

More Results  
Senior class, RHA,  
etc. See Page 3



**Wanted**  
Police released photos of suspects  
in the vandalism that occurred on  
Franklin Street on Feb. 1. See Page 3



**Madness**  
Today: Cloudy, 66  
Thursday: Cloudy, 73  
Friday: Storms, 65

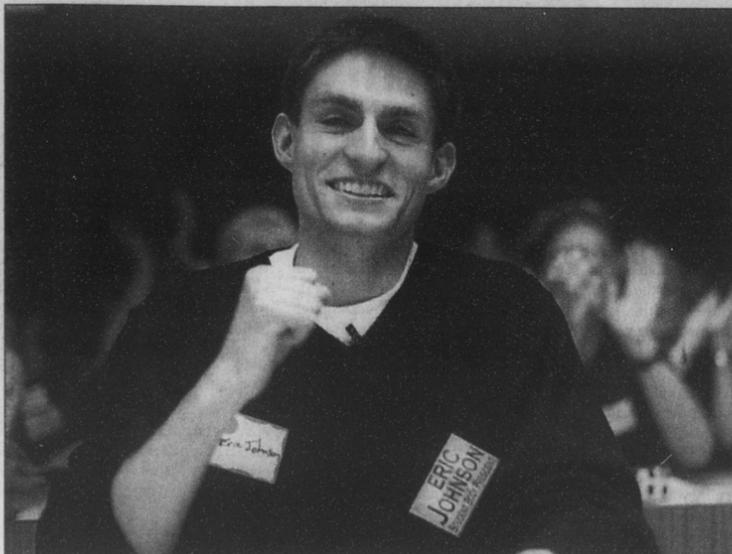
# The Daily Tar Heel

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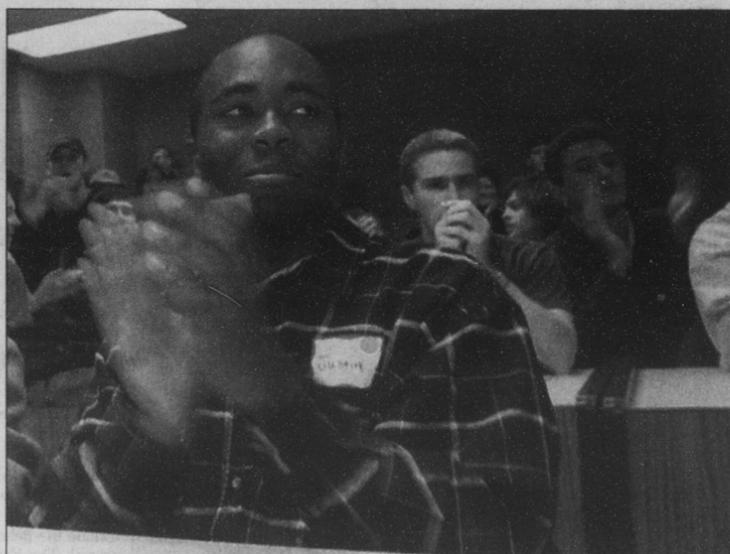
Wednesday, February 14, 2001

## Johnson, Young to Face Off for SBP



DTH/CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Student body president candidate Eric Johnson celebrates his victory after hearing that he secured 1,806 votes in Tuesday's campus elections.



DTH/MIKE MESSIER

Student body president candidate Justin Young cheers from the front row of 8 Peabody Hall as the results of the election are announced. Young received 1,453 votes.

## Web Polls Survive 1st Major Test

Elections officials reported few problems with the online voting system, and students praised its efficiency.

By JENNY FOWLER  
Staff Writer

Forget the complaints of long voting lines, missed classes and an inconvenient voting system.

The Internet saved the day Tuesday, drawing about 2,200 more voters than last year.

More than 5,800 students – including those overseas – cast their votes in Tuesday's student elections by voting online. Students were able to vote at home, in the library or at work via cyberspace.

"Online voting is immensely convenient," said Meg Smothers, a public policy analysis major. "I was able to vote this morning in my pajamas."



Board of Elections Chairman  
Jeremy Tuchmayer said online voting was free of major glitches.

