

## McDougall's big loss shocks St. Bernard

By STEVE CANNIZARO

St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Two days after Saturday's elections, the shock waves touched off by Jack A. Stephens' first primary victory in the St. Bernard sheriff's race are still coursing through the parish.

Many people couldn't believe it was true, and some even expected to hear an announcement that a mistake had been made.

But there does not appear to be any mistake in the election returns. For the first time in 21 years, the once invincible Rowley organization no longer controls the Sheriff's Office.

Stephens, 34, a political unknown three months ago, scored a surprisingly easy victory over Sheriff Ralph J. McDougall by taking almost 54 percent of the vote.

McDougall, who was out of the parish Monday and unavailable for comment, is reported to have been stunned by the totals that showed him finishing more than 7,000 votes behind Stephens.

Stephens tallied 17,329 votes to 10,195 (32 percent) for McDougall, who has been sheriff since 1979 and was running for a second term. Alan Abadie ran third and Anthony Licciardi came in fourth.

### An analysis

Thirty-three of St. Bernard's 36 precincts went for Stephens — some overwhelmingly — while McDougall won only two precincts, both in his home area of Arabi. One precinct, B-1 in Arabi, ended in a tie of 473 votes each for McDougall and Stephens.

It was the first time since 1924, when Dr. L.A. Meraux defeated Adam Estopinal, that an incumbent sheriff in St. Bernard was beaten in a re-election bid.

As the returns rolled in Saturday night, Clerk of Court Sidney Torres said it was hard to believe what he was seeing.

"I've been in public office 40 years (as a police juror and court clerk) and I've never seen anything like this before in a sheriff's race," he said.

The two big political questions being asked by St. Bernard residents Monday were (1) How could Stephens, who has been chief administrative officer for parish government since 1980, have beaten McDougall so handily, and (2) What does the loss mean for the political organization of District Attorney

John F. Rowley, which backed the sheriff.

More than 80 percent of the parish's 39,000 voters went to the polls, which Stephens said probably benefitted him.

"Traditionally, the (Rowley) organization's support is best at about the 70 percent level of turnout because of the built-in hard core vote they have always had," Stephens said.

The higher the turnout, the greater the chance that independent voters not tied to the Rowley organization will be deciding an election, Stephens said.

He credited what he called his positive campaign for swinging votes his

way in several wards where McDougall was expected to do well. Stephens said the support of the parish Police Jury, several School Board members and other parish officials also helped him win.

The public also may have lost confidence in McDougall's ability to run the Sheriff's Office. A federal narcotics investigation last year that resulted in the conviction of four deputies on drug-related charges apparently did severe political damage to McDougall.

The bitterness of the race also may

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## Tax protester willing to pay, but not for war

By DAVID SNYDER

Staff writer

FRANKLIN, La. — A young, pregnant woman struggled in vain to get her three children across the street. One lay on the asphalt pavement crying, and the hot, flustered mother struggled to pull him to his feet.

The woman found out, in seconds, that she was not alone with her problems.

Alice Drefchinski, a small, quick person who is administrator of a clinic for poor people in this south Louisiana sugar cane town watched briefly, then jumped from the car. "I have to help her," Drefchinski said.

She scooped the boy off the pavement and bundled all three children into the cab of the woman's pickup truck, parked across the street from her Teche Action Clinic.

DREFCHINSKI has been helping poor people virtually all her professional life, most of the time as a nurse.

Dealing with their problems is one of her three passions. The others: religion, and a deep-seated belief that tax dollars should not be used for the military.

It is the third concern that has produced an unlikely confrontation between Drefchinski and the federal government.

She has been fined \$500 by the Internal Revenue Service for claiming an income tax deduction based on religious opposition to military spending.

On her 1983 income tax return, she asked the federal government not to use her tax money for the military.

In what could be a landmark case, Drefchinski, a 52-year-old woman with strong anti-war convictions, has challenged in federal court the 1982 Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act prohibiting the filing of a "frivolous income tax return."

SHE IS ONE of about 20,000 people in the nation who have filed what the IRS calls "illegal protest returns," according to Don Hetzler, public affairs officer for the IRS in New Orleans. Of this number, 4,512 nationwide and 105 in Louisiana have been assessed \$500 for filing a frivolous income tax return.

A very small percentage of the protests are based on the religious and moral grounds used by Drefchinski, according to Vicki Metcalf, a lawyer for the Center on Law and Pacifism in Colorado Springs, Colo. Most of the protests stem from a belief that the assessment of an income tax is unconstitutional, Metcalf said.

The protest is anything but frivolous to Drefchinski, the daughter of a plant laborer who grew up poor. She calls the protest "the most serious thing I've done in my life."

HER TROUBLES with the IRS began in the spring of 1982, when

Drefchinski devoted a week of her time away from work to writing a letter to the IRS. It was something she'd been thinking about for two years.

She challenged the use of her tax money for the military and asked for a "war tax exemption of approximately 50 percent of my lawful taxes." Drefchinski said she figured that was the portion of tax money that would be spent for the military.

She enclosed the letter with her Form 1040 income tax return. On a line reserved for the listing of miscellaneous deductions, she printed "war tax."

