

The Daily Tar Heel

MIÉRCOLES, EL 17 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 2025

132 AÑOS AL SERVICIO DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DE UNC Y DE LA UNIVERSIDAD

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MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

Hispanic Heritage Month • Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

NARRATIVA LOCAL

Este mes, ‘Vientos del Sur’ alcanzará 200 episodios

El programa radial celebra la comunidad hispanohablante

By Ha Lien Gaskin
Staff Writer

Vientos del Sur, un programa de radio en WCOM presentado por Rodrigo Tossi, celebrará 200 episodios en vivo a finales de septiembre. Vientos del Sur es presentado en español y destaca la música sudamericana, invitadas interesantes y visibilidad para la comunidad hispanohablante en Carrboro y Chapel Hill.

El programa se transmite cada martes desde 11 a.m. a 1 p.m en 103.5 FM en el radio. También puede ser transmitida en línea en el sitio de WCOM.

El presentador Rodrigo Tossi es un psicólogo chileno y miembro de la comunidad de Carrboro. Tossi y su familia se mudaron aquí en 2020 mientras su esposa estudiaba para su título de posgrado en UNC. Llegó de Chile con experiencia en radio en una estación llamada Radio Tierra, y quería traer esa experiencia a Carrboro.

“Hice esta propuesta de una mezcla entre música y conversación con un eje muy específico, que son historias de inmigración, historias de personas que inmigraron acá a Estados Unidos desde distintos



DTH/ANNIE GRIFFIN

Rodrigo Tossi presenta un episodio de Vientos del Sur el 9 de septiembre. El podcast de Tossi destaca las voces hispanas y presentará su episodio número 200 el 30 de septiembre.

países de Latinoamérica, acciones comunitarias, cultura alternativa y acciones desde nonprofits,” dijo Tossi.

Cada semana, Tossi invita a un invitado al programa para charlar en español. Invitados anteriores han incluido grupos como la Asociación Latine de Graduados y Estudiantes

Profesionales, científicos y organizadores comunitarios.

María Julia Echarte ha aparecido en el show varias veces a través de los años y lo escucha con frecuencia.

“Los hispanos estaban, y siguen todavía, los que trabajan en los

restaurantes, en los mercados, en la construcción y demás, pero no teníamos una voz, un espacio para hablar,” dijo Echarte. “Y eso es lo que representa el programa Vientos Del Sur. Un espacio muy abierto hacia

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FUNDING

Trump admin cuts research

Impacted areas include climate change, AIDS, DEI

By Daneen Khan
Community Engagement Editor

Last May, UNC professor Philip Berke received an email from Kristi Noem, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Berke is the director of UNC’s Center for Resilient Communities and Environment. In the email, he learned that two of the Center’s research grants — which totaled around \$750,000 — had been terminated.

Berke is one of many University researchers who recently lost funding under the second Trump administration. UNC Media Relations wrote that at the time of publication, 118 federal grants at UNC had been terminated, resulting in a loss of approximately \$38.4 million.

Alongside the grant terminations are 29 active “stop work orders,” which are formal directives to pause all or part of a research project.

“Grant terminations do not happen at the university level; they are entirely determined by federal agencies and the priorities of the federal administration,” the spokesperson wrote.

In the 2024 fiscal year, 65.68 percent of University research funding awards came from federal sponsors. The National Institute of Health provided nearly 75 percent of all federal agency-sponsored awards at UNC. Other federal sponsors included the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation and the Agency for International Development.

But NIH grants have plummeted. The NSF has cancelled over 1,500 awards, and USAID has officially closed its doors.

The combined loss from grant terminations constitutes 3.52 percent of UNC’s total research awards in 2025. While it’s a small fraction of total funding, certain research — including projects

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DOWNTOWN

Mediterranean Deli reopens after two years

The rebuilt restaurant features a new interior and menu additions

By Sophie King
Staff Writer

Mediterranean Deli, a restaurant on 410 W. Franklin St., officially reopened Tuesday night after its forced closing following a roof fire in July 2023.

Med Deli’s Franklin Street location will be open between 4 and 9 p.m. each day, as staff work toward a full reopening. There is currently no takeout option yet offered.

Jamil Kadoura, the owner of Med Deli, said he hopes to add lunch time hours back to the restaurant in the near future, after first testing the logistics of the dinner hours.

The restaurant features an entirely new Mediterranean-inspired interior, replacing the old interior that focused



DTH/AVA HOLLAND

Owner Jamil Kadoura and an employee pose in the kitchen at the Mediterranean Deli on Sept. 9.

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Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar.

ANTONIO MACHADO



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Noticias de The Daily Tar Heel, ahora en español

El periódico de esta semana se ve un poco diferente.

Por primera vez, la edición impresa de The Daily Tar Heel presenta contenido en español de manera destacada en la portada.

No, esto no es una casualidad. Me complace anunciar que The Daily Tar Heel ahora produce contenido noticioso tanto en inglés como en español.

El lunes comenzó el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, que se celebra en Estados Unidos cada año del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre para honrar las historias, culturas y contribuciones de los estadounidenses con ascendencia de países hispanohablantes. Para celebrarlo, escogimos hoy, la primera edición impresa de este Mes de la Herencia Hispana, para lanzar nuestra nueva iniciativa de traducción al español.

Pero el periódico de esta semana es solo el comienzo.

Nuestro sitio web ya presenta contenido noticioso en español. Hemos publicado varios artículos traducidos, con muchos más por venir. Pronto lanzaremos una versión rediseñada de la página web que contará con una nueva pestaña titulada “Leer en español”, que servirá como centro de estas historias. Incluso puede que algunos aparezcan en nuestras plataformas de redes sociales.

Hacer que las noticias locales sean más accesibles para más personas es un objetivo permanente de The DTH. Ahora, damos un nuevo paso hacia este objetivo al compartir nuestro periodismo en varios idiomas, empezando por el español.

Después del inglés, el español es el idioma más hablado en el condado de Orange. Según datos recientes del censo, 15,812 personas en el condado se identifican como hispanas o latinas, lo que equivale a alrededor del 10.6 por ciento de la población.

Esta comunidad, que a menudo se ve afectada por el enfoque

estricto de la actual administración presidencial hacia la inmigración y los servicios sociales, debe tener acceso fácil a las noticias locales.

Algunas de nuestras historias incluirán redacción y reportajes originales en español elaborados por redactores bilingües. Otras serán traducidas del inglés al español por nuestra recién contratada Editora de Traducción al Español.

Decidimos adoptar un enfoque de selección y curaduría para producir contenido en español, en lugar de utilizar programas automáticos que traducen todo el sitio web con solo presionar un botón. Preferimos garantizar traducciones de calidad y reportajes originales en español, en lugar de arriesgarnos a que un programa informático pierda información importante en la traducción.

Esto significa, inevitablemente, que no todos los artículos serán traducidos al español. Sin embargo, hemos establecido conexiones con líderes de organizaciones comunitarias hispanas locales para conocer los temas que más importan a la comunidad hispanohablante.

Nos enfocaremos en la legislación migratoria, servicios sociales como Medicaid y SNAP, noticias educativas, noticias de negocios locales y política de Carolina del Norte. Pero también ofreceremos de vez en cuando cobertura de estilo de vida y deportes en español, en un intento de reflejar todo el alcance de nuestro contenido periodístico en The DTH.

No es perfecto, pero es un comienzo: un paso hacia derribar las barreras del idioma que con demasiada frecuencia dejan a comunidades vulnerables sin voz o sin acceso a información fundamental.

Si tiene preguntas, inquietudes o ideas para esta nueva iniciativa, no dude en escribirme a editor@dailytarheel.com o a nuestra nueva Editora de Traducción al Español, Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta, a translation@dailytarheel.com.

By Alli Pardue
Editor-in-Chief

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The Daily Tar Heel news is now available in Spanish

This week’s paper looks a little different.

For the first time, The Daily Tar Heel’s print paper features Spanish content prominently on the front page.

No, this is not a fluke. I am pleased to announce that The Daily Tar Heel is now producing news content in both English and Spanish.

Monday marked the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed in the U.S. each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 to celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans with ancestry from Spanish-speaking countries. To celebrate, we picked today, the first print edition of Hispanic Heritage Month, to launch our new Spanish translation initiative.

But this week’s paper is just the beginning.

Our website now features news content in Spanish. We’ve already published several translated articles, with many more to come. Soon, we will launch a redesigned website that features a new tab titled “Leer en español,” which will serve as the hub for these stories. You may even see a few trickle onto our social media platforms.

Making local news more accessible to more people is an everpresent goal of The DTH. In practice, this has looked like shifting mediums with our audiences from print to online to social media. Now, we’re taking a new step by sharing our reporting in multiple languages — starting with Spanish.

Besides English, Spanish is the most-spoken language in Orange County. According to recent census data, there are 15,812 people living in Orange County who identify as Hispanic or Latino, which comes out to around 10.6 percent of the population.

This community, often affected by the current presidential

administration’s hardline approach to immigration and social service policies, should have easy access to local news.

Some of our stories will include original writing and reporting in Spanish by bilingual staff writers. Others will be translated from English to Spanish by our newly hired Spanish Translation Editor.

We decided to take a curation approach to producing Spanish content, as opposed to using computer programs to translate the entire website at the touch of a button. We’d rather take our time to ensure quality translations and original Spanish reporting than risk a computer program getting important information lost in translation.

This inevitably means that not all articles will be translated to Spanish. But we’ve taken time to connect with leaders of local Hispanic community organizations to learn about the areas of coverage that matter most to the Spanish-speaking community.

We plan on focusing on immigration legislation, social services like Medicaid and SNAP, education news, local business news and North Carolina politics. But we also plan on offering occasional lifestyle and sports coverage in Spanish in an attempt to cover the full scope of our news content at The DTH.

It’s not perfect, but it’s a start — a step towards breaking down language barriers that too often leave at-risk communities without a voice or without access to critical information.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas for this new initiative, feel free to email me at editor@dailytarheel.com or our new Spanish Translation Editor Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta at translation@dailytarheel.com.

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ADMISSIONS

Low percent of Black students enrolled

Rates remain stagnant since 2023 affirmative action repeal

By Claire Harutunian
Senior Writer

In the second admissions cycle following the elimination of race-conscious affirmative action, UNC reported an increase in Hispanic students, while the percentage of newly enrolled Black students has stayed the same since its significant decline last year. This shows demographic trends in the class of 2029 and new transfer students, compared to fall 2023 and fall 2024 incoming class data.

The University released the information last Tuesday, reporting that 7.8 percent of students enrolled this fall 2025 were Black or African American-identifying — the same percentage as last year, but a 25 percent decline from fall 2023.

UNC was the public university represented as a defendant in the 2023 Students for Fair Admissions Supreme Court case that prohibited affirmative action in college admissions.

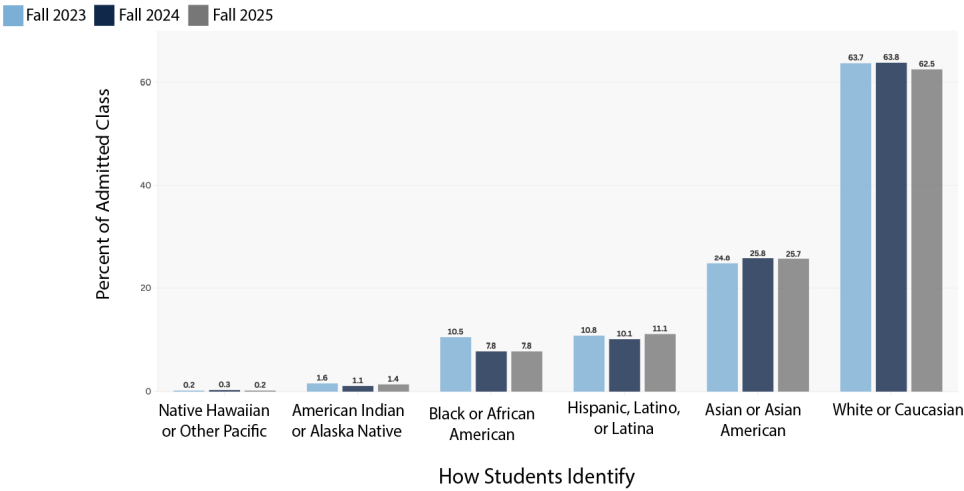
“The Black makeup in North Carolina is about 20 percent,” Adam Sherif, a UNC senior and the president of the Black Student Movement, said. “And so, when you look at UNC, the flagship university that was built on the backs of Black slaves, it’s disheartening to see that we went from about a 10.5 percent representation in years previous to the affirmative action case, to, now, 7.8 percent.”

While the number of Black students at UNC was still not proportional to the population of Black North Carolinians when affirmative action was in place, the gap has widened in the last two years.

The number of Hispanic, Latino or Latina-identifying students increased from 10.1 percent in the fall 2024 incoming class to 11.1 percent in the fall 2025 incoming class. This is

By the Numbers: UNC’s Admitted Class of 2025

From 2023 to 2025, UNC’s admitted student demographics highlights a shift in racial and ethnic representation.



Source: UNC

DTH DATA/DIYA JOSHI

also an increase from the fall 2023 incoming class, which was made up of 10.8 percent Hispanic students.

“My initial thoughts were, kind of, that it was unsurprising to see a smaller percentage of Hispanic compared to Asian or white students that were admitted,” Andrea Santiago, a UNC sophomore and political action committee co-chair for Mi Pueblo, said. “They usually are underrepresented in higher education, and especially at UNC, I feel like I don’t really see many Hispanics.”

According to the data breakdown, the number of students who identify as white or caucasian decreased from 63.8 percent last year to 62.5 percent this year. The number of Asian or Asian American-identifying students stayed stable, dropping from 25.8 percent last year to 25.7 percent this year.

This is UNC’s largest first-year class, with 6,191 first-year and transfer students out of 84,317 total applicants in the fall 2024 cycle.

Ian Tollison, a first-year student from Waxhaw, N.C., joined BSM in August and attended Black Convocation. He said that while his first-year class size is record-breaking, there was no increase in the percentage of Black students admitted.

Given the fact that UNC no longer reviews race in admissions due to the SFFA case, Tollison said affirmative action was on his mind while applying.

“That’s why when I applied to UNC, I focused more on telling my story and how my race kind of correlates into that so the admissions officers could understand that my race of being African American has a significant impact on my perspective,” he said.

X: @dailytarheel

INICIATIVA ESTUDIANTIL

Nueva revista, ‘Lo Nuestro’, amplifica las voces hispanas

Es un proyecto de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos

By Lauren Geddes
Staff Writer

Después de cinco años como organización estudiantil, el capítulo de UNC de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ, por sus siglas en inglés) está ampliando sus iniciativas para incluir una revista digital. El proyecto tiene el objetivo de establecer el legado de la organización y crear un espacio que destaque las voces de los estudiantes hispanos.

La revista se lanzará esta primavera y llevará por título Lo Nuestro, dijo Elaine Jiménez, presidenta del capítulo. El nombre, que significa ‘Ours’ en inglés, refleja el deseo de la organización de fomentar la comunidad mediante la representación de perspectivas hispanas.

“Elegimos el nombre porque queríamos algo que fuera latinos escribiendo para latinos, contando nuestras propias historias”, afirmó Jiménez.

Lo Nuestro incluirá poesía, fotografía, reportajes, diseño gráfico y muchas otras formas de medios de comunicación.

“Lo Nuestro busca dar visibilidad y resaltar las historias y voces latinas,

pero nuevamente, no es exclusivo de esa perspectiva”, dijo Sofía Rangel, secretaria de Lo Nuestro. “Realmente se trata de amplificar diferentes voces en el campus.”

Este tipo de representación está en el corazón de todo el trabajo de la NAHJ, no solo en Lo Nuestro.

“Quiero que la gente sepa que existe un espacio para voces latinx y personas que están haciendo el trabajo, representando nuestra comunidad, pero también abordando todos los demás temas y áreas del periodismo”, comentó María Fernanda Barriga-Mateos, vicepresidenta de la NAHJ.

El capítulo de UNC de la NAHJ es una organización dedicada a impulsar y apoyar las voces hispanas en el ámbito periodístico. Con cuatro miembros de la junta ejecutiva y alrededor de 25 miembros del club, la organización crea un espacio donde las voces subrepresentadas pueden encontrar apoyo y visibilidad.

Fundado en 2020, el capítulo de UNC busca enfocarse en el desarrollo profesional y en la construcción de comunidad para estudiantes interesados en el periodismo y los medios de comunicación.

El capítulo de UNC organiza reuniones del club, eventos de LinkedIn y networking, y trae un ponente invitado para una sesión de preguntas y respuestas con los miembros del club aproximadamente una vez por semestre. Entre los



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

Las miembros de la junta ejecutiva de UNC NAHJ posan para un retrato en los escalones de Carroll Hall el martes el 16 de septiembre.

conferencistas anteriores se incluyen el periodista del New York Times Eduardo Medina y la ex corresponsal de CNN y actual profesora de UNC, Leyla Santiago.

Los líderes esperan expandir la membresía a estudiantes de publicidad y relaciones públicas, y enfatizar la inclusividad más amplia que las identidades hispanas.

“Somos fundados por Latinx, pero no exclusivos de Latinx, y tampoco exclusivos de estudiantes de la escuela Hussman”, dijo Rangel. “Realmente somos un espacio para cualquiera interesado en carreras en periodismo y medios de comunicación.”

Rangel afirmó que crear este club es una manera de que los miembros dejen un legado de comunidad en UNC, y Jiménez señaló que la misión de NAHJ tiene que ver con el sentido de pertenencia.

“Simplemente muestra que estás destinado a pertenecer aquí, que estás aquí por una razón”, afirmó Jiménez. “Te ves reflejado y ves a otros estudiantes, y sabes: ‘No soy un extraño.’”

Este artículo fue traducido por Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta.

X: @dailytarheel

Eventos de UNC este mes

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana comenzó el lunes 15 de septiembre y se extenderá hasta el 15 de octubre, celebrando la historia y la cultura de los estadounidenses descendientes de España, México, Centro y Sudamérica y el Caribe.

Diversas organizaciones y departamentos de UNC estarán organizando actividades culturales, educativas y sociales durante el mes y en su conmemoración.

16 de septiembre

Primera reunión general de AMEXCAN por el Día de la Independencia de México, de 7 p.m. a 9 p.m. en Greenlaw Hall, salón 101. Organizado por AMEXCAN en UNC y el Carolina Latinx Center.

17 de septiembre

Inicio del Mes de la Herencia Latinx, de 11 a.m. a 2 p.m. en The Pit. Organizado por el Carolina Latinx Center.

23 de septiembre

“El Salvador: El pulgarcito de América”, presentación sobre la Universidad Luterana Salvadoreña, la cultura y las tradiciones salvadoreñas, de 3:30 p.m. a 5 p.m. en Dey Hall Toy Lounge. Organizado por el Departamento de Estudios Romances.

29 de septiembre

Conferencia Keohane Duke-UNC 2025: Kelly Lytle Hernández “Emancipation and the Origins of U.S. Immigration Control, 1803-1875”, de 2 p.m. a 4 p.m. en Wilson Library, Pleasants Assembly Room. Organizado por el Programa de Estudios Latinos de UNC y otros.

1 de octubre

Conferencia magistral del Mes de la Herencia Latinx, de 5 p.m. a 8 p.m. (ponente por anunciar). Organizado por el Carolina Latinx Center.

5 de octubre

Cena del Mes de la Herencia Latinx en Top of Lenoir, de 5 p.m. a 8 p.m. en el comedor Top of Lenoir. Organizado por el Carolina Latinx Center.

9 de octubre

“El centenario de Cal Tjader: Explorando el legado de un innovador del jazz latino”, de 7:30 p.m. a 9 p.m. en Moeser Auditorium. Organizado por el Departamento de Música.

– Regan Butler, University Editor
– Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta, Spanish Translation Editor

SAFETY

How Alert Carolina weighs campus and local impacts before notifying

After summer storms, some worry about sparse messages

By Sajni Patel
Senior Writer

As heavy rains from Tropical Storm Chantal flooded Chapel Hill homes and businesses this summer, many UNC students weren't turning to Alert Carolina. Instead of waiting for word from the University's official emergency system, built to keep them informed, some refreshed social media, texted friends and turned on local news stations.

Although an initial Alert Carolina message was sent on July 6 when the storm hit the area, the UNC community didn't receive another message about the weather event until three days later.

Siya Anand, a sophomore at UNC, said that she first heard about the flooding from social media platforms and friends who were residing on campus during the summer.

"I think I tend to find out about any potential emergencies from friends or social media, but I only look to Alert Carolina to see if it affects University operations," she said.

Alert Carolina is intended to reach various audiences including UNC students, faculty and staff. Darrell Jeter, the director of Emergency Management and Planning at UNC, said that the objective of the emergency notification system is to "get any message out to our campus community using as many channels as possible."

Jeter said there are many mechanics behind the system and several University departments that

contribute to ensuring it remains functional and timely.

He said UNC Campus Safety has pre-designated activating authorities for the alert system, and those with specified training initiate the activation.

"And then from there, we will continue to assess the situation to determine whether or not follow-up messages need to occur," Jeter said.

When Alert Carolina messages are sent, on-campus sirens can also be activated. According to a Sept. 8 Alert Carolina test message, "the sirens sound only for a major emergency or an immediate safety or health threat," including:

- An armed and dangerous person on or near campus
- A major fire or hazardous material incident outdoors
- A National Weather Service tornado warning for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area
- Other emergencies, as determined by Campus Safety

"As a part of that initial process, we also are looking at and considering the nature of the occurrence," Jeter said.

The most severe kind of alert is an emergency warning, he said, where there is an imminent threat or danger to the campus community. In this case, an emergency warning is activated using the authorization process, which Jeter said occurs "without delay."

The other three types of alerts — crime alerts, adverse condition notices and informational updates — are released once pertinent information is available, which may not be as immediate. However, Jeter said that the team follows a similar review process when sending alerts for these events.



DTH DESIGN/MEG JENKINS

Jeter said that messages sent for weather events are dependent on the impact. For a significant weather event like a hurricane or tornado warning, an emergency warning would be activated. However, for other types of weather events, he said that emergency warnings, which include sirens, are not used.

"So the flooding event over this past summer — that's an example of one where it's a different type of weather event, and just because it's a weather warning doesn't mean that's going to translate into an emergency warning for our Alert Carolina system," he said. "Because the impacts of weather really varies depending on the type of weather

and its forecasted impact immediately to our campus community."

However, Anand said that she thinks Alert Carolina could do a better job of being the first place that people get information. She said it's much easier for misinformation about emergencies to spread if the source is social media instead of official University Communications.

"We're always trying to be as responsive as possible when we have news that students need to know about and make sure that we're providing whatever information we have when we have it," UNC Chancellor Lee Roberts said in an interview with The Daily Tar Heel.

Jeter also said that Alert Carolina is regularly tested. The system undergoes three tests each year to check functionality, and after every activation, administrators conduct an "after-action review" to identify problems. They make corrections based on the review to ensure notifications are delivered to the campus community consistently.

Jeter said the system is also overseen by the Alert Carolina Advisory Committee, a subcommittee on impact and effectiveness and accounts for campus-wide surveys.

X: @sajniupatel

GAME DAYS

Faculty, staff unable to access offices before kickoff

Football festivities close buildings on Polk Place

By Emmy Benton
Senior Writer

UNC announced Thursday that nine academic buildings around Polk Place will be closed prior to every home football game this season as a safety measure. Many faculty and staff members' offices are in the affected buildings, and some felt blindsided by the decision due to a lack of consultation.

During the six hours before kickoff of the remaining home games, buildings near the Quad will be closed to all occupants, including those with One Card access. Bingham Hall, Carroll Hall, Carolina Hall, Dey Hall, Gardner Hall, Hanes Hall, Manning Hall, Murphey Hall and Steele Building were listed as affected in the campuswide email announcement sponsored by UNC Campus Safety.

In the email, the University wrote that anyone with a One Card who has an "urgent need" to access their workspaces will need to contact the UNC Police non-emergency line. Those requesting access will need to present their One Card and should only call when present at the building.

Access to campus buildings cannot be scheduled in advance during game day closures, the email states.

This comes after the University closed the buildings on Sept. 1 for the first home game of the season before making the closures a recurring procedure. The game marked the beginning of UNC's journey with new head coach Bill Belichick, and also brought some



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

Fans walk by Polk Place during the Chapel Thrill pre-game events prior to the game against TCU on Sept. 1.

changes to the game day experience — including a student tailgate event and concert series on Polk Place.

"This decision was a precautionary one for security reasons," UNC Media Relations wrote in an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel after the Sept. 1 closures.

Due to the Sept 1. closures, communications professor Michael Palm was unable to access his office in Bingham Hall before the game.

"Locking us out of our buildings

in order to accommodate corporate-sponsored tailgating shows the priorities of UNC's administration,"

Michael Palm
Professor in the Department of Communication

Palm wrote in an email statement to The DTH. "The rows of porta-potties outside our buildings is an apt symbol for how the labor of faculty is being valued."

Biology professor Mark Peifer was also upset about the building closures, and said he was worried his office in Fordham Hall may be next. He said that faculty and staff should have been able to access their offices on Sept. 1 so that they could prepare for the following school day.

Peifer said he emailed Chancellor Lee Roberts and Interim Provost Jim Dean to inquire about why the University chose to close the buildings on Sept. 1. In an email obtained by

The DTH, Roberts responded that he was unaware of the decision and would look into it.

The closures were instated so that the University can "provide greater event safety during this anticipated increase in spectators," according to the most recent campuswide email.

Peifer, who has worked at UNC since 1992, said this was one of the only instances he could remember where faculty and staff had been unable to access their buildings, aside from closures in April 2024 due to pro-Palestinian protests. He said that the University's actions send the wrong message about their priorities, downplaying the importance of academics.

"We've got an almost \$30 million budget cut coming to Carolina from the legislature in a month, when we also just hired a football coach for \$10 million," Peifer said.

In light of this, Peifer said he wishes there had been more consultation with faculty and staff before making decisions that significantly affect them, especially those that impact daily operations.

"If we want this university to be successful, we all need to be on the same team," Peifer said. "We may disagree about things, but at least we got to be talking to one another. And 'all' includes the administration, the faculty, the staff and the students."

X: @dailytarheel

SCHOOL SPIRIT

From an indigo hue to Carolina Blue: The history behind UNC’s colors

Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies inspired iconic shade

By Emily Brietz
Staff Writer

Many students, fans and alums have proudly proclaimed that UNC is home to “the better blue.” Carolina Blue became a widely used noun in the 1930s, but the history of this beloved color dates back much further.

UNC’s Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies

The University’s colors originated from the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, the literary and debate societies founded in 1795 that then formed a joint senate in 1959. Until the 1890s, UNC students were required to be a member of one of the societies.

“Because, effectively, every student was a member of Di or Phi, one or the other, they decided that [the University’s] colors should be the colors that represented the two societies,” Lilah Childers, the DiPhi historian, said.

The Dialectic Society’s blue is a symbol of excellence in agricultural regions like the state of North Carolina. Katherine Fiore, DiPhi’s joint senate president and UNC’s student body vice president, said the Philanthropic Society’s white has a disputed meaning. “It symbolizes purity, but also liberty, which is part of [the University’s] motto — in Latin, that would be ‘lux libertas’ — and ‘libertas’ is where that white comes from,” Fiore said.

Nicholas Graham, an archivist with University Libraries, said that students in the 19th and 20th centuries were very proud of their DiPhi membership, and would actively distinguish themselves as members of one of the societies by wearing ribbons to graduation and other campus events.



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

In the 1880s, UNC football played a game against the University of Virginia, who were decked out in blue and orange. The defining colors and team spirit of UVA influenced the adoption of white and blue school colors for UNC.

“It was only natural that when UNC started competing in intercollegiate sports, they adapted the colors,” Graham said. “By the 20th century, [the colors] became more common throughout university publications, documents and then, eventually, were adopted as the official color.”

Deeper ties to the South

“Since [Carolina Blue] goes back to the 18th century, the main blue that they would have had access to would have been an indigo blue, because indigo was a color that was big in the

colonies,” Marion Redd, a UNC Class of 1967 alumna who has worked in UNC Student Stores since 2012, said.

In the 18th century, darker blues were commonly associated with the wealthy and elite in Europe and throughout the American South — as in the phrase “blue blood.” The lighter shades — what we know as Carolina Blue today — were also popular amongst everyday folk, such as workers donning blue aprons.

“[Indigo] became a big cash crop in the plantations to supplement the rice crops, because it grew on parts of the land of the plantation that rice wouldn’t grow,” Redd said.

Yet, the indigo dye required skilled laborers to plant, tend, harvest and extract it. Due to a long and rich history in making and dying indigo in West Africa, this grueling work was left almost entirely to African slaves. Many

colonists also seized Native American land in pursuit of agricultural profits due to the fertile North and South Carolina soils, in which indigo flourished.

The blue hue today

Carolina Blue has changed and evolved over the years from a powder blue to a baby blue, and has even leaned toward an aqua shade at times.

Graham said a big reason for the inconsistency is due to the influence of television, as the screen would distort the shade of players’ uniforms.

“In 1968, a man named Bill Dooley, who was associated with the football team, darkened the uniforms so that they would photograph better and look better on film,” Ellie Hamashima, a UNC senior and senior tour guide at UNC’s Visitor

Center, said. “Then, Dean Smith did the same thing for basketball.”

In 1991, Alexander Julian, an international designer and the son of the owner of Franklin Street’s Julian’s, redesigned the basketball uniforms and graduation gowns to be a lighter shade of blue.

“When I first started at Shrunk Head in 2014, it was a really light, almost Cinderella princess-y blue, and it has gotten darker as the years have gone on,” Alana Adams, UNC class of 2018, the brand manager at Shrunk Head Boutique, said. “A lot of it has to do with licensing changing [and] their brand requirements.”

In 2015, the University underwent a massive rebrand in which all 28 varsity sports at the time were unified under one consistent shade: Pantone 542. That is also when athletics added navy blue as an accent color.

Adams said that Shrunk Head must get every product approved and licensed by the University before sale, who will deny or approve a product based on the shade of blue used.

She also said there have been many times when incoming first-years have come into the store saying the school’s colors made an impact on their decision to come to the University.

Becoming a UNC student means adapting a light blue lifestyle, it seems.

“Before coming to Carolina, I didn’t realize just how much Carolina Blue already surrounded me,” Fiore said. “I come from a family of Tar Heels, so those sweatshirts were always part of my childhood. There’s a photo of my little sister in a Carolina Blue sweatshirt when she was about two years old, and she later went on to be a Tar Heel and DiPhi, actually, which was fun. I notice the blue sky, and I notice the water and all these things, and the blue that Carolina has made me see is a lot more brilliant than I once thought.”

X: @ecbrietz

REMEMBRANCE

UNC’s 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb sees record turnout

University’s Army ROTC led the 12th annual event at Kenan Stadium

By Victoria Deal
Staff Writer

At 6 a.m. on Thursday morning, over 1,500 local first responders, military personnel, ROTC cadets and other members of the Chapel Hill community gathered at Kenan Stadium for the 12th annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb to climb 2,071 stadium stairs. This number is equal to 110 stories, representing how tall the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers stood.

The stair climb, hosted by the UNC Army ROTC, provides attendees an opportunity to commemorate the thousands of first responders, service members and civilians who lost their lives during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and their aftermath.

On that day in 2001, members of the terrorist group Al-Qaida hijacked four commercial planes, which were then used as weapons to strike significant U.S. landmarks, including the World Trade Center in New York City, and later, the Pentagon. When the towers were struck, elevators became inoperable, forcing first responders to rely solely on the stairwells to reach trapped civilians.

Delaney Arendt, a UNC senior and a cadet battalion commander with the UNC Army ROTC, opened the event by sharing how participating in a previous memorial climb inspired her to join the army.

“As you ascend and descend the stairs, take a moment to reflect on just how valuable your freedom is and never forget those who gave their lives to protect it,” Arendt said. “To our first responders and military personnel, thank you for dedicating your life to selfless service and protection of the citizens of the United States of America. And for everyone here today, thank you for joining us to honor those who gave their lives while saving others.”

Then, UNC senior Sidney Brewer, a cadet in the Army ROTC, sang the National Anthem. Following this, Colonel Roger Waleski Jr. delivered impassioned remarks about the significance of those who gave their lives on 9/11 before the climb commenced.

The climb officially began at 6:20 a.m., with several firefighters and service members carrying American flags. Participants ascended and descended the stadium steps continuously until about 7:20 a.m., by which time the sun had risen above the horizon. During the climb, several chants broke out, including a stadium-wide call-and-response of “Tar!” and “Heel!”

Maeve Carroll, a former UNC Army ROTC cadet, said that participating in the memorial stair climb is special to her as a daughter of a New York Fire Department firefighter who was a first responder on 9/11.

“After everything that’s happened this week, I think it’s nice to kind of center on what connects us,” Carroll said on Thursday. “2,071 steps reminds me of my dad and what he and his friends went through.”



DTH/LAUREN RAY

Participants ascend and descend stadium steps during the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on Thursday, Sept. 11.

The 2025 stair climb had the largest turnout in the event’s history at the University, with an estimated 1,000 more participants taking on the challenge than last year, Department of Military Science professor and Lieutenant Colonel Lisa Klekowski said.

“Every single year [participation] grows, and part of it is our ROTC works so hard to plan a professional and meaningful event for the community,” Klekowski said.

In addition to local first responders, attendees included Duke University’s Air Force and Naval ROTC, as well as multiple UNC Athletics teams. Other notable attendees included UNC Football head coach Bill Belichick and General Manager Michael Lombardi, Athletics Director Bubba Cunningham, North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson and the former chair of the UNC Board of Trustees, John Preyer.

Charles Whitmire, a UNC Army ROTC cadet, said the most

special part of the event was to see the community come together to participate, joining each other in remembering the lives lost 24 years ago.

“And it’s just a really, really big reminder of the unity of our nation and how we’re fighting to defend that unity — and it can never be broken,” he said.

X: @dailytarheel

City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Orange County provides child care services to families amid high costs

Many women weigh whether they can both work and raise kids

By Brantley Aycock
Senior Writer

On Aug. 26, the North Carolina Department of Administration’s Council for Women and Youth Involvement released a report on the status of women in North Carolina, finding increased need and costs for child care across the state.

Out of the eight states evaluated, North Carolina had the third-highest child care costs and the lowest preschool enrollment among three-year-olds. From January 2024-25, North Carolina’s child care subsidy waitlist increased by 270 percent.

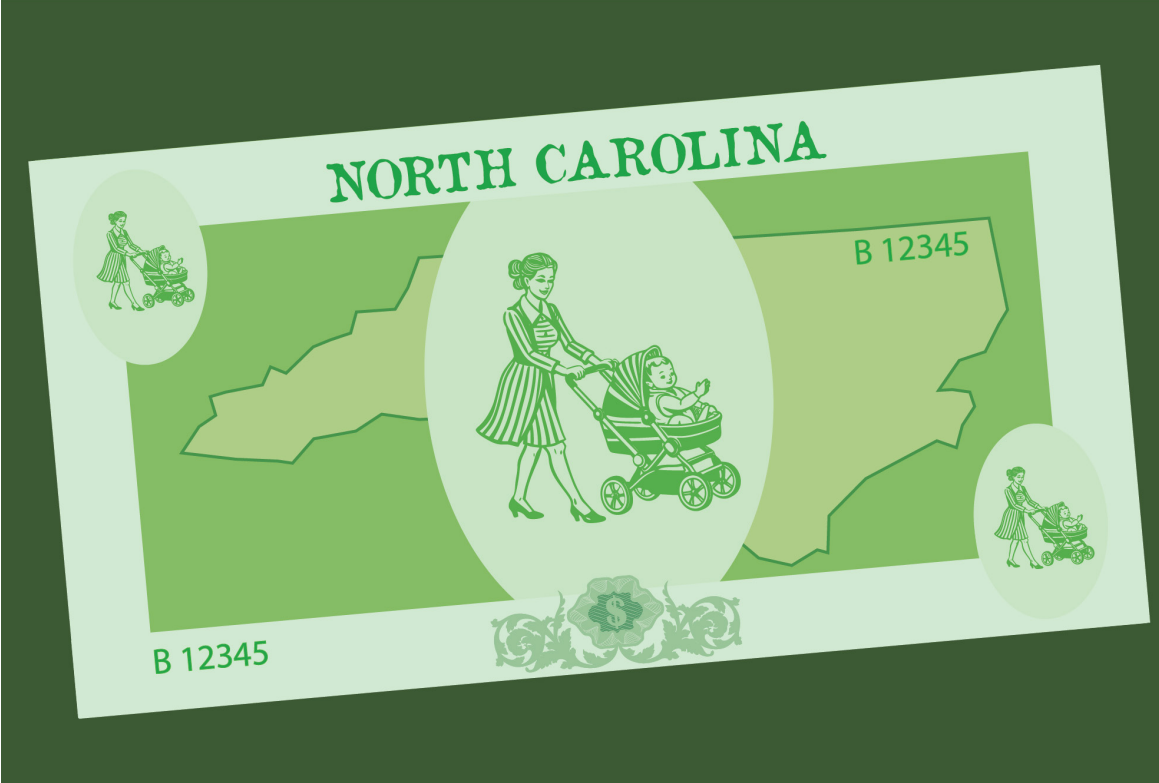
“This report confirms what a lot of North Carolina families already know, which is that affordable, reliable child care is out of reach for many people,” NCDOA’s director of the Division of Women and Youth, Charnessa Ridley said.

Infant child care costs more than 20 percent of the median annual income for women working full-time between 2019 and 2023, with Latina and Native American women experiencing the highest percent costs.

In Orange County, child care is costly, Orange County Department of Social Services director Lindsey Shewmaker said. The monthly cost for center-based infant care is about \$1,900 to \$2,100.

“We have a lot of high quality child care homes and centers,” Shewmaker said. “That comes at a high cost, and it makes it particularly hard to afford for our lower income families.”

Ridley said many women, including herself, have to weigh whether they can afford to both work and raise children.



DTH DESIGN/ISABELA NASH

Over one-third of single mothers in North Carolina live below the poverty line, according to the report.

In North Carolina, 68.9 percent of women with children under six years old participate in the workforce, compared to 93.8 percent of men with children under six.

Labor economist Luca Flabbi said the gender gap between men and women in the workforce increases with career progress, becoming the largest in executive positions.

“These differences start to open up when families start to have children, so children seem to play an

important role in determining this differential,” Flabbi said.

When parents have to quit or are terminated due to child care conflicts, Ridley said, employers

Christy Thalheimer is the child care referral program director at Early Years, a North Carolina nonprofit that helps families access and afford child care.

Thalheimer said that accessible childcare is important for both retaining and growing a strong workforce.

“You want high-quality child care so that children are prepared and ready to enter school and be successful in school and throughout,” Thalheimer said.

To increase child care accessibility, the NCDOA’s report makes a recommendation to invest

“This report confirms what a lot of North Carolina families already know, which is that affordable, reliable child care is out of reach for many people.”

Charnessa Ridley
Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration’s Division of Women and Youth

in North Carolina’s child care subsidy program, which uses federal and state funds to provide eligible families with child care services.

In Orange County, there are several ways to learn about the subsidy program, Shewmaker said. Residents can go to an Orange County office in-person, call or email. To apply, residents can complete an application that requests information such as household composition and income. Once the paperwork is approved, families can choose which facility their child attends. Most families pay 10 percent of their income, and the rest is covered by county subsidy vouchers.

While Orange County does not have a child care subsidy waitlist, other counties in North Carolina have waitlists that can be six to nine months long.

“Orange County has made really significant commitments in terms of resources to this problem of funding and availability for child care, particularly for low-income families, but that doesn’t mean that everybody right now who needs services is able to get them,” Shewmaker said.

Shewmaker said Orange County could always use more funding for the child care subsidy program, and it would be beneficial for the state to expand the criteria for which families can participate.

Currently, only families up to 200 percent of the federal poverty line are eligible for the subsidy program.

“If the state were able to increase the amount of funds for child care subsidy or change those eligibility criteria and make the income limits higher, I think that would go a long way to helping more families that we work with,” Shewmaker said.

X: @dthcitystate

Programa radial de Carrboro llega a 200 episodios este mes

Continuación de la página 1

todo, para no solo cosas que están pasando en que tuve problemas, en challenges. Sino también para contar a ver qué te trajo, qué haces. Hablar de uno. Claro, cuando estes en una cocina, en el supermercado, en la construcción, uno va para eso y luego pareciera que todos fuéramos lo mismo.”

Jacques Menache empezó la estación de radio, WCOM, en Carrboro hacía más de 20 años con un amigo, Ruffin Slater. Menache dijo que la idea surgió cuando él y Slater estaban viajando en México y vieron una radio emisora pirata, que es una radio transmitida de una torre privada y emitida para la comunidad. Vientos del Sur y Tossi ayudan a WCOM a conectarse con la comunidad hispanohablante en Carrboro, dijo él.

“[Vientos del Sur] combina música de Chile, Sudamérica, y el mundo,” Menache dijo del show. “Habla en español con muchas personas diferentes que invita de distintos países, así como de su propio país. Ha estado

involucrado con organizaciones sociales; nuevamente, gracias a su habilidad para hablar español, ha podido crear vínculos con la comunidad hispanohablante aquí en Carrboro, y esa es una función bastante importante de la pequeña estación de radio comunitaria poder hacerlo.”

“Los hispanos estaban, y siguen todavía, los que trabajan en los restaurantes, en los mercados, en la construcción y demás, pero no teníamos una voz, un espacio para hablar. Y eso es lo que representa el programa Vientos Del Sur”.

María Julia Echarte
Una oyente habitual y invitada del programa

Menache he visto la transformación de WCOM a través de los años, desde la ubicación previa de muchos años en East Main Street a su hogar actual en la nueva biblioteca, Drakeford Library Complex, en Carrboro. Dijo que Tossi lo convenció a ser más implicado con WCOM de nuevo mientras se mudo al Drakeford Complex.

Mientras WCOM se instala en su nueva ubicación, Menache dice que la estación de radio está pasando por una “crisis de identidad”. WCOM es dirigido y fundado por voluntarios, y depende de la comunidad para sostenerlo.

“Ahora, la cuestión es, la crisis de identidad es, ¿podemos sobrevivir otros 20 años con el internet, debido al hecho que hay tantos podcasts y fuentes como los canales de Youtube y lo que sea, todos las redes sociales involucradas?” dijo Menache. “¿Alguien escucha todavía la radio?”

Tossi piensa que sí. “La radio comunitaria ha sobrevivido a la aparición de la televisión, a la aparición de internet y al streaming a través de Internet, pero la radio comunitaria sigue existiendo,” dijo Tossi. “Vientos del Sur ha participado y esto creo que es súper importante.”

X: @halienwg

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LOCAL EATS | NEW RESTAURANTS

Camión de comida centroamericana abre su primera restaurante físico

The Latin Effect está ubicado en 504 W. Franklin St.

By Rosemary Ruan
Staff Writer

El 5 de septiembre, The Latin Effect abrió oficialmente sus puertas en 504 West Franklin St. Aunque el restaurante físico es nuevo, The Latin Effect ha estado sirviendo a los clientes del área del Triangle a través de su camión de comida desde 2020. El dúo de esposos Alberto y Rebecca Chedrani son copropietarios de la marca y el camión de comida, pero Alberto Chedrani es el propietario del restaurante físico de The Latin Effect. La inspiración original para The Latin Effect surgió después de que la pareja visitara un camión de comida en un evento local. Alberto Chedrani tomó clases sobre cómo gestionar un camión de comida y, a continuación, perfeccionó las recetas hondureñas de su madre. La comida de The Latin Effect, el conto, traerá algo distintamente diferente a la comunidad de Chapel Hill. Con un enfoque en Centro y Suramérica, los platillos del restaurante exploran diversas cocinas y ofrecen a los clientes algo nuevo para saborear. “Decidimos nombrar el negocio The Latin Effect porque hay muchos restaurantes hispanos,

pero lo que nosotros aportamos es que ofrecemos platillos de cinco países diferentes: Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, algunos platillos mexicanos y de Venezuela”, dijo Alberto Chedrani. Alberto Chedrani mencionó que espera aprender las diferencias entre operar un restaurante y un camión de comida. Dijo que otros dueños de camiones de comida le han comentado que manejar un camión es más difícil que manejar un restaurante. Las dos cocineras principales del restaurante son mujeres, algo de lo que Alberto Chedrani se siente orgulloso. Noemi Valle, cocinera principal de The Latin Effect, ha trabajado con la marca en el camión de comida durante tres años. Chedrani afirmó que Valle se ha vuelto esencial para la operación y el éxito del nuevo restaurante. Valle comentó que The Latin Effect ofrece comida casera y llena de sabor, y dijo que su platillo favorito para preparar son las pupusas salvadoreñas. Los sabores, la atención al cliente y el ambiente son algunos de los elementos que hacen que el restaurante sea único, él afirmó. Bibien Fragozo dijo que decidió comer en The Latin Effect después de ver el restaurante en redes sociales. Comentó que los platillos de Centro y Suramérica fueron lo que realmente le llamó la atención. “Vi la publicidad anoche, estaban abiertos, y simplemente fui a probar algo nuevo en esta zona”, dijo Fragozo.



DTH/MAURA TRIVETTE

La chef Kathy Sandres sirve un plato en The Latin Effect el 10 de septiembre.

El camión de comida de The Latin Effect ya había visitado otros campus universitarios con buena recepción, indicó Alberto Chedrani. Expresó su entusiasmo porque los estudiantes se enamoren de lo que el restaurante ofrece. Mencionó que los estudiantes también podrán disfrutar de ver partidos en la televisión mientras comen en el local.

Happy Rathore, copropietario de The Latin Effect, dijo que el restaurante espera conectar con los estudiantes y posiblemente ofrecer servicio de catering a los diversos clubes del campus. “Solo queremos ser parte de la comunidad, ver a dónde nos lleva esto y ayudar donde podamos,” dijo Rathore. Alberto Chedrani aseguró que los

estudiantes interesados en probar algo diferente no se sentirán decepcionados si visitan The Latin Effect. “Para mí, el servicio al cliente es lo más importante, y me gusta construir relaciones,” dijo Alberto Chedrani. “Eso es lo más importante para mí.” *Este artículo fue traducido por Ashley Hinojosa-Villacorta.*

X: @dthcitystate

Even Dough Bakery brings unique baked goods to Carrboro

Local café features revolving menu, fresh flavors, baking classes

By Joshua Sarfert
Staff Writer

Beginning as an at-home business, Even Dough Bakery opened its physical doors in Carrboro just in time for the fall season on Sept. 2. Tucked away in 203 W. Weaver St., the bakery and café welcomes guests with its pink walls, large outdoor garden space and assortment of baked goods. Even Dough Bakery owner and chef Meital Cohen developed a passion for baking in her grandmother’s kitchen, she said. “My grandma used to be a really good baker, and I used to go to her kitchen all the time and see how she would bake. She had a tiny, tiny kitchen — I’m talking the size of the three tables,” Cohen said, pointing to three small tables in the café. “And she would come up with amazing desserts, so I was watching her a lot when I was a child.” Originally from Israel, Cohen moved to New York, where she owned a bakery and café, before moving to Carrboro. “So I started baking from home, and when it got a little too busy and too crowded at the house, I was looking for a space to move the kitchen, but also to get a cake studio so that I can teach people how to bake,” Cohen said. Brianna Bunton, the café manager for Even Dough Bakery, said the bakery has a positive work environment and great baked goods. “I’m proud to work here, just because of the environment, the people and the product we put out,” Bunton said. “We want to have the best products available, and they deliver. It’s rare to find a place



DTH/ RAFAY NIAZI

Even Dough Bakery welcomes guests to its new location in Carrboro on Thursday, Sept. 11.

with all of that: great owners, great employees, great product.” Highlighting the bakery’s sweet and savory options, Cohen said Even Dough Bakery stands out with its revolving menu, periodically incorporating fresh new flavors. “My favorite right now is the almond croissant,” Even Dough Bakery barista Olivia Rossmin said. “I just love almond croissants, and it’s arguably the best one I’ve ever had.” Another item on the menu is stuffed bagels, which Cohen said

way I teach, everybody can do it,” Cohen said. With a spot on West Weaver Street, the bakery fits into Carrboro’s walkable downtown. Cohen said the bakery being located within a walkable area has helped her business transition into the community. “I love that people actually walk to the cafe, and not drive necessarily,” Cohen said. “I think it was a dream come true for me, really. I didn’t expect to find such an amazing spot.” The team behind Even Dough Bakery said they feel a sense of community with those behind the counter and customers. “I see the garden

“I see the garden full, it fills my heart in a way that I can’t describe.”

Meital Cohen
Even Dough Bakery owner and chef

she struggled to find at other establishments in the area. In addition to selling baked goods, Even Dough Bakery offers opportunities for community members to enhance their baking abilities. The bakery typically hosts classes twice per week that cover a variety of topics from baking to cake decorating. “It’s all beginners, some of them are more advanced, but the

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Community welcomes Med Deli back to Franklin Street

Continued from Page 1

on Middle Eastern styles. Med Deli will also introduce multiple new menu items including zucchini falafel, beef shawarma and various salads in addition to the reintroduction of over 100 menu items. The roof fire destroyed the whole building, Kadoura said, and the rebuilding process took over two years. Delays pushed back the reopening as architects, engineers, demolition teams, inspectors and the state of North Carolina were involved in the process. Shortly after the fire, the local community organized a GoFundMe to support restaurant employees. The restaurant received an outpour of phone calls, kind notes, flowers and more, Kadoura said. “I knew it was always a great community, but I didn’t know it was the greatest community,” Kadoura said.

The reopening was full of community members — both returning and new customers alike — excited to see the new space and menu additions, as well as to support a business that plays an important role in the community. Allen Samuelson, a longtime friend of Kadoura’s, said he has been going to Med Deli since it opened in 1992. “It’s a gathering place, a safe space for people to come and have fun, for fellowship and to love one another,” he said. UNC junior Emily Steele said, after visiting Med Deli’s location in Lenoir Dining Hall on UNC’s campus, she wanted to try the expanded menu and Franklin Street location.

“We’ve never had Med Deli open,” Steele said. “Everybody knew it burned down and we really wanted to try it.” Med Deli has been a consistent contributor to the Chapel Hill community, Kadoura said. From fundraisers for foreign aid in Haiti and Syria, to working with the UNC Children’s Hospital, the business always found a way to give back. Now, he said Chapel Hill residents have repaid the favor. “When you give and participate in good charity organizations, people realize that and they support you. But you don’t do it for the support, you do it from kindness,” Kadoura said.

Kadoura said throughout the rebuilding process, Med Deli’s employees grew closer. He said he shares kind words and “I love yous” with each employee he passes by. One employee, who Kadoura said had been at Med Deli

“It’s a gathering place, a safe space for people to come and have fun, for fellowship and to love one another.”

Allen Samuelson
Friend of Med Deli owner, Jamil Kaudora

for 13 years, had never once said “I love you,” back to him. After the fire, Kadoura said he finally reciprocated his words. Learning how much love and support the community has for Med Deli, Kadoura said he was able to remain optimistic. “There is always a gift for you in darkness, always,” Kadoura said. “You have to find it. You have to go and say, ‘What is good?’ For me it was a lot of things — it was my employees, my community, my family and the people that love me.”

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CIVICS

N.C. Board of Elections launches project to repair faulty voter registrations

Initiative will contact those who are missing information

By Eva Edwards
Staff Writer

The North Carolina State Board of Elections reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice on Sept. 8, requiring the state to repair faulty voter registrations.

The settlement comes after the contentious North Carolina Supreme Court race last November, when candidate Jefferson Griffin filed a suit to dispute the election results, claiming that over 60,000 votes were invalid because voters did not provide the last four digits of their social security numbers or their driver's license numbers when registering to vote.

Voter registration forms that the state have been using for 12 years made information such as voters' driver's license numbers or social security numbers appear to be optional, leading some voters to exclude that information when registering, Rachel Raper, the director of elections for Orange County, said.

The U.S. DOJ filed a suit against the state in May, claiming that North Carolina has been in violation of the federal Help America Vote Act. The Act requires voters to present the identifying numbers when registering to vote.

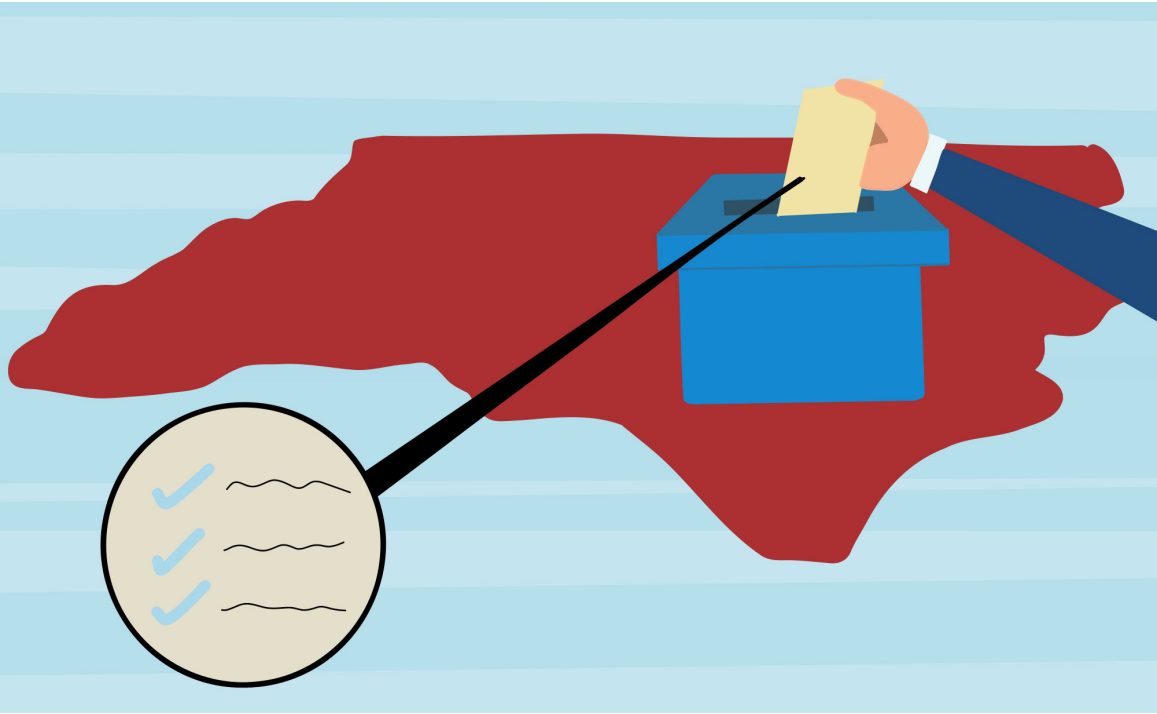
After the settlement, NCSBE launched the Registration Repair Project to recover missing identification numbers for the over 80,000 voters who registered with faulty forms.

Raper said voters on the registration repair list who are unable to update their registration with the required identification numbers can cast a provisional ballot in elections. The Board of Elections for that voter's county would then decide during a provisional ballot meeting whether the vote could be validated based on the reasoning for casting a provisional ballot.

Raper said over 600 voters in Orange County voted with a provisional ballot out of over 88,000 who cast their votes in the 2024 presidential election in Orange County. She said each ballot is looked at on a case-by-case basis.

The NCSBE has compiled a list of 82,738 voters who are at risk of voting provisionally. Under the Registration Repair Project, the NCSBE will work with county boards of elections to identify the voters in respective counties who are on the list and mail letters encouraging them to fix their registration and provide the identifying numbers.

"I always encourage voters to visit our website. We have Orange County-specific information there, including a webpage dedicated to voters on the voter Registration Repair Project list," Raper said. "If a voter just wants to check and see if they're on that list,



DTH DESIGN/MEG JENKINS

or the voter wants to check and see where their voting location is, there's a voter search tool."

In the event that voters do not send in proper identification and they show up to vote at the next election, the NCSBE would likely not validate their ballot, Raper said.

Since the voter registration forms were misleading, the state validated votes from those lacking proper identification in the 2024 State

Supreme Court race, but are using the settlement to memorialize HAVA compliance, Robert Joyce, a professor of public law and government at the UNC School of Government said.

"If you want to challenge the way that a law is interpreted and implied, you should do that before the next election, and not as an election protest," Joyce said.

Caitlin Metzguer, the deputy director of You Can Vote, a North

Carolina nonprofit aimed at helping and informing North Carolinians in voting, said it is important that people have up-to-date registrations ahead of the upcoming municipal elections in November.

"If someone finds themselves on the Registration Repair List, what they should do is contact their county board of elections," Metzguer said.

X: @eva26645858

TRANSPORTATION

Intercity bus service launches in Chapel Hill

Route links cities across state, from Raleigh to Asheville

By Iris Eyster
Staff Writer

In August, Flix North America, the parent company of FlixBus and Greyhound, launched an intercity bus service in Chapel Hill.

The service launched on Aug. 1 and the route is called the Piedmont Pass. The buses run twice a day, both stopping at the existing Eubanks park and ride lot. One bus will go eastbound and the other west. The eastbound bus will stop at 2:05 p.m. and the westbound bus will stop at 1:35 p.m., Emily Powell, Chapel Hill Transit's community outreach manager, said.

"Relaunching intercity bus service in Chapel Hill will make it easier than ever for UNC students, faculty, staff, and town residents to travel across North Carolina and beyond," Karina Frayter, Flix North America head of communications, said in an email statement. "Reliable, affordable, and convenient transportation is a gateway to education, jobs, and essential services — and we're proud to help expand those opportunities for the Chapel Hill community."

On Aug. 28, two additional trips were launched, bringing the total number of trips per day up to four.

Tickets can be bought on the Greyhound website or through



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

A Greyhound bus sits at the Park and Ride on Eubanks Road.

QR codes and brochures that Chapel Hill transit has been distributing, Powell said. Students can also find information with the UNC Department of Transportation and Parking.

The line starts in Raleigh and stops in Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Hickory and Statesville before ending in Asheville. Riders can get on

connecting buses to out-of-state locations such as Atlanta and New York City at stops in Greensboro and Raleigh.

Flix uses existing stops through partnerships with localities in addition to offering stops directly outside businesses.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's subsidized intercity bus network serves all of

North Carolina's major colleges and universities, Hart Evans, the statewide planning and programming manager at NCDOT, said.

"UNC Chapel Hill was one of the last remaining colleges or universities that did not have intercity bus service in the city limits," Evans said. "So it was definitely a priority for us to try to connect UNC and Chapel Hill to our intercity bus network."

The new transit system will serve non-students as well. Pittsboro resident Adriana Pontoriero said she is likely to use the new bus line.

"I would love to see the destinations it would go to, pricing but more so just having the convenience of having an alternative right here, close by to Chapel Hill because I do border it, even though I live in Pittsboro," Pontoriero said.

Right now, Pontoriero takes the 400 bus into downtown Durham, which is one of the only current options for riders trying to go outside of Chapel Hill.

In order to get on an intercity bus, riders currently have to take the 400 or the 405 bus to Durham, then make a change. NCDOT hopes to alleviate this multistep process with the new Chapel Hill stop, Evans said.

Powell said she has already seen passengers getting off of Chapel Hill Transit buses and getting onto Greyhound buses. However, Evans said that the NCDOT doesn't always focus on ridership numbers but focuses on providing a service to the community.

"We're really excited that we can offer this in partnership with the DOT, and with Greyhound, and we hope that people will try it out and kind of take some weekend trips and explore around a little bit," Powell said.

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UP-AND-COMING

All-girl student band Juniper joins the Chapel Hill scene

Members reflect on their formation and future plans

By Jaya Nadella
Staff Writer

Juniper, an all-girl student band at UNC, is a fresh and vibrant addition to Chapel Hill's music scene this year.

The six members in the group — Warner Vaughan, Chloe Heneghan, Ella Deans, Ada Green, Joy Frost and Winni Opel — gravitated towards each other naturally, finding one another through their love of creating music.

Deans and Opel shared a desire to be in a band, leading Deans to bring up the idea of performing as a group to Green and Vaughan while taking English 409: Lyrics and Lyricists, a songwriting class they all had together. Once the band had begun forming, Heneghan and Frost were then recruited to play bass and drums.

Currently, Juniper gravitates towards folk and indie music, with a little bit of a country influence. The members will soon begin performing original songs and may release an EP in the near future. Their process for songwriting is very fluid, often

starting off with a simple melody or chord progression and then evolving into something bigger.

"Sometimes I'll follow words or lyrics or melodies without really even knowing what I'm trying to say until later on in the process," Deans said.

Vaughan, who is the lead guitarist and a vocalist in the band, appreciates collaborating when it comes to vocal arrangements. She is no stranger to making music within a group, having been a member of another student band previously.

One of the standout songs that Vaughan especially enjoys is "Not Strong Enough" by boygenius, which they performed at a recent Cat's Cradle show. In that cover, the group does a special arrangement that showcases multiple members' vocal strengths.

Performing at Cat's Cradle, an iconic venue in Chapel Hill, was an extremely exciting opportunity for the bandmates. The gig received resoundingly positive crowd support, and the performance helped solidify their core purpose as a band.

"Having an all-female band supported by a mostly female audience I guess goes to show that it is very important to have female representation and music around



DTH/MAURA TRIVETTE

Juniper performs at Cat's Cradle Back Room on Aug. 28. Juniper is an all-female indie/alt/folk band from Chapel Hill.

UNC and in Chapel Hill and in general," Frost said.

For Heneghan, the performance was an "I did it" moment she had envisioned since she began playing.

Given that the band has just started performing together this year, blocking out time for practice can sometimes prove to be a challenge. However, the bandmates work hard

determined to keep the essence of their music alive. The group is made up of mostly seniors, and they are anxious to see how their music and performances will evolve post-graduation.

Green said she has no doubt that they will meet back up in the future, even if it's just for a jam session.

"It's a hard thing to find a way to fit into your life, especially as you get older and kind of start to move into the adulthood stage," Heneghan said. "But I think if you value it enough, you can find a way."

In the coming weeks, Juniper will be performing at Cloud's Storm Cellar on Sept. 20. On Sept. 26, they are performing at a benefit night for UNC's Sexuality and Gender Alliance at the Campus Y and on Sept. 27, a brunch cocktail event at Pantana Bob's.

The band's increasingly busy performance schedule is a testament to the potential success of all-female bands on campus and beyond.

"You know, girls can do it too, and we can do it all by ourselves," Warner said. "I think it's super empowering and super important."

To stay up to date with the band, visit @thebandjuniper on Instagram.

X: @dthlifestyle

CREATIVIDAD

Cooperativa de artesanos locales continúa legado de 52 años

WomanCraft Gifts empodera a mujeres artistas para crear juntas

By Zahra Alqudaihi
Staff Writer

WomanCraft Gifts abrió sus puertas por primera vez en 1973 en West Franklin Street. Aunque la cooperativa de artistas ahora se encuentra en South Elliott Road, su misión de apoyar a los creativos miembros permanece intacta.

En el momento de su fundación, la Enmienda de Igualdad de Derechos estaba en el debate público, pero finalmente no fue ratificada, y a menudo se les negaba a las mujeres el acceso a préstamos bancarios si no contaban con un cofirmante masculino. En medio de estas desigualdades, WomanCraft ofreció a las mujeres un espacio para colaborar y generar ingresos mediante la creación y venta de arte.

"Era una época muy distinta. Pero creo que ese impulso de juntarse y decir: 'Miren, todas somos creativas, reunámonos y veamos qué podemos hacer', sigue siendo el mismo", dijo Pamela Alberda, presidenta del comité de mercadeo de WomanCraft.

Las integrantes Dede Corvinus y Gina Boyle dijeron que simplemente estar en la tienda, entre las obras de sus compañeras, les inspira.

"Estar en este espacio, incluso cuando no estoy creando activamente, mantiene la paz creativa; es como cegar la bomba", señaló Boyle.

WomanCraft Gifts es administrada por sus miembros artistas, quienes trabajan voluntariamente un turno semanal, en parejas. Gracias a esta estructura, la tienda sigue funcionando, pues los artistas reciben pago únicamente por la venta de sus obras, explicó Corvinus.

En todo momento hay un artista presente para ampliar la apreciación de las piezas expuestas.



DTH/AVA HOLLAND

Integrantes de WomanCraft posan frente a sus artesanías en WomanCraft Fine Handcrafted Gifts, el lunes 8 de septiembre de 2025.

Actualmente, la cooperativa cuenta con 25 artistas miembros y con 30 artesanos locales adicionales que abastecen a la tienda con sus productos. Las paredes están cubiertas de coloridos y elaborados trabajos en vidrio, madera, pinturas y pirograbados. El local también exhibe cerámica, joyería, juguetes infantiles y ropa.

Para decidir qué piezas se venden, ciertos miembros conforman un comité de revisión que autoriza la selección de productos. Si un artista desea cambiar de medio, debe presentar al menos cinco nuevas obras y pasar nuevamente por el proceso. Boyle, quien forma parte del comité, explicó que esto mantiene la calidad de la oferta y, al mismo tiempo, da la oportunidad a los artistas de explorar nuevas creaciones.

Boyle añadió que observar lo que hacen las demás y las combinaciones de colores que eligen la ha desafiado en su propio trabajo, iniciando un efecto dominó.

"Ves cómo las demás se esfuerzan por alcanzar la excelencia y eso te motiva a dar lo mejor de ti. Así que, independientemente de que ellas trabajen con textiles

y tú con pintura, existe ese vínculo común de querer triunfar con tu arte", señaló Catherine Palomba, coordinadora de la cooperativa.

Además de fortalecer los lazos entre sus miembros, WomanCraft Gifts también ofrece un espacio para que los visitantes conecten con el arte mismo.

Boyle afirmó que sus obras han conectado con los clientes, tanto en lo estético como en lo emocional. Contó, por ejemplo, la historia de una madre que había perdido a su hijo: entró a la tienda, tomó uno de sus mosaicos y dijo que tenía los colores favoritos de su hijo, y que la frase inscrita en él le recordaba a él.

"Conocemos a las creadoras aquí. No es anónimo como en la mayoría de las tiendas. Preferimos los originales y desalentamos los trabajos de kits", dijo Tracy Sanders en 1982, exmiembro de la cooperativa entrevistada por The Daily Tar Heel. "La gente compra aquí porque busca piezas hechas a mano, únicas y de calidad".

Este artículo fue traducido por Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta.

X: @dthlifestyle

GIGGLES

UNC's comedy scene embraces the uncomfortable

Campus groups create a welcoming environment for self-improvement

By Amanda Aguilar
Staff Writer

On Thursday night, at a Chapel Hill Players improv practice, one person frantically mimed devouring an entire watermelon, rinds and all, while another carefully paused the scene before a fake brawl broke out. For these students, comedy is not just a performance — it is a home.

From improv group Chapel Hill Players, to sketch comedy group Comedy, Inc., to the False Profits, who perform sketch and improv as well as stand-up, UNC boasts a roster of comedic talent. There is even a place for satire — The Oh Well showcases comedy through the written word.

For some performers, comedy is not about developing a career in stand-up or improv, but rather about improving oneself. Tripping over punchlines or laughing through a "dead scene" parallels practice for staying calm under pressure.

"There's something to be said for just being able to go up on stage," Lila Anafi, a member of Comedy, Inc., said. "The type of communication skills are pretty relevant, no matter what you want to do."

Seniors Sophie Taylor and Grace Wilkinson credit False Profits for their growing confidence. Taylor said the more she does improv, the better her mental health is and the more confident she is interacting socially.

"It feels almost necessary," she said.

For others, comedy is a springboard for creative skills.

"You kind of just get to be free and try out stuff and have fun," Chapel Hill Players President Molly Cassidy said.

Beyond just having fun with students who share similar

interests, communication can be made easier through comedy.

"If you can make someone laugh, you can understand them in a way that's better than you could just by talking to them," senior Aidan Maguire said. Comedy at UNC is not limited to the stage. Business Administration 524: Applied Improvisation for Business Communication allows Kenan-Flagler Business School students to engage in a form of exposure therapy, according to the course's professor, Greg Hohn. He said this makes interviewing and networking situations easier.

"It's great to see people become more expressive and more intellectually and emotionally flexible," Hohn said. "It's great to see people developing confidence, and one thing I hear over and over from my students is that they get to know people in this class more than any other class that they take."

Additionally, in the Department of Dramatic Art, Tracy Bersley's course, Dramatic Art 156: Physical Comedy, Farce Techniques and Clown, pushes students of all majors out of their comfort zones through the art of clowning.

In her class, she has emboldened students to climb 15-foot block towers for audience reactions, and once, a student even spoke in gibberish to ask for a bite of a random person's sandwich on the steps of Wilson Library.

As UNC's comedy renaissance continues, there are many opportunities to catch groups like Chapel Hill Players, False Profits and Comedy, Inc. in action. On Sept. 30, Chapel Hill Players and False Profits will hold a joint comedy event at the Varsity Theatre.

"The more that you allow yourself to live in the discomfort, the more it naturally builds confidence," Bersley said.

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Opinion

COLUMN

The Daily Tar Heel

Progressives must face America’s declining birthrate

By Nakai Moore
Columnist

For years, falling birthrates have been framed as a right-wing obsession. Figures like Elon Musk warn of “civilizational collapse,” while pundits on the far right spin demographic decline into racist fantasies of “replacement.” Against this backdrop, many progressives have rolled their eyes, dismissing the birthrate debate as little more than fearmongering or thinly-veiled bigotry. Yet brushing it off entirely misses a genuine societal challenge with far-reaching consequences.

The numbers tell an overarching story. The replacement fertility rate is about 2.1 births per woman. Falling below this threshold means each generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, leading over time to shrinking workforces, aging populations and increased pressure on social systems. The total fertility rate in the U.S. is 1.6 births per woman with South Korea crashing to 0.72 — the lowest ever recorded worldwide. Europe, China and Japan aren’t far behind. These aren’t abstract statistics; they translate into weaker tax bases without the working age population to support the policies the left believes in, like universal healthcare and social security.

The right already understands this, but their answers are often regressive

and misogynistic. Some argue the solution is to “make women mothers again.” That looks like abortion bans, hostility to contraception, attacks on LGBTQ families and nostalgia for the time when women stayed home. In Hungary, the government offers tax breaks only to married heterosexual couples who have multiple children. In the U.S., conservatives point to collapsing birthrates as proof that feminism has gone too far, then propose forcing women into motherhood by stripping away reproductive rights. They treat women’s autonomy as the problem and coercion as the cure.

If progressives dismiss the falling birthrate altogether, we leave the field open to such draconian answers. Worse, we allow them to frame the debate so caring about demographic decline automatically means caring their way. The left needs to break out of the reflexive posture of “if the right says it’s a crisis, we must say it’s not.” The truth? It is a crisis. But it’s not one caused by women’s choices — it’s caused by the conditions in which those choices are made.

Countries with generous childcare, paid maternity and paternity leave, strong worker protections and affordable housing tend to mitigate fertility rate collapse better than those that rely on shaming and pronatalist propaganda. People, especially women, are more likely to start families when they don’t have



DTH DESIGN/AMANDA HESS

to sacrifice their economic stability or career advancement to do so.

That means progressives must take the birthrate challenge seriously by reshaping society: establishing such childcare, increasing migration of workers, providing secure jobs with fair wages and developing affordable housing — which make childrearing a collective responsibility, not a

punishment. If we truly want gender equality, participating in family life cannot be treated as a private burden and start being recognized as a collective good. Paying taxes that support these systems, for instance, honors the autonomy of those who don’t wish to have children while relieving some of financial burden on working parents.

If the left allows the right to

define the narrative, we risk a debate dominated by fear, coercion and the erosion of women’s autonomy. Tackling the birthrate question on our terms is not just a demographic necessity; it’s a chance to ensure that raising children is a choice grounded in support rather than sacrifice.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

American universities need international students

By Maggie Mead
Columnist

Last August, somewhere along the German countryside, my best friend and I were packed sardine-style into a bus. That day, we spent hours traveling by train to the stoney vestiges of a monastery in Bingen and back — I’ve never yearned so deeply for the decadent comfort of my twin-sized hotel bed in Munich. Our final train home had been canceled, and neither I nor my friend spoke German.

As I stood there, hanging onto the handrail, the two teenaged boys next to us offered us their seats. We thanked them profusely in German, our „Dankeschön!“ pronunciation poor enough for them to immediately clock us as Americans. We struck up a conversation, and I learned that they were Ukrainian refugees, fleeing the war in their home to seek asylum in Germany. In a mélange of English, Ukrainian and German, we talked about Grand Theft Auto V, our favorite movies and how, in their opinion, criminally old the legal American drinking age was.

When they asked us what we were doing in the middle of nowhere, I explained I was there doing research for university. They then described their own future educational plans — one of them wanted to be a history major like me — and I was struck by how lucky I’d be to learn alongside them as my classmates.

The unique perspectives of students from all countries is essential at our universities. However, international students attending American universities have endured the full force of the Trump administration’s war on the “woke” agenda; DEI is vilified as a malignant



DTH DESIGN/KAITLIN STRATEMEIER

foe threatening the sanctity of American institutions. But for both international and domestic students, education is an essential means of liberation and community-building.

At universities, students learn vocational skills but also build a holistic worldview and learn critical thinking skills. A community of heterogenous peers is essential for these processes; how could you learn anything if everyone around you comes from identical backgrounds?

International students bring intellectual diversity, unique life experiences and a global understanding that in turn sharpens the minds of domestic students and encourages them to become active participants in an increasingly interconnected world. When universities capitulate to the Trump administration’s violent repression of international students’ presence, international and domestic students lose the chance to learn from each other.

So far, the U.S. State Department has revoked approximately 6,000 student visas. This war on

international students combines the Trump administration’s dual-mandate of suppressing political opposition and restricting immigration, ultimately threatening the liberty of international and domestic students alike. Even at UNC, six international students have had their visas revoked by the federal government, with no aid from the University. International, immigrant and refugee communities attending international schools are fractional, but with each loss, we all become less free.

The boys who gave up their seats on a crowded bus deserve the sense of community, empowerment and liberation that education brings. Amid a political landscape that ceaselessly villainizes international students, it’s imperative to fight these efforts to take that freedom away. This starts with striking up a conversation with the person next to you and giving yourself the opportunity to learn from them.

X: @dthopinion

SATIRE

Lessons from a locked-out underachiever

By Victoria Kirova
Columnist

In a world where we constantly compare ourselves to students on LinkedIn, we all have that one friend we don’t have to worry about. Comparisons to the token slacker remedy these insecurities, making us feel like the next Bill Gates.

Ok, you caught me. I am that friend. At a school classified by the nonstop grind, I’ve decided to take one for all of the overworked business majors and make you feel better about yourself — by sharing my day post-skipped 8 a.m. lecture.

My day starts around 2 p.m. The early bird gets the worm, but I’ve discovered my leftover Chick-fil-A fries await me in the fridge regardless of how many times I hit snooze. I grab a Celsius and prepare for my Econ class. As usual, today is a self-proclaimed mental health day, so class is on my couch with “Gossip Girl” in the background. It turns out guessing the answers to the PollEverywhere shows you the right answers.

In the spirit of maximizing my personal profit, I decide it’s time to head to Davis Library. I see business majors strutting in their blazers, hair perfectly sleeked, resume folder in their non-dominant hand (you never know when you’ll need to give your elevator pitch to a CEO). Acronyms like GDP and ROI flood their conversations as I listen in, trying to remember if these are Econ terms or the character you unlock after beating level 10 of Pokémon.

When I get to Davis, I grab one of those chairs with a computer in front and log in to Google Docs. The blank document stares back at me. I type in my name and PID and decide it’s time for a study break. I slump into the chair, pulling out my phone and

getting back to life’s true priority: Clash Royale. If I don’t get 15,000 trophies by May, what is the point of the school year?

When I finally look up, Davis Library has transformed into Wall Street. Everyone’s grinding out their resumes, desperate to fill their 2027 summer slot with a consulting internship at their dad’s company. Apparently, you need to apply two years in advance so that the recruiters have enough time to feed your application through AI and ultimately ghost you.

I open Handshake and get to scrolling. Requirements: 10+ years experience, 12 languages at “business proficiency” level fluency and CEO of minimum three Fortune 500 companies. Seems reasonable. I open my resume and start debating whether to put “Finished the Wordle in Two Tries” under Experience or Leadership and Community Involvement.

Snapping me out of my predicament are the loud sighs of the kid next to me, wondering if his 3.99 GPA is high enough to secure him his future at Deloitte or if the one A- from freshman year has ruined his chances at employment. He scrolls through LinkedIn like his life depends on it, trying to find a single person who overcame such failure. Meanwhile, as a strong advocate for “Cs get degrees,” I believe midterms don’t really exist unless you make the mistake of checking the syllabus for the dates.

I decide that’s enough productivity for the day. I craft a short-to-do list for tomorrow: learn how to log in to ConnectCarolina, SparkNotes “The Great Gatsby” for English, and put my Econ slides into ChatGPT.

So no matter how far you fall, just turn around and you’ll find me waiting one step behind.

X: @dthopinion

First-year running back Demon June shines in win

He tallied 148 yards and one touchdown on 14 carries

By Brian D'Aguanno
Assistant Sports Editor

It wasn't supposed to be Demon June. Slotted at the bottom of the depth chart heading into the season, it didn't look like the first-year running back was going to see the field much this season, if at all. But the North Carolina native showed up to practice throughout the offseason with the same consistency each day. It didn't matter which practice team June was getting reps with — every one was a new chance to prove himself. And when June got the nod Saturday, he left little to prove. In UNC's 41-6 rout of Richmond, June carried the ball 14 times for 148 yards, adding his first career touchdown on the ground. His performance marks the best for a first-year running back since 2017 when Michael Carter ran for 157 yards. For an offense struggling to find their footing and missing their running identity from a season ago, June provided a much-needed spark. "He's earned it," head coach Bill Belichick said. "Nobody gave him anything." In UNC's game last week against Charlotte, June was the fifth running back to get a touch. Against Richmond he was the first, taking a handoff nine

yards on North Carolina's first offensive play. June met Richmond defensive back Lee Bruner IV head on, showcasing the tough running style he loves to embody. For June the mindset is simple: put your head down and run. On third-and-one two plays later, he did just that, breaking a tackle and running for 50 yards. "Just seeing the gap, hitting the gap," June said. The play seemed to breathe life into a run-game devoid of explosiveness. Before Saturday, the longest run of the season for the Tar Heels, and June, was 19 yards. But after doubling that on UNC's third play from scrimmage, June matched it with a crucial 19-yard reception halfway through the second quarter to set up another score for North Carolina. "I didn't get to see his spring, but I got to watch him throughout fall camp, watch him grow as a runner, as a player, just get more confident," redshirt sophomore quarterback Gio Lopez said. "And he just runs hard." Despite his quick start, June didn't get another touch after the reception until over halfway through the third quarter. But once again, after getting the opportunity, June showed why the ball needed to be in his hands. He barreled to the outside for an 18-yard gain, putting the Tar Heels into the red zone and jump starting another drive that ended with points. As the game went on, the best choice of action for the Tar Heels became clear — give June the



DTH/ ELYSSA MOTHERSHED

UNC first-year running back Demon June (35) carries the ball during the game on Saturday, Sept. 13.

ball. The first-year was the only running back to record a touch in the fourth quarter. While heading into the year it wasn't supposed to, Saturday's offense ran through June. His breakout performance allowed a middling rushing offense to bounce back in a big way. In the first two games, North Carolina averaged just 3.2 yards-per-carry. On the back of June's 10.6

average, UNC improved to 6.2 yards-per-attempt versus the Spiders. Adding his receiving yards, June accumulated 167 scrimmage yards, good for over 50 percent of North Carolina's total offensive yards for the game. With North Carolina already up big in the fourth, June piled on with a 45-yard run, bursting through the hole in a way that was reminiscent of his earlier big

run. Only this time he found the end zone. "When you just stay consistent and keep your head down and focus on one goal, those things like that will open up for you," June said. And just three games into the season, it looks as if UNC has found its starting running back.

X: @dthsports

UNC blinda su defensa y deja a Richmond sin anotar

Los Tar Heels limitaron a los Spiders a 199 yardas el sábado

By Alexandra Jones
Senior Writer

El liniero defensivo junior CJ Mims derribó al corredor de Richmond, Jamaal Brown, en la yarda 38 de UNC. El balón se soltó justo cuando el apoyador graduado Mikai Gbayer cruzaba la jugada. Gbayer arrebató el balón en medio del forcejeo y encontró 62 yardas de campo abierto frente a él. El defensivo senior Marcus Allen lo siguió, buscando jugadores de Richmond, pero nadie pudo alcanzarlos. Gbayer saltó a las gradas después de llevar el balón hasta la zona de touchdown. El sábado por la tarde en Kenan Stadium, Carolina del Norte forzó tres pérdidas de balón y no permitió un solo touchdown de Richmond, mientras la defensa de UNC abrió el camino hacia una victoria dominante de 41-6. Carolina del Norte limitó a Richmond a 199 yardas totales, la cifra más baja desde el 14 de septiembre de la temporada pasada ante North Carolina Central. Fue un contraste marcado respecto a los dos primeros juegos del año. "Todavía es temprano en la temporada y queremos hacer lo mismo con todos nuestros rivales", dijo Gbayer. "Queremos impedir que anoten y simplemente jugar un fútbol intenso y agresivo." Menos de dos semanas antes, contra TCU, la historia había sido diferente. La defensa de UNC permitió 542 yardas en la derrota ante los Horned



DTH/ALEX YANG

El back defensivo de segundo año de UNC, Jaiden Patterson (18), celebra con sus compañeros de equipo después de interceptar un pase durante el juego contra Richmond en el estadio Kenan el sábado el 13 de septiembre.

Frogs, dejando que la agresividad de TCU golpear a la línea frontal. El coordinador defensivo Steve Belichick, el entrenador de línea defensiva Bob Diaco y el entrenador de apoyadores externos Ty Nichols trabajaron para que la defensa recuperara la cohesión después de ese desempeño. En los últimos ocho cuartos, la defensa de Carolina del Norte solo permitió nueve puntos, en contraste con los 34 que permitió ante TCU. "En ese partido nos superaron físicamente", dijo el entrenador en jefe Bill Belichick. "Ahora hemos

hecho un mejor trabajo derrotando a los bloqueadores y controlando la línea de scrimmage, jugando con mejor técnica". Gbayer señaló que el ambiente contra TCU se sintió demasiado tenso y que la defensa ha trabajado para cambiar su mentalidad a salir al campo a jugar sueltos sin importar al rival. Esa nueva perspectiva fue evidente frente a Richmond. Además de mantenerlos en menos de 200 yardas totales, los Tar Heels limitaron a los Spiders a 75 yardas después de haber cedido 250 por pase

contra Charlotte. Richmond intentó jugadas de engaño y hasta fingió una patada de despeje, pero no logró superar a la defensa de UNC. La defensa marcó el ritmo tras cuatro 'tres y fuera' jugadas consecutivas para abrir el partido, sin permitir un primer down hasta el segundo cuarto. Cuando Richmond finalmente consiguió un primer down, armó una serie de 74 yardas que llegó hasta la yarda nueve de UNC. En tercera down, con cuatro yardas por avanzar, el apoyador senior con camiseta roja

Andrew Simpson detuvo al corredor Aziz Foster-Powell de Richmond antes de la línea. Los Spiders tuvieron que conformarse con un gol de campo a solo dos yardas del primero down. Los Tar Heels llegaron al medio tiempo con apenas tres puntos en contra, pero Richmond volvió a acercarse tras el descanso gracias a una patada corta exitosa que derivó en una serie de 53 yardas hasta la yarda uno de UNC en cuarta down. Richmond decidió jugársela. Pero la defensa en la zona roja de Carolina del Norte resistió. Simpson y el liniero defensivo de primer año con camiseta roja, D'Antre Robinson, frenaron de inmediato al mariscal de campo Kyle Wickersham de Richmond, asegurando la detención en la línea de gol. Incluso cuando se acercaron a un touchdown, los Spiders se quedaron sin nada. "Cada vez que llegan ahí, es nuestro trabajo detenerlos, no importa si fue por un error de la ofensiva, de nosotros o de equipos especiales", dijo Gbayer. "Tenemos que frenar a quien sea en esa zona roja. Nadie puede anotar allí". Richmond tuvo la posesión del balón durante 40 minutos, casi el doble que Carolina del Norte, y aun así la defensa de UNC los mantuvo en solo tres puntos hasta que un gol de campo llegó con apenas siete segundos por jugar. Si siguen mejorando en tackleo, ajustes y comunicación partido a partido, esta defensa puede alcanzar otro nivel. Como ha repetido Belichick, todo se trata de fundamentos. Este artículo fue traducido por Ashley Hinostroza-Villacorta.

X: @alexjdjones_

MEN'S SOCCER

No. 21 North Carolina ties No. 4 Wake Forest, 1-1

UNC recorded 20 shots against the Demon Deacons

By Connor Foote
Senior Writer

Wake Forest goalkeeper Jonah Mednard faced 20 shots from North Carolina Friday night. The Tar Heels tallied seven shots on goal, a season-high. Both didn't matter, though. Despite an offensive onslaught from the home team, No. 21 UNC couldn't find a winner against No. 4 Wake Forest in a 1-1 draw at Dorrance Field Friday night. After opening the 2025 season with a three-game win streak, the Tar Heels have now lost or tied in three straight games. "The only thing significant in the game is a goal," head coach Carlos Somoano said. "So we only had one. That being said, we'll not get deterred or change what we do just because we didn't hit the back of the net a little more often. We are creating chances, and that has just got to be a little bit more clinical and opportunistic." Unlike last week's performance against N.C. State where North Carolina only mustered two shots on goal, the Tar Heels showed progress Friday night against the Demon Deacons, consistently attacking the final third. Sophomore Bertil Rygaard Hansen has been instrumental



UNC first-year forward Ryan Dugan (11) dribbles the ball during the game against Wake Forest on Friday, Sept. 12. DTH/ALEX YANG

to the team's success so far. And despite not finding the back of the net this season yet, the forward remains confident in UNC's offense. "For me personally, zero goals yet, but I'm just trying to help the boys out," Hansen said. "When I don't score, I'm just trying to run my ass off and trying to get better every day. So I'm sure the goals are going to come for me and the team in the future."

A few shots could have fallen UNC's way against Wake Forest, but ultimately the team was hampered by their shot selection. A good portion were premature, with North Carolina's attacking movement preventing possessions from evolving in the final third. Graduate midfielder Jack Sandmeyer, the lone goal scorer, credits the quality offensive

possessions to their rock-solid defensive line. "It just gives me a lot of confidence," Sandmeyer said. "Me, Czech and all the guys who are going forward — that, if we do get caught, that our center backs and our widebacks are going to help us out." The Tar Heels fell behind with a 22nd minute goal by the Demon

Deacons — a shot that looked like it should have been saved. The goal marked the fourth time in six games this year that North Carolina has conceded the match's first goal. UNC commanded the last twenty minutes of the first half, but came out of the break with greater intensity. It took 10 second half shots for North Carolina to knot up the game, when in the 67th minute junior wingback Luca Nikolai swung a free kick into the penalty area for Sandmeyer. The 6-foot-6 midfielder rose up above everyone and slotted Nikolai's pass into the back of the net. After Sandmeyer's tying goal, UNC only managed four more attempts, with none coming in the last 15 minutes as Wake Forest tried to sneak in a late winner. "That was a really good showing," Sandmeyer said. "[Our] shots were four times the amount they had. Really good opportunity from us, and I think we showcased, both a little in the first half and then in the second half, that we were the much better team."

X: @dthsports

FIELD HOCKEY | WEEKEND RECAP

Reese Anetsberger lifts Tar Heels over No. 9 Liberty

The first-year scored one goal in a 3-1 victory on Sunday

By Brian D'Aguanno
Assistant Sports Editor

There's no waiting your turn with UNC field hockey. The ingrained mindset is simple — anyone can step up and everyone has a voice. This year's prime example is first-year forward Reese Anetsberger. She is one of six players chosen to be part of the team's leadership group this season. She's the only first-year. Members of the leadership group are players that speak up and ones the team gravitates towards. And through the first six games of her collegiate career, Anetsberger has exemplified that. In No. 2 UNC field hockey's 3-1 win over No. 9 Liberty on Sunday, Anetsberger scored the first goal of the game and also added another shot on goal. The forward tallied 47 minutes, the second most amongst North Carolina forwards. Anetsberger's two goals and four assists through six games are the fifth most points on a team striving for a national championship. "Reese came out firing, she had a great game," head coach Erin Matson said. Even though Anetsberger is only a first-year, she's confident in being a leader on the team, learning from the veterans that make up the group. Anetsberger arrived on campus in January to get an extra off-season with the team. The forward's energy on the field was evident from the get-go. She wanted to play and make her presence felt. The experience helped her adjust quickly to the college game and the program. Sunday showed that. Against the Flames, it only took one minute into the game for Anetsberger to make her mark. A shot from junior forward Charly Bruder ricocheted off

the goalkeeper and onto the stick of Anetsberger, who made no mistake on the rebound tap-in. The goal marked her second this season. "We just really bring the energy and we know what we need to do to get the ball in the back of the net," Anetsberger said. "I think our hunger is unmatched compared to anyone else." Quick starts have been a staple of UNC's early-season success this year, with Anetsberger's goal marking the second straight game the Tar Heels have scored in the first minute of the game. The first-year forward is no stranger to finding the back of the cage, though. In high school, Anetsberger scored the most career goals in Illinois history, netting 126. "Goal scoring is definitely still important to me," Anetsberger said. "But also being a playmaker, I like to help them get the ball in the back of the net." That playmaking ability showed in North Carolina's second goal of the game. Still up 1-0, with only a little over two minutes remaining in the second quarter, Anetsberger shielded her defender in transition and threaded a pass to junior midfielder Sanne Hak near the edge of the circle. Hak found senior forward Ryleigh Heck open in front of the cage to put the Tar Heels up two goals heading into halftime. "She's doing a really good job watching others and really setting the standard as a freshman," Heck said. "She has a really big personality and energy on the field which is contagious." As a first-year finding her footing, she has already become a leader. Only six games into her career, Anetsberger's already shown tremendous growth. "Her traps are cleaner, her elimination skills are better, she's more confident because of that," Matson said. "And she's just way more fundamentally sound which is really important to Carolina field hockey."

"She's doing a really good job watching others and really setting the standard as a freshman," Heck said. "She has a really big personality and energy on the field which is contagious." As a first-year finding her footing, she has already become a leader. Only six games into her career, Anetsberger's already shown tremendous growth. "Her traps are cleaner, her elimination skills are better, she's more confident because of that," Matson said. "And she's just way more fundamentally sound which is really important to Carolina field hockey."

X: @dthsports

Charly Bruder leads UNC to Friday win over App State

Junior forward returns to play after injury last spring

By Alexandra Jones
Senior Writer

Charly Bruder made her season debut in UNC field hockey's lineup just one week ago. After sustaining an upper body injury in the spring, uncertainty loomed over if she would play her junior season. The junior forward missed the pair of ACC-Big Ten tournament games, not quite 100 percent yet. But on Friday night, she dashed across the field of Karen Shelton Stadium, scoring a team-high two goals en route to No. 2 UNC field hockey's 5-0 defeat of Appalachian State in North Carolina's home opener. The junior forward led North Carolina's offensive onslaught once again with her 13th career multi-goal game. "It's just great to see her back out there, to no surprise making an impact right away and putting the ball away. But also not even just on the score sheet, her influence on the play in many ways," head coach Erin Matson said. "And she looks like herself." Upon receiving the news of Bruder's injury, her teammates were devastated. After playing with her for four years in the U.S. program, University of Virginia transfer and senior forward Dani Mendez looked forward to joining Bruder at UNC. "When she told me that she was possibly redshirting, my heart sunk a little bit," Mendez said. "I was really sad." But Bruder had been there before: she suffered a core muscle injury prior to last season. This time, she knew exactly what she had to do. Over the summer, Bruder wasn't allowed to run, but she walked and did bike workouts to stay in shape. She did as much physical therapy as she could, leaning on her doctors



UNC junior forward Charly Bruder (2) chases after the ball during the game against App State at Karen Shelton Stadium on Friday, Sept. 12. DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

and teammates so she could return as quickly as possible. Mendez was by her side during her entire rehab process. She said Bruder spent her time on the sideline being her teammates' biggest cheerleader, always putting others before herself. "When I felt finally good, I was like all right, I got this," Bruder said. "I have the support system that I'm just gonna work as hard as I can to get back out there for my team." Bruder was cleared just in time for UNC's trip to New Jersey for the Conference Crossover. In her first game back against Penn, she exploded for two goals, even in limited minutes. Back in Chapel Hill, Bruder wasted no time to make an impact. With under a minute remaining in the first quarter, first-year midfielder Sylvie Notine sprinted a lateral swipe to Bruder, who slid to the middle of the circle for a straight shot to put North Carolina up by two. And Bruder didn't stop there. To end the second, first-year back Isabel Boere launched a lengthy pass from behind midfield to senior forward Ryleigh Heck at the right corner of the post, who eluded her defender with a backwards pass.

Bruder, perched in prime position at the top of the shooting circle, tapped the ball in for the easy score. 4-0, Tar Heels. "I feel like I'm still brushing some dust off, but if I take it every minute at a time and just forget about mistakes and just stop thinking and [have a] 'don't think, just do' kind of mindset, I feel like I can kind of get to where I left off," Bruder said. And where she left off was being last year's national leader in goals, a First-Team All-American and the ACC Tournament MVP — now with four goals in just three games. Now back on the field, Bruder still takes it game by game, quarter by quarter and step by step — just like in her recovery. "Just remembering my circumstances and that it's okay to mess up at the end of the day," Bruder said. "Everyone's still gonna be there to support me and nobody's gonna remember the mistake I made. They're going to remember how I worked my butt off to get the ball back."

X: @alexjdjones_

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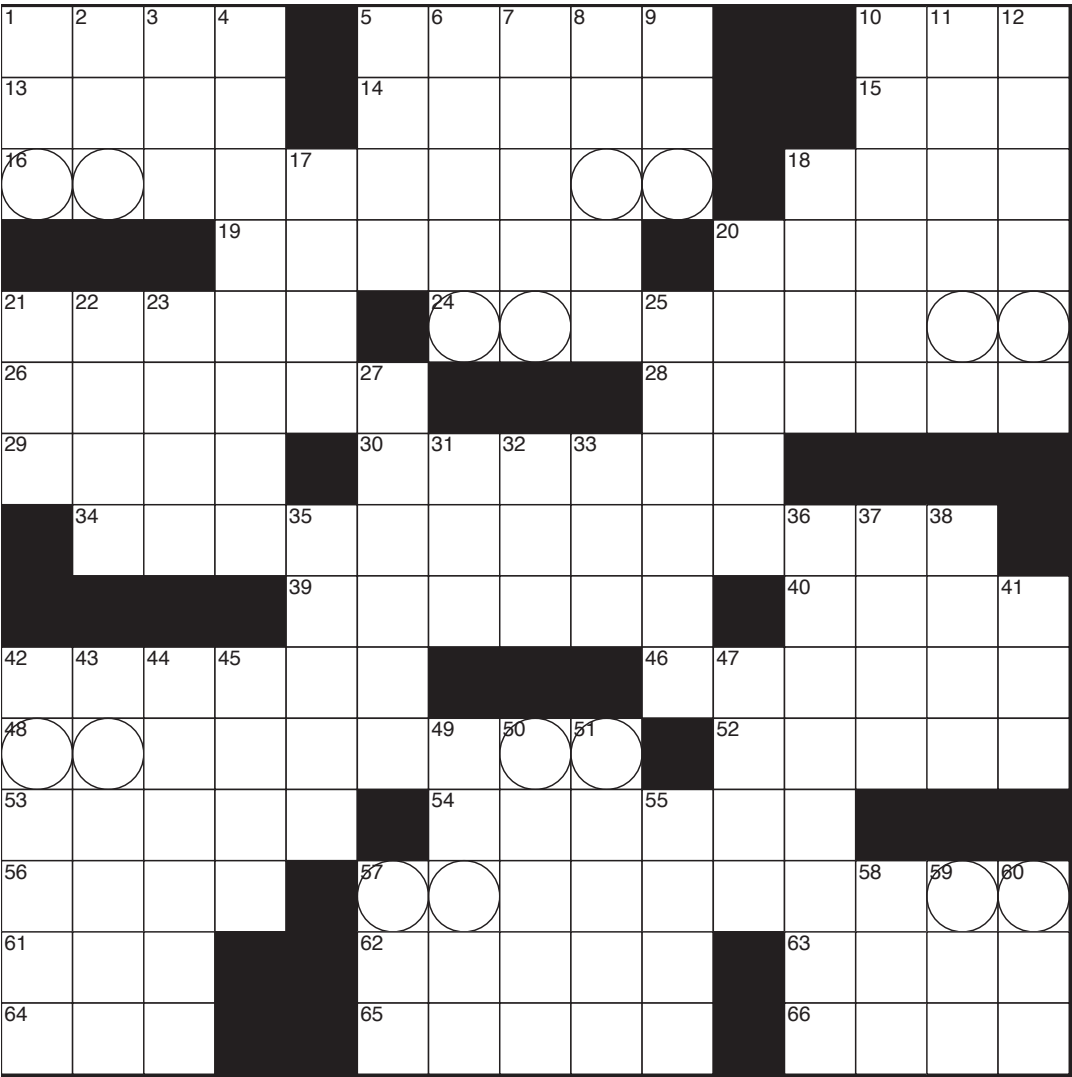


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“It’s In the Air”

This week’s puzzle was created by Jackson Matz, a DTH crossword contributor.
Jackson is a freshman from Baltimore, Md., studying Neuroscience.

ACROSS

- 1 Pig
- 5 Several lines of music
- 10 Hip-hop tough guys
- 13 “Me neither”
- 14 “I’m not capping!”
- 15 Novel
- 16 *What might blow off some steam?
- 18 Lion’s hair
- 19 What a gene might do
- 20 Like saying “rad” in 2025
- 21 Pie nut
- 24 *”Be ready! This next one’s coming to you!”
- 26 Symbolic texts?
- 28 Colombian cornmeal cakes
- 29 Capital of Germany?
- 30 What Edgar Allan Poe is best known for
- 34 Give lots of compliments and hugs..
- 39 Chimes in with more details
- 40 Totally pooped
- 42 ___ d’
- 46 Like the population of Alaska
- 48 *Neighborhood spot for some cheap booze
- 52 “You did NOT just do that”, in Gen Z slang
- 53 Fedora features
- 54 “I can’t heeaaaaar you!”
- 56 ___ Reader (quarterly magazine)
- 57 *Many a Carhartt offering
- 61 GQ or NatGeo, for short
- 62 Break off a relationship
- 63 Ski mountain terrain park feature
- 64 “Thx” preceder
- 65 Refuse a request
- 66 Parts of circles and stories

DOWN

- 1 TV sketch show
- 2 Elton’s john?
- 3 Tolkein monster
- 4 Many a UNC pre-med, in brief
- 5 Little twerp
- 6 Completely wreck
- 7 Samuel of the Supreme Court
- 8 TV’s “Hawaii ___”
- 9 ATM expense
- 10 How detectives may investigate
- 11 City where the World Wide Web was created
- 12 Alfred Nobel and Greta Thunberg
- 17 Certain bond, informally
- 18 Egg-carrying seahorse
- 20 Hall of fame?
- 21 Take a tinkle
- 22 Birds that can sprint at a top speed of 31 mph
- 23 Nasdaq listing, abbr.
- 25 Some curmudgeons, in modern slang
- 27 Played a trump suit, in a certain card game

- 31 Un-even
- 32 UFO pilots
- 33 However, in text lingo
- 35 Some English nobles
- 36 Political period of the early 2010s
- 37 What “is” is
- 38 “Piece of cake!”
- 41 Feature of mountains but not hills?
- 42 Who gets three strikes?
- 43 Pertaining to a major heart vessel
- 44 Cake toppers
- 45 Docile
- 47 Push’s opposite
- 49 Maher of women’s rugby
- 50 Music City university, familiarly
- 51 NBA great Baylor
- 55 Regarding
- 57 “___ Misérables”
- 58 Mr. Potato Head attachment
- 59 London’s Old ___
- 60 Features of hills but not mountains?

Answers to
“It’s All Greek to Me!”



Classifieds

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Horoscopes



Today’s Birthday:
September 17, 2025

Remember your village. There are lots of fish in the sea, and while you may find fleeting fun in finding those fish, remember the ones that have been there for you in the long run. They are your true assets. Give them a call today, or plan a visit to see them. They miss you, and while you may have temporarily forgotten, you miss them too.

To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES

Today is a 10 — You will get lots of sleep, sleepyhead. Sleep well. The bed bugs will not bite.

TAURUS

Today is a 2 — It is raining and pouring. Rainbows and flowers will come soon. Have patience.

GEMINI

Today is a 3 — Would you rather get \$1 or \$1 billion? Choices can be life-changing, make smart choices.

CANCER

Today is a 6 — You are chilling. Foes may come for you but you are chilling. You are great and strong.

LEO

Today is a 5 — Someone is going to make you an offer you can’t refuse. You can’t refuse it.

VIRGO

Today is a 0 — Try again next week. Call your ex and see how that goes — it can only go up from here.

LIBRA

Today is a 6 — Be mindful of everything. Take in the sights and smells and tastes and feels.

SCORPIO

Today is a 9 — Life is full of whimsy and wonder. Frolic in the fields and spend time with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS

Today is a 1 — Communicate telepathically. Believe in yourself, you can do anything. Maybe not telepathy, but anything else.

CAPRICORN

Today is a 7 — Chocolate chip cookies are in your future. They will be vegan to accommodate all dietary preferences. If you are allergic, do not eat them.

AQUARIUS

Today is a 4 — Today is whining Wednesday. Let your frustrations out, and then treat yourself to a sweet treat.

PISCES

Today is a 8 — Someone is going to scratch your back. Do not forget to scratch someone else’s back too. Pay it forward.

Investigations

The Daily Tar Heel

Researchers revise, cut projects under federal policies

Continued from Page 1

on topics like climate change and studies involving diversity, equity and inclusion — appears to be targeted more intensely than others.

Gutting environmental projects

Andy Johns, The University’s senior associate vice chancellor for research, said approximately 80 percent of UNC research has historically been funded by the federal government.

“But what we’ve been seeing is that the administration, through the various agencies like [the] NIH and others, aren’t awarding the dollars that they used to,” Johns said.

At the CRCE, Berke and his team conduct research on community planning for natural disasters with an emphasis on climate change’s impact on flood levels.

The CRCE had been working on a tool called the Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard, which Berke said examines how communities deal with risk and design their environments.

“We spent the last two years engaging communities with the tool,” Berke said. “We engaged from Asheville to Beaufort on the coast here, to many places in Texas, New Hampshire [and] Virginia.”

The scorecard was funded heavily by the UNC Coastal Resilience Center, which operated under a grant from the DHS. But the DHS terminated the CRC’s funding in April, grinding its operations and the projects it funded to a halt.

Berke said the CRCE had already spent \$500,000 of the grant funds on pilot testing the scorecard. The remaining \$250,000 had been allocated to collaborate with the American Planning Association and share the CRCE’s findings online.

“We were going to work with them to develop the training from our experiences — cut,” Berke said. “We were also going to develop a website, advance it — cut. The whole public face and the whole ability to engage communities and build their capacity to deal with future issues, that’s gone.”

The DHS oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which distributes disaster aid and oversees the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA lost about 2,450 employees between January and June — enough that, according to The New York Times, the agency no longer has resources to respond to another hurricane season as intense as that of 2024. Noem, who oversees the DHS, is an open climate change skeptic.

Berke said he feels that environmental scientists and researchers like himself have been hit in an especially intense way as the federal administration continues

“pulling the plug” on climate-centric work.

He described the sudden halt to funding as incredibly frustrating, saying it felt like both his team and the communities they served had been “stabbed in the back.”

“We did a ton of research, but the last two years of funding, half a million dollars, we couldn’t put it up,” he said. “We couldn’t show the lessons that we learned.”

Terminating global partnerships

In hopes of maintaining federal funding, some University researchers are being pushed to re-angle or cut aspects of their work, specifically their partnerships with other organizations.

Ronald Swanstrom, the director of UNC’s Center for AIDS Research, had to terminate partnerships with other organizations in hopes of renewing CFAR’s funding.

CFAR is funded by a five-year NIH Center Core Grant. Instead of conducting research directly, Swanstrom said the center is designed to support other researchers pursuing a wide range of projects.

“It’s everything that you could imagine,” Swanstrom said. “It was international research, a lot of implementation science research, laboratory research — from the center’s point



DTH DESIGN/BROOKE DAVIS

of view, we have a mandate to fund everybody who’s doing HIV-related research.”

Swanstrom said CFAR previously partnered with a nonprofit called Family Health International 360. But after the disbandment of USAID significantly impacted FHI’s work, CFAR had to inform the organization they could no longer write a grant with them as partners.

On May 1, the NIH prohibited all foreign subawards. Swanstrom described the decision as a tragedy.

“When the research goes away, the infrastructure for the local care also goes away,” he said. “You can bet that there are going to be more mother-to-child transmissions. There are going to be more sexual transmissions in these international scenes. There’ll be more AIDS cases or HIV infections that will need more money for care, for drugs.”

UNC professor Audrey Pettifor, who also studies HIV and teaches in the Gillings School of Public Health’s department of Epidemiology, was working on an NIH-funded research study with partners in South Africa. After the first year of the grant concluded in February, Pettifor said the NIH had been telling her team to wait for further updates about the funding award for year two.

Then, over the summer, Pettifor said the researchers received a directive that if they broke

ties with their international partners by removing the foreign subcontract, they could put the proposal request back in. Her team — including the international partners — agreed to remove it.

“It’s not how one wants to do global research,” she said. “Not having your global partners funded, that’s totally antithetical to doing global partnership. But that’s kind of how the administration is working.”

Swanstrom said he knew that if he went into the renewal process with global partners, CFAR’s grant would be terminated immediately. So, he cut ties with international collaborators.

“I had to do the dirty work myself in the hopes that the grant can keep going,” he said.

Rewriting around flagged language

Since March, the Trump administration has been flagging terminology usage across federal agencies.

Flagged terms include mentions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. According to GLAAD, a LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, pages and phrases specific to LGBTQ+ identities have been erased from sites like Center for Disease Control and the White House’s websites.

The 2023 Students for Fair Admissions rulings, in which UNC was a defendant, ended affirmative action in college admissions. Swanstrom said that since, the Trump administration has adopted the stance that anything related to studying specific populations may be viewed as illegal.

However, researchers in the network were able to appeal the cancellation. Funds began trickling back in May.

Just because the award was slowly returning didn’t mean researchers were immediately back to work. Pettifor said the Trials Network had to pause all active research because they were required to edit language.

“We can’t ask young people their gender identity anymore,” Pettifor said. “We can’t recruit only LGBTQ youth. We have to recruit all youth. We’ve had to go in and redo protocols, redo questionnaires, sort of start back up thinking about recruitment.”

Johns said the University has been holding virtual office hours to discuss federal research updates. Chancellor Lee Roberts has personally traveled to DC to lobby for research funding.

“We have a lot of really good contacts in Washington, some current sitting legislators, some former legislators, and we’re leveraging those contacts to try to make sure that Congress and the administration understands the impacts that some of their decisions are having on research,” Johns said.

Pettifor said most of the people she knows in her department have lost awards funding Covid research or DEI-related health equity projects. She said students have also lost training grants.

“There is a fear that people who do health equity work, and DEI work, and work with LGBTQ populations and other areas that have been targeted will lose a generation of scientists that do that type of research,” she said.

Audio-Visual Desk Staffer Kshitiz Adhikari contributed reporting to this story.

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STATE EMPLOYEES

UNC housekeepers struggle to make ends meet

Salary increases haven't kept up with rising cost of living in N.C.

By Aidan Lockhart
Enterprise Editor

For over a decade, housekeepers at UNC have earned an average salary which falls below the cost of living in North Carolina.

They get by in various ways — commuting long distances, living in cramped housing and working second jobs.

N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said the N.C. General Assembly has not funded salary increases for state employees in a way that has kept up with cost of living increases.

Housekeepers and cleaning staff at UNC have been fighting for higher wages and better working conditions since 1930.

Although housekeepers have seen progress as a result of their organizing over the past few years — notably, a 90 cent pay increase and reduced parking fees — recent changes to the State Health Plan have effectively docked state employee's take-home pay.

The non-profit North Carolina Budget and Tax Center is an organization which analyzes cost of living in North Carolina. They compile the Living Income Standard, which reflects the salary required to make ends meet across the state's counties.

According to their website, the LIS reflects "a very modest living with little financial cushion against emergencies," such as the loss of a job or illness. The Standard is compiled using federal and state surveys and analyses, and uses actual cost data to estimate need across multiple categories of expenses such as housing, food, child care, health care, transportation, miscellaneous necessities, taxes and savings.

The Director of Research at the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, Logan Rockefeller Harris, said the LIS is "relatively conservative".

"It's certainly possible to survive on a lower income than this," Rockefeller said. "But it generally requires making trade-offs that tend to make people's lives harder, and can endanger people's health and well-being."

For a single adult with no children, the 2025 N.C. Living Income Standard is \$42,190 averaged across all 100 counties in the state — \$2,307.46 more than a UNC housekeeper brings home on average, as of October 2024.

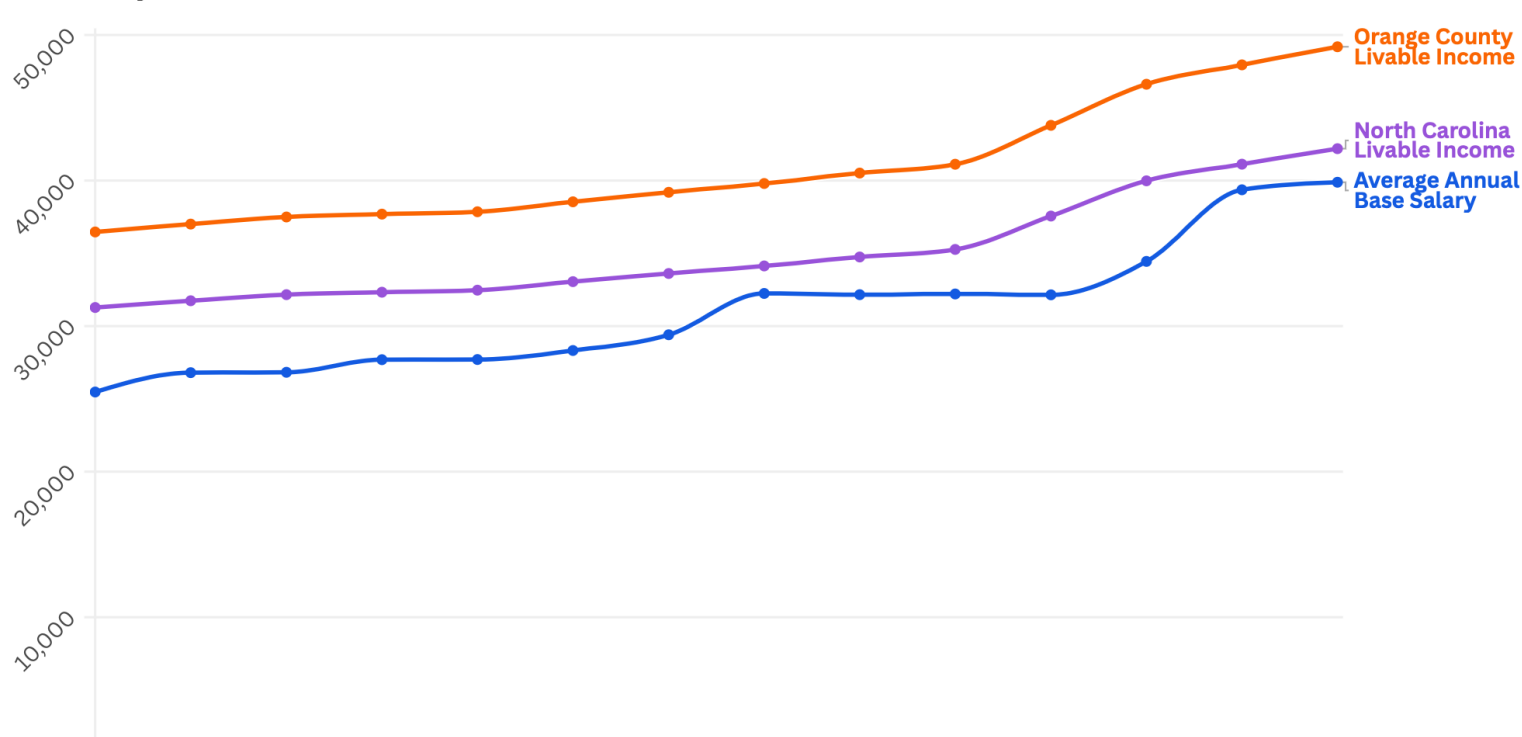
In a statement to The Daily Tar Heel, UNC Media Relations wrote that "all University housekeepers are paid above market rate, and most are paid close to the top of their salary range."

Housekeepers at UNC are Subject to the N.C. Human Resources Act

Livable Income Standards beat out University's average housekeeping base salary for over 10 years in a row

Adjusting for inflation, the current Livable Income Standards in both Orange County and North Carolina have remained higher than the University's average annual base salary for housekeeping positions

Annual Salary



DTH DATA/EMMA TAYLOR

employees, which means their salaries are dictated by the SHRA Career Banding Salary Ranges. Housekeepers fall into the \$33,540 – \$37,593 range. "Floor Specialists" and "Housekeeping Crew Leads" also have minimum salaries of \$33,540 but are capable of earning up to \$42,720 and \$47,847 respectively.

Higher cost of living in Orange County

In Orange County, the gap between salary and estimated need jumps significantly. For a single adult in Orange County, the LIS estimates a need of \$49,190, which is over \$9,000 more than the average UNC housekeeper earns.

The 2025 LIS estimates Orange County to have the 10th highest cost of living in the state; this is primarily driven by the county's average monthly housing cost of \$1,550, which is tied — with neighboring Durham and Chatham counties — for the 5th highest average housing cost in North Carolina.

Although Durham and Chatham also have high housing costs, Orange's other nearby counties — Caswell, Person and Alamance — have LIS's

which fall, on average, over \$13,000 lower than Orange county.

Meyer said because of the high cost of living and limited affordable housing inside Orange County, tens of thousands of people commute from surrounding counties every day. Robin Lee, a UNC housekeeper and president of the UNC chapter of UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, said those commuters include many University housekeepers.

For those who do live in Orange County, making ends meet is

"UNC can come up with millions and millions of dollars to pay a coach, but you can't come up with millions and millions of dollars for the employees?"

Robin Lee

UNC housekeeper and president of the UNC chapter of UE Local 150

more difficult with housing costs being nearly double those of surrounding Caswell, Person and Alamance counties.

Meyer said a majority of people who fall into the lower salary bands are living in apartment complexes along N.C. 54 or in smaller, very old housing.

"Mostly, they're making do with less space and with not very high quality housing," Meyer said.

The LIS estimates that Orange County has relatively low

transportation costs — however, employees at UNC have a specific transportation-related issue.

Many of them have to pay to drive to work.

In March 2024, UNC housekeepers delivered a parking petition to University administration which demanded that parking fees be abolished for employees making less than \$50,000 a year.

While the demand for free parking has not been met, the UNC Board of Trustees did approve a new parking plan two months

later, in May, which reduced parking rates for employees who earn under \$70,000 a year.

"We haven't gotten all the way there, but they did cut it down," Lee said.

Ups and downs

While housekeepers at UNC have seen small wins over the years, they haven't come without setbacks.

Since 2022, The Workers Union at UNC has been fighting for two main demands — \$20 per hour wages and free parking. After multiple petitions and protests, housekeepers at UNC received a 90 cent increase to their hourly pay in December 2022.

Media Relations told The DTH at the time that this increase came after "advocacy from the chancellor, members of his leadership team, and the [BOT], which ultimately brought about changes in state systems to allow this adjustment."

Dante Strobino, a UE International Representative, said that although the wage increase was a victory, some perceived it as a "slap in the face." While the raise brought the base wage up to \$16.81 per hour, this rate fell well below the union's goal of \$20 per hour.

Strobino added that the 90 cent wage increase is something that "almost never happens" and that it was a direct result of the union's organizing.

In the past few months, the N.C. State Health Plan Board of Trustees have voted to both increase healthcare premiums on state workers — for the first time in seven years — and double deductibles for members on its standard plan.

"For many state employees, the premium for their health care went

up more than what their step increase in their salary band would be," Meyer said. "So that means they're actually going to take home less money this year than they did last year."

These increases will affect most of the nearly 750,000 people on the N.C. State Health Plan, which insures teachers, state employees, retirees and their dependents. Single plan deductibles will jump from \$1,500 to \$3,000, while family plan deductibles will increase from \$4,500 to \$9,000.

"Some people are gonna have a \$9,000 deductible, which is just outrageous," Strobino said. "That's not health insurance."

The salary-dependent premium increases will raise health insurance costs by \$10 to \$16 per month for the lowest salary band — in which most UNC housekeepers fall — depending on their plan.

Many state employees expressed frustration with these changes.

Lee said she doesn't know how she will be able to afford to go to the doctor; when she had a stomach check appointment in July due to nausea, she was charged a \$535 copay.

"I bring home \$977 every two weeks," Lee said. "How in the world I'm a pay a \$535 copay?"

N.C. State Health Plan Treasurer Brad Briner — formerly a member of the UNC Board of Trustees — has said that the premium increases are necessary in order to recover from a \$500 million deficit in the State Health Plan.

"In 2026, most of you will have higher premiums," Briner said in a video posted in August, "It is not ideal, we know that. But [it is] necessary."

Meyer said that this change is a cut to employee's paychecks.

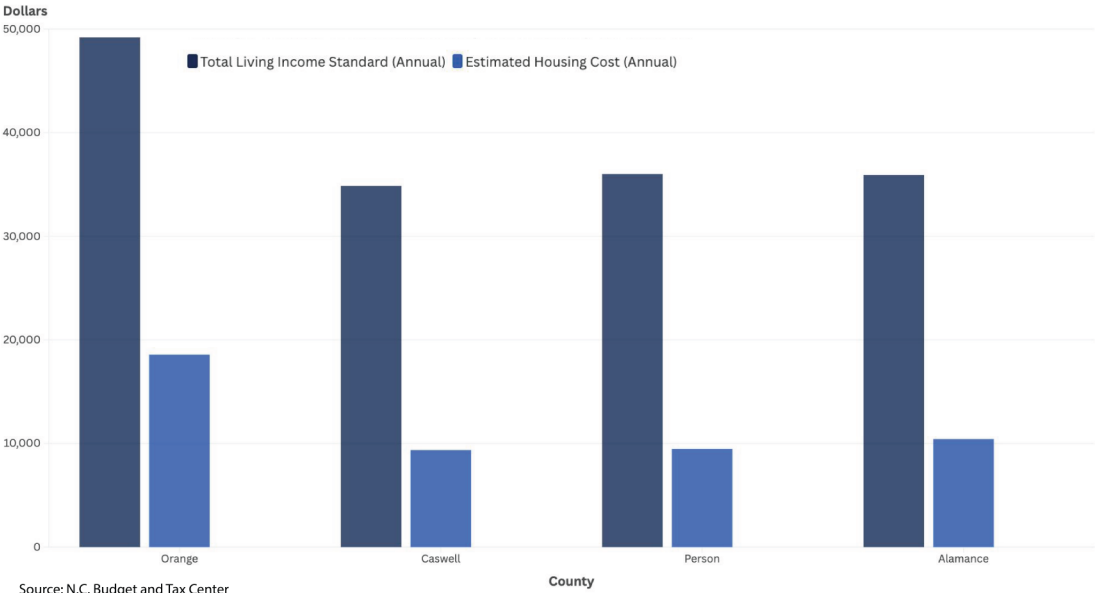
"It directly impacts your family's bottom line," Meyer said. "They didn't get any additional benefit for that increase, they aren't getting any additional healthcare, nothing else about their health care got cheaper and nothing got better."

Strobino and Lee both expressed concerns with how the University chooses to distribute money.

"UNC can come up with millions and millions of dollars to pay a coach, but you can't come up with millions and millions of dollars for the employees?" Lee said.

High housing costs in Orange County contribute to cost of living disparity

Orange County's annual housing costs nearly double each of the three neighboring counties of Caswell, Person and Alamance.



Source: N.C. Budget and Tax Center

DTH DATA/AIDAN LOCKHART

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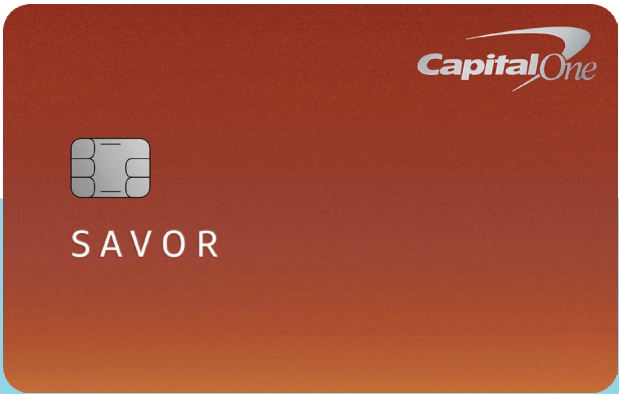
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