

S a n a v a r

A n e w s p a p e r f o r T a l o s s a
N u m b e r 1 : E a s t e r S u n d a y , M a r c h 3 1 , 2 0 0 2

Azul and Welcome!!

Those were the days... Ron Rosalez had made his return to the Regipäts and was making waves on the blossoming national provincial scene (in Vuode to be precise) which also was seeing Maricopa flowering as a fledgling democratic province. In Maritiimi-Maxhestic, the *Aquamarine* political party was making its presence known. Then, there was the Class of January, 2001... In that month, Bill “Coop” Cooper became our second-oldest current citizen (Harry Lee Madison, the Senator from Vuode being the eldest and wisest), Andrea Thompson stretched the minimum age limit for citizenship to its limit and was in the process of becoming a force in our National Conversation, a term coined by Michael Pope. And Martin-Pierre Frenette, aka “Dr. Willy” of Montreal, Quebec was only beginning his work of becoming the best new citizen Talossa has had in a long, long time. Jeff Ragsdale’s prediction of 20 new citizens by year’s end seemed well on its way to coming true. The country was basking in the glow of a General Election (for the 28th Ziu) which saw the largest number of votes ever cast in a Talossan election. The TFLN Buffone/Aldous dispute was giving the Uppermost Cort some work, and Wittenberg VI (which had gone online on February 10, 2000) was still going strong, the longest-lived incarnation of our national electronic forum. The economy was still good even though the halcyon dot-com days had met their demise, a new President (whatever one might think of him) was coming on the scene in the United States, and Enron and Arthur Anderson were still doing the foxtrot while everyone marveled at their footwork. Such was the late-winter and spring of 2001.

Never before in the history of Talossa had Real Life intruded itself into our national life than the way it party-crashed in 2001. The Houston Astros are now playing in the Astros Field, Arthur Anderson is dying a slow and agonizing death, six members of the Talossan Liberal Party resigned from active political life, and then renounced their citizenships, all within about eight days of one another and five within a space of twenty-four hours, Mrs. Gaye, in whose house many a Talossan party was held, passed away, thus shutting off that place to Talossans for all time, the selling of my house took me out of the Maricopan scene to the point where I almost could not conduct an election for Governor of the province and Talossa entered, though no one knew it at the time, a drought in which no new citizens were coming and few prospectives were visiting Witt at all. The Aldous/Buffone difficulty was resolved, Wittenberg VI crashed and burned, and the provincial scene seemed to be on the wane, particularly when Ron Rosalez’s professional life caused him to take a leave of absence from Talossa from which he has not yet returned.

Then there was September 11. a day when the world entered a new era... a day the world changed forever... a day when barbarism reared its ugly head in the most graphic way—a way no one could have imagined in their wildest dreams... America went to war, and Talossa had her finest hour; the strongest show of courage and unity in the history of our nationette!

But not all went wrong in Talossa during that fateful year. John Jahn well-proved his worth as Pope Jahn XXIII (Regent John Jahn and Prime Minister Michael Pope) guided our country, in the absence of King and Princess of Hot Wheels who were on a month-long trip to Europe, through the nightmare of September 11 and the days following in a strong and profound way which will be remembered always. I cannot imagine Talossa without Andrea, Coop, and Martin-Pierre. I cannot imagine Talossa without Talossa.net! And Talossans came out in a strong showing in the election for the 29th Ziu.

Where stand we now? Better in some ways. Talossan politics has matured to the point where Ben Madison has even come out and said (about six months ago, actually) if the RCT or ZPT were to win an election, he would not be worried about Talossa's future; the mass departure of the Liberals has made Talossan politics a hotbed of social rest in a way never before experienced in Talossan life. Via a new immigration policy, we have two new Permanent Residents who are making their own waves in our National Conversation as well as a steady stream of people of various states of weirdness (from normal to not-so-normal) who have entered the queue for getting the ball rolling for Talossan citizenship (many are rightfully turned away by our worthy gatekeeper, Immigration Minister Martin-Pierre, but the fact of people actually hearing about Talossa is a good thing). On March 22, 2002, www.maricopaprovince.net went live, and Ben Madison and Amy Durnford were married under Talossan law during the Talossan Independence Anniversary party in December, 2001. Most important, we have a far-greater and profound indentity as a kingdom, nation, and people than we have ever shared before; thanks to that is due to two things: the mass-exodus of the Liberals which made us all ask ourselves "What *does* Talossa Mean to Me??" and September 11 which made us all give thanks we have a Talossa to call our own and the freedom to do so. If for those reasons alone, we are a better nation than even in the halcyon days of Spring, 2001.

It was into the spirit and atmosphere of those times (which to me seem a lifetime ago) that I brought *müc'häps!*, Maricopa's provincial online newspaper, into being. It started out well. I produced the first two issues, but then Real Life set in and the able Albrec'ht Stolfi stepped up to bat and brought forth the next two issues. A few months passed, and I came out...with the fifth issue in October of last year. The sixth through eighth issues were posted to Wittenberg this year and dealt almost entirely with national issues. The eighth was a way-too-indepth analysis of Talossan politics which turned a few people off; that issue went over like a lead balloon, and I regret having "put it to press". The ninth and last issue of *müc'häps!* consisted of nothing more than my announcement of that publication going on an indefinite hiatus (from which it may never come back, but who knows??).

