

# Candidate endorsements may sway voters, UNC professors say

By AMY WINSLOW  
Staff Writer

N.C. Democratic leaders are giving laurels to Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., and their endorsements have potential to sway voters in the state, said UNC political science professors.

Voter turnout in presidential primaries isn't high, so endorsements could play a large part at this stage in the election, said Thad Beyle, UNC professor of political science. People

will vote for the candidate with whom they are most familiar, he said.

Among party faithfuls, endorsements usually carry a lot of clout, and endorsements may pull more weight in this presidential election because many candidates lack name recognition, Beyle said.

Southern votes can be powerful because the area is such a political battleground, Beyle said.

Gore differentiated himself from the other Democratic candidates when he embraced more conservative and pro-defense positions, attracting endorsements from Southern politicians such as Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., and former Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt, Beyle said.

Democratic Sen. Ernest Hollings, whose influence can sway Southern votes beyond his home state of South Carolina, has not endorsed anyone.

Hollings will base his decision on how each candidate addresses budget and defense responsibilities, said Hollings' press secretary John Patterson.

Sanford endorsed Gore because of his personal qualities and experience in the Senate, said Tom Lawton, Sanford's press secretary.

Although Gore's campaign seems to be gaining momentum from Southern support, endorsements

don't seem as influential in today's elections, said Jim Jordan, press secretary for Rep. David Price, D-N.C.

"I don't think voters look very hard at the endorsements candidates receive," Jordan said.

Price has not publicly endorsed any candidate, he said.

Political endorsements can wield extraordinary power if the people

who make them continue to organize and motivate the candidate's campaign, said Merle Black, UNC associate professor of political science.

Gore's strategy depends on doing well in the Southern primaries, and if he sweeps the South, it would be unprecedented, Black said.

"Gore has more riding on (the Southern primaries) than any other candidate," Black said.

from page 1

## Fraternities

"The problems this summer had been accumulating over the years," said housing inspector Darrell Wall. "Each time we'd inspect, there would be more and more violations."

The gradual elimination of house mothers has probably contributed to the decay of the houses, said Chancellor Fordham. However, he said the University shouldn't require fraternities to have house mothers.

"I wouldn't want to make that decision for the students," Fordham said.

Chi Phi and Alpha Tau Omega are the only UNC fraternities with house mothers, and neither house was condemned.

Fraternity members blame parties and the ages of houses — most condemned houses were built in the 1920s — for the deterioration.

"It's just a consequence of years of parties," said former Sigma Alpha Epsilon president R. Grant Brady. "When you have 40 guys running in and out of the house, plus visitors, girls and other people, there's a lot of wear."

Some brothers said they resent the negative attitudes of the town and campus toward the bad condition of the houses.

"I think it involves an attitude on the part of the fraternities to have parties open to all members of campus," said UNC admissions director Richard Cashwell, a Pi Kappa Alpha member in the 1950s. "Their good deeds came back to haunt them. The total University community should bear more responsibility for the deterioration of those houses."

Said Lambda Chi Alpha house manager Allen Horne of the house condemnations: "I think they (town officials) have started picking on something in an awkward way."

Housing Inspector Wall said the town will continue to inspect fraternities

houses twice a year.

### An administrative dilemma

While town action has improved housing conditions for the time being, University administrators say they don't have a broader policy for controlling fraternities, which own their own houses and property.

"The fraternities are independent organizations," Fordham said. "They operate under the rules of their own charters and those of the Interfraternity Council."

The University does try to control the ongoing problem of hazing, Administrator Cansler said dealing with hazing is especially difficult because specific incidents are rarely reported.

"We're powerless to do anything about it (hazing) because even the people getting hurt don't bring it to our attention," he said.

At UNC fraternities, it is a common practice to make pledges do something in the nude, such as

## Guidelines

from page 1

activity. It's immoral and illegal."

Hazing, a misdemeanor in North Carolina, is defined as any physical or mental abuse. Stufflebeam said 27 states have laws forbidding hazing, but since most offenses go unnoticed by the authorities, fraternities deal with hazing on a local level.

"It's not conducive to the ideals and concepts of brotherhood and sisterhood," he said. "We all have the same basic principle — brotherhood. Unfortunately, I've always wondered where hazing fits in."

Fraternity executives agree that UNC fraternity standards must rise, but Stufflebeam said UNC does not plan to issue extensive guidelines.

Guidelines must come from the

strengthening through the library or playing basketball. No matter what time of year, naked Kappa Sigma brothers are thrown into the Granville Towers swimming pool for their birthdays.

And some fraternity pledges emerge from Hell Week (the last week of the pledge period) covered with bruises from paddlings and beatings.

But fraternity members say their actions are no cause for alarm.

"(The public doesn't) pay attention to the good things we do," said John Dorminey, Sigma Phi Epsilon president. "But if there's one little bad thing, it gets a lot of publicity."