Jeremy Tuchmayer, chairman of the Board of Elections, supervised the online voting process throughout the day. He said things went smoothly, as expected.

"Our only concern was with continuing seniors who voted online but did not realize they could not vote for senior class president," Tuchmayer said. "But we anticipated this problem, and manual ballots were made so these seniors could, in fact, vote for the senior class president."

Most students found traditional ballot voting in past years inconvenient because of long lines, forcing students to either attend class late or not at all.

Many students said the online voting system was both convenient and well-organized. Most students had no trouble finding their voting district and their candidate choices. "I voted in 30 seconds," said sophomore Courtney Harrington. "The Web site was very well laid-out and easy to navigate."

Smothers, a senior, worked on the Board of Elections her freshman year and recalls the difficulty and confusion that came with traditional vote tabulation. "Counting ballots is a tedious, painstaking process," Smothers said. "This year's election board will have a much easier time tallying the votes."

Tuchmayer said a fair number of students had voted by the early afternoon. But voting peaked in the late afternoon and early evening.

Another advantage to the online voting system is that students who are abroad can still participate in the elections. Because the students still receive campaign e-mails from the candidates, they have access to the election and who is running. "I still wanted to be a part of the election and what was going on at school," said sophomore Nisha Chandak, who is studying abroad in Italy. "I thought the elections were important. I wanted to make a difference, and I hoped one vote would."

Chandak said the online system is convenient even for those who are overseas. "I think it's a great idea. So many students go abroad every year, and this gives them the opportunity (to vote). It's so simple and easy."

Tuchmayer said the success of the system Tuesday night bodes well for the future. "I think the system went really well," he said. "No glitches were reported, and hopefully, we will have a higher turnout over time."

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## Candidates Beat Out Field, Survive for Tuesday's Runoff

Student Body President	
	Votes
*Eric Johnson	1,806
*Justin Young	1,453
Annie Peirce	738
Dustyn Baker	713
Julius Peppers	214
Correy Campbell	187
Caleb Ritter	157
Warren Watts	134

\*Runoff candidates

UNC two-sport star Julius Peppers nabbed 214 votes as a write-in candidate to place fifth in the SBP race.

By BROOK CORWIN  
AND KATY NELSON  
Staff Writers

In the cramped basement of Peabody Hall, Eric Johnson and Justin Young emerged from a crowded pack of student body president contenders as the candidates for next Tuesday's runoff election.

The unofficial results gave Johnson

about 32 percent of the total votes cast for the position, with Young following close behind with 26 percent. Coming in third place was Annie Peirce, who received 13 percent of the cast ballots.

Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer's 10:50 p.m. announcement elicited enthusiastic cheers and sighs of relief from both the Johnson and Young campaign staffs. Many supporters, stationed behind their candidates, did not hesitate to rush forward with hugs and handshakes.

Johnson pumped his fist confidently with a beaming smile on his face as the totals were announced. "I was tremendously excited. We really put in the hard work, and it paid off," Johnson said

while embracing a campaign volunteer.

After Tuchmayer's announcement, Young said he experienced a tingly feeling of excitement as he leaned back in his chair and then accepted the outstretched arms of supporters. "I knew that things would work out," Young said. "I'm feeling great, and I'm excited about the next week of campaigning."

An exhausted Annie Peirce said she felt fine following the announcement. "I thought I had a pretty good turnout actually," she said.

Peirce said she was proud to have come in third place. "Eric and Justin are both great candidates, and I wish them the best of luck," she said.

The election was marked by the high-

est voter turnout in the history of student elections at UNC, with 5,837 total students voting in the election, an increase over last year's turnout by nearly 58 percent. "It speaks volumes for the election board that they got people out to vote," Johnson said. "The student body really showed that they care, and hopefully even more will vote next time."

There was a tense atmosphere in Peabody as supporters rallied around candidates who lined up for the final verdict.

Dustyn Baker said she will continue to push her platform regardless of the outcome.

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## Chaney, Songer Neck-and-Neck In CAA Contest

By STEPHANIE HORVATH  
Staff Writer

After weeks of candidates dropping out, accusations of dishonesty and contention over the future of Carolina Fever, the race for Carolina Athletic Association president will continue for another week, as neither of the two candidates secured a majority of the votes.