I put *müc'häps!* to rest for a number of reasons. I felt issue 8 left a bad taste in people's mouths for one thing. Another thing was the fact of it dealing with many non-Maricopan issues, or wanting to anyway. Translated: I saw more material of substance in the national scene rather than what had become a stagnant provincial scene. Although the recent senatorial election in Florencia seems to challenge that assumption in a big way.... Finally, there was the ever-increasing nagging feeling that what Talossa needed and needs is a national publication to bind it together in a way Wittenberg has not been able to so far.

In recent weeks, I proposed a national snail-mailed publication. The idea of calling it *Støtanneu* (bringing back the venerable publication, in other words) came up rather quickly, and I got a lot of interest really quickly. However, the idea of discussing bringing back *Støtanneu* seems to have died off in recent days. However, the need for a publication for the whole of Talossa has not; hence, *Sanavar*, which in Talossan means "to herald".

I invite all Talossans of all points of view to submit articles, poetry, and the like; however, I have no intention of supplanting the place of *Støtanneu* as the "official" publication of the Talossan people; the *Støt* franchise is almost as old as Talossa itself, and to even begin to try and chip away at its influence is ludicrous, ridiculous, and offensive. However, until the time comes when *Støtanneu* rises from the ashes of bygone Talossan mediadom, I hope *Sanavar* will do.

Jeff Ragsdale, *Editor-in-Chief*

Decision (Spring) 2002: the election for the 30th Ziu by Jeff Ragsdale, *political correspondent*

Abbavilla-The story of the election so far...

Party	Votes	%	Seats
PC	8	57.14%	11.43
RCT	3	21.43%	4.29
TINOP	1	7.14%	1.43
TRA	2	14.29%	2.86
Total	14	100%	20

Fourteen votes at the midpoint of the election?? In the past and by this time in the election cycle, the all-out winner was already decided, if not by a mathematical certainty, it was most definitely so in practical terms. Not this time around. The ZPT votes have yet to come in, and many of the PC old-timers have yet to cast their ballots. Turnout is crucial for all parties, however it may very well be many folks are waiting until the final days to chime in. The ZPT did that last time and appears to be doing so again. While the validity of the platforms of the TINOP and the TRA may be suspect, there is no doubt the RCT is reaping the benefits of what seems to be a lack of vision for this election. The TRA appears to have taken at least one seat in Cosâ away from the RCT already; former Florencia Senator Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau's continuous service in the Ziu will more-than likely continue without break. Things do not appear to be going so smoothly for Steven Ehrbar's Talossan Imperial New Order Party which still has but Mr. Ehrbar's solitary vote and does not appear to be getting more. In net gain of votes for parties, Jeff Ragsdale, a defector from the Opposition and Steven Ehrbar, a defector from the PC's camp of supporters, have far cancelled each other out. And once again, key swing voter Andrea Thompson has donned her electoral poker face.

However, I believe this is as close as the Opposition is going to get. Take a look at the [list](#) of who has already voted; the names of a horde of sure-fire PC voters who have not yet [cast their ballots](#) are very, *very* conspicuous. Rest assured, the PC will turn out its vote. For its sake, I hope the Opposition does the same.

In-depth with citizen Jeff Ragsdale

On March 29-30, 2002, we sat down with citizen Jeff Ragsdale and spoke of things political and professional, but not too personal...

Sanavar: Tell us about your journey in the world of Talossan politics.

JR: Leaving the RCT party was a painful experience. The seed for my party change came with a simple post from none other than Ben Madison who said something to the effect of "Why do you want this government to fall?". When I could not think of any answer to counter his question, my Talossanity was changed. Leaving the RCT was painful, but I have not regretted my decision to become an ardent supporter of the PC. I have also not regretted staying an independent voter (technically); I do not want to commit to a party, RCT, ZPT, PC, or whatever through the process of membership. If the PC gives me ample reason to do so, I want to be able to switch my support to the Opposition seamlessly. However, when offered the chance, I chose to be the person slated to be Michael Pope's Deputy Prime Minister; as long as I hold this position, I am a Progressive Conservative party member in all but name, effectively negating my independent voter status.

S: All right then. What do you do or say when Michael Pope and Co. decide on a course that is clearly off-base?

JR: That would depend on what Michael and Co. have in mind. Certainly I would let him, the PC, the Government, and people know of my concerns (in *that* order, btw). These concerns would be put through the gauntlet of discussion and criticism. I am open to having my ideas and concerns shot down by the twin voices of Common Sense and Reason. I am open to being wrong on things. However, if things got bad enough, I would resign the DPM post, but I cannot *imagine* things ever getting to *that*!

