

Ohio State could host '92 presidential debate

By KEVIN NAFF
Collegian Staff Writer

The 1992 U.S. presidential candidates may square off at a Big Ten school, due to a proposal from student government officials here.

Undergraduate Student Government President Mark Stewart, at a Big Ten meeting in July, suggested one of the schools host a presidential debate next year. While Penn State is no longer under consideration, two other schools may benefit from Stewart's work.

Both Iowa and Ohio State submitted applications to the Federal Commission on Presidential Debates. Ohio probably stands the best chance of being selected, Stewart said.

Penn State did not apply to the commission for several reasons, including insufficient hotel space, lack of a major airport, and inadequate convention space, Stewart said. The commission needs at least 2,500 hotel rooms, while State College has about 1,700, he added. With a \$500,000 price tag, cost also blocked Penn State's efforts to apply.

Though the University is out of consideration, Stewart is still helping the cause by seeking corporate funding for the event.

"I'm really excited about it, I think both the Iowa and Ohio schools have a good chance," Stewart said, adding that he is somewhat disappointed at Penn State's loss.

Stewart sent letters to more than 40 large companies seeking donations and has so far received eight rejections.

In addition to the two Big Ten proposals, the

Penn State won't be hosting a debate for the 1992 presidential candidates. However, fellow Big Ten school Ohio State might because of its location and access to transportation.

commission received seven other serious requests for the three debates, Stewart said. The commission should announce its decision in early October.

Ohio officials are hopeful of their selection.

"I think Columbus stands a chance," said Greg Brown, a manager in the Ohio State public relations office. "The debate fits well within our educational mission."

The city and university are strongly behind the Columbus effort, Brown said. No public funds will be used to cover costs, so city groups are seeking donations, he added.

"We are representing the Big Ten; without (student) support the debate wouldn't happen," Brown said.

Officials at Iowa State could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Ohio State stands a better chance than Penn State because of its location in downtown Columbus and access to transportation, Brown added.

Campaign ads called vicious

Thomas condemns conservatives' blows to liberal Senators

By RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Conservative groups determined to get a jump on liberal opponents are bankrolling ad campaigns to support Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination. But Thomas himself criticized one of the ads, which blasts the ethics of three liberal senators.

"I deplore such viciousness and condemn such advertising in the strongest terms," Thomas said yesterday in a statement released by staff members for Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo.

The ads are highly critical of Democratic Sens. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Alan Cranston of California and Joseph Biden of Delaware.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater called the personal attacks "reprehensible," adding that neither Bush nor his aides had anything to do with the ad.

"The White House disassociates itself from any advertising campaign related to the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas that personally attacks members of the U.S. Senate," Fitzwater said in a statement.

"This is a shot across the bow," L. Brent Bozell III said in describing the television commercial aired yesterday by Washington area cable

operators in time slots made available to them on the Cable News Network channel, and by the Fox Network station in Washington. It was sponsored by Bozell's Conservative Victory Committee and another group, Citizens United.

"We wanted to put the liberal leadership on notice, a straightforward message to the left," Bozell said. That message: Conservatives are ready to play as rough as the liberals who four years ago helped sink the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork.

Senate confirmation hearings for Thomas, a black federal judge nominated by President Bush to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall, are to begin next week. To date, no anti-Thomas advertisements have appeared.

The 60-second ad asks how many of the "liberal Democrats" expected to oppose Thomas "could themselves pass ethical scrutiny."

The ad says Kennedy was suspended from Harvard for cheating and that he left the scene of a 1969 car accident at Chappaquiddick, Mass., where Mary Jo Kopechne died. The ad shows a headline that reads "Ted's Sex Romp" as the narrator adds, "And this year, Palm Beach," referring to rape charges filed against Kennedy's nephew, William Kennedy Smith. The ad says Biden was "found guilty

of plagiarism during his presidential campaign."

And about Cranston, it says: "Implicated in the Keating Five S&L scandal."

Thomas said in his statement that he had been treated fairly by the Senate and by Biden, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"It is my hope that private groups with an interest in my nomination would conduct themselves with a proper respect for the important role and responsibilities of the Senate, with respect for senators, and in a way that brings credit on this nation's processes of constitutional government," Thomas said.

Danforth described yesterday's ad as "the worst kind of sleazy advertising."

Meanwhile, a \$300,000 national ad campaign will be launched Friday by the conservative Citizens Committee to Confirm Clarence Thomas.

Most of the money will be spent for a 30-second ad that praises Thomas and labels his opponents as "the liberal special interests and the soft-on-crime crowd."

"I didn't see any reason to attack senators by name," said Citizens Committee chairman Gary L. Bauer, who worked at the White House when in 1987 liberal groups mounted an effective ad campaign against Bork's nomination.

The New York Times

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