who conceded early in evening vote counting that the issue was going down in flames. The voters of Texas have rejected five years of effort directed toward constitutional revision by as decisive a margin as anyone could imagine," Hobby said. "It was a good fight but we lost." With 1,111,712 of the expected 1.2 million statewide votes counted, the measure was down by a 3-1 margin. Although rural area voters voted against the constitution proposal in greater numbers, the opposition was evident in metropolitan and rural areas alike from the Gulf Coast to the northern blackland prairies, from the desert west to forested eastern sections of the state. These were the latest returns today from the Texas Election Bureau with 244 of 254 counties reporting, 231 complete: Prop. 1 legislative-executive — for 85,064, against 823,648. Prop. 2 judiciary — for 314,962, against 82,464. Prop. 3 voting — for 308,348, against 85,500. Prop. 4 education — for 304,705, against 83,291. Prop. 5 finance — for 279,789, against

826,737. Prop. 6 local government — for 293,059, against 811,313. Prop. 7 general — for 292,518, against 813,505. Prop. 8 amending provisions — for 306,988, against 797,489. With 102,000 votes counted, Dallas County defeated the revision measure 2-1. It was running 3-1 behind in Harris County. Jefferson County defeated all eight propositions by a 2-1 vote. Lubbock turned thumbs down at a rate of 4-1. State Sen. Peyton McKnight, D-Tyler, was one of the more vocal opponents of constitutional revision. McKnight spoke often and spoke loudly. On learning of its defeat, he said, "If there is any lesson we should have learned from this election it is that the people have a right to impose restraints upon their government and they still want to do so." The issue of a new state constitution in many ways boiled down to simple conservative and liberal politics. Conservatives fearful of more governmental authority and more state spending tended to shy away from the idea of revising the constitution. Liberals who expect and demand more governmental activity tended to favor revision. But there were clear cut ironies: Frances "Sissy" Farenthold, one of the state's best known liberal apostles, opposed the constitutional change. Yet, law and order defender Atty. Gen. John Hill favored it. Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the revision was the proposal to recreate state agencies every 10 years, giving the

governor and the legislature more control over some 200 state agencies. McKnight argued forcefully that each agency would be in a position of lobbying to keep his agency in existence rather than devoting energy to performing the agency's primary tasks. The present constitution was approved in 1876 and represented the will of a people climbing from the abyss of reconstruction following the Civil War. Texans, victimized and frustrated under carpetbagger rule, took the first opportunity to create a government with as little authority over their lives as possible. Gov. Dolph Briscoe said in Dallas last week that 25 years ago — as a much younger man — he had favored revision of the constitution but came later to the conclusion that Texas had grown and prospered under the constitution through the 1950s and 1960s. The proposals called for annual, rather than biennial, sessions of the legislature. Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Robert W. Calvert said it makes no sense to budget two years in advance for a \$6 billion-a-year government. But on the lips of many Texans was the old quotation: "No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the legislature is in session." Hundreds of thousands of Texans repeated it at the voting booths Tuesday.



Radio plane

Allan Swanson (R) hands Rodney Tanamachi a syringe full of fuel for the remote control airplane which Rodney built himself. The plane took 30 hours to build and can be controlled from the ground as long as it can be seen in the sky; it coasts to the ground when the fuel is consumed.

Photo by Glen Johnson



Campus

A NEW REFRIGERATOR contract and a student campus planning advisory committee are two of the major topics at tonight's Student Senate meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in room 224 of the Harrington Center.

KEN ROBINSON, Student legal advisor, will speak Thursday at 7:30 in Room 201 in Rudder. He will speak on the rights and responsibilities of the tenant and apartment leases.

ROBERT S. STRAUSS, democratic national committee chairman, will speak Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Admission will be 25 cents for students and 50 cents for non-students. Strauss will speak on party strategies for the 1976 election.

"JASON & THE ARGONAUTS," presented by Cepheid Variable, will be shown Thursday at 8 p.m. in Room 701 in Rudder Theater.

JIM STAFFORD AND DAVE LOGGINS will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in the White Coliseum. Tickets may be obtained at the Rudder Box Office.

THE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR will be held Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Rudder Center Mall.

MAGGIE BLOOD DRIVE SIGN-UP is Wednesday and Thursday in the MSC, Missa Dining Hall, and Military Quad.

THE DEDICATION of Mosher and Stanton Halls will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. The Century Singers will perform.

A LIL ABNER DANCE will be held at the Pavilion Hall at 8 p.m. Saturday. Admission will be \$2 per couple.

THE STUDENT SENATE has positions open for 1 senator from the Davis-Gary-Moses-Moore area and 3 for off-campus graduate students. Anyone wishing to apply should go by Room 216 MSC or call 845-3051.

National

NEW YORK MAYOR ABRAHAM BEAME accused President Ford today of offering a cop-out, not a cure for New York City's fiscal ills. He said Ford, in criticizing New York, ignored the city's budget-cutting record. He listed payroll deductions, halts in city construction and closings of municipal facilities. He promised further money-saving measures, including a change in the free university system's financing and more hospital closings.

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER decided to withdraw as President Ford's possible 1976 running mate because he has become increasingly frustrated as his advice on programs is ignored and his disagreement on policy has grown, Republican sources say.

Meanwhile, Senator Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., says Rockefeller's withdrawal should lead Ronald Reagan to reassess his plans to challenge Ford.

