## Rejected presidential candidates go to court

By Ben Fox THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Disgruntled presidential hopefuls who were ruled ineligible to run in the Nov. 20 election should appeal to Haiti's Supreme Court, an election official said

Several would-be candidates visited the office of Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council, demanding to know why they weren't on the list published Friday of the 32 people eligible to

"If the court rules in their favor, they will be back on the list," said Stephan Lacroix, a spokesman for the council. "It is possible, but it also depends on the law.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice plans to visit Haiti on Tuesday to show support for the elections. During her daylong visit, she will meet with members of the interim government and representatives of a U.N. peacekeeping

Her visit follows one by Albert Ramdin, assistant secretary general of the Organization of American States, who noted progress with voter registration - now at nearly 3 million and with improving security in the troubled nation, where 7,600 U.N. peacekeepers patrol the streets.

Ramdin said, however, that the legal system still needs to be reformed in Haiti, where hundreds of people, including prominent political figures, have been jailed without charges

Our objective is to have the best possible elections in Haiti, elections which are free, fair and at the same time credible," he said Monday as he prepared to leave the country.

The electoral council has rejected 22 candidates, including Dumarsais Simeus, a wealthy U.S. businessman who is the son of Haitian

Simeus, who owns Mansfield, Texas-based Simeus Foods International, Inc., plans to appeal within the next few days, his campaign

Lacroix said the candidates must get a court decision in their favor before Oct. 8, which is the official start of the race - the first since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted following a violent February 2004 rebellion.

Simeus was barred because his U.S. citizenship makes him ineligible under the constitution, while other candidates were rejected mostly because they submitted incomplete paperwork, officials said.

Another candidate, the Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, a prominent figure in Aristide's Lavalas Party, was barred because he has been jailed on suspicion of involvement in the abduction and slaying of a local journalist. Jean-Juste has denied the accusations.

Jean-Juste was suspended from his church duties for his political activities, according to a letter from the archbishop released Monday.

Another candidate, Jacques Ronald Belot of the Independent Force of Haiti said he was rejected after being told the night before the Sept. 15 registration deadline that he had to put the names of all 70,000 people who signed his candidacy petition on a computer disk.

"When I told them it's impossible, the election will be over by the time I finish putting it on the disk, they said that's my problem," Belot said. He is appealing the decision.

The 32 approved candidates include two presumed front-runners: former President Rene Preval, a one-time close ally of Aristide, and Marc Bazin, a former prime minister.

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## Livingstone opens UNC campaign

By Mai Li Munoz Adams FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY, - While all was quiet outside Livingstone College's J.W. outside Hood Building Sept. 22, there was a party going on inside

With noisemakers and bubbles galore, Livingstone launched its 2005-2006 United Negro College Fund

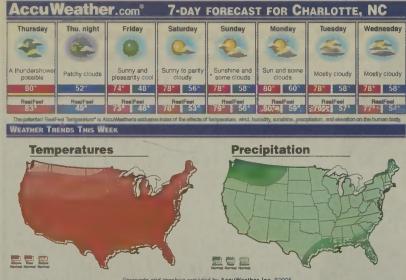
campaign. Members of the Salisbury-Rowan community acting President Catrelia Hunter, the Board of Trustees, and Charlotte Area Development Director Marilyn Richards for

the celebration.
UNCF is "the nation's largest, oldest, most successful and most comprehensive minority higher education organization,'

Richards said

The College Fund provides operating funds and technology enhancement services for 39 member historically black colleges and universities, scholarships and internships for students at about 900 institutions,

UNCF alumni include Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune and Zora Neale Hurston



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