S: Do you think you will ever apply for PC membership?

JR: Not in the foreseeable future. Things might change, however.

S: You became independent partly because you wanted to be able to criticize whoever you want and praise whoever you want without the constraints of party loyalty. Now you have put PC chains around you instead of RCT ones.

JR: I agree with you; my being DPM is a measure of my confidence in this Government and in this Prime Minister. I will have little to criticize, if any. The PC and I may disagree on some things, but we agree on far more.

S: And what is that?

JR: That the status quo is a good thing! The PC is clearly *not* a stagnant bunch of do-nothings as the Opposition likes to claim sometimes. The Opposition has no platform on which to stand because the PC has not given them any.

S. What is your prognosis for the provincial scene in Talossa?

JR: It will take at least five-to-ten years to build real and lasting provincial governments complete with legislatures, courts, and Executive branches. Maricopa is on its way to that as is Vuode and Maritiimi-Maxhestic. Cezembre has had such a thing for years, but no one outside of that province seems to remember it.

S: Steven Ehrbar has recently stated on Wittenberg, "The only hope for Talossan politics is for people to vote for parties other than the PC. The PC is a huge coalition party that has become virtually synonymous with Talossan government and the Kingdom of Talossa. That makes Talossan politics the equivalent of PRI-era Mexican politics. Do you really want to be in a country that's effectively a Wisconsin version of Mexico?".

JR: I could go on for pages and pages about how Talossa is not Mexico. Look, if Santa Anna had been better to the Texans, Mexico would still have California, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas. Mexico would also be a far-different and more affluent nation than she now is. Unfortunately, the leaders of Mexico in the past, from Santa Anna to the PRI had never wanted their people to be anything more than peasant-class and blossom into the nation they are capable of becoming. Ben Madison, John Jahn, and the rest of the PC guys have never tried to beat down Talossans in the way the corrupt PRI has its own people. I believe Vincente Fox knows this, and I believe he wants to change things. Whether he will be able to or not remains to be seen. Talossa is not Mexico.

The recent history of the Talossan Opposition is fascinating in the extreme. We who are newcomers to Talossa need to remember the PC's long-standing majority in the Cosâ has [rarely ever been so monstrous](#)

that it [truly had carte-blanche](#). to do [whatever it liked](#). Most of the time since the last [time](#) it was in Opposition, the PC has had the present-day equivalent of an 11-seat Cosâ majority; this has been especially true since Talossa went online in January, 1996. When it comes to a fractious Vote of Confidence, a knife-edge majority like that is not much room to play with.

It is interesting to see that Steven has come upon the one solution the Opposition has if it is to topple the PC majority from power anytime in the foreseeable future: “The PC is a huge coalition party...”. *Coalition* is the operative word here. The PC did not become a true political dynasty until the Talossan National Party was dissolved and Jahn joined forces with Ben et al. :

The recent history of the Opposition of Talossa is riddled with flashes in the pan, near-misses, and dashed hopes. Witness the [election](#) for the 28th Ziu:

Party	Votes	%	Seats
PC	27	52.94%	10.59
RCT	8	15.69%	3.14
TLFN	2	3.92%	0.78
TLP	8	15.69%	3.14
ZPT	6	11.76%	2.35
Total	51	100%	20

Simply put, the PC got 27 votes and the Opposition got 24. four votes shy... just *four* votes... And the Talossan Liberal Party later on decided to have a hissy fit and say it had no say-so in Talossan political life!! This set of statistics *alone* proves the Liberals’ whining to be just that: whining and balderdash. When the Liberals decided to make their exit from the Talossan stage, they not only (but not completely, thank heaven) decimated the populous of Cézembre province, but they also kicked the Opposition in the teeth. Unbelievable. When I came to Talossa in June of 2000, the Liberals were still respected and were still the most powerful party in Opposition and the second most powerful political party in all of Talossa. *In less than two years*, that group of people slid from the top of the Opp hill so far and so fast I *still* can’t believe it.

The central question I am getting at is *what if the Opposition in the 28th Ziu election had formed a coalition?* What if?? The Liberals might very well have had a Prime Minister from their party and the PC might be looking in from the outside for the first time in many, many years. It is scary to think just how close we came to that: four votes. But instead of coalescing, the Opposition is *splitting*. Instead of just the tried-and-true RCT and ZPT, we now have the Star Wars parties: the Talossan Rebel Alliance and the Talossan Imperial New Order Party. I would have never dreamed Albrec’ht Stolfi, an ardent RCTer would venture out on his own, and by golly, he is going to put into Cosâ none other than *Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau*!! If it wants, the TRA could make waves in a very, *very* big way. In less than a few months, this little party has taken a seat in Cosâ, and *on the day of its founding* already had a place in the Senäts!! Not even the PC could say that. If he wants, Albrec’ht could become as great a political force as David Fauteaux has.

Dave is the Opposition's best hope for Prime Minister, but most in the ZPT, to the PC's everlasting gratitude, have never appreciated this. In order for the ZPT and RCT to ever see Government, they need to form a coalition. Happily, that does not seem to be happening.

