

# Fewer applicants may lead to lower standards at UNC

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Staff Writer

While a recent study shows that the number of people in the nation's high schools is decreasing, UNC and state education officials say they're not expecting a significant drop in college enrollment across North Carolina.

The number of graduating high school students, which peaked at 3.2 million in 1977 will drop to 2.3 million in 1992, according to a study by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

The effects of the decrease won't be felt much on the UNC campus, Anthony Strickland, assistant director of undergraduate admissions, said in a recent interview.

"It's tough to say" what effect it will

**Salvador presidential elections have Duarte leading; runoff expected**

The Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador —** Unofficial returns Monday showed moderate Jose Napoleon Duarte leading in El Salvador's first presidential election in seven years, but he appeared likely to face a runoff with right-wing candidate Roberto d'Aubuisson.

The results, tabulated by Duarte's own Christian Democratic Party, were similar to estimates given by U.S. observers who said they were based on unofficial information from the Central Election Council, which oversees the tabulation.

The official vote count, suspended after a dispute at the election computer center, resumed Monday and the council promised it would have the first results available Monday evening. But final results may not be known until later in the week.

Seventy-five percent of the people voted against d'Aubuisson, against the death squads, against the violence of the extreme right and the extreme left and

against the guerrillas," Duarte said at a news conference.

D'Aubuisson has denied accusations he is connected with the death squads blamed for so many of the killings in El Salvador's 4½ years of civil war. He favors crushing the guerrillas militarily, while Duarte favors negotiating with them. The leftists call the elections a "farce" and did not participate.

Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, the Christian Democrats' secretary-general said,

"We still have hopes for a first-round victory but I personally think we will get just over 48 percent of the vote."

If neither gets more than 50 percent, there will be a runoff between the top two vote-getters. Some have expressed concern that a contest between the bitter rivals Duarte and d'Aubuisson could fur-

ther promote instability.

Lawrence said the study had definite implications for colleges. "There will be fewer students out there to pick from now."

The study shows that for North Carolina public schools, the number of high school graduates peaked in 1980-81 with 70,168 and will continue to decline to 58,424 students in 1992-93.

The decline in graduates also was con-

firmed by the N.C. Department of Instruction. "We expect the enrollment to

continue to drop slowly for the next few years," said department spokesman Tom Davis. "If it's a very great decrease, not as many students will be eligible for higher education."

In 1982-83, there were 1,086,000 stu-

dents attending public schools in

North Carolina, according to the department. The projected figures for 1986-87 will drop to 1,047,000 students.

The College Board, which co-sponsored the commission study, said the nationwide decline would have a great impact on colleges.

"There will be enormous implications for colleges heavily dependent on the traditional age groups of students graduatin

g from high schools," said Janet Hansen, assistant director for policy analysis of the College Board.

"Most analysts predict there will be some decline," she said. The projected rate of decrease in college enrollment is about 5 percent to 15 percent. She added that the biggest enrollment loss would be seen in private liberal arts colleges.

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Duarte said his party estimates that 30

to 35 percent of the people who tried to

vote could not because of irregularities,

mainly bureaucratic bungling.

In Washington, President Reagan

called the election "another victory for freedom over tyranny" and said, "Those

valiant people braved guerrilla violence

and sabotage to do what we take for granted — casting their vote for president."

Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., said:

"I have never been more impressed or

more inspired. This was truly another step forward in the democratic process."

When he asked people why they were

standing in long lines to vote, the most

common answer, he said, was "For

peace."

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