

Runoff Pulls 300 Fewer Voters

More than 3,000 voters hit the polls in Tuesday's runoff, only a small drop from the general elections last week.

By DENISE SCOTT
Staff Writer

A runoff for the student body presidency has almost become tradition at UNC, with 15 of the past 18 elections resulting in runoffs.

While 3,763 students turned out for last week's election, 3,392 students returned to the polls Tuesday.

Past runoff elections have continually brought in less voters, sometimes losing up to 2,000 students.

The 1995 election was an exception to the trend, with 200 more students voting in the runoff than in the actual election.

Catherine Yates, chairwoman of the Elections Board, said the usual decrease in turnout was the result of several issues.

"After weeks of campaigning, students are sick and tired of hearing about elections," Yates said.

"By the time the runoff occurs some students have lost interest."

Yates said because this year's runoff was not as well publicized as the origi-

A Record of Runoffs

An increasing number of candidates has led to frequent runoffs for student body president.

	Elections Votes	Runoff Votes
1995	3,709	3,918
1996	3,489	No Runoff
1997	3,097	No Runoff
1998	4,210	3,145
1999	3,663	2,912
2000	3,763	3,392

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nal election, students might not have realized when the vote was scheduled.

Yates said the lack of publicity stemmed from the Elections Board's time constraints. She said the tight schedule would not allow for further efforts to rally voter support.

In addition, an expensive elections banner was stolen last week. The Board purchased the banner hoping to draw more voters. Yates said the banner could not be replaced, possibly resulting in lower voter turnout.

However, she said the decrease in voters should not cause students to question the results.

The validity of the runoff results are equal to those of the first election, Yates said.

"For the most part, the students who voted last Tuesday are going to vote

again," Yates said.

Elections Board Vice Chairwoman Marissa Downs said runoff elections were usually not as representative of the student body's opinion.

But she said the runoff did give the voters an important second chance to voice their opinions.

"I think it is a good process because it gives the students the maximum opportunity to make their vote count," Downs said.

"In a runoff, students who voted for other candidates are given another chance to choose their leader."

The runoff election allows one candidate to receive the mandate of the voters.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

U.S. Education Official Visits Durham School

Associated Press

DURHAM — U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley said Tuesday that teachers must become better-paid, year-round employees if U.S. education is to shed its outdated ways and make the strides everyone wants.

"We have an old agrarian schedule, an outdated factory model and an antiquated wage system," Riley said during his seventh annual address on the state of American education.

Riley's final address as secretary was made before students, elected officials and educators at Southern High School, a low-performing public school that has turned itself around.

Spanish teacher Alesha McCauley from Triton High School in Harnett County said she liked everything Riley said, especially the 12-month contracts.

She was among the hundreds of spectators, who included educators from across the state.

"I think we could pour more effort into really digging into our subject and our students," McCauley said.

Teachers in North Carolina already have 10-month contracts, which many states don't have. State Board of

Education Chairman Phil Kirk said the 12-month contract was a good idea that would have to be implemented gradually and only for teachers who volunteer. "Vouchers drain funds from public education and they divert us from the real challenge of lifting up all of our children," he said. "Vouchers are a mistake."

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CHOOSE Next DTH Editor



The Daily Tar Heel is seeking students to serve on the panel that will choose the editor of the DTH for the 2000-2001 school year.

Applications for the seven at-large positions on the DTH Editor Selection Board are available at the DTH Office, the Carolina Union info desk kiosk.

Applicants must be available for an orientation meeting from 5-6pm Wednesday, April 5 and from approximately 8:30am-4pm Saturday, April 8 to conduct interviews and make the selection.

All students may apply for at-large positions except current DTH news staff members. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Rob Nelson (962-4086, rmelson@email.unc.edu) or Janet Gallagher-Cassel (962-0520, jgcassel@email.unc.edu).

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Between February 21 to April 17, Tanmay and Dennis will be let loose from the Chaitime office and hit the road in the ChaiMobile. From Canada to Florida, from Connecticut to California, they will interview college students who want to join the Summer of Chai. Those who are selected will join the Summer of Chai Internet Team from June 12 to August 12 at the Chaitime House in downtown Philadelphia. Anyone 18 or older is eligible, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity. Check the Chaitime website at <http://www.chaitime.com/collg/summer> for a list of scheduled ChaiMobile stops.

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