Of the 5,200 votes cast for CAA president, Reid Chaney received 2,585, while Michael Songer received 2,453. The race will be decided in next Tuesday's runoff election.

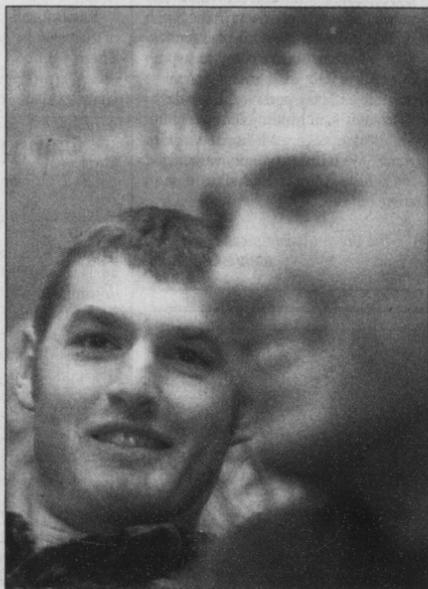
And though Chaney said he was surprised that a runoff would be necessary, Songer said he was not.

"We expected it to be a very close election, and in a lot of ways we weren't surprised it was a runoff," Songer said.

Chaney said the 162 write-in votes affected the race's outcome, but Songer said he felt negative campaigning had impacted votes.

Songer also said this negativity was reflected by an e-mail former Carolina Fever President Davin McGinnis sent out late Monday night that questioned Songer's honesty and endorsed Chaney for CAA president.

Songer was dismissed two weeks ago from the CAA Cabinet due to internal tensions within the organization's leadership. "(The e-mail) was entirely negative toward me," Songer said. "Since it



DTH/EMILY SCHNUR

CAA president candidates Reid Chaney and Michael Songer absorb the close election results, which have led to a runoff next Tuesday.

was sent out the night before, we had no chance to reply."

Chaney said he became aware of the e-mail today and that his campaign was not responsible for it. But Bryan Hart, the former CAA vice president who resigned last week to join Chaney's campaign, said the e-mail suggested strong support for Chaney. "If (McGinnis) felt the need to send that e-mail out to a lot of people, it strongly indicates that Reid's the guy for the job," Hart said. "He's someone else on the inside saying Reid's the guy."

The race for CAA president has been characterized by opposing views on the role of Fever and plagued by what has become the race's subtext – internal strain within the CAA Cabinet.

See CAA, Page 2

## Fare-Free Busing Initiative Passes Overwhelmingly

Voters approved the ballot referendum that could make transit free throughout the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

By GREG STEFFENSEN  
Staff Writer

Students enthusiastically supported a referendum to implement fare-free busing Tuesday, casting more total votes on it than any other ballot category and passing it by a percentage second only to David Cooper's unopposed race for Residence Hall Association president.

The referendum asked if students would be willing to pay an extra \$8.49 each semester to allow all Chapel Hill Transit Authority buses to operate with no charge for anyone wanting to use the service.

The University would pay 40 percent of the busing costs while the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro must agree to cover the remaining 60 percent.

Supporters claim that fare-free busing would save students money and reduce the number of cars on campus.

Student Body President Brad Matthews, the proposal's most vocal

supporter, was particularly pleased with its strong student support.

"I'm glad students were receptive. This was the first step to a more involved and more effective transit system," he said.

"Although there's a number of negotiations to go through still, I think the chances are good of this sparking a movement for better campus transit."

Groups such as Think Transit have warned that fare-free busing might make buses more crowded and make it financially difficult for the transit authority to add new routes or extend service hours.

Although the proposal must still be approved by the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, its broad student support makes its passage more likely.

Both student body president runoff candidates were pleased by the referendum's support but warned that it might receive more scrutiny before being implemented.

"I think it's another option, and it can only help," said candidate Justin Young. "Students are behind it, student govern-

Referendum For Fare-Free Busing	
	Votes
Yes	3,882
No	1,576

See BUSING, Page 2

*Much madness is divinest sense, To a discerning eye.*

Emily Dickinson