Drefchinski said she didn't expect a response, and got none.

This year, she wrote a similar letter to the IRS.

The 1983 letter required only two days to prepare, Drefchinski said, because she had just spent two weeks working on a sermon, delivered in St. Jules Catholic Church here, on the immorality of nuclear weapons. Drefchinski is a reader in the church.

She lives with her widowed sister in a small frame house a couple of blocks away.

AGAIN THIS YEAR, she did not withhold tax money, but asked that the 50 percent of taxes she figured would go for military purposes be used "for any of the human services programs that have received such deep cuts because of the military buildup." She wrote in "war tax" on Line 26 of the itemized deductions schedule to accompany the 1040 form.

This time Drefchinski touched off sparks. The IRS sent her a notice that she would be assessed \$500 for filing a frivolous income tax return.

She decided to fight back. In what apparently is the first suit of its kind testing the 1982 Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act, Drefchinski says the penalty violates her rights, under the First and Fifth amendments, to freedom of speech and religious expression.

Hetzler said there is no such thing as a war tax deduction and that, therefore, the tax return could not be processed.

"We are saying that, in the income tax sense, it is a frivolous return," Hetzler said.

Drefchinski said her decision to fight was based on her belief that "they'll use the \$500 for war material."

DREFCHINSKI'S showdown with the federal government and the IRS began four years ago when she first heard of a war protest movement based on the withholding of a portion of income taxes.

Her opposition to the use of atomic weapons was galvanized by a 1949 debate on the dropping of the bomb, when she was a high school senior in East Moline, Ill, she said.



IRS challenger Alice Drefchinski displays peace literature

Recently, she sat at her desk in a trailer office at the back of the brick Teche Action Clinic talking about the events that shaped her life. The sweet smell of a sugar cane grinding mill half a mile away hung over the town and the big cane wagons trundled through the middle of town.

"I was a teen-ager when they dropped the atomic bomb," Drefchinski said. "I knew that was something that would make a great difference. It was a whole new kind of warfare. Nothing would ever be the same."

She argued in her senior year American history class that the United States should never have dropped the bomb.

"I was alone," she said. "I didn't know of anybody who thought like that, at least not at that time."

Her teacher arranged a debate on the bomb. "I couldn't get anybody to be on my team," Drefchinski said.

SHE SEEMS CONSUMED by her work, the Catholic Church and The Grail, an international organization of women with strong religious beliefs. She worked as a nurse in a poor, outback village of Brazil in a program the group sponsored.

The Grail movement, she said, "has been the motivating force in my life." Drefchinski understands being poor.

She remembers layoffs and strikes that kept the family poor in East

Moline, a farm-implement manufacturing town on the Mississippi River.

She remembers the family being put out of a house when she was a child because her father couldn't pay the rent. They moved into a big wall tent in a campground on the Rock River while her father built a house out of the lumber from a boxcar.

"I have never done anything except work for the poor," she said.

After Brazil she was involved in Great Society programs like Head Start and Community Action in South Louisiana. Drefchinski became a nurse at the Teche clinic 10 years ago.

AND, ALL THE while, she brooded about the use of tax dollars for the military.

"I was in Brazil when John Kennedy was killed," she said. "I made sure I came home in time to vote against Barry Goldwater. I saw him as a hawk."

On Memorial Day this year she again asked to speak in her church.

"I talked about the horrors of nuclear war," she said. "I asked people to sign a pledge saying they were willing to live without nuclear weapons. About half the people present at two Masses signed."

The most immediate reason Drefchinski is suing the secretary of the Treasury and commissioner of the

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## Few new faces will be seen in '84 Legislature

By JACK WARDLAW

Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — There'll be a changing of the guard in the governor's office this spring, but when the new Legislature gets here April 12 it'll look an awful lot like the old one.

That's because voters dictated very little turnover in the Legislature in Saturday's election. They voted in fewer new faces than at any election in recent memory.

The lack of turnover is doubly unusual because the last time the Legislature was reappointed — in 1971 — incumbents were sent packing in wholesale lots. The 1981 redistricting caused barely a ripple.

In the Senate, at least 30 of the 39 members will be old faces. A dozen senators were not opposed in the election, and of those who were, 18 were re-elected.

Only three senators were voted out — Michael H. O'Keefe and Henry E. Braden IV, both D-New Orleans, and Dan Richey, D-Ferriday. Two senators — Theodore M. Hickey, D-New Orleans, and W.E. Dykes, D-Montpelier — did not seek re-election.

Three House members — Ben Bagert Jr., D-New Orleans; Bill Atkins, D-Jonesville; and Richard Turnley, D-Scotlandville — move to the Senate. Bagert and Atkins replace O'Keefe and Richey, respectively, while Turnley won a newly created seat in the Baton Rouge area. Braden was defeated by Dennis Bagneris.

Another new face in the Senate will be that of either Gerry E. Hinton, D-Slidell, or Roy K. Burns, D-Covington. The two are in a runoff in a newly created 11th District along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Four senators were forced into Nov. 19 runoffs. They are Leonard Chabert, D-Chauvin; Bill Keith, D-Mooringsport; John Saunders, D-Pine Prairie; and Ned Randolph, D-Alexandria.

