

The Daily Tar Heel

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THE FINAL VOTE



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ERIN HULL AND KELLY MCHUGH

Students can vote in the runoff election for student body president by logging in to my.unc.edu before 10 p.m. Results will be announced in Carroll 111 at 10:30 p.m.

In runoff, Cooper and Lee face new challenge of alerting voters

BY VICTORIA COOK
STAFF WRITER

In an election season marred by controversy, candidates had to face a volley of complaints, hearings and, for two candidates, the prospect of disqualification. But when the dust settled Feb. 17 and candidates Mary Cooper and Ian Lee moved into a runoff with 39 percent and 25 percent of the vote, respectively, they faced an entirely new challenge: informing students that an already drawn-out election wasn't over just yet. Tonight that end will come at last.



DTH ONLINE: Watch a live video of election results. Follow @dailytarheel on Twitter for instant updates.

Both candidates said they talked to many students this week who didn't know when the runoff election would take place. Voter turnout has traditionally dropped in runoff elections, with the 2009 election being the only exception since 2004. "The biggest challenge of this runoff is getting students to know there's a runoff," Lee said. "Turnout for runoffs is always

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STUDENTS SHARE VIEWS ON TODAY'S ELECTIONS



Jonathan Hootman,
Junior
Biology

"I'm doing a write-in for Rick Ingram. I'm going to vote for him because of his featured-text comments in the DTH. "He displayed a sense of confidence that I identified with."



Bo Zhang,
Senior
Biology

"I'm voting for Ian Lee. I voted for him the first time around, but now I'm not so sure. None of the candidates were favorites of mine. Ian Lee has, I think, a little bit of a delivery problem."



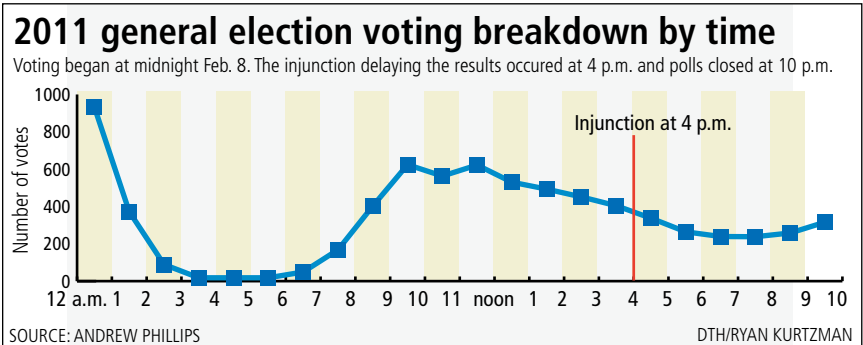
Mary Goodwin
Junior
Nursing

"I'm voting for Mary Cooper. I like her platform better. "I don't know her personally but have friends who do, and I trust their judgment."



Caleb Cody,
Junior
English

"I voted for Ian the first time. I'll probably vote for him again. "It's mostly because of meal plans and parking, although those seem like they might not go through."



Basketball policy offers fewer tickets to students

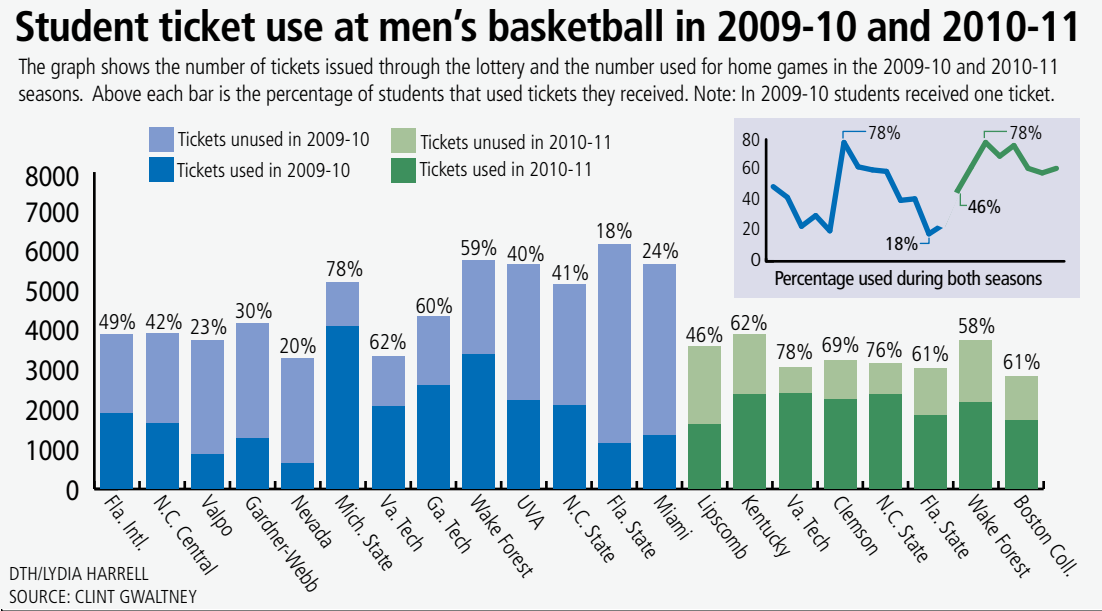
BY LAUREN RATCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

Students crossing their fingers for basketball tickets are vying for fewer seats than last year. Citing chronically low student attendance, the athletic department has reduced the number of student tickets by 34 percent from last year. Though rate of attendance has been low for decades, athletic department officials said they decided to reduce the amount of student tickets after particularly poor attendance last year. The office distributes an average of 2,798 tickets per game this year. "What boggles our minds is that for the games that are in February, the number of individual students who signed up was 8,600 on average," said Clint Gwaltney, associate athletic director. "We then send out the tickets, and the people that decide to come to the game averages 60 percent."

Gwaltney said there was a 37 percent return on last year's average allotment of 4,200 tickets per game, adding that poor attendance has become more noticeable with a general admission system rather than assigned seating. The lost student tickets have been redirected to the general public. Gwaltney said the decision was not financially motivated, and the athletic department has not earned as much money as it expected from those additional ticket sales. "We made this decision last year before going into our budget and we budgeted for the potential to sell these tickets," Gwaltney said.

"We did not sell as many as we hoped. We were trying to maximize capacity and trying to fill it up." Carolina Athletic Association President Brandon Finch said in an e-mail that students have no one to blame but themselves. "Students can blame the ticket policy, the weather, the long trek to the Smith Center or the team's less-than-stellar performance at times, but at the end of the day, it's clear that students aren't using their tickets, and that's disturbing," he said. Some students expressed frustration, saying they felt too few "winner" e-mails were sent out. "It seems to me that it's been more difficult for people to get tickets than it even was two years

SEE **TICKETS**, PAGE 6



this day in black history

FEB. 25, 1870 ...

Hiram Rhodes Revels, raised in North Carolina, is sworn in as Mississippi senator, becoming the first black person to serve in U.S. Congress.



city | page 6

TURNING THE PAGE

93-year-old author Margaret Wharton said her latest book, about her experience during World War II, will be the last she writes.



SportsFriday | page 4

TAR HEELS STUNG

With a 64-57 loss to Georgia Tech, the women's basketball team has dropped three straight games and fallen to fifth in the ACC.

Today's weather

Rain falls like cherry blossoms
H 69, L 32

Saturday's weather

Haiku-worthy
H 58, L 33