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Young voters mostly ignore town elections

THIS YEAR MARKS LOWEST TURNOUT IN LAST 5 RACES

BY WHITNEY KISLING
STAFF WRITER

Despite the efforts of several student organizations, this year's municipal elections saw a historically low turnout among college-aged voters.

While 10,411 voters born between Jan. 1, 1983 and Dec. 31, 1987 were registered in Orange County during the Nov. 8 election, a mere 440 showed up at the polls — about 4 percent of eligible voters. The number marks the lowest turnout since at least 1993.

The municipal elections in 2003

saw 329 people in that age group vote — about 10 percent of the registered electorate at the time.

"It's an improvement over the last year, so we can't be too upset about it," said Blakely Whilden, co-president of Young Democrats. "Our goal was to increase turnout. We increased turnout."

Student leaders said they attributed the low turnout to a number of factors ranging from a lack of interest to students' desire to remain registered in their hometowns.

"Convincing students of how important elections were was dif-

ficult," said Jeremy Spivey, chairman of VoteCarolina, a nonpartisan voting advocacy group.

VoteCarolina encouraged students to vote by helping with an election guide in The Daily Tar Heel and providing free food on Election Day — an event that could have been better publicized, Spivey said. "The voting inserts helped people who were already going to vote get a better idea of the candidates."

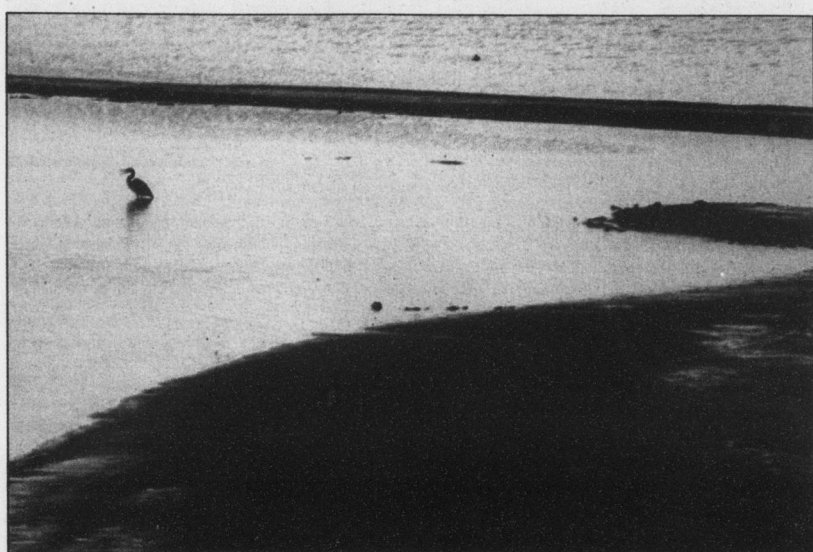
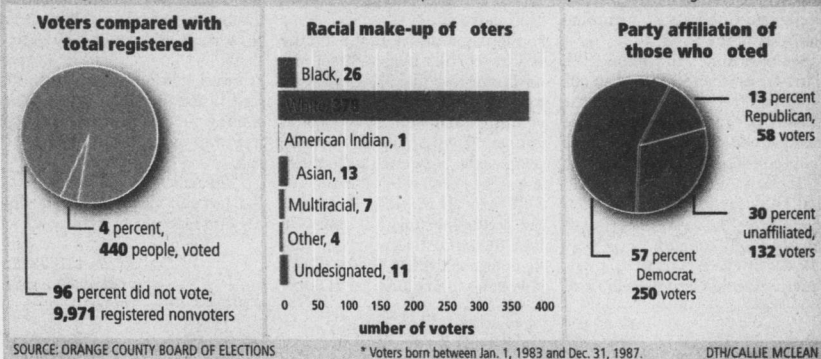
But Spivey said efforts to convince registered voters to turn out almost were in vain.

"I'm not quite sure the best way to really connect with students," he said. "I think (not voting) really goes back to people not wanting

SEE LOW TURNOUT, PAGE 4

Younger voters still keep away

Voters younger than 23* continued a trend of low turnout at the polls in 2005. About 4 percent of those eligible cast a ballot.



DTH/JULIA BARKER

Due to the severe drought this fall, Jordan Lake is abnormally shallow for this time of year. As seen here, a water fowl even can touch the bottom. Experts say that Monday's rain didn't do much to raise water levels.

PARCHED STATE STILL RUNNING DRY

BY RICHARD M. COE III
STAFF WRITER

Meteorologists and government officials in the Triangle have put a new spin on an old nursery rhyme: "Rain, rain, come our way, we will need you every winter day."

Jeff Orrock, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said that despite recent showers, 12 inches of rain during the next three months will be necessary to achieve target pool levels in

the area's reservoirs.

"It's not ending the drought yet, but it's helping," he said. "If we stay in this wet pattern, we may work our way out of the severe drought and into a minor drought."

Since last December, rainfall has been below normal in every month except for two, he said.

Ed Holland, planning director for Orange Water and Sewer Authority, which regulates Chapel Hill's water supply, said the reserves at University Lake and Cane Creek Reservoir are

down 45 percent.

Still, OWASA has not shifted from its year-round voluntary conservation plan, Holland said.

"If reservoirs are not filled by March or April, then we'll be looking for additional restrictions."

The current level of Jordan Lake, another water source for the region, is four feet below normal.

UNC has not taken further steps other than those mandated

SEE RUNNING LOW, PAGE 4

Rising costs kindle projects' re-evaluation

Several residence hall projects to be delayed

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

As the flurry of construction continues on campus, UNC officials have announced plans to re-evaluate the timeline of dorm renovation projects.