S: The election seems very close right now. How soon can we expect for the watershed votes to come in?

JR: That is an interesting question. Today is Easter Sunday, and tomorrow will be the Easter Monday which just happens to come at the exact middle of the election cycle. Who knows when that will ever happen again; I think a lot of people have been so caught up with Easter things, voting in this election has been the last thing on their minds. Bear in mind the election will end on Sunday the 14th of April and Tax Day is the very next day; methinks a few people just might forget to vote because they have their minds on their taxes! I think this will really happen with at least one voter, though I have no idea who. Easter and Tax Day bookending the last two weeks of a General Election—very unusual...

Expect a few votes tomorrow and a steady stream to come in as this week progresses. The swing vote of Andrea Thompson may not come until the very last day. Hers may very well determine a Cosâ seat! Expect the ZPT to not vote until the last Friday before the Deadline or so. Who knows really when these folks will cast their ballots, but I can at least put in some speculation.

S: How major a force is apathy right now??

JR: Right now, it is a very big force in Talossan life. Whether we have really recovered from the mass renunciations effects is yet to be seen. What troubles me is that a number of long-standing citizens are near to losing their citizenships because of non-voting: Dan Lorentz (if he should come back to activity, this could be the shot in the arm which could bring the ZPT back to its former glory), Gary Schwichtenberg, Alberto Massanero, Mark Franklin, David Rice (who has never voted), and Marguerite Converse (who also has never voted). We have not heard from Mike Dinitz, Paola Cleri, and Martin Bertagnon in a great, *great* while. However, these three did vote in the last election. And for these three, I blame myself. I have not kept in touch with them as I ought to have as Maricopa SoS and a fellow Talossan.

Combating apathy on a national scale rather than just on a provincial scale is the reason why müc'häps! went bye-bye and is the reason why *Sanavar* is around now.

S: What is your master plan for www.maricopaprovince.net?

JR: I want it to be what it already is: a place for Maricopans to find out what is what with their province and who is who with their fellow Maricopans. This is Maricopa's home on the World Wide Web, and is a little online piece of Talossan life. I plan to put more archival materials relating to all the elections for Governor as well as a few other things I cannot think of off the top of my head.

S: You have had a very busy March!

JR: In spades. I have *never* had a month like this one. Twenty-four evenings out of this month I have spent rehearsing or performing with one professional vocal group or another.

S: Is your voice okay?? That is a lot of singing!

JR: Most of it has not involved really heavy singing. I have done fine.

S: Tell us again what groups you sing with...

JR: I sing with the Chancel Choir of Central Presbyterian Church, the [Houston Chamber Choir](#), the [Bach Society](#), the Friday-evening choir of [Congregation Emanu El](#), and the *Sounds of Celebration* Sunday evening service choir at [St. John the Divine Episcopal](#); all are professional engagements and in Houston. Occasionally I will moonlight at [Holy Spirit Episcopal Church](#).

S: Thank you very much for sitting with us and talking about things.

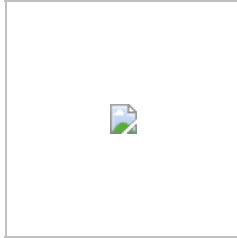
JR: Certainly! Please ask me again!

~end of interview~

~end of *Sanavar* #1~

S a n a v a r

a n e w s p a p e r f o r T a l o s s a
N u m b e r 2 : A p r i l 1 , 2 0 0 2
J e f f R a g s d a l e , E d i t o r - i n - C h i e f



I n M e m o r i a m :
H e r M a j e s t y , Q u e e n E l i z a b e t h , t h e Q u e e n
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T h e P a s s i n g o f H i s t o r y

from Wittenberg VIII:

in mmoriam Queen Mum Elisabeth

Posted By: UC on: 03/30/2002 14:07:53 EST

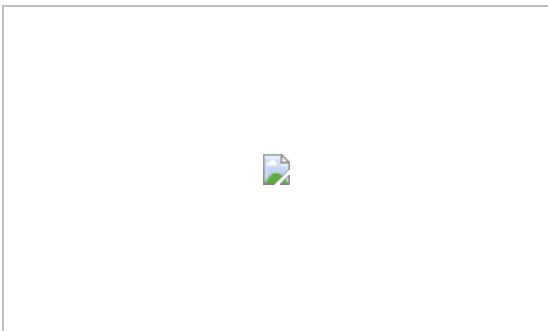
Posted by: UC

Message Detail:

I hurt my shoulder a week ago that's why I haven't posted recently but I cannot bear not posting this.

She died this afternoon peacefully in her sleep. Sh e reached an age of 101. She was the cornerstone of the british royalty. She enjoyed life to the full.

So passes another mayor figure in history.



“She was the backbone of our nation. Her quiet dignity and resilience will always be remembered.”

