

# The Dawn

## George Battle's Victory as SBP Makes Him the Fourth B

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Moments before the winners of this year's student body run-off elections were announced, the tension and anticipation was vivid in the left corner of room 100 in Carrol Hall. Surrounded by campaign workers and friends, junior political science major George E. Battle, III., sat quietly awaiting the results.

With the clock ticking close to midnight, the student body at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had once again made history. It elected Battle as its student body president for the year 1994-95, making him the fourth black student in the University's 200 year history to be elected to the post.

Although it has been a little over a month since that day historical day, Battle has already made strides toward becoming an innovative and proactive force on campus. This week, Battle appointed junior Teaching Fellow Donyell Phillips as his vice president.

"She was the best candidate for the job," said Battle of Donyell, a Winston-Salem native. "She will be very instrumental in human relations policy, maintaining the executive office and providing me with the support and aid me in the execution of my administrative duties."

The 20-year-old Phillips, who served as the coordinator for Race Relations and Minority Concerns and on the Attorney General Staff of the Judicial Branch of Student Government, was very pleased with the appointment.

"I'm excited, but I also am very realistic," said Phillips, who has also been a co-chair of the Campus Y's Youth United program. "I understand that I cannot change everything, but I can try."

A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phillips said she applied for the job because, "I felt like student government had



photo by David Long

### Battle, supporters anxiously await final election tally.

not been as responsive to minority student needs."

Phillips, who has worked very effectively with Battle in the past in student government, beat out junior Jasme Kelly and Jeff Matkins for the job.

Battle, along with all other newly elected student representatives, will be sworn in at 5 p.m. April 5 in Great Hall.

Battle's decisive run-off victory over opponent Tommy Koonce and his appointing of a black female to

the post of vice president, proved to be the start of a "new era" for the University as a whole and the black campus community. Battle won with approximately 60 percent of the student body's vote.

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Battle has become not only a symbol of what black students desire in a campus leader, but he is also a substantive representative. An estimated 70 percent of the nearly 2,000 black students participated in the election process this year, which was better than in previous elections with black candidates running. Battle said that the overwhelmingly large participation by black students, "symbolized a rise in political awareness and savvy in our community."

As much as Battle understands that the success of his election depended heavily on the black student populous, he also knew other students comprised a helpful component of his election strategy team as well. Battle has promised to construct his administrative team so that it "looks like Carolina," implying that it will be comprised of a cross-section of students from all backgrounds.

"My campaign brought together a diverse group of people and united them behind the theme of improving student government," Battle said. "I will be true to that theme in my administration. I will be a student body president for all students."

Battle is no stranger to student activism and government. His past experience was an invaluable asset to his campaign. As a freshman, Battle was elected floor senator in Carmichael Residence Hall and was elected one of two representatives to Student Congress for his residential district.

As a sophomore, Battle became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and served as chair of the Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress. He's also drafted and co-sponsored a resolution calling for the establishment of a free-standing Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center that was approved by the Student Congress.

At the start of his junior year,