

# The Daily Tar Heel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

133 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 134, ISSUE 5

## TRANSFORMATION

### The Daily Tar Heel rebrands

Institution will be known forevermore as “The Daily Woke Heel”

By Paisley Holland  
Staff Writer

At UNC, there are few institutions more culturally influential than The Daily Tar Heel. And yet in conversations about identity, branding and institutional growth, one critical transformation has been overlooked — our own.

After 133 years of publication, we are proud to announce that The Daily Tar Heel has officially rebranded! Our evolution reflects not just who we are, but who we are becoming. It was inevitable.

Through 14 hours of deliberation and a land acknowledgement that we feel did not go long enough, we voted unanimously to rename ourselves The Daily Woke Heel. The new logo — Rameses wrapped in a Progress Pride flag, weeping and wearing stilettos — represents both institutional grief and forward-facing joy. It cost \$100,000. Our financial team disagreed, resigned and now continues to disagree from outside the organization.

But a rebrand is never just aesthetic. It is structural. It is spiritual. It is, at its core, logistical.

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## #OPENTOWORK

### HUBERT SCRAMBLES FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Coaching experience perfect for entry consulting gig

By Sydney Baker  
Fools Editor

Dear Hiring Manager,  
With my robust experience as the University of North Carolina’s former men’s basketball head coach, I am writing to enthusiastically apply to the undergraduate consulting internship at McKinsey & Company this summer. I am very excited about the possible opportunity to work with another successful team that won’t fire me — I mean “let me go” — for my shortcomings. The world of business could not possibly be as cutthroat as the collegiate basketball league.

As March comes to an end, I’m coming to understand that the internship application process is the true madness — the bracket I made in the ESPN app with a couple of friends to predict my internship acceptances is unfortunately already busted. But I believe this position would allow me to gain practical experience in the real world, and I am officially #OpenToWork as my resume overshadows all of my 20-something-year-old undergraduate competitors. Please see my letter of recommendation written by Bubba Cunningham for additional information.

As the former head men’s basketball coach of UNC, I have extensive experience managing all types of people with different



DTH FILE/MICHAEL PEARSON

Post-grad Hubert Davis yells, “I’ll do anything for the check!” in hopes executives are in the vicinity.

skill sets — D1 basketball players, Biscuit Boys, coaching staff and the sweat towel boys. I also have extensive experience consulting that dark void inside of me that fears failure, inadequacy and job insecurity every time the NCAA Tournament rolls around.

Further, I’ve also had the invaluable opportunity to serve as the coach of the Tar Heels, which has strengthened my ability to build meaningful relationships and effectively communicate — I am proficient at articulating my

thoughts and opinions in a family friendly way via screaming, and I’ve honed the hard skill of pacing back and forth in just a six-foot strip of space. I’m also well versed in Microsoft Office suite. Suite. Sweet 16. March Madness NCAA tournament. First round. Massive lead blown. Fired. Betrayal. Traitors. Suffering.

Anyway, from the amazing opportunity where I got to coach the UNC men’s basketball team, I’ve come to understand that failure, not perfection, prompts growth.

As the famous adage goes, it’s not about blowing a 19-point lead and choking in the second half and then choking in overtime and then not making it past the first round of the tournament. It’s about the journey.

Now that my D1 experience has come to a close, I’ve joined a co-ed intramural basketball team that plays at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Rams Head Recreation Center, where I’ve learned the importance of teamwork. I’ve also

CONTINUE ON PAGE 20

EQUALITY

## UNC brings back DEI — for whites

By Jeswin Antony  
Staff Writer

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DTH DESIGN/JAYDEN PUPOH

## DIPLOMACY

### A new way forward for the Dean Dome: a two-stadium solution

Weapons contract aims to protect home court advantage

By Editorial Echo Chamber  
Woke Mind Virus

Over the weekend, The Daily Tar Heel obtained shocking leaked blueprints of Carolina North. At the center of the planned development is a new basketball arena titled the “Iron Dean Dome,” emphasizing a new fortified era in North Carolina basketball.

