



# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Young Edges Johnson by 30 Votes

By Brook Corwin  
and Katy Nelson  
Staff Writers

It was now or never for Justin Young on Tuesday night, and it all came down to 30 votes.

After four weeks of campaigning, this year's student body president election was decided by the slimmest margin in recent UNC history, giving Young the presidency with 50.3 percent of the 5,081 votes cast in the runoff contest between Young and Eric Johnson.

Young said the 10 seconds it took for Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer to announce the results lasted an eternity — an eternity that ended in a visibly overwhelmed Young falling forward onto the desk.

"I couldn't believe it," Young said. "I just could not stand up. I could not move."

Young did not need to move, as an avalanche of supporters quickly enveloped him.

Johnson smiled as the results were announced but soon had tears welling in his eyes as he was consoled by his campaign manager, Tim Nelson.

Johnson's key concern was his loyal campaign staff, whom he immediately rallied for an impromptu private meeting.

"The thing I'll always remember about this campaign is that I got to meet such an amazing bunch of people," Johnson said. "The way everybody came together and busted their tails was just unbelievable. Just unbelievable."

One hour after the 10:15 p.m. announcement, Young said he was still recovering from the news.

"I don't know what to say. I'm just breathing right now," Young said.

Young's come-from-behind win came in the final hours before the polls closed Tuesday night.

He was trailing Johnson in last Tuesday's election results, as well as in the 10 a.m. returns in Tuesday's runoff election.

Young credited his personalized approach and provocative multimedia campaign as the difference in the tight election. "People were saying that the candidates were similar, and that was reflected in the results. You had to stand out somehow."

Young's campaign manager, Matt Jones, said that Young stood out with an innovative campaign style, which was capped off by Young climbing atop the roof of the Undergraduate Library in the Pit during Tuesday's rush hour.

"Students have responded to our creative message," Jones said. "We kept it fresh; we kept it new. We were able to attract students who do not normally go out and vote."

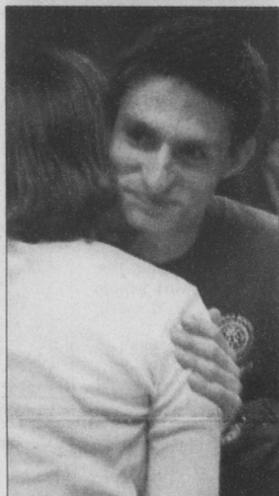
"People got to see a part of my personality that was real. People could connect with that," Young said of his media spin.

Johnson agreed that the campaigns had reached a new level. "I'm telling you, we raised the bar," he said to Young moments before the results were announced.

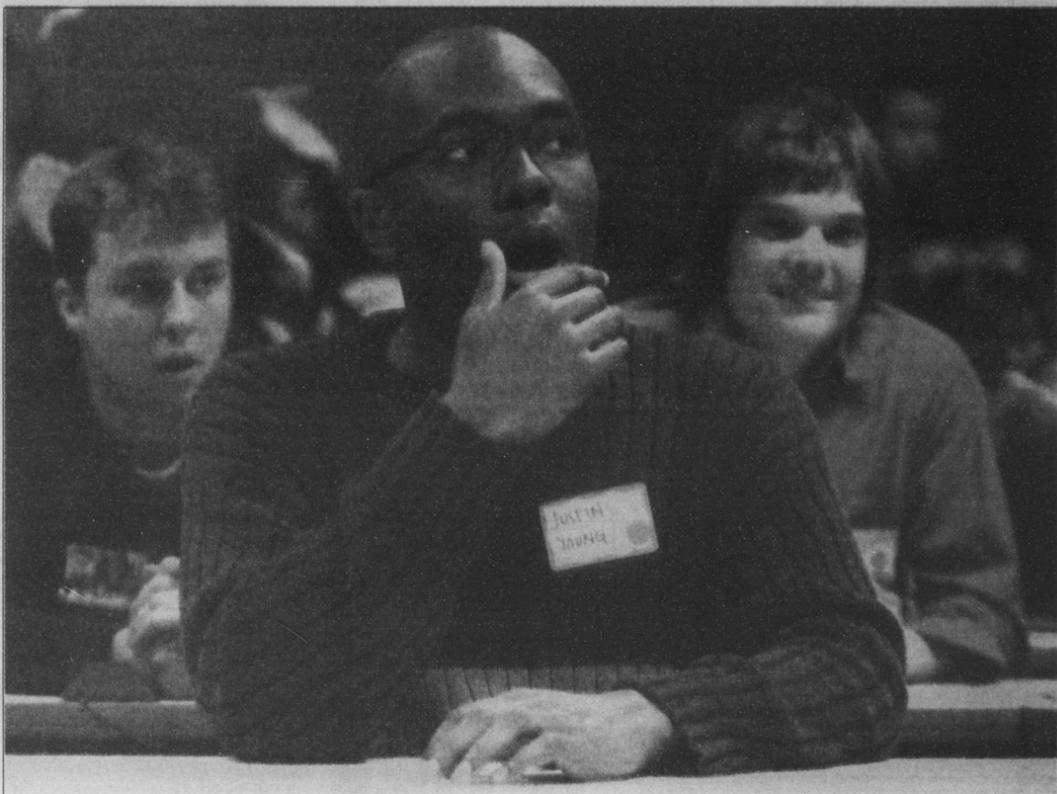
Young extended his congratulations to Johnson for a hard-fought campaign, and he left the door open for Johnson's involvement in his administration. "Eric will continue to do great things. He's committed to making UNC a better place," Young said.

