

# THE TAR HEEL

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## Pendergrass, Valentine finish on top in runoffs

### Despite primary lead, Michaux loses to conservative foe

By DAVID McKINNON  
and KEN SIMAN  
Staff Writers

Democrat I.T. "Tim" Valentine of Nashville relied on a strong traditional district-wide campaign Tuesday to defeat former U.S. attorney H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. of Durham in the state's only 1982 Congressional runoff.

Michaux had hoped to become the state's first black Congressman in 80 years. With all 219 precincts reporting in the 10-county 2nd Congressional District, Valentine had 59,272 votes, or 53.81 percent, to Michaux's 50,874, or 46.18 percent.

Valentine, 56, an attorney, is a former state legislator and was chairman of the state Democratic Party during the administration of Gov. Dan K. Moore. Michaux, 51, was U.S. attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina during President Carter's administration. Michaux also is a former state legislator.

Michaux had led the voting in the June 29 Democratic primary with 44 percent to Valentine's 33 percent. James E. Ramsey of Roxboro, a former speaker of the state House of Representatives, finished third in the June primary with 23 percent and was eliminated. Michaux's failure to gain a majority in the primary allowed Valentine to call for the runoff.

Michaux became the second black politician in recent years to lead a primary in a major state race but lose in a runoff to a white opponent. In 1976 former Chapel Hill mayor Howard Lee led over then-House speaker Jimmy Green in the primary but lost in a runoff to Green in a race for lieutenant governor.

When asked Tuesday night why black politicians in the state have fallen victim to runoffs, Michaux said, "I don't have an answer to that."

In a telephone interview Tuesday night

See SHERIFF page 2



Chapel Hill police Capt. Lindy Pendergrass  
... talks to reporters after runoff win



Losing runoff candidate H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr.  
... with daughter Jocelyn at campaign headquarters in Durham

### Southern Orange vote critical to outcome of local sheriff's race

By CHRIS HAIG  
and SCOTT WHARTON  
Staff Writers

Orange County Sheriff candidate Lindy Pendergrass of Chapel Hill defeated opponent Bobby McCulloch Tuesday in a Democratic primary run-off.

Though only one-third of the county's voters bothered to go to the polls, Pendergrass, currently captain of detectives in the Chapel Hill Police Department, is a good bet in the November general election since there is no Republican candidate.

Pendergrass, who received 5,371 votes, or 59 percent, to McCulloch's 4,070, 41 percent, won decisively in all the Chapel Hill and Carrboro precincts while McCulloch of Cedar Grove got his strongest support from northern Orange County.

"I am very happy the way the people have rallied around me," Pendergrass said. "I intend to go out and work with everybody," and promised a more service-oriented department.

He would not comment on whether McCulloch would remain in the sheriff's department.

McCulloch, a major in the Orange County sheriff's department for the last 21 years, said his lack of exposure in Chapel Hill was the deciding factor in his defeat. "Pendergrass has got the votes over there," McCulloch said.

McCulloch said Pendergrass had an advantage because he had been in the Chapel Hill police force. "I think the main thing is people want a complete change," he said. McCulloch also said Pendergrass outspent him. "He had the money and from what I understand, he had plenty of it," McCulloch said.

Orange County District Attorney Wade Barber said that he was looking forward to working with Pendergrass and that "Lindy shows the qualities of an outstanding law

See MICHAUX page 3

## Inside THE TAR HEEL

N.C. 2000 .....	page 4
Peter Adonis .....	page 7
Center Gallery .....	page 9
Summer enrollment .....	page 9
Flock of Seagulls .....	page 10
The Great Escape .....	page 14

## 'Ghosts' have natural cause for researcher

By D.F. WILSON  
Staff Writer

Poltergeist. Besides being the title of one of Steven Spielberg's latest blockbusters, it is also the subject of serious investigation by several local researchers.

Poltergeist occurrences, called recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis can be the movement of objects, flashes of light or percussive sounds like knocks or raps. The occurrences typically happen near one person, known as an agent.

While the general assumption has been that poltergeist activity was caused by spirits or demons (the word itself is derived from a German phrase meaning "noisy ghost"),

William G. Roll, director of the Psychical Research Foundation, says his findings have never indicated any independent spirits or ghosts roaming around.

So, if it isn't ghosts making all that noise and knocking everything over, then who is it?

Roll offers a theory that should make Spielberg think twice about his movie. His hypothesis is that the psychokinesis of events stems not from a spirit, but from the agent instead.

"Generally there is a background of a tense social situation," said Roll during an interview in the office of the Foundation at

See POLTERGEIST page 8



Roll