Some past and present intelligence officials expressed disappointment with Ford's choice of George Bush to succeed William E. Colby as head of the CIA.

THE SPANISH ARMY increased border patrols in the Spanish Sahara today as Moroccan officials vowed to go ahead with the march of 350,000 unarmed civilians into the country following the failure of negotiations in Madrid.

Most of the troops stationed in the territorial capital have been sent north toward the Moroccan border to repel the Moroccan marchers gathered in Tarfaya, 18 miles north of the border.

Fromme fires counsel, runs defense

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Lynette Fromme, denied permission to change her plea from innocent to no contest, will argue her own case against the charge that she tried to kill President Ford. Miss Fromme fired her court-appointed co-counsel Tuesday on the first day of her trial after he, the prosecutor and U.S. District Court Judge Thomas MacBride refused to accept the plea switch. MacBride told the 27-year-old Manson devotee that she would have to question witnesses herself and make her own opening and closing argument with a "stand-by attorney" to advise her. "I think she's foolish to try to represent herself," MacBride told Miss Fromme's co-counsel, John Virga. "But if she wants to do this it is certainly within her rights."

Miss Fromme is accused of attempting to assassinate Ford as he walked to the state Capitol Sept. 5. Officers say they took a loaded .45-caliber pistol away from her after she pointed it at the President from about two feet away. She is the first person to be charged and tried under a 1965 federal law against attempted murder of a president. The law was passed after the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. If convicted, she could be sentenced to life in prison. MacBride ruled at a pretrial hearing that Miss Fromme could act as her own attorney, but he named Virga as her co-counsel. Virga had handled most of the case since then. Shortly after jury selection began Tuesday morning, Miss Fromme rose from the defense table and approached MacBride's bench.

"Your honor, these people cannot judge me," she said of the potential jurors. "They can only judge themselves." "My family judges me," she said, referring to her association with the Charles Manson clan. After a pause, she told a stunned courtroom, "I find it necessary to change my plea to nolo contendere." A no contest plea is the equivalent of accepting a conviction and its penalties without formally admitting guilt. She did not elaborate on why she wanted to make the change, but her roommate and sister Manson follower, Sandra Good, told reporters: "To go through the trial is just a farce. Society threw away the right to a fair trial" when Manson and four followers were convicted of murdering actress Sharon Tate and six other persons.

Miss Good said that Miss Fromme wanted to use her trial to give the Manson clan a chance to defend itself against the Tate slayings and wanted Manson to represent her. It was not known if Miss Fromme had asked MacBride to allow Manson to take part in the trial. MacBride and U.S. Atty. Dwayne Keyes both refused to accept the plea change. Keyes said he and the judge would have had to agree to the no contest plea before it would have been allowed. Virga said he had not been told by Miss Fromme that she planned to request a plea change, but he said he, too, opposed it. "It's not applicable," Virga said of a no contest plea. "It's designed for a civil case where you are trying to avoid civil liability."

Judge's ruling pending on Patty's mental state

SAN FRANCISCO — Patricia Hearst, described by her attorney as mentally "crippled" and by a prosecutor as "fully competent," awaits a judge's ruling on her mental competence to stand trial. U.S. District Court Judge Oliver J. Carter calls it "a most difficult and most complex question to decide," but he promises to make the decision by Friday. In the interim, Carter said he will re-examine "in great detail" three voluminous reports by the psychiatric panel which examined Miss Hearst. He called the documents "complex and extremely verbose." One report concludes that Miss Hearst was "literally a prisoner of war for 20 months" and is suffering from a "traumatic neurosis," her attorney said. But U.S. Atty. James Browning Jr. insisted that none of the reports showed her to be incompetent to stand trial immediately on federal charges of taking part in a bank robbery while she was a fugitive with the Symbionese Liberation Army. Miss Hearst has not yet entered a plea on the charges. Miss Hearst, in court for the first time in six weeks for her competence hearing Tuesday, was pale but alert. She wore a plain brown pants suit and her hair hung limply to her shoulders. Blank-faced at her previous court sessions, she was more animated Tuesday, whispering and chatting with her attorneys. Miss Hearst's parents, Randolph and

Catherine Hearst, sat in the front row of the courtroom with daughters Vicki and Ann. But Patricia, seated at the counsel table, showed no reaction to their presence. "She is making progress, visible progress," attorney F. Lee Bailey said later. Bailey, in his first court appearance for the newspaper heiress, read the "prisoner of war" description from the report by Dr. L. J. West, a specialist in brainwashing after-effects. The psychiatric reports themselves remain secret but were open to court discussion. Bailey disclosed that West recommended three to four months of psychiatric treatment for the 21-year-old defendant. Another panel member, Dr. Seymour Pollock of the University of Southern California, recommended 30 to 90 days of treatment, Bailey said. Recommendations by the third panel member, Dr. Donald Lunde of Stanford University, were not disclosed. Clinical psychologist Margaret Thaler Singer also filed a lengthy report on clinical tests conducted on Miss Hearst. Bailey urged the judge to commit Miss Hearst to a mental hospital for at least 30 days and then reevaluate her condition before setting a trial date. Bailey has predicted that Miss Hearst's trial on the bank robbery charges will not begin until 1976. She faces another eventual trial in Los Angeles on state charges of kidnaping, assault and robbery.



Guarneri Quartet

The Guarneri Quartet performed Tuesday night to a sparse audience.

Photo by Winnie