- Joanna Nelson , UK [source: the BBC]

The above words describe eloquently and with brevity what Britain and the civilized world is feeling now. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, of the United Kingdom passed away on Saturday, March 30, 2002 . I now defer to the

BBC's [coverage](#)

The Queen Mother was the living embodiment of the history of the British people of the last century-and-a-half. She was the last living member of the Royal household born in the time of Queen Victoria. In every person's life, there is that one defining moment where his/her life makes the most difference in this world, good or bad. For the Queen Mother, it came during the Battle of Britain, the attempt by Nazi Germany to placate Britain via firebombing and other aerial attacks designed to ready the country for an invasion. Instead of doing what others had done and flee with her family, she, her husband, King George VI, and her family stayed in London with their people. And their people never forgot that. Such courage is the stuff of legends, and she was a living legend who saw the world transform from horses and buggies to men walking on the moon and mapping the human genome.

My late Grandmother, Joy D. Burnett, and I watched the funeral of Princess Diana. As we watched the Queen Mother walk without even a cane into Westminster Abbey, my Grandmother expressed aloud her amazement. My Grandmother was 72 and could hardly even get out of her chair to do anything. The Queen Mother was as healthy as a horse until the end, and, unlike some people her age, her mind was well, hale, and whole until the day she died.

Being a member of the Royal Family is not as easy as people believe. Sure, one gets three squares a day and a nice pad, but one also gets the constant threat of bodily harm, the pressure of Parliament and republican forces, hence the necessity of staying out of politics in every way. The schedule a royal must keep may include dining at the finest restaurants and riding in luxury cars every day of the week, but it also includes having to give up one's anonymity. It also includes being at part of the cultural helm of the country. Indeed, the Sovereign *is* the country! (That's where the "Royal *We*" comes from-"*We*" means "the people and I"). One has to be a PR genius to be a good royal, and the Queen Mother was certainly that. One never heard a negative thing or anything gossipy or to gossip about from her; she knew how to keep her mouth shut. She always struck me as one who had an opinion about everything, but she never let on in public.

The Queen Mother was the epitome of class, the example of elegance, and the queen of grace and dignity. She was a remarkable person in so many ways.

I will miss her terribly.

-Jeff Ragsdale

F r o m t h e P r i m e M i n i s t e r ...

from Wittenberg VIII:

OFFICIAL: A PD of Mourning

Posted By: Michael Pope on: 04/01/2002 17:07:51 EST

Posted by: Michael Pope

Message Detail:

I, Michael J. Pope, Seneschál del Regipäts Talossán, do hereby do issue this PRIME DICTATE:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother of the United Kingdom, died peacefully in her sleep on March 30th, 2002, at the age of 101. She passed away at Royal Lodge, her residence at Windsor Castle, with the Queen by her side.

The Queen Mother was a link with the past, with the British Empire and the Edwardian Age. She was the last woman on Earth to reign as a true empress, Empress of India. A firm believer in the value of the British Empire as a force for good, she led an active and vigorous life - keeping up with current events (despite the fact that the last interview she gave was in 1922), enjoying sports such as fishing, and drinking a special gin martini every evening. She was a firm embodiment of the spirit of noblesse oblige and she will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the people of the Kingdom of Talossa , I hereby order that Tuesday, April 2nd, be set aside as a day of mourning, in solidarity with our fellow constitutional monarchy, the United Kingdom . All flags are ordered to be flown at half mast and all appropriate honors shall be rendered to the memory of the Queen Mother.

Done under my hand on this first day of April, the Year of Our Lord Two-Thousand and Two.

God Save The King,

Michael J. Pope
Seneschál del Regipäts Talossán

We at Sanavar echo these sentiments. These icons of Americana and indeed the whole of Western culture will never be replaced. –Jeff Ragsdale, Editor-in-Chief

~end of Sanavar #2~

S a n a v a r

a n e w s p a p e r f o r T a l o s s a

N u m b e r 2 : A p r i l 19 , 2002

D e c i s i o n 2002 (S p r i n g , t h a t i s)

Azul!

Well, another General Election has come and gone, a new Government is upon us, pending a Prime Dictate from Michael Pope to the effect (or the same government, Take 5), and apathy seems to have reared its ugly head again! Many thanks for the good feedback to our first issue of about a month ago. This new issue covers in-depth the election just--past as well as looks forward to the Clark and Senatorial elections to come. The first Clark of the 30th Ziu is the most interesting one we've had in a long, long while. We'll see if Albrec'ht and his new Talossan Rebel Alliance can keep true to its word and submit a horde of interesting bills to the Clarks to come. The Talossan Imperial New Order Party! Can Steven Ehrbar catch the imagination of the Talossan populous with his bold annexation agenda? Albrec'ht has given his prospective TRA Cosâ members, Andrea Thompson and Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau, carte-blanche to vote however they like and please. Max has already given the TINOP support in the annexation scheme. Suddenly, the Opposition has become a hotbed of vibrancy we have not seen in quite a while! We shall see what we shall see.

