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The Weather

Yesterday

High 80
Low 51
Rain 0.00 inches

Today

High 78
Low 56
Chance of rain 0%

Presidential race a toss-up to the end

United Press International

Republican Ronald Reagan is the narrow favorite to win the presidential election today, but Jimmy Carter pleaded for Democrats to return to the fold and rescue his hopes for four more years in the White House.

The Democratic president and his Republican challenger traded blows at the end of a long, lackluster and negative campaign in a few points apart on the pollsters' charts. Reagan was the leader, both nationally and in most of the big electoral vote states that would do most to select the next president.

Despite pollsters' numbers and pundits' estimates indicating Carter will be the first elected president since Herbert Hoover to lose a second term bid, several big questions remained to keep the election in the toss-up category:

— Did the Iranian Parliament's offer to release the U.S. hostages help Carter even though he could not promise immediate freedom for the 52 Americans held captive for a year?

— Would Democrats who defected to independent John Anderson return in numbers enough to give Carter some of the large swing states in which Reagan held slim leads?

— And could the feverish efforts of Democrats and their allies to reverse the 16-year decline of voter turnout yield enough extra votes to eke out victory for the president?

The presidential contest tops the ballot, but voters are also choosing 435 members of the House, 33 senators and 13 governors, as well as electing thousands of other state and local officials and deciding scores of ballot questions, from tax cuts to educational policies.

There were some bitterly fought contests, especially for the Senate, across the country, but early GOP hopes of breaking the Democratic hold on Congress — now 59-41 in the Senate and

276-159 in the House — does not appear likely to pan out even if a Republican does move into the White House in January. Nor do the Republicans appear likely to make heavy inroads on the current Democratic lead of 31-19 in governorships.

Turnout is vital to both sides, with the Democrats standing to gain most from a big vote because of their advantage in both registration and voter self-identification.

But most experts are predicting no more than 88 million votes — less than 55 percent of the 160.5 million Americans of voting age and about the same percentage as in 1976.

Student survey says Reagan gained votes after debate

By RITCHIE PRIDDY

Donald Reagan's personality is more persuasive than Carter's, and as a result he came away with a significant increase in votes, two Texas A&M University speech communications professors say.

University professors John Cook and William Strong conducted a survey on college students to try and determine the impact of the presidential debate, and concluded that the debate could have an impact on the way some people will vote.

We cannot make projections from the debate, we dealt primarily with why Reagan won votes after the debate. The reason is because people could more readily identify with Reagan," Strong said.

The two professors studied responses of college students on questionnaires before and after the debate. The questionnaires consisted of questions ranging from "Which man was best suited for the presidency?" to "What was the most important issue in the campaign?" It was randomly distributed to 250 students. Of the 250 questionnaires given out, 157 were completed, which the two professors considered a poor return.

The length of the questionnaire (eight pages) might have been part of the problem," Cook said.

The ABC News poll, after the debate, questioned about 1,000 people nationwide on one question per person. Our survey dealt with 157 people with 210 questions so it was more information from a smaller group of people," he said.

The results indicated Reagan was the only candidate who got a significant shift upward in the number of people who said they would vote for him.

"But, of course, with 59 percent of the population tested for Reagan to start with and like only 27 percent for Carter, you are in Reagan country, so more people are going to say he won and more people are going to shift that way just from talking to others," Cook said.

The study indicated that both candidates achieved higher credibility from the debate, with Reagan scoring higher in social and physical attractiveness.

"Reagan was higher on physical attractiveness, how well he dressed and how good he looked, and more socially attractive, as well. People seem to like him better which, according to his campaign officials, fits the goal of his campaign," Cook said. "He was trying to come off inter-personally warm, talk to you one-on-one, and it must be working because he is liked more."

Another thing measured was whether the voter thought the candidates' views matched his own. Does the candidate believe the same things I do, have the same attitudes, the same values?

"Identification is persuasion," Strong said. "If someone can identify with a candidate he'll most likely vote for him."

Strong explained that Reagan's positive identification comes from his use of language that emphasizes feelings and attitudes that people already have. Reagan mirrors the attitudes of society and makes people feel they are agreeing with him,

when in fact he is agreeing with them.

"Carter restrains himself to be presidential, and Reagan will go ahead and let himself relate to the individual citizen," Strong said. "He talks a lot like everybody's grandfather."

The study indicated Reagan scored higher on questions about similar beliefs, attitudes, values and background.

Cook said Reagan was perceived to be similar in his cultural and economic background, closer to the voters.

"So being from the South is no net asset in East Texas (for Carter)."

Of those surveyed, the economy was shown to be the most important issue in the campaign for most people, with foreign policy also considered important. Carter's performance as president was apparently not a major issue.

Cook said that the debate did have an impact on the number of undecided voters, since they were reduced from 19 percent to 13 percent. Some 5 percent of the undecided indicated a move in their preference to Reagan, with only a one percent increase for Carter.

Also, apparently, many voters considered themselves better informed on the issues after the debate. There was, however, no increase in the number of people who said they were going to vote.

"What we think we found in this data is the same kinds of things we expected," Cook said. "The candidates are doing the things they do best, doing what their coaches told them to do, and well enough to come off the way they are supposed to — credible and likeable."



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Here at last ...

Texas A&M students stand in one of two lines in the Commons Monday afternoon, in order to pick up their long awaited copy of the 1980 Aggie Yearbook.

Yearbooks can be picked up in the Commons from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily for the next two weeks. For a review of the 1980 Aggie Yearbook, refer to page 2.

Location of hostages remains well-guarded secret

United Press International

Thousands of Iranians rallied outside the U.S. Embassy today when they flocked into the diplomatic compound on the first anniversary of its seizure, but the whereabouts of the 52 American hostages was a tightly guarded diplomatic secret.

The official Pars news agency said thousands of Iranians lined the streets of Tehran to the embassy for the anniversary and "then thousands were allowed into the embassy compound."

Pars did not disclose the location of the hostages, deepening the mystery of their whereabouts since the militants transferred "responsibility" for the captives to the government Monday and told it to send a representative for "delivery of the American spies."

Pars said the rally began with readings from the Koran and a communique read by one of the militants, who Sunday evening said they would invite the public into the compound for tours.

Hojjatolislam Musavi Khomeini, chairman of Iran's special hostage commission, and Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai spoke at the rally, and Haj Seid Ahmad Khomeini, the son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, attended.

There were no details on the speeches by the Iranian leaders, but the radio said Khomeini had yet to mention the hostages, who the militants Monday turned over to the "responsibility" of the government.

"We are not making any comments about the hostages what-

soever," said a spokesman for the militants, reached by telephone from London, fueling the mystery over who was watching the captives and exactly where they were being held.

As the first votes were cast in the U.S. presidential election in Dixville Notch, N.H., with Ronald Reagan outpolling President Carter 17-3, the militants in Tehran whitewashed the U.S. Embassy of graffiti to celebrate the anniversary of the capture of the diplomatic compound.

Manson has third chance for parole

United Press International
MANSFIELD, Calif. — The only real question about Charles Manson's parole hearing today is whether the bearded mass murderer will show up.

The aging leader of the drug and sex cult known as the Manson Family has little chance of winning time off a life sentence for ordering the murders of actress Sharon Tate and eight other people in Los Angeles in 1969.

Even if conceding that fate, Manson had a meeting with hearing officers last week calling them "a bunch of liars."

Manson, 45, has twice been rejected as suitable for parole, and no follower who has been convicted of murder has been granted parole.

Last month, parole officers denied early release dates to former Manson Family members Charles "Tex" Watson, Steve Grogan and Robert Beausoli. Earlier this year, parole also was denied Patricia Krenwinkel, Susan Atkins and Leslie Houten.

Manson is intelligent enough to know he is not going to get paroled," Stephen J. Goff, a Los Angeles deputy district attorney, said in a recent interview.

"I don't know whether he'll show up or not. I don't expect anything starting to happen, although where Charles Manson is concerned we can never be sure."

Manson spokeswoman Teda Boyll said Monday Manson indicated he would attend the hearing, "but that can change by Tuesday."

Student debate airs views of candidates

By ROBERT R. GREEN

The Texas A&M University Debate Club, on the theory that Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan would not agree to a campaign debate, scheduled a debate of its own between students speaking for the four presidential candidates on the Texas ballot.

But the date they picked, October 28, happened to be the very day Reagan and Carter representatives finally settled on for their candidates' meeting.

Pre-empted by the real thing, the club had to settle for Monday, the day before the election, to hold what it called an "open forum on the election."

The debate, held in 401 Rudder Monday night, may have been late, but that didn't make the participants — or the audience — any less vocal.

Lainee Kobeluch, the club's vice president, said the forum's late date didn't mean it might not help some undecided voters make up their minds.

"A lot of people won't make up their minds until they go in the booth and go, 'Eenie, meenie, minie, moe,'" she said.

But few of the students could have been called "undecided." Though only about 20 people attended, those who were there voiced their opinions freely, and the event was probably closer to a full-fledged "debate" than the more structured Carter-Reagan bout the week before.

After prepared speeches by students representing the four candidates — Republican Ronald Reagan, Libertarian Ed Clark, Independent John Anderson and Democrat Jimmy Carter — the floor was thrown open for questions and discussion from the audience. There was plenty, with students supporting Anderson and Clark the most vocal.

Instead of simply questioning the

spokesmen, students in the audience ended up in a debate over government itself, with Libertarians advocating wholesale cuts in government and others questioning how the poor could be taken care of under such reduced or eliminated programs.

The notion of abolishing the minimum wage — the Libertarians want to — also made sparks fly, as did the question of the military draft.

Anderson and Clark supporters each urged people who don't want to vote for either major party candidate to vote for their candidates.

"If you plan to waste your vote, like voting for John Anderson," said Jeff Perkins, Clark's spokesman during the debate, "you might as well waste it on something worthwhile."

In the prepared speeches the student surrogates made many of the same claims and charges that the candidates themselves have been making:

— Jack Cherry of the campus Young Democrats echoed the so-called "war and peace" issue by saying that "the man we elect tomorrow may very well determine whether this nation goes to war or stays at peace."

— Reagan backer Scott McGraw, a junior English major, recalled Carter's 1976 campaign pledge that "I'll never lie to you" and said, "That was the first one."

— Witzel of the Anderson campaign said that when people are asked why they are voting for Anderson, "the first two reasons that usually come out are Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter."

— Clark representative Perkins, a senior marketing major, rejected all three of the other candidates' platforms as "runaway government" and advocated cutting the federal budget by \$200 billion in one year, with "more to come later."

Court lifts ban on transfer

Refugees sent to Puerto Rico

United Press International

MIAMI — The first contingent of refugees will be sent to Fort Allen in Puerto Rico this week, but federal officials say the group will be made up of newly arrived Haitian boat people and not Cuban refugees.

Hours after the Supreme Court lifted a ban Monday on the transfer of refugees to the Puerto Rican facility, which can house at least 2,000 people, Cuban-Haitian Task Force director James Gigante said flights were expected to begin this week, probably by Thursday.

Puerto Rican Secretary of State Pedro Vazquez said in San Juan, however, that

"all legal means will be used to protect the Puerto Rican people."

Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo, who also opposes the transfer, said only he would confer with his lawyers on the Supreme Court decision. He faces a difficult re-election battle today.

Among the first refugees to leave the U.S. mainland will be about 80 Haitians who came ashore near Islamorada late Monday.

"All new arrivals," Gigante said, "will not begin processing by voluntary agencies" in Florida, but will be transferred to Fort Allen for processing there.

Gigante said there were no immediate plans to send an estimated 500 Cuban re-

fugees now staying at Miami Beach hotels to Fort Allen, although those who reject resettlement and are unable to find means of support could eventually be transferred to the facility.

"A little less than 50 percent of them are accepting resettlement," said Gigante. The remainder plan to stay in the Miami area, seeking help from friends or relatives or looking for jobs. The federal government has announced it will no longer foot the bill for hotel rooms.

Resettlement efforts also continue for 823 Haitians housed at the Krome Avenue center in South Dade County. Gigante indicated that sponsorless, jobless refugees were likely to be sent to Puerto Rico.

Dems likely to rule Congress

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Democrats are certain to maintain control of Congress in today's elections, but are likely to lose some ground — and possibly some of their top leaders — to the Republican minority.

A United Press International pre-election survey indicated the Democrats will continue to rule Congress, extending their dominance over both Senate and House to 28 years. The Democrats now have a 273-159 edge in the House with three vacancies, and a 59-41 margin in the Senate.

A loss of 15 to 25 Democratic House seats was predicted by experts in both parties, and not enough Senate seats were expected to change hands to reverse the Democratic majority there.

But it is not the numerical makeup of Congress that is making the 1980 congressional elections interesting. It is the personalities, single-issue political action groups and scandal-tainted incumbents who have a big stake in its outcome.

The new Senate is certain to remain a white, nearly all male club, but the House is expected to pick up a handful of new women and black members. There currently are 16 females and 15 blacks in the 435-member body.

Anti-abortionists, consumer groups, labor unions, fundamentalist Christian conservatives and other pressure groups also get their first look at how much influence they can exert in a general election.

Also awaiting the voters' verdict is an unusually large number of

men who have stood or are awaiting trial — or who have already made their peace with the law.

Several House members connected to the Abscam investigation are in tight re-election races, including convicted Reps. Michael Myers, D-Pa., and John Jenrette, D-S.C. Both are expected to lose.

And in Maryland, Rep. Robert Bauman's disclosure that he is an alcoholic with "homosexual tendencies" turned what had been considered an easy re-election for him into a possible win for virtually unknown Democratic challenger Royden Dyson.

Bauman, a well-known conservative spokesman, escaped a morals charge after he agreed to enter a rehabilitation program, and the publicity has hurt him.

Most eyes, however, were on two committee chairmen who have not come to trial — House Administration Committee Chairman Frank Thompson of New Jersey and Merchant Marine Chairman John Murphy of New York.

In the Senate, which has been relatively free of scandal compared with the House, personalities and pressure groups dominate the elections.

Some of America's best-known politicians are up for re-election today, including two former presidential candidates — Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the 1964 Republican presidential candidate, and Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, the Democrats' 1972 standard-bearer.