The Senate will gain at least one black member, and possibly two. Turnley is black and so is Keith's opponent, Gregory Tarver, D-Shreveport. The other blacks are Bagneris and William Jefferson, D-New Orleans.

The Senate will continue to have only one Republican, Ken Hollis, R-Metaire, who was unopposed for re-election. All other GOP Senate candidates were defeated. The Senate will continue to be all male. All female Senate candidates lost Saturday.

The 105-member House will have at least 73 "old faces" as 28 incumbents were unopposed and 45 won re-election Saturday. Only four House members were voted out, while 16 are in runoffs, two of them against each other.

Three new House members were elected Saturday in districts without incumbents, and in 11 more no-incumbent districts there are runoffs between newcomers. In three districts, incumbents were ousted by newcomers.

The six new members already

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Ron Fauchoux May be next commerce secretary

## Fauchoux may accept Cabinet job

By The Associated Press

State Rep. Ron Fauchoux of New Orleans reportedly has agreed to serve as secretary of commerce in the administration of incoming Gov. Edwin W. Edwards.

Fauchoux, who operates an election consulting firm, was reported on the road on campaign business and could not be reached for comment.

He was re-elected to the state House of Representatives Saturday without opposition and would have to resign the seat to take the Cabinet post.

The Shreveport Journal reported Monday that Edwards said he had selected Fauchoux, although the announcement was not made Sunday in Edwards' post-election interview.

In that news conference, Edwards said he selected Stephanie Laborde Alexander as commissioner of administration, the state's top administrative job.

He also said he will reappoint former Natural Resources Secretary William Huls to the post he held from 1976 to 1980.

Fauchoux has represented District 100 in eastern New Orleans for two terms. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the 1st District in 1977 and lost a bid for mayor last year in a runoff with the Mayor Dutch Morial.

Another Cabinet appointment expected to be announced shortly is that of C. Paul Phelps to head the state Department of Corrections.

Phelps held the secretary's job during Edwards' previous two administrations and now is a penal consultant to the U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge.

## Huls knows way around state's natural resources

By MARY JUDICE

Energy editor

The man Gov.-elect Edwin W. Edwards has chosen to be Louisiana's secretary of natural resources is an outspoken energy advocate respected by members of the oil and gas industry.

William C. Huls is no newcomer to the office. In 1976, during Edwards' second term as governor, he appointed Huls the state's first natural resources secretary.

Huls will face many of the same issues. Drilling is down in Louisiana, natural gas prices are still under controls and the chemical industry is still having trouble obtaining natural gas.

Huls was the first secretary chosen

by Edwards. Some members of the oil and gas industry were surprised by the swiftness of his choice, but not the choice itself.

Huls is regarded by natural resources insiders as "one of the most knowledgeable in the oil industry."

He worked for Texaco Inc. when it was known as The Texas Co. and later had an interest in an energy company, Quesada Oil and Gas Corp. In 1972, he was named by Edwards to the state Mineral Board, which leases state lands.

When the Natural Resources Department was formed, he moved in as secretary. At the end of Edwards' second term, in 1980, Huls formed The

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**United Way**

**Goal:**  
**\$12,200,000**

**Collected: \$9,082,173**

**Still need: \$3,117,827**

**Days left: 9**

## Fair's mascot carries message in new name: Seymore D. Fair

There were 648 Pierres, 433 Louis, 168 Freds, 132 Frenchies and 104 Dixies.

There was Zeke the Good Time Pelican, Crazy-Laid-Back-Fred, Puddin Puss, Super Stud and Vladimir.

But when the judges sifted through the 19,000 names for the 1984 world's fair pelican, this is what they picked: Seymore D. Fair. Get it? Say it again, slowly.

At a black-tie affair Monday afternoon, the fair christened its nameless pelican. There was music, champagne, lots of people, and a beautiful woman who — instead of opening the envelope — cracked an egg to read the name. Since he hatched almost 10 months

ago, the bird has been known even to his intimates as Mr. Pelican. But the fair would brook no formality, a mascot must have a name.

"Disneyland has Mickey, the Olympics have Sam the Eagle, San Diego its chicken," said fair President Petr Spurney.

So the fair launched a contest with Timesaver stores, which paid for it. Susan Shambra, a computer operator for an insurance company, won. At the press conference, she was nonplussed by all the attention, speechless while the bird she named wriggled and posed for photographers.

The judges came from all walks of bird life: Allen Enslinger, chief of fur

and refuge at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Guy Farnell, curator of birds at the Audubon Park and Zoological Gardens; and Bob Marshall, outdoor editor of The Times-Picayune/The States-Item.

It took the judges about seven hours each to read through the 6½-pound computer printout of names. "I started panicking on Saturday," Farnell said. "I had no idea they were talking about 18,000 names."

Although it got a better turnout than some political races, the contest was no harbinger of Louisiana elections. There were two Dave Treens to-one Edwin Edwards. But the mayor can take heart: There were 49 entries for Dutch, two for Lil' Dutch.