Jeff Ragsdale
Editor-in-Chief

C o v e r S t o r y : D e c i s i o n 2002 (S p r i n g , t h a t i s)

A commentary by Jeff Ragsdale, senior political correspondent

Abbavilla-The people have spoken. The final result of the election for the 30th Ziu of the Kingdom of Talossa is as follows:

Party	Votes	%	Seats
PC	15	60.00%	12.00
RCT	5	20.00%	4.00
TINOP	2	8.00%	1.60
TRA	3	12.00%	2.40
Total	25	100%	20

This translates into two seats in Cosâ for both the Talossan Rebel Alliance and the Talossan Imperial New Order Party. The Progressive Conservative Party has once more been swept into Government and Michael Pope will be Prime Minister for a fifth consecutive term, a record of continuous service at Government's pinnacle unparalleled in Talossan history. The Rally for the Citizens of Talossa has lost one seat and the Progressive Conservatives have maintained its twelve-seat majority.

Take a look at the Rants and Raves section. I put it together on 3 April, 2002 when the election outcome for the Opposition seemed to be more in keeping with recent tradition than it turned out to be; I decided to keep what I had so as to give you who are reading this an idea of just how amazed I am at what has transpired in the course of this election cycle.

Take a good look at these results, folks. There are some people out there who might say one person cannot make a difference in Talossa. Andrea Thompson made a difference with her vote for the TRA which has given that new party two seats in Cosâ in addition to the Senate. Gjermund Higrapp turned the Talossan Imperial New Order Party from a doomed one-man outfit to a voice in policymaking. Gary L. Cone has ensured the continuation of the RCT as the chief party of Opposition as well giving that party a new credibility in the continuum of Talossan history it has never before enjoyed. No one voted for the ZPT, a party which should have been the dominant force in Opposition, but failed and has seemed to vanish into the mists of Talossan

political history. And that may be the greatest legacy we gain from this election cycle. Who would have thought of it??

In the recent history of the Opposition, this may very well be the bitterest election of all. While the PC missed its nine absent votes, the Opposition *missed Government* by only six votes. Six votes. With Ben's computer crashing taking down his email address list with it and other Talossans being out-of-pocket, this election turned out to be the nuttiest one since [that](#) for the 24th Ziu conducted by Charles Sauls in March-April, 1998! Turnout being what it was, the Opposition missed its best chance in *years* to oust the Progressive Conservatives from power; it will not get an opportunity like that again for a great, great while. Lack of turnout was nearly the PC's undoing; it will not make that mistake again.

This election will also be remembered as the time when the Talossan Opposition made a full recovery from the mass-exodus of June, 2001. The imaginative ways in which Albrec'ht and Steven Ehrbar have breathed new life into the Opposition near-corpse will be remembered for a long time to come and may very well be remembered as the beginning of an Opposition renaissance. For the PC's sake, I hope this to be short-lived. However, the chance of the Opposition coalition may very well have vanished entirely. So long as the RCT and ZPT stood alone, there was a viable chance for the two to come together. They seemed to share many of the same views, and probably had very similar agendas. But now, the TRA and the TINOP have come along. The TINOP is the first truly right-wing party Talossa has had since the days of John Jahn's Talossan National Party more than a decade ago. The TRA is dedicated to but one thing: adding lots of bills to the Clark. Albrec'ht has also given his MC's Andrea Thompson of Vuode and Maxime Charbonneau of Florenciâ carte-blanche as to how they vote and why. It may very well be that Max and Andrea go full-throttle in support of Steven Ehrbar's plans to annex Shorewood and Whitefish Bay, a mad population-diluting scheme if ever one existed.

Additionally, this election will be remembered for the most-unexpected dissolution of the Zefençadeirs del Pâts Talossân (ZPT); a party which at one time controlled a quarter of the Cosâ and was the undisputed leader party of Opposition. This party, more than any other non-PC party, has been an amalgamation of Talossan history (included as members were such luminaries as Gary Cone, Ken Oplinger, Gjermund Higræff, and J. P. Griffin as well as having the legendary Dan Lorentz as a voter/supporter).

Which brings us to the Raßemblamaintsch dels Citaxhiens Talossâes [in English, the Rally for the Citizens of Talossa], a party which provided a new place for non-PC minded folks who were not keen on either the PC, the departed Liberals, or the mostly-inactive (with the incredibly notable exception of Gjermund Higræff) ZPT to call home... Founded by the never-dull Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau, this political organization later came under the leadership of David Fauteaux who ran it as a one-man party until about the summer of 2000 when a new spark of enthusiasm invaded Opposition-minded Talossans and the RCT grew from a one-man outfit to the most powerful party in Opposition, a spot the party has retained even with the loss of one Cosâ seat. The coming of Gary Cone has added to the RCT's credibility a living link to Talossa's very beginnings only the PC and ZPT previously enjoyed. However, the RCT is in identity-crisis mode. What is its purpose, really? What does Dave really want to do to better Talossa? Perhaps he cannot find anything to counter the PC. Certainly citizen Jeff Ragsdale of Maricopa couldn't; he left the RCT last September and is a PC party member in all but name.

