

# THE BLUE BANNER

Serving the students of the University of North Carolina Asheville since 1982

Volume V, Number VII

Wednesday, October 17, 1984

## Clarke and Hendon debate national security

By Penny Kramp

'Tis the season to be debating as national and state candidates gear up for the Nov. 6 election.

This Saturday the debate moved closer to home as 11th District Congressman James McClure Clarke and former Congressman Bill Hendon squared off on the issue of national security.

The Asheville League of Women Voters sponsored the debate between the two contenders for the 11th District congressional seat, which took place at Asheville Buncombe Technical College.

The nuclear weapons controversy was the hottest topic of debate, with Hendon advocating "peace through strength," and Clarke supporting a nuclear freeze.

Hendon emphasized again and again "peace through strength."

"Nuclear forces are necessary to secure national security," said Hendon.

Clarke said America must work with the Soviet Union to prevent nuclear war and the arms race in space, before we "wipe one another out."

Clarke warned even a small nuclear exchange

would produce "nuclear winter" with darkness and freezing temperatures for months.

Hendon said he opposes a nuclear freeze because it could not be verified.

"The Soviet Union, based on history, is incapable of telling the truth. I would not take their word on any issue," said Hendon.

Clarke said there is a need to eliminate non-essential nuclear weapons like the M-X missile which would cost in excess of \$20 million.

Hendon accused Clarke of

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SCENE FROM THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY: Fall makes a visit to Asheville.

Staff Photo by Sylvia Hawkins

## A political tradition: the campaign debates

By Chris Streppa

Choice is the core of our democratic society, and debates have always been a fundamental part of the election choice process.

But times have changed since the days when a few hundred people attended the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Today, the mass media beam political candidates into millions of American homes simultaneously.

While Bill Sabo, lecturer in political science, and Alan Hantz, associate professor of communications, agree televised debates are "media events," they both believe debates play an important part in the political process.

"Debates [themselves] haven't changed that much," says Sabo. Ironically, he believes that televised debates "are one of the few things that really bypass media's interference."

Political commercials and news clips shrink candidates to fit ad time space. This distortion, explains Sabo, makes it difficult for voters to make "sophisticated" choices.

He believes debates give viewers the chance to observe and absorb a candidate's words and image without "editorial interference."

Moreover, according to Hantz, "debates allow people to feel as though they've exercised their duties and responsibilities as American citizens. "A viewer can feel like a "participant in the political process."

But Sabo and Hantz both agree that debates rarely have a direct impact on

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THE DYNAMIC DAMSELS OF THE DAWN: (L-R) Pegg Downes, Phyllis Betts, Katherine Whatley and Mary Lynn Manns. (Story on Page 3).

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

## PE requirement debate continues

By Chris Streppa

The value of good health and physical fitness is not at issue for most UNCA faculty members.

The controversy centers instead on whether or not physical education should be mandatory for all students and, if so, what courses constitute the "best" program.

The physical education requirement was missing altogether, when the Task Force on General Education submitted its proposed "core curriculum."

"I think that a sound mind and sound body is a wonderful objective," explains Merritt Moseley, assistant professor of literature and chairman of the Task Force. "But not every wonderful objective

is within the scope of a university."

However, William Bruce, associate professor of psychology and director of the Health Promotions Program, defends the importance of a required interdisciplinary course.

He favors a two-hour base requirement that teaches students personal health and fitness assessment, possibly followed by one of two hours of required "activities" courses.

On the other hand, Jerry Green, lecturer in physical education and mens' basketball coach, proposes increasing the activities requirement from four to six semester hours.

It's not surprising that faculty reactions are as

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