### Out of control

Cansler said the University had more control over fraternities before the demise of *in loco parentis*, the idea that the University served as a surrogate parent to its students. Until the late 1960s, Cansler said, the University could control when and where female students could go.

"To put a fraternity off-limits to

individual fraternities, he said.

Although the fraternities' decay may reflect society's increasing problems rather than something intrinsically wrong with the Greek system, William Krahling, president of the College Fraternity Editors Association, said fraternities must take special care of their individual reputations so they do not damage the entire system.

"We (the fraternities) need to have a greater understanding that there must be accountability within the Greek system," Krahling said. "If one member does something, it will be identified with the group and reflect on the whole system."

female students was to destroy it," Cansler said. "When that leverage was lost, we (the University) lost control over the fraternities."

In 1980, Duke sorority sisters accused Zeta Psi brothers of skirting, indecent exposure and exchanging "gifts" of sexual devices and fecal waste at the fraternity's Christmas mixer. Inside the house, walls were covered with obscene decorations and doorknobs were removed to prevent the women from leaving.

But after the incident, Cansler said all the University could do was stop recognizing the fraternity, thus prohibiting it from holding on-campus activities.

"We asked the national fraternity to revoke their charter, but they refused to do so," he said.

But while lack of control over fraternities is frustrating for administrators, to whom townspeople often

complain about fraternities, they ruled out returning to the days of *in loco parentis*.

"There have been no new regulations proposed," Fordham said. "And I don't know what the legal constraints would be (of regulating off-campus housing)."

Dean of Students Frederic Schroeder said regulating fraternities is not the administration's responsibility.

"That would be like saying the University should be in charge of taking care of the Presbyterian Church," he said.

Cansler admitted his opinions toward fraternities often differ from those of administrators, such as Fordham or Schroeder, who belonged to fraternities while in college.

"That makes a difference," he said. "It's the feeling that 'I was one of those myself once.' The loyalty runs deep."

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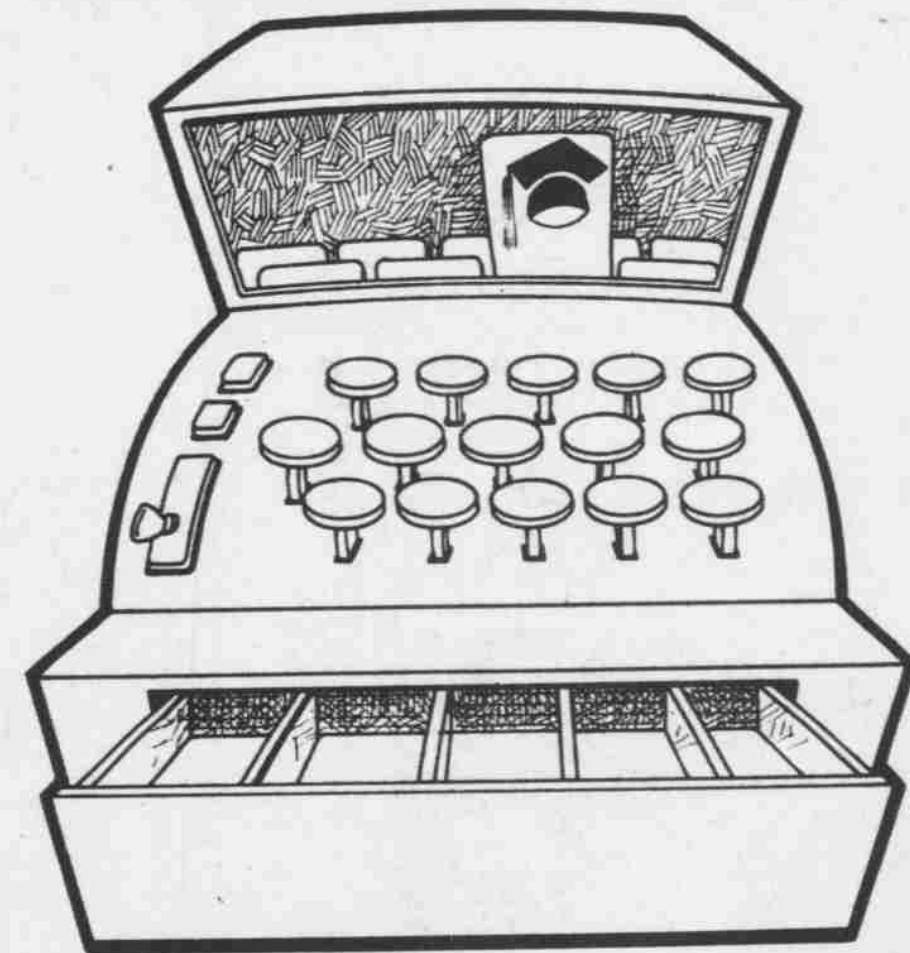
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