Johnson said he needed to take some time to re-evaluate. "I'm going to take some time out and figure out what my priorities are before I leave this place," he said.

Student Body President	
	Votes
Justin Young	2,520
Eric Johnson	2,490



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DTH/MARGO KNIGHT

Student Body President-elect Justin Young (above) reacts to the announcement of his win Tuesday night. Eric Johnson (left) gets a hug from one of Young's supporters after losing the election by just 30 votes.

Lee Conner, former Graduate and Professional Student Federation president and 1996 student body president candidate, said the election proves that every ballot counts.

"If 16 people had changed their vote, Eric would have won," Conner said.

"You've got to feel bad for Eric — what a tough way to go."

Young is aware of the tightness of this election and said he hopes that students will be supportive of his election, despite his narrow margin.

Young said that when he called his father Tuesday night to announce the good news, his father said, "Uh oh, recount."

Young recalled laughing and saying, "No, dad, this is Chapel Hill, not Florida."

For those 30 votes, Young said he wanted to thank every single one of his supporters. "I want to thank everyone who smiled at me, who said

See SBP, Page 6

## Singer, Dimmling Clinch Senior Class Offices

Senior Class President and Vice President-elect Ben Singer and Ursula Dimmling hope to unite the class of '02.

By Scott Britain  
Staff Writer

After four weeks of hard campaigning and many months of planning, the race for senior class president came to a close in the runoff elections held Tuesday.

Ben Singer and Ursula Dimmling were declared the winners after grabbing 749 of the 1,248 votes cast, beating out Josh Baylin and Eugene Kim, who captured 499 votes.

The results were announced by Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer to a crowded room full of people anxious to hear the outcome. After Singer's team was declared the winner, he exhaled a sigh of relief and hugged his running mate before shaking hands with his opponents.

"We are so very excited right now," Singer said.

"We are confident that we are supposed to be here."

His partner was equally enthused about their victory and said she looks forward to going into office.

"We are so excited and very enthusiastic," Dimmling said. "We want to unite the class and make it an awesome



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Senior Class President-elect Ben Singer and Vice President-elect Ursula Dimmling share a hug in celebration of their 749-499 victory Tuesday night over Josh Baylin and Eugene Kim.

year for everyone."

Baylin said that while he was not pleased with the results, he was not discouraged by the defeat.

"I think we're disappointed, but it's certainly not going to stop us from moving on," Baylin said.

Kim agreed with his running mate, saying he was excited about the number of votes they did receive.

"I think historically that losers tend to feel sad after they lose, and that sums up how I feel right now," Kim said.

"We jumped a good 200 some odd votes (since the last election), and we feel good about that. The people have spoken."

With 1,248 votes cast, many people participated in the runoff election.

"We were really surprised at the num-

ber of voters who turned out for the election," Singer said.

"Josh and Eugene were very good candidates and ran a great campaign, but we were excited about the margin of our victory."

Baylin said he was extremely proud of the way he and Kim ran their bid for office.

"We were 100 percent up-front with

all of the voters," Baylin said.

"That was the most important thing that we did."

Kim expressed his interest in continuing to help people and making the University better even though he did not get elected to office.

The new senior class officers said they are looking forward to taking office and working for those who had elected them.

"The first thing we are going to do when we get in office is choose a diverse selection of senior class marshals so we can work together as a team," Dimmling said. "We want to branch out and get the opinions of all seniors. We want to know what they want us to do for them."

Dimmling said she had plans of celebrating their victory by partying with those who helped make it happen.

"I think we're all going to hang out here with some people from our campaign staff," Dimmling said. "The best thing is that we get to sleep in tomorrow, and then it's back to class."

Singer and Dimmling ran on a platform of having a set of risers at basketball games exclusively for seniors, more on-campus senior parking, improving the current University career services and more social interaction within the class.

Singer said he plans on working diligently for the seniors to make it their best year at UNC.

"We want people to know that we are going to work for our promises," Singer said.

"We are not going to let anyone down."

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## Brown to Fill GPSF Presidency

Mikisha Brown says she will work to foster discussion of graduate and professional students' chief concerns.

By Rachel Clarke  
Staff Writer

Mikisha Brown's active campaigning led her to a 140-vote victory Tuesday night in the runoff election for Graduate and Professional Student Federation president.

Of the 264 votes cast, Brown, a health education graduate student, received 202 and Shaun Hartley received 62. Both appeared as write-in candidates on the Feb. 13 ballot but neither garnered a majority of the votes last week. "I'm excited," Brown said. "I think it's an opportunity to get students talking about issues and concerns. The first thing I'm going to work on is trying to fulfill Senate positions for the departments that don't have senators."

Brown's platform, which she e-mailed

See GPSE, Page 6

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President	
	Votes
Mikisha Brown	202
Shaun Hartley	62

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.

Theodore Roosevelt