And finally, the casualties of the elections:

The following citizens are now ex-citizens :

Daniel R. Lorentz – *an Opposition voter*

In Talossa's earliest history, his importance is third only to King Robert I, John Jahn, and Gary Cone. Talossan newbies, remember this name well. He was the first great what some would call "non-Ben" force in Talossa and was her first democratically-elected leader.

Gary Edward Schwichtenberg – *another vote for the Opposition*
former Prime Minister, Senator of Maricopa, and Member of Cosâ

Alberto Manassero – *a past PC voter*
former Prime Minister and Member of Cosâ—another Cézembrian goes bye-bye...

David Rice – *who never voted in an election*

Marguerite Converse – *who also never voted in an election*

These two vanished from the scene rather quickly. David before he was naturalized and Marguerite in the latter part of 2000. In the great religion debates of the summer and fall of 2000, she was a vital force as the Roman Catholic voice among the Protestants, Mormon, and “non-believers”. Marguerite’s departure is particularly disappointing to me in that she, along with Mike Dinitz, Amy Durnford, and I were in the “Class of August, 2000” new citizens together. Her presence on Witt will not be forgotten.

The following now have 2 strikes:

Of these, I count five PC voters, and three Opp-minded voters

The following gained their first strike:

Of these fifteen, I count seven Opp-minded voters and eight PC voters

Of the three above categories, had all these people voted, the PC would have had a net gain of only three votes. Given the way the PC was unable to get its people out to the polls, the Opposition could have gotten its people out and won this thing outright. Unbelievable. Methinks the PC got off lucky this time. However, it does remind me of the infamous mûc’häps! issue #8 in which Maricopan citizen Jeff Ragsdale did a anonymity crushing person-by-person analysis of the whole of Talossan politics and demonstrably proved the PC pretty much had no way of losing. Indeed, he predicted that, if turnout was low, the PC would probably maintain its 12-seat Cosâ presence if not actually gain a seat. Guess what, folks....

R a n t s a n d R a v e s (p u t t o g e t h e r o n 3 A p r i l , 2 0 0 2)

from Wittenberg VIII:

RE: Sanavar #1

Posted By: Steven Ehrbar on: 03/31/2002 18:44:50 EST

Posted by: Steven Ehrbar

Message Detail:

> This little publication will be published at least once a month and will hopefully serve us as something to tide us over until Støtanneu comes back.

> Enjoy!

The Liberals are gone.

The ZPT has not even registered for this election.

The RCT can't project a vision of the future that differs from that of the PC, and votes Per on the VOC anyway. They're the PC with a stroke on the P and a T on the end.

The TRA is supposed to be a marginal party by design.

And TINOP can only get the vote of its founder while it desperately tries to inject internal politics -- even goofy internal politics -- back into Talossa.

~end of post~

citizen Jeff Ragsdale's response to Steven's post

The Liberals are indeed gone; that is something I should have put a **lot** more emphasis on. Steven, thanks for calling me on that!

When the time comes for the ZPT to put its votes in, they will register the party, though I am surprised they have not done so already. As for the RCT's not being able to project a vision of the future, the reason for that is its vision may very well be identical to the PC's. I do not see the TNIOP and TRA proposing massive changes to Talossa. Nor should they. Let's face it, there is nothing really to "oppose". However, that does not mean a good Opposition is not good for Talossa. If the PC should ever lose its marbles, the RCT, ZPT, TRA, and TNIOP stand ready to pick up the pieces. The Vote of Confidence is being used effectively by the Opposition to say to the PC "your Government is doing fine—snap elections at this stage of the game would be bad for the country". As for the TRA, I say Stolfi is missing out on a golden opportunity to someday become Opposition Leader and maybe even Prime Minister, but maybe he is smart enough to know David Fauteaux is the Opposition's true and best candidate for PM. You are absolutely correct, Steven: all Albrec'ht wants for the TRA is to *be* a marginal party. He has already made his political statement. in spades....

from Wittenberg VIII:

the tale of my own newsletter or How To Keep Up The Suspense By Calling In External Forces

Posted By: UC on: 03/31/2002 07:52:05 EST

Posted by: UC

Message Detail:

[a part of my original post—snipped]

Very nice! Interesting to see some of my own views reflected in it. Great minds think alike I guess ;-)

On a related issue....

You may remember that I mailed my newsletter a few weeks ago. As I didn't know the correct amount of stamps needed I went to the postoffice where I was told to adjust the way I addressed the letters by including my own homeaddress at the front, not the back, as that is the international standard apparently.

Eager to avoid any possible problems I complied, even asking what size it should be and the preferred place.

Talossans with any sense of irony can probably tell what happens next;

exactly, yesterday my mailbox was filled with my own newsletter.

Aargh!

Interestingly enough they don't seem to have left the country at all, there is only a dutch rubberstamp(?) on it. What leads me to wonder: where have they been all this time? Plus not all have returned, several are missing. Did those reach their destination?

Did anyone receive my newsletter?

I am going to complain at the postoffice first thing on Monday Tuesday. I have experienced weird things with the dutch mail before (I was secretary of my studentsclub) but none as absurd as this.

Well, it increases suspense I guess, but the newsletter doesn't really warrant that. It is not that spectacular :-/

I'll keep you all posted, not snailmailed.

~end of post~

[These posts have not been edited save where noted. All typos and formatting is the authors as much as could be translated into this document. UC is from the Netherlands, English being his second language.]

Thanks, UC, for the kind words! I had no idea you were working on a newsletter, too. More power to you! Let Sanavar

know more about it and we can put in some blurbs from time to time.

-EIC

T h e 3 0 ^{t h} Z i u : a p r e v i e w *a commentary by Jeff Ragsdale, senior political correspondent*

Expect a *lot* of bills to be voted on. The Talossan Rebel Alliance will most definitely keep its election promise to make the Clark far more interesting than it has been recently; that will be a welcome change from the recent past. However, Deputy Prime Minister Jeff Ragsdale has three bills on the May, 2002 Clark, more than even Albrec'ht himself! And these were proposed *ere* Alby brought the TRA into existence! Perhaps the PC is more cutting-edge than people give it credit for!

Expect annexation of Shorewood and Whitefish Bay to be the issue-du-jour come June or July. However, Steven may get the thing on the Clark by May 1. Organic reform in addition to what's on the May, 2002 Clark will be in the mix as well.

Otherwise, who knows what is in store for Talossa and Talossans in the Clarks to come. Expect the Government to serve its full term of six Clarks.

T h e C l a r k p r e v i e w : 3 0 ^{t h} Z i u , C l a r k # 1 : M a y , 2 0 0 2 *by Jeff Ragsdale, Ziu correspondent*

Click [here](#) to see the full text of all these bills.

RZ1 - The House and Dynasty of Rouergue bill

This bill fulfills the provision in the 1997 Organic Law which allows the Sovereign to name h/er own dynastic name. King Robert I has found his lineage going back 36 generations to a Count of Toulouse and is now seeking to make this his official royal lineage in Talossan law. This bill will pass both houses of the Ziu unanimously.

RZ2 - The Talossan Postal Service Act

Proposed by Jeff Ragsdale of Maricopa, this legislation legitimizes the presence of the United States Postal Service in Talossan territory and gives it full sanction. I cannot imagine this bill receiving even one abstain or contra.

RZ3 - The Enron/Ken Lay Act

This legislation seeks to vent at Enron and Ken Lay whose base of operations is in the bill's proposer's (Jeff Ragsdale of Maricopa) home town of Houston, TX. The Cosâ and Senäts will pass it unanimously.

RZ4 - The Bring Back Gloria! Act

This Act may or may not face some opposition. This is the legislative codification (put together by Jeff Ragsdale of Maricopa) of a Wittenberg VIII post of R. Ben Madison's. Debate and voting on this should be interesting. However, it will pass the Ziu and become law.

RZ5 - THE PUBLIC BATHROOM DOOR ACT

Proposed by Albrec'ht Stolfi of Maricopa, this bill may very well be voted down. John Eiffler has expressed strong sentiments against it; with the Senäts being controlled by a PC majority of 5-of-7 seats, the PC will have quite a lot to say on this one and any bill which comes before it.

RZ6 - THE NO CELL PHONES ON BUSES ACT

Proposed by Albrec'ht Stolfi of Maricopa, this most noble legislation may face opposition from some parts concerned with protecting the civil liberties of cell phone users. This bill will be approved by the Zir by a landslide.

RZ7 - The Provincial Government Amendment

From the bill itself: **“In certified provinces, they are administered by constitutional governments a defined by the provincial constitution. In uncertified provinces, they are administered by a governor elected democratically within the Province during each Cosâ general election.”** That being Martin-Pierre Frenette's (Ataturk) new wording of part of Article XVI : Section 5 of the 1997 Organic Law. This new wording piggybacks elections of governors of uncertified provinces onto those for the Cosâ which leaves the uncertified-provincial electoral systems at the mercy of Governments being dissolved early and other election-inducing situations. Expect this legislation to go down in flames.

RZ8 - The Senate Mega-Constitutional Reform

Unfortunately, this opens more holes than it closes. Expect this legislation to go down in flames. Martin-Pierre Frenette of Ataturk will be 0-2 in successful legislation this Clark.

O n e l a s t n o t e . . .

The question of how frequent this publication will spit out a new issue has not yet been posed to me, but I do now say *Sanavar* will have something to say as circumstance dictates. I hope to have a new issue at least once a month.

Aren't you getting tired of every single article coming from citizen Jeff Ragsdale, political correspondent Jeff Ragsdale, etc., etc., etc....? Please do something about it and submit whatever you have on your mind in regard to whatever. This publication is for all Talossans, and the more things I get to pack *Sanavar* with, the merrier!! Thanks!

-Jeff Ragsdale, *Editor in Chief*

~end of *Sanavar* #2~