

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 111, ISSUE 115

www.dailytarheel.com

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Students fail to show up at polls

ONLY 329 VOTED IN ELECTION DESPITE REGISTRATION DRIVE

BY GREG PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Only 329 voters aged 18 to 22 turned out to vote in Chapel Hill for the 2003 town elections, despite a voter registration drive sponsored by student government that garnered 2,300 new student voters in Orange County.

The numbers provided by the Orange County Board of Elections indicate that it would have been impossible for student votes to influence the outcome of the election, given the number of young voters who cast ballots.

Four Town Council seats were determined in the election, with a

discrepancy of more than 1,000 votes between the fourth- and fifth-place candidates.

Student Body President Matt Tepper was surprised by the low turnout. "Given that we registered 2,300 students, I would have hoped that more than 329 voted," he said.

Tepper did say, however, that student government's efforts had a positive impact on turnout, as student turnout was larger for the 2003 election than it was in 1999, the last time the race for mayor had only

one candidate on the ballot. In that race, 269 voters aged 18 to 22 voted.

Data from the elections board also show that the number of registered 18- to 22-year-olds decreased from 4,357 in 2001 to 3,138 in 2003.

But Tepper said the high registration numbers in 2001 largely were due to carry-over from voter registration efforts during the 2000 presidential campaign.

Another student disappointed with the turnout was Michael

McSwain, a UNC senior and former Town Council candidate. He promised to donate a dollar to the UNC Dance Marathon and UNC libraries for each student ballot.

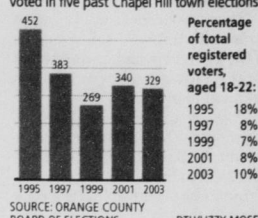
"I was extremely shocked when I heard the number," McSwain said. "I knew it would be low, but I had no idea it would be that low."

McSwain said he blames his campaign tactics in part for the low turnout. "My campaign wasn't as

SEE STUDENT VOTE, PAGE 2

YOUNG VOTERS AT THE POLLS

The number of people aged 18 to 22 who voted in five past Chapel Hill town elections:



Leaders say tuition hike is feasible

BOG members say they'd mull nonresident increase

BY LINHDA TRAN
STAFF WRITER

Despite a UNC-system Board of Governors recommendation that universities cap the amounts of their tuition increases, some BOG members indicated that they might not be opposed to an out-of-state tuition hike on the table at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jim Phillips, chairman of the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee, recommended in October that system schools only approach the board with increases that are less than \$300 and that would go toward a very narrow set of funding needs, such as financial aid and faculty salary increases.

Last month, the University's Tuition Task Force created a proposal to hike tuition rates for both in-state and out-of-state students by \$300 every year for three years.

But the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees discussed proposals last week to increase out-of-state tuition significantly — anywhere from \$2,000 to \$8,000.

Many trustees also have discussed percentage-based tuition hikes that would result in greater tuition increases for out-of-state students. Trustees delayed on Thursday a vote to decide on tuition and fee increases.

Phillips said the BOG has not yet begun discussions about potential increases.

He said that if board members are presented with proposals for amounts higher than he recommended, they "will consider it" as dictated by N.C. law.

"We are trying to give general requests to the (schools). At this point, it is not really decided."

Ben Ruffin, BOG member emeritus and former board chairman, said it's never been the intent of the board to have students pay entirely for their education — if they live in North Carolina.

"I basically support no raise in tuition for in-state students. The state of North Carolina is responsible for (paying for education). ... Even though they have tough budget situations ... we cannot afford to push students out of school and continue to increase tuition," Ruffin said.

Increasing out-of-state tuition should be neither the first resort nor the last resort in looking to increase financial resources, said BOG member Brent Barringer.

During the debate on raising the out-of-state enrollment cap, Barringer had proposed increasing out-of-state tuition as well.

But Barringer added that increasing out-of-state tuition is different from raising it for N.C. residents.

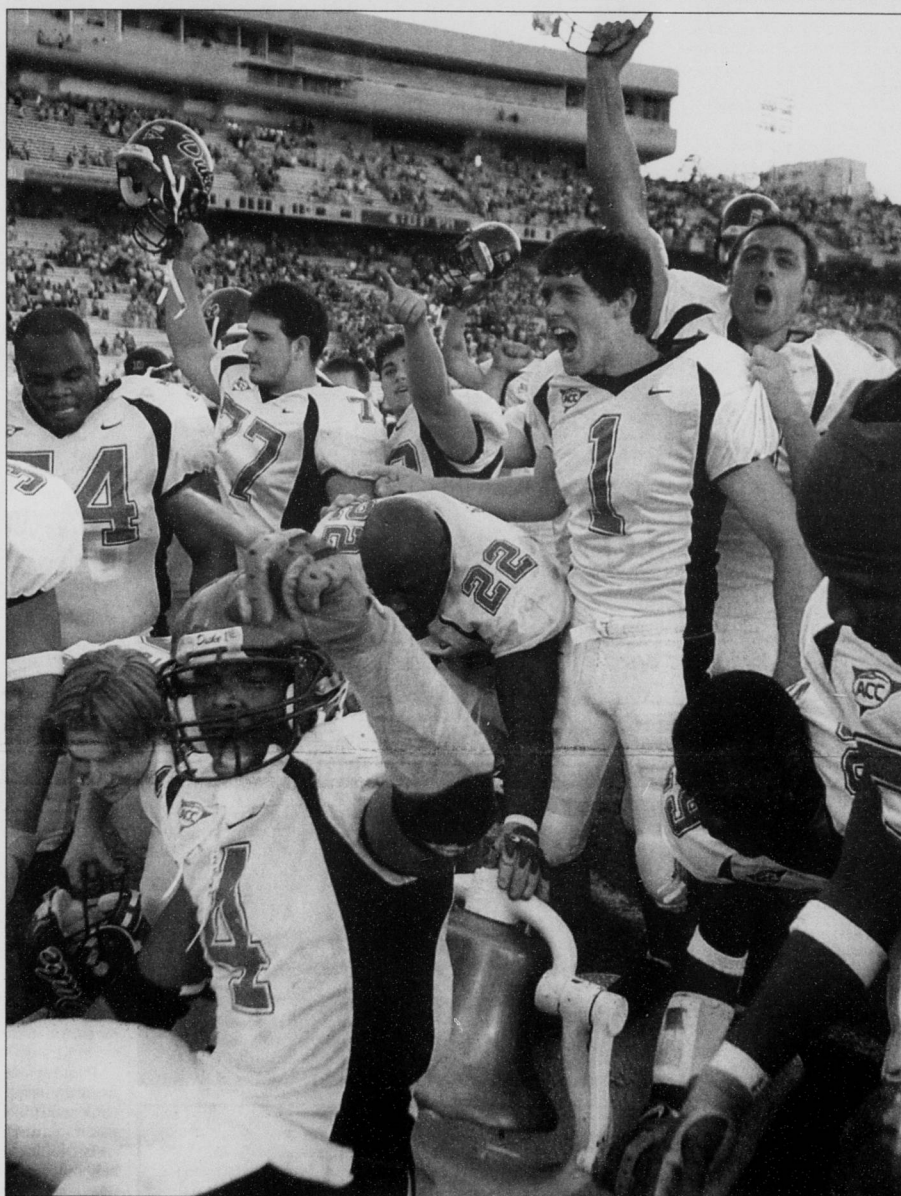
Out-of-state tuition needs to be raised not only to eliminate any state subsidiaries, Barringer said, but also to keep universities competitive with each other.

"If we have the flexibility to significantly raise out-of-state tuition and still attract out-of-state students, then we need to do that," he said.

BOT Chairman Richard "Stick" Williams said he thinks the board will have to consider increasing tuition as one of the ways to raise revenue.

"The one thing that we absolutely don't want to do

SEE TUITION, PAGE 2



Duke running back Chris Douglas (4) rides the Victory Bell on the field celebrating the Blue Devils' 30-22 victory Saturday.

BELL TOLLS FOR DUKE

BY JAMIE AGIN
SENIOR WRITER

Like drivers passing a wreck on the freeway, some North Carolina football

players were uneasy about what they saw, yet compelled to look. Others couldn't bear to.

Having just watched Duke defensive tackle Matt Zielinski sack Darian Durant to kill UNC's chances of rallying from a 30-22 deficit, the Tar Heels had to stomach something not seen since 1989.

The Blue Devils mobbed the Victory Bell and — with Zielinski riding on the cart — dragged it to midfield, where the picture posing began.

"I was crushed," said tailback Jacques Lewis. "Normally I'm the last person to leave the field at every game, but I left the field first."

"I ran in before everybody. I couldn't even be out there."

And this was after the good half.

In a season full of inconsistent football, the Tar Heels saved their worst performance for Saturday's first 30 minutes and found themselves in a 23-0 hole at

the break.

"Give me all the credit for not having the football team ready to play in the first half," said UNC coach John Bunting. "I never thought that would happen, but it did."

The Blue Devils (4-8, 2-10 in the ACC) began their scoring with a 27-yard field goal set up by a 45-yard Chris Douglas run.

On the next series for UNC (2-10, 1-7), Ronnie McGill fumbled at the Tar Heels' 35-yard line. Duke recovered and

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 2

Suspect's murder charges dropped

BY RYAN C. TUCK
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Sherman Tate Sr., accused of killing his daughter's husband last November, was cleared of all charges Friday in Orange County District Court.

Chapel Hill police charged Tate with first-degree murder on Nov. 18, 2002, for the shooting death of James Earl Thompson, 34, outside Tate Realty & Construction Co. on Rosemary Street.

Tate's attorney, Barry Winston, said in Friday's probable-cause hearing that Tate acted in self-defense after Thompson allegedly made threatening moves toward Tate during an argument.

Chief District Judge Joe Buckner ruled that there was no probable cause that a crime had been committed.

Tate met Thompson on Nov. 18 to accompany him to the property Thompson shared with his daughter, Sharon Tate, Sherman Tate testified.

Winston argued that Thompson, who was found to be carrying a loaded .22-caliber pistol in his pocket at the time, previously had threatened Sharon Tate and her brother and that he became aggressive with Tate when the two met.

The investigating officer and trial witness, Greg Sorrell of the Chapel Hill Police Department, testified that Sharon Tate and her brother, Sherman Tate Jr., recently had taken out warrants, which never were served, against Thompson for threatening their lives.

Sorrell said that on the day of the incident, Thompson also had told a friend of Sharon Tate that he was going to kill her father or brother.

Tate Realty employee Robert Edwards of Carboro told Sorrell that the men left the office in heated exchange. Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox was the prosecuting attorney, whose main witness was working in a nearby

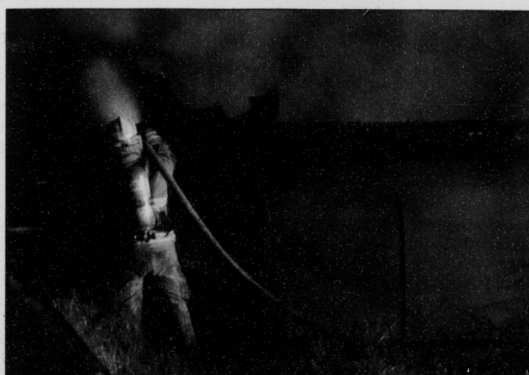
SEE CHARGES, PAGE 2



Murder suspect Sherman Tate Sr. was cleared of all charges in court Friday.

A Chapel Hill firefighter works late Sunday to extinguish the flames at an abandoned house at 107 Stephens St. The fire, which is being investigated for possible arson, started outside and was out by 11:45 p.m.

DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA



Fire singes Airport Road home

BY KATHRYN GRIM
CITY EDITOR

A fire that erupted late Sunday night significantly damaged a house off Airport Road in a Chapel Hill neighborhood heavily populated by student residents.

The Chapel Hill Fire Department is investigating the fire as a possible arson.

The property at 107 Stephens St. belongs to Billy G. Batten of Sanford, according to Orange County property records. But neighbors said the house has been vacant for about two years.

Twelve firefighters arrived on the scene in three engines just after 11:15 p.m., when

a neighbor reported flames that firefighters estimated reached 12 to 15 feet.

Battalion Chief Barry McLamb said the fire started outside the house, which firefighters found entirely boarded shut. "That makes it a little bit easier on us because we knew we didn't have victims."

Capt. Robert Borgesi arrived in the first engine on the scene. Firefighters quickly forced their way through the front door into the undamaged side of the house.

"The fire was heavy on the porch and was starting into the house," Borgesi said. "We did a primary search, looking for any people as we went in. We extinguished

the fire, then the second line was deployed to help us finish."

McLamb said the fire had not been burning long before the call. "Neighbors had left 30 minutes prior to the call, and nothing was going on then."

The fire was under control by 11:36 p.m. and extinguished at 11:45 p.m.

McLamb said that the shed in the front yard was heavily damaged by fire on April 2 but that the property was abandoned before that date.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

ONLINE

WWW.DAILYTARHEEL.COM
Committee for the conservation of the Northside neighborhood to present final plans today

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MBA student protests \$7,500 fine received for visiting Cuba PAGE 8

SPORTS

A NEW ERA BEGINS
Tar Heels dominate Old Dominion in basketball season opener, 90-64 PAGE 8

WEATHER

TODAY P.M. thunderstorms, H 71, L 34
TUESDAY Sunny, H 54, L 28
WEDNESDAY Mostly cloudy, H 59, L 42