As with many ongoing campus projects, rising costs of materials have caused the housing construction to exceed its original price tag, leading administrators to take a second look.

"They're just taking a short pause to determine where they're at," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction. "It's a matter of re-evaluating and making sure

the demand is there and that the finances are OK for the projects."

Ram Village, which will provide about 900 students with apartment-style housing on South Campus, exceeded its projected budget by about 25 percent, said Larry Hicks, director of housing and residential education.

He said estimated costs are about \$88 million, up from the fall 2003 estimate of \$70 million.

Morrison Residence Hall, which now is undergoing renovation, is scheduled to be the first of the four South Campus high-rise dorms to undergo a face-lift.

Hinton James Residence Hall was slated to be renovated after

Morrison reopens in 2007. But Hicks said this might not be feasible in light of escalating construction costs.

The budget for Hinton James renovations originally was estimated at about \$26 million, Hicks said. But recent estimates have pegged the costs closer to \$37 million. He said renovations to the dorm could be delayed by about two years.

"The construction market is very volatile right now," he said. "We don't know where that's going to settle."

Christopher Payne, associate

SEE HOUSING PLAN, PAGE 4

Future residence hall construction plans

A series of planned residence hall renovations and reconstructions are seeing delays due to rising material prices.



Inside 'Police Academy: On the hill' UNC buzzes with widespread napping

BY KYLE BILLINGS
STAFF WRITER

What the "big D" is, how bar conduct can warrant a traffic violation, how to handle hazardous materials — these are just some of the lessons police trainees are learning as they pursue their badges.

Currently, 14 trainees in Chapel Hill are going through police academy, a four-month process that is anything but what the iconic movie of the same name might suggest.

But even without zany classmates and amusing hijinks, the students are enthusiastic.

Douglas Williams, 21, a Raleigh resident participating in the course, said the training in Chapel Hill will help him fulfill a longtime goal.

"I've always wanted to be an officer," he said. "I believe being a police officer is an honor, and I'll take pride in doing it."

Captain Jackie Carden said the academy's training process entails 628 hours during the

course of about four months. The students in this academy started Sept. 12 and, if they complete the training, will graduate Jan. 13.

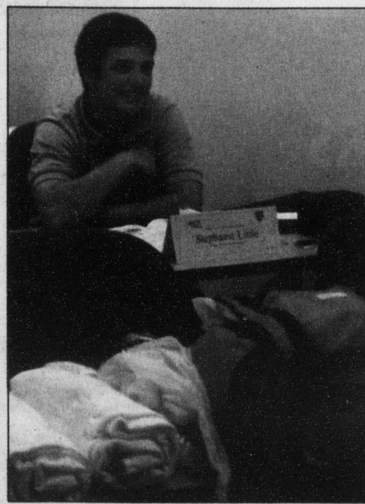
Carden said recruitment this year is poised to have a relatively significant impact.

"I am very excited," she said. "This is the first academy that Chapel Hill has hosted in five years."

In a nondescript but newly renovated classroom, the students come armed with their notebooks, highlighters and optional water bottles. All the students are identically clad: gray polo shirt, black cargo pants, black shoes.

On a typical day, Sgt. Jason McIntyre will lecture the students on various legal processes — one recent class about motor vehicle law required students to research the topic and decipher the difference between issuing a citation for No Operator's License and writing one for

SEE TRAINING, PAGE 4



DTH/CHRIS FIELDS

Stephanie Little sits in a basic law enforcement training class for the Chapel Hill police Monday.

BY CLINT JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

On afternoons, sophomore Katie Phillips rides the elevator to the top floor of Davis Library. She finds a comfortable spot in a corner and sets down her things.

And then she goes to sleep.

Phillips and countless other college students rely on the occasional nap to catch up on sleep. On campus, a walk through the libraries reveals dozens of nappers passed out on sofas, their jackets draped over them like blankets.

Davis Library has earned a reputation as a prime napping location.

"The best place to nap is on the eighth floor in Davis," Phillips says. "It's a good place as long as you don't think about how many people have had sex there."

Others recommend sleeping in the art gallery in the Student Union

or the third floor of Hanes Art Center.

On a few occasions, sophomore Sarina Maynor's friends made sure she did not rest in peace.

"One night after we went and partied, my friends thought that it would be hilarious to draw funny objects on me," Maynor says.

She says she also has been a victim of "antiquing" — when a sleeper's face is covered with flour so that they look old and dusty.

"I tend to fall asleep unintentionally a lot," sophomore Caitlin Corkery says. "I once fell asleep standing up in a subway car."

During her graduation party, Corkery fell asleep and woke up to find herself covered in confetti.

Some students say they cannot function without taking naps dur-

SEE NAPS, PAGE 4

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the outline accompanying Monday's front page article, "Tree vendors put on fire," misidentifies Back Achers Christmas Tree Farm as Back Archers.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

CLARIFICATION

Due to a miscommunication, Monday's front page article, "An unexpected deployment," states that Cpl. Bill Alsbrook has missed three of his last four anniversaries. He has missed two since 2001.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes.

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NOT AN OPTION County schools pins construction plans for alternative school

THE SILVER LINING Louisiana system schools optimistic despite round of cuts

IN NEED OF DEFENSE Few show up to campus group-sponsored defense class

arts | page 2

CHRISTMAS HIT

UNC senior Sean Overbeeke will debut his original film about Christmas on Franklin Street at the Varsity Theater on Saturday.

'points | page 6

WHERE'S THE LOVE?

College-age voter turnout was at a historic low in 2005, but how come? The Viewpoints section explores several theories.

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