

Sweet Sadie

Sadie, a 7-week-old terrier-mix, and her friends at the Michigan Humane Society are looking for a port to call home. If you would like to add a member to the family, call the society at 852-7821.



For constitutional rewrite

State GOP opposes convention

Taking the opposite position from the Democrats, the Republican State Central Committee will unanimously oppose the calling of a new state constitutional convention when the issue goes on the 1978 ballot.

The GOP central committee, governing body of the party between conventions, endorsed Saturday the recommendation of a special 26-member study committee headed by Weldon O. Yeager of West Bloomfield, a con-con delegate in 1962.

Other members of the study committee included C. Hugh Dohany, Oakland County treasurer and Southfield resident; and attorney Robert Tera of Birmingham.

The Yeager committee's recommendation was also unanimous.

"THE CONSTITUTION, which was adopted in 1962, has been working very well," Yeager said. "Our studies reveal most systems are responsive and do protect basic and individual freedoms while allowing government to deal with problems effectively and promptly if it chooses to do so."

The committee cited other reasons

for declining to rewrite the constitution entirely.

"After only 15 years, the Michigan Constitution lacks 'legal maturity.' The need for court interpretations as to the legal meanings... has begun to taper off."

"Changes proposed by the Democrats 'and some special interest groups are changes that could be made by amendment or by legislative act.'"

"Special interests are seeking to use a con-con 'as a way of bypassing the day-to-day legislative procedure. We anticipate the attempt to tamper with each basic position as the fiscal responsibility provisions and the rewriting of the various basic rights sections.' (One fiscal feature of the present constitution, particularly popular with Republicans, is the requirement for balanced budgets each year.)"

THE DEMOCRATIC State Central Committee endorsed calling a new con-con when it met several weeks ago.

It suggested a new constitution should abolish the property tax as the

chief underpinning for local school districts and allow the legislature to pass a graduated income tax.

Democrats declared support for abolishing the eight-member State Board of Education, elected by the voters, and replacing it with a single superintendent of public instruction, also elected by the voters.

Michigan's present constitution went into effect Jan. 1, 1964. It provides for a referendum question every 15 years on whether to call a new con-con.

If voters approve the question, special elections for con-con delegates would be held within six months. Delegates would be elected from existing house and senate districts.

MSU shows student increase

Enrollment this fall term at Michigan State University totals 44,211, the second highest in its history, reports Ira Polley, assistant provost for admissions and records.

This is an increase of 482 over the past year and the total is second only to the fall of 1975 when there were 44,580 students enrolled.

Undergraduate enrollment increased this year, but graduate enrollment did not change significantly.

The colleges which experienced the largest increases are business, engineering and communication arts and sciences.

For the second consecutive year, the college of business, with 6,118, continues to be the largest college at MSU. This represents an 11.4 increase over a year ago.

The second largest enrollment is in social science, 5,037, followed by natural science, 4,785, and education, 4,553.

The percentage of women students continues to increase. It went up 2.6 per cent to 20.85 while the men dropped slightly to 23.36. Today the ratio is about 53 per cent men to 47 per cent women.

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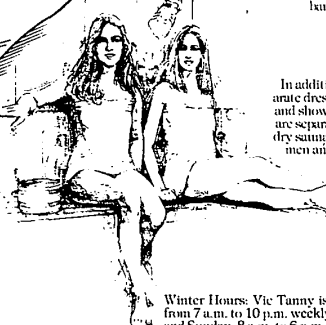


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