

Environment priority of Senate hopeful

By **MATTHEW FURY**
Staff Writer

Democratic Senate hopeful Thomas L. "Fountain" Odom visited Chapel Hill Friday, advocating environmental protection and an end to deficit spending.

Odom, a Mecklenburg County commissioner, is one of 10 Democrats vying for the party's nomination for the seat held by Republican Sen. John East, who is retiring.

In an interview, he said environmental protection was a major issue in his campaign. He said he opposed burying low-level nuclear waste anywhere except on the sites where it is produced. He also said technology is not yet ready to handle large burial sites.

The Department of Energy is evaluating two North Carolina sites for the deposit of nuclear waste.

Odom also condemned deficit spending. As Mecklenburg county commissioner, he said he has adhered to a pay-as-you-go budget, in which loans were not made to cover government programs. The government should only



Thomas L. 'Fountain' Odom

take out loans for long-term capital improvement projects when a repayment plan can be structured into the

budget, he said.

Although Odom said he believed all federal programs should be cut slightly, he disliked the Gramm-Rudman approach to budget-balancing. It is unconstitutional, and the legislators are shirking the responsibility of making difficult decisions, he said.

Budget cuts should be made in defense spending, although defense should be kept strong, he said. The Pentagon should be more efficient in its contracting and procurement procedures, he said. President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars," receives far too much funding, he said.

Odom strongly supported federal student loans. "If someone can do enough work to pass, he should have the loan he needs," he said.

At a rally in the Pit sponsored by the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group, Odom proposed his plan of "constructive tightening engagement" to deal with apartheid. The plan would give the government of South Africa a limited amount of time to confer

political power to the black majority.

"How can any American who believes in one man, one vote support a system of government where a 20 percent minority rules 80 percent of the population?" he asked. Odom said it was inevitable that the blacks gain political power in South Africa. The United States must see to it that this transfer of power does not result in bloodshed, he said.

Odom is generally considered a long shot in the Democratic primary. The Carolina Poll, conducted by the UNC School of Journalism, found Odom had 2 percent of the Democratic vote in a telephone survey from Feb. 23-28.

Odom said his own surveys show him to have stronger support after a four week advertising campaign.

Odom has been a Mecklenburg County Commissioner since 1980. He was vice chairman of the commission from 1980 to 1982 and chairman for the following two years. He graduated from UNC and the UNC School of Law.

Austell makes bid for congress on tax reform platform

By **KATHY NANNEY**
Staff Writer

A former social worker and teacher has challenged incumbent U.S. Rep. William W. Cobey Jr. for the Republican nomination for the 4th District congressional seat.

Jo Ann Austell said she was a "single issue candidate" concentrating on tax reform. Corporations are taking advantage of tax breaks and special privileges, placing too much tax burden on private businesses and households, she said.

"They get tax breaks denied to the domestic economy," she said. "We're seeing the continual erosion of the household as an economic force."

Austell said she would like to see tax reforms applying to "lack of legislation relating to corporate gains."

On tax reform, Austell said she would like to see a rearrangement of federal budget priorities. She is opposed to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing legislation, she said.

"I haven't seen it yet, but from what

I've heard and read, specific industries, demographic groups, have been targeted for cuts," she said.

Austell said the differences between she and Cobey were more positional than personal.

"Mr. Cobey has gone a little bit heavy on the side of financing special interests," she said. "But I do believe there is enough difference to warrant competition in a primary."

"I would imagine my views in terms of foreign policy would be more

moderate in view of the positions Congressman Cobey and Sen. (Jesse) Helms have taken in the past," she said.

"I don't know any of my goals are out of line with Republican policy in general," she said.

At the moment, Austell said her campaign was low-key.

"I have not fully activated the campaign," she said. "I'm beginning to accept interviews... my main obstacle is that Mr. Cobey has more money at his fingertips to advertise, state his positions."

Austell said she would rely heavily on personal appearances and neighborhood campaigning, particularly in areas where she had a strong showing in 1984, when she obtained 45 percent of the vote for state House of Representatives in District 63 in Wake County.

7 missing after fire at complex; inquiry into explosion begins

From Associated Press reports

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal agents joined the investigation Sunday of an explosion and fire that destroyed an industrial complex, while firefighters continued pumping out water that blocked their search for seven missing people.

A federal official said the blast may have been touched off by accidental ignition of lacquer spray.

Fire officials said 7 million gallons of water was sprayed onto the fire that injured at least 20 people Friday and left the three-story Bayview Industrial Park a pile of charred debris. Water stood up to five feet deep in parts of a basement area that had been underneath the complex.

TV-obsessed man lets hostage go

CHICAGO — An armed man who held a woman hostage for more than 35 hours led a life filled with television fantasy, and it was television that helped police persuade him to surrender.

Negotiations with John Pasch Jr., 57, had been punctuated by his demands to be left alone during his favorite television shows, especially "Miami Vice," said Sgt. James

State & National

Biebel, the negotiator who finally talked Pasch into releasing his hostage unharmed and surrendering early Saturday.

Police said the standoff began early Thursday after Pasch shot and killed his landlord, who had gone to Pasch's apartment to discuss unpaid rent, and a police officer who had responded to calls of shots being fired.

Vote-buyers busted in N.C. county

MURPHY — A two-year investigation of vote-buying in North Carolina's western counties resulted in 50 indictments and 37 convictions, but area officials are still debating whether the probe will have a long-term impact on elections.

In Cherokee County, where vote-buying charges forced Democratic Sheriff Blain Stalcup to step down, 16 people have filed for the office this year, more than anyone can remember filing for the post.

Woman remains suspect

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Police said Sunday they questioned Arabs and other foreigners at the Athens airport about the Trans World Airlines jetliner bombing that killed four Americans, but a Lebanese woman remained their only suspect.

Athanasios Zafeiris, security police chief for the Athens area, said the airport interrogations were part of a general inquiry and stressed: "We're not searching for any specific people or investigating any specific actions. No one has been arrested or is being held."

Police said they still suspected that a Lebanese woman named May Elias Mansur planted the bomb on the TWA Boeing 727 when she was on the flight Wednesday from Cairo to Athens. The plane went on to Rome. The bomb exploded as the plane was flying back to Athens and Cairo and was 15,000 feet over southern Greece.

A woman identifying herself as the suspect spoke with The Associated Press on Saturday in Tripoli, Lebanon. She said she flew on the plane from Cairo to Athens but denied planting the bomb.

A Greek senior police officer, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Sunday, "We still suspect this woman."

For the Record

In a story that ran Friday entitled "Anti-apartheid group pushes board hard on divestment," The Daily Tar Heel reported that the Anti-Apartheid Support Group shanties were allowed to remain in front of South Building for an undetermined amount of time. They are supposed to be removed by Monday, April 7 at 7 a.m. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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