

Setting the agenda

University invites presidential candidates to education debate

From staff reports

All of the major candidates for President of the United States have been invited to the University to participate in a debate on education on Sept. 11.

Sponsored by the UNC system and the University, the debate, "Education '88 — A Presidential Candidates Forum," will be held in the Smith Center and will be open to the public. The forum will be broadcast live throughout the state by the UNC Center for Public Television.

"Our intent is that the candidates will place education at the top of their agenda in order to do well in the elections," said Ted

Bonus, UNC director of public information.

Because North Carolina and 12 other Southern states will hold presidential primaries on "Super Tuesday" March 8, candidates are expected to focus a lot of attention on the region in the coming months.

The forum will be divided into two 90-minute sessions, with Gov. Jim Martin moderating the Republican debate and former Gov. Jim Hunt moderating the Democrats' debate. Martin and Hunt have also been in charge of inviting the candidates from their respective parties.

"This will bring national attention to the University," said UNC-system President C.D. Spangler. "This will give all of the candidates a chance to voice their concerns (on education)."

Spangler and University Chancellor Christopher Fordham have been planning the forum along with Martin and Hunt for several months, according to Alan Pugh, special counsel to Martin.

Martin feels that education will be an important issue in the campaign, Pugh said.

"Gov. Martin . . . is very interested in what the presidential candidates will plan in terms of

national policy for education," Pugh said. "The governor's position is that education is a primary responsibility of the states."

Hunt could not be reached for comment.

On the night before the forum, William Bennett, U.S. Secretary of Education, and Ernest Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, will be the featured speakers at a banquet in the Morehead Building. The banquet guest list will include governors from the 15 Southern Regional Education Board member states and about 450 education and

political leaders invited by the governors.

Republican candidates Jack Kemp and Pierre du Pont have accepted the invitation, but Martin's office is still waiting to hear from George Bush, Alexander Haig, Pat Robertson, Robert Dole and Paul Laxalt.

Democratic candidates Bruce Babbitt, Michael Dukakis, Richard Gephardt, Albert Gore, Jesse Jackson and Paul Simon have agreed to the debate — and Bonus said it was likely that Joseph Biden, the remaining major Democratic candidate, would also be able to participate.

Two students sign up for Town Council elections

By SALLY PEARSALL
Editor

This November, two students will try to give the University a stronger voice in Chapel Hill municipal government by running for election to the Town Council.

Charles Balan, a junior from Chapel Hill, and Rob Friedman, a senior from Holbrook, New York, have filed with the Orange County Board of Elections office in Hillsborough.

Balan said he had decided to run because he felt that students' views did not carry enough weight with the council.

"The students are still not being

listened to," he said. ". . . I'm running (because) I want to have students' needs and concerns met."

In particular, he cited the town's noise ordinance as evidence that the council wasn't willing to take student concerns into consideration. The council's restrictions of noise levels for fraternity parties were unreasonable, Balan said.

"There's very little compromise between the Town Council and the fraternities," he said. "The Town Council has got to realize that this is a college town."

"I'm trying to get the Town Council aware that not every student is an 18 or 19-year-old

freshman who wants to party," Balan added. "There are some students who love Chapel Hill and want to make it a better place while they're here."

Citing the recent controversy over UNC's new land-use plan, Balan said he wanted to improve the relationship between the town and the University.

"There needs to be more cooperation between the University's plans and the town's," he said. "There needs to be more mutual respect."

Balan also said he was running for council out of concern over what he saw as excessive develop-

ment in Chapel Hill.

"We're going to build another Durham with all this construction going on," he said. "Chapel Hill is a nice place and we need conservative growth."

"We know Chapel Hill is going to grow . . . (but) we need to plan for the growth and be conservative in our estimates, so that we don't have a flood of building projects with no one occupying the space," he said.

Balan said that he thought the town's land-use plan could be improved. The council passed the plan last summer.

"I don't see the plan working,

so maybe it needs to be looked over again and revised," he said. "I want to keep Chapel Hill a nice small town with a good projection for growth."

Rob Friedman, who is currently the Speaker of the Student Congress, was not available for comment.

The mayor's post and four council seats — currently held by Jonathan Howes, Nancy Preston, R.D. Smith and Bill Thorpe — will be up for election on November 4.

Council member Julie Andresen
See ELECTIONS page 37

MATTRESSES



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