Proponents of renovating the old facility have argued for a “two-stadium solution” under a 2024 NCAA ruling on the University’s “physical master plan,” aiming to resolve the competing claims of sovereignty by administrators and students through a partitioning of games played between each stadium — home games would be held in the Iron Dean Dome approximately 98 percent of the time and the former stadium 2 percent.



DTH FILE/BRYSON SMITH

The Dean E. Smith Center quivers with fear on South Campus on Feb. 6.

It’s no secret that defense has been a sore subject for the North Carolina men’s basketball team. With a historic 19-point lead blown against Virginia Commonwealth University in the first round of the NCAA

tournament, UNC leadership is seeking to make embarrassing comebacks a thing of the past. The new plan in the works focuses

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“ Ooh, I think that I’ve found myself a cheerleader! ”

BILL BELICHICK

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133 years of editorial freedom

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# EDITOR'S NOTE: THE PREVIOUS FRONT PAGE IS SATIRE. HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY FROM THE DAILY TAR HEEL.

## The 2026-27 Editor-in-Chief: Regan Butler

By Charlotte Dowdy  
Staff Writer

Before Regan Butler even attended her first class at UNC, she had four Daily Tar Heel bylines to her name.

The summer before her freshman year, she applied to work at The DTH, even though she hadn't yet set foot on campus as a student.

"Starting to report on a university I hadn't even really met yet was, you know, really crazy, but it forced me to get my bearings and kind of just trust my instincts," she said.

On Saturday afternoon, the Editor Selection Committee named Butler as the 2026-27 editor-in-chief of The Daily Tar Heel.

Butler was chosen by a committee comprised of DTH alumni, current staffers, faculty, community members and UNC students. Her platform centered on prioritizing transparency in the newsroom, implementing a standardized AI-use policy with desk-specific guidance and expanding the work of the data and enterprise desks.

She is currently a UNC sophomore double-majoring in Media and Journalism and English and Comparative Literature with a



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

2026-27 DTH Editor-in-Chief Regan Butler poses outside the DTH office on Sunday. Butler previously served as the university editor.

concentration in Creative Writing. After her first summer with The DTH on the University Desk, she became a senior writer in the spring of her freshman year. The following summer, she served as the summer university editor. For the 2025-26 school year, Butler has served as university editor.

Assistant University Editor Alice Scott has worked with Butler on the University Desk since they were both first-years.

"As university editor, I always say

she runs our desk like the Navy," Scott said.

Scott said Butler is proactive and organized, ensuring story assignments go out on time, maintaining a running document of ideas and keeping track of what the desk covers to prevent gaps in coverage.

Elaine Jimenez, a UNC senior, was a member of the Selection Committee. In the selection process, she said Butler's professionalism and calmness stood out as especially important qualities in the hectic newsroom environment.

"I think she's going to continue the tradition of The Daily Tar Heel holding people accountable and making sure that The Daily Tar Heel does the best reporting on not only the University, but the surrounding community," Jimenez said. "She was very strong and adamant on having more transparency."

The Selection Committee also included Suzi Callis, a graduate student in the Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Callis said she thought Butler would bring a sense of unity and camaraderie to the newsroom. She also thought Butler's experience at The DTH — particularly her interactions with the University's administration — demonstrated

her sense of leadership and accountability in tough situations.

"I think she is going to have really great follow through, I think that was something that rang through throughout her platform," Callis said.

In the two years since Butler joined The DTH, she's written about everything from changes in on-campus dining to administrative responses to protest movements. She's interviewed the University's chancellor, reported on federal funding cuts and covered campus accessibility issues.

"I got in for that summer, started reporting on the University when I didn't even really know anything about it," she said. "And I just was in love with the process and how people were actually reading what I was writing, and it was helping them."

In the moments leading up to the Selection Committee's decision, Scott was nervous on Butler's behalf. Still, she had an inkling that Butler would do great things.

"I knew that she could blow this out of the water if she put all of her effort into it," Scott said. "And clearly she did."

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## Tell us about yourself!

Each semester, we release a survey to get to know our readers — and importantly, to find the blind spots in our coverage.

The audit is a 15-question form conducted to understand how our audience feels about our coverage and to see who The DTH is reaching. It includes questions about how respondents feel about the scope of our coverage, how frequently they consume The DTH's content and how the publication can better serve the community. The responses will be used by The DTH to improve our coverage, and the data collected will also be included in a published article.

The Spring 2026 External Audit is open now. It should take between 5-10 minutes to complete. The Daily Tar Heel deeply appreciates any and all of your feedback.



The Daily Tar Heel

External Audit

SPRING 2026



# The Daily Tar Heel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

133 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 134, ISSUE 5

## K-12 EDUCATION

### Elementary schools face potential closure

CHCCS board not set to make a decision until June at earliest

By Ha Lien Gaskin  
Staff Writer

On March 5, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education agreed to survey three elementary schools for possible closure to save money amid declining student enrollment — Glenwood Elementary School, Seawell Elementary School and Ephesus Elementary School.

The schools will be evaluated based on eight criteria: the geographic conditions of the school, the anticipated level of student enrollment, inconvenience to affected students, cost of additional facilities, a projected 10-year capital maintenance outlook, proximity to nearby middle and high schools, transportation impacts and capacity of a building to support current and potential programming.

The results of this study are expected to be released in late May 2026. On June 4, the board will hold a meeting where any formal actions will be decided. Any action would not go into effect until August 2027 at the earliest.

The issue was first raised in October 2024, when Carolina Demography, a UNC population data center, presented the board



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

Ephesus Elementary School is pictured on Sunday. The school is one of three marked for possible closure.

with findings that showed a steady decrease of student enrollment in the district. Every student enrolled in a North Carolina public school represents around \$7,500 in state

funding; with a projected loss of about 289 students next year, the district is facing a loss of more than \$2.1 million of state funds.

Official communications from READ PACKAGE ON PAGES 8-9

the district attribute this declining rate of student enrollment to the declining birthrates nationwide and

## ADMINISTRATION

### Vice provost for artificial intelligence steps down

He resigned months before launch of new merged school

By Alice Scott  
Assistant University Editor

UNC's vice provost for artificial intelligence and chief AI officer, Jeffrey Bardzell, is departing from the University, according to a March 24 press release. Bardzell will leave his position at the end of May.

The UNC press release stated that Bardzell accepted a position at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he will serve as the Peterson Family Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Bardzell's departure comes only four months after his transition to the role of vice provost for AI and chief AI officer. He previously served as the dean of the School of Information and Library Science from April 2024 to November 2025.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 5

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### No. 4 UNC falls to No. 1 UConn in Sweet 16, 63-42



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETICS

UNC senior forward Nyla Harris (2) goes for a layup during the women's basketball game against UConn on Friday. UNC lost 63-42.

### The Tar Heels shot just 17-for-60 from the field

By Jack Morris  
Senior Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — At the 8:40 mark of the second quarter, North Carolina led the undefeated, defending national champion UConn Huskies by one.

That was unexpected. The Huskies were 29.5-point favorites and have trailed after the opening period just twice this season. And once was against UNC in the Sweet 16.

Even more surprising, though, was that in the opening minutes of the second period, the Tar Heels only had 12 points and had already committed nine turnovers. But somehow, they still led.

That lead only lasted seconds longer, and it never returned.

Those offensive struggles that materialized early in the contest plagued UNC for the full forty minutes, ultimately ending its postseason run in blowout fashion. With a season-low in a plethora of offensive categories, No. 4 seed North Carolina fell to No. 1 seed UConn, 63-42, in the third round

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## UTILITIES

### Duke Energy seeks to raise rates further amid price hikes

Local residents have seen bills increase as much as \$200

By Emily Spottswood  
Staff Writer

A petition calling for Duke Energy to give refunds to customers after unexpected price hikes has reached more than 72,000 signatures.

The petition, started by Rika Ponder, requests an independent audit to explain these unexpected price hikes.

Jonathan Curtman, a Hillsborough resident, said his utility bill from Duke Energy increased by about \$100 over the past year. He said Duke Energy will cut his power if he does not pay \$621.66 by April 13; he is currently looking into power bill relief.

"Usually, before, normally, I always keep it down to paid off," he said. "That's why I'm wondering, like, how did this creep up?"

Carley Causey, a Durham resident, said her bill also increased by around \$200 since last year, and that while she would be able to pay the increased rates, it would create strain on her budget.

"I'll just say it pisses me off so much that they're raising rates and still posting big profits," she said.

In response to consumer complaints, Duke Energy said in a March 6 press release that the increases were a result of colder-



DTH DESIGN/CAMILA GARRIDO

than-average weather creating higher energy use, leading to higher utility bills. Jeff Brooks, Duke Energy's manager of enterprise media relations, said while there was a small rate increase at the beginning of the year, any significant bill increases are related to higher energy usage.

Compared to 2020, the average monthly cost of a Duke Energy utility bill has increased by nearly \$50 due to an annual adjustment for fuel costs and a base rate increase starting in 2023. The 2023 base rate increase was spread out across three years, with the final \$5.15 increase occurring in October 2025.

These customer complaints come ahead of a proposal to raise rates even more. Duke Energy is in the process of asking the North Carolina Utilities Commission to raise rates by about 15 percent over the next two years. This would add an average of \$28.06 to customers' bills every month starting in 2027, and an additional \$6.59 in 2028.

Brooks said the proposed rate increases are to fund upgrades to strengthen the grid against storms and support the state's growth. One of the main improvements he mentioned was smart self-healing technology, which automatically

CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

“If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they'll kill you.”

OSCAR WILDE

## DEVELOPMENT

## Trustees talk budget, Carolina North



DTH FILE/HARRISON LENNON

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Nate Knuffman addresses the Board of Trustees during a meeting at The Spangler Center on Jan. 21.

### The Board discussed funding and affairs over two day span

By **Beyza Guvenc**  
Staff Writer

and **Ella Palmer**  
Staff Writer

The UNC Board of Trustees convened for its full March meeting on Thursday, following its committee meetings the day prior. Trustees discussed Carolina North, the University's All-Funds Budget and the development of UNC's Financial Accountability in Research model.

Here's what you need to know:

#### Wednesday: Committee meetings

##### University Affairs Committee

During the University Affairs Committee meeting, new Provost Magnus Egerstedt requested to decommission the Winston Center for Technology and the Developing Mind. He said the center's activities were not those that fall under the definition of a pan-University center, and it will now return to its "administrative home" in the College of Arts and Sciences. The motion for decommission passed unanimously.

Next, Beth Morraço, chair of the faculty, shared that the faculty wants the BOT to know the scope of what they do on a day-to-day basis. She said the board can engage more with faculty and listed several ways to do so.

Rebecca Howell, chair of the employee forum, said staff are worried about the \$25 million administrative cost cuts, which the BOT passed in a January resolution. She added that many are already doing the work of more than one staff member.

Tiffany Lacey, the executive director of real estate development for Carolina North, said they are looking for a firm to take on the "place strategy," which is the first step in determining what services Carolina North will feature and how that will impact its "identity and character." Lacey said her team had issued another request to find a firm to take on the master plan — or how the satellite campus will be laid out.

Lacey added that a stakeholder advisory committee will provide feedback on the plans and that the members will be announced soon. The three chairs of the committee are Trustee Brian Allen, Gladys Hall Coates distinguished professor of public law and government Anita Brown-Graham and Aaron Nelson, president and CEO of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, she said the Carolina North development should add 2,000 beds, to be evenly split between undergraduate and graduate students.

Egerstedt was then officially introduced to the trustees as UNC's new provost. He said his priorities include communicating about what happens on campus, reviewing budgeting processes to ensure the University is "investing where we should be investing" and improving industry engagement.

##### Budget, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

The committee began by approving five action items. Among these were the increase in advanced planning spending authority for the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center Welcome Plaza and Outdoor Pavilion and the approval of a lease for the Bright Horizons Children's Center.

Next, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Nate Knuffman presented on the University's All-Funds Budget. He explained that the uncertainty of federal budget cuts and the continued lack of a state budget play a role in the University's decisions.

At the UNC System level, Knuffman emphasized a "continued push for fiscal responsibility and transparency."

He said his office has identified \$17.5 million in savings for the fiscal year of 2026, a number projected to steadily increase up to \$74.5 million in the fiscal year of 2029. Administrative staff reductions represent the largest percentage of these savings, expected to reach \$25 million by fiscal year 2028.

Knuffman also explained that the University is taking proactive steps to save at least \$7 million in base salary via attrition, or leaving vacant staff positions unfilled.

"The \$25M reduction goal directed by the BOT requires difficult decisions, particularly at a time when parts of the University are growing," the slides presented by Knuffman read.

##### External Relations Committee

Amy McConkey, the UNC director of state affairs, explained the state revenue forecast released by the state legislature's Fiscal Research Division and the Office of State Budget and Management last week, which predicted a \$370 million increase, creating a surplus.

McConkey also said N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) resigned his seat, and multiple representatives have expressed interest in his position.

Director of Federal Affairs Kelly Dockham announced that the country's academic research community was able to block federal attempts to cap indirect research costs, which are expenses related to safety measures such as hazardous waste disposal and patient safety, at 15 percent, keeping them at the previously negotiated rate in fiscal year 2026.

Dockham said that fiscal year 2026 codifies the Financial Accountability in Research model, which is a framework to increase transparency, accountability and clarity in federal research funding. She also noted that Chancellor Lee Roberts has been named part of a subcommittee related to college athletics and NIL payments in the White House, putting UNC at a unique political position.

Michael Andreasen, the Vice Chancellor for Development, said that the University was 72 percent of the way to its goal of \$500 million in new cash and commitments for fundraising.

Jenny Cobb, the executive director of volunteer engagement of the Board of Visitors, said that the BOV is trying to increase member giving. BOV Chair Jim Ammons spoke on the BOV's engagement with Honors Carolina students.

##### Thursday: Full board meeting

Board of Trustees Chair Malcom Turner read a resolution of

appreciation for outgoing Student Body President Adolfo Alvarez in his last meeting as an ex officio member of the board.

Afterwards, during Alvarez's remarks, he introduced Devin Duncan, the next student body president. He also said Carolina Closet will be opening in the next few weeks and that he is looking forward to seeing how the program grows in the future.

Additionally, he encouraged board members to interact more with students and faculty.

"Trust can start with students when they see leaders show up, ask questions and remember their names," he said.

Leah Frazier, the outgoing Graduate and Professional Student Government president, also introduced her successor, Jaden Smith.

Frazier then raised concerns regarding draft UNC System Regulation 1000.1.2, which may change the way student activity fees are allocated within the UNC System. Frazier explained how the regulation would affect the GPSG Emergency Fund and GPSG Travel Awards. She said the BOT should be aware of the regulation's impacts.

Trustee Marty Kotis then said that the board has seen some "abuses," particularly in the GPSG's travel fund, and encouraged Frazier to look at "underlying root issues" and alternative approaches to funding.

Alvarez added that the draft UNC System regulation also affects Carolina Student Legal Services and student organization funding.

During the Chancellor's remarks, Roberts thanked Frazier and Alvarez for representing the student body during their terms.

He also announced Tommy Sowers had been appointed vice chancellor for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development and chief innovation officer, and then thanked Jim Dean, who served as interim provost after former provost Christopher Clemens stepped down in May 2025, and throughout the search for a permanent replacement.

## BRIEF

## 2023 shooting suspect found fit for trial

*Content warning: This article discusses gun violence and self-harm.*

A judge ruled Wednesday morning that Tailei Qi, the suspect charged with the murder of UNC professor Zijie Yan in 2023, was found competent to stand trial after Qi agreed that he understood the charges against him. His defense attorneys told the court they plan to plead insanity, according to ABC 11.

On Aug. 28, 2023, Yan was shot and killed in his office in Caudill Laboratories, sending the University into lockdown for nearly three hours while police secured the campus. The autopsy for Yan shows the professor was shot seven times in his office.

Qi was a graduate student who worked in Yan's lab in the Department of Applied Physical Sciences. According to The News & Observer, a witness told investigators that Qi argued with Yan before shots were fired, and saw Qi walk by the laboratories with a firearm in hand shortly after.

Qi was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and possessing a firearm on educational property on Aug. 29, 2023.

He was previously found unfit to stand trial in November 2023 due to mental health concerns around schizophrenia and self-harm behaviors. He was then committed to Central Regional Hospital to receive mental health treatment to regain competency to stand trial.

During the Wednesday hearing, Qi appeared before Orange County Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour after a new mental health evaluation from Central Regional Hospital. According to ABC 11, prosecutors said their competency findings relied heavily on that evaluation.

Moving forward, Baddour ordered that the hospital conduct another evaluation, this time focusing on Qi's mental state at the time of the shooting.

To successfully plead insanity, the defense must prove that at the time of the crime, the defendant was mentally incapable. This differs from being ruled competent to stand trial, which is determined by current mental capacity.

If an evaluation determines insanity and is not challenged in court, it is likely Qi will be committed to a mental health institution for an indefinite period, where he will remain until he is assessed as no longer legally insane.

Orange and Chatham County District Attorney Jeff Nieman told The Daily Tar Heel that if found guilty, Qi will not face the death penalty, in line with Nieman's campaign promise to never seek capital punishment. Instead, Qi would face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Nieman said he could not comment on whether Qi had been evaluated in previous years for competency to stand trial.

Qi's next court hearing has been scheduled for June 16 after his additional evaluation, but Nieman said that is subject to change depending on how long the evaluation takes.

UNC Media Relations, Baddour and Qi's legal counsel did not respond to The DTH's requests for comment by the time of publication.

## ADVOCACY

## Campus Y elects 2026-27 co-presidents

The pair hopes to spearhead more educational initiatives

By Ella Martino  
Staff Writer

The UNC Campus Y announced sophomore Diana Cantú-Melo and junior Yuthika Sathyanarayanan as the organization's new co-presidents for the 2026-27 academic year on March 23. They want to focus on bringing people in, social justice education and representing different perspectives. "So for our co-presidency, our biggest value that we wanted to really hammer in on was the importance of community and visitation," Sathyanarayanan said.

The Campus Y is UNC's hub for social justice. With more than 20 student-led committees, the group's Heel Life page states it paves the way for UNC student activism on campus, the local community and beyond.

Cantú-Melo and Sathyanarayanan met on the Campus Y's executive board last March, and, since then, their collaboration and ideas have flourished.

"So I was starting off a little nervous about [running], but Diana reached out to me, and we'd been working together on exec for a while," Sathyanarayanan said. "We were doing separate things on exec, but we were able to meet pretty often during exec, and we knew a bit about each other's roles and had a real, deep admiration for each of our different struggles in those roles."

In the early days of their co-presidency preparation, the pair has been able to create "a collaborative environment," Cantú-Melo said.



DTH/ABBY MONTREUIL

New Campus Y co-presidents Yuthika Sathyanarayanan and Diana Cantú-Melo pose for a photo on March 24.

"I feel like we can bounce ideas off each other," she said.

Next year, they want to further the Campus Y's core principles during their co-presidency, hoping to see the Campus Y become a collaborative and representative place for students to get educated on social justice.

"One of the things we really want to do next year is to do a lot more collaborations with different organizations, both in campus and outside of campus, to maybe host more teachings or community mixers, or, just avenues where people can come together and hang out, get to know each other, or get learn more about something that's going on in their community or their broader community," Sathyanarayanan said.

Previously, both co-president-elects were involved in other leadership roles at the Campus Y. Cantú-Melo started off as a member of the First-Year Council before applying for the executive board and becoming FYC director.

"It's been such an awesome

opportunity, getting to collaborate, getting to know all the first-years and learn about all their different interests," she said.

Sathyanarayanan didn't begin on FYC, but joined the executive board as a general at-large member as a sophomore. This year, she became the Campus Y's research director, primarily focusing on getting the Campus Y's research journal up and running.

"And I felt like in a time where the administration — or a lot of research is being cut down, a lot of funding cuts are happening, it felt very important for there to be a space for research within the social justice sphere," she said.

The two said their academic careers motivated them to join the Campus Y. For Sathyanarayanan, a biology and psychology major, and Cantú-Melo, a neuroscience major, their STEM-oriented academics drew them to an involvement with social justice at UNC.

"We're really passionate about being involved in service professions

as a whole and I feel like getting involved in the Y, you can't really separate health care and service professions from social justice," Sathyanarayanan said.

The pair's drive to work in social justice predated their time at UNC.

For Sathyanarayanan, she knew that she wanted to find a community-driven space for advocacy before college to meet and work with like-minded people toward common goals.

Cantú-Melo's motivation toward social justice derives from her parents, she said.

"Growing up, they always educated me on the cultural importance of representing," she said.

Sathyanarayanan and Cantú-Melo's predecessors, junior Netra Parikh and sophomore Lucia Paulsen, saw Cantú-Melo's and Sathyanarayanan's leadership abilities in their previous work at the Campus Y.

"So we met Diana as a first-year in our First-Year Council last year, and then Yuthika as a peer on the executive board of the Campus Y, and they're both people who are super dedicated to everything they do," Parikh said. "It's a super quiet, intense dedication, which is really exciting."

Parikh said they wanted to use their 2025-26 co-presidency to build strong structural foundations for the Campus Y internally, so that Cantú-Melo and Sathyanarayanan could focus on more people-facing initiatives.

"I have already seen them become more, like, kind of in lockstep with each other," Paulsen said.

Paulsen and Parikh are excited for the future of the organization under this new alliance and believe that Cantú-Melo and Sathyanarayanan can "grow the Campus Y in ways we can't imagine," Parikh said.

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## BRIEF



DTH FILE/JOEY FORGIONE

Then-SILS Dean Jeffrey Bardzell speaks to students during a meeting in Manning Hall Library on Oct. 9.

## Jeffrey Bardzell championed a University AI framework

Continued from Page 3

Following his promotion, Bardzell contributed to the development of the new School of Data and Information Science, which is slated to launch on July 1. The new school, announced in October, will merge the School of Data Science and Society and SILS into a consolidated academic unit focused on artificial intelligence.

Bardzell faced some criticism from students and staff about how he and other administrators handled the transition.

Faculty were informed of the merger on Oct. 8 at independent meetings for their respective schools. Summer Stevens, a second-year master's student in the SILS department, said Bardzell asked students to leave SILS' all-school informational meeting.

In a previous interview with The Daily Tar Heel, Bardzell said he did not intend to hurt any SILS students when he asked them to leave. Students "absolutely deserve a serious response," he said, but because they are different stakeholders from faculty, they were not explicitly invited to that meeting.

Bardzell also contributed to advancing AI in other areas across the University. He helped create a University framework called AI for Public Good, focused on putting UNC at the "forefront of responsible, mission-driven AI innovation," according to the press release. He is also co-chairing UNC's inaugural AI for Public Good Conference, which will take place at the Friday Center on April 13.

Provost Magnus Egerstedt said in the press release that UNC is grateful for Bardzell's leadership and service, adding that his work has made a lasting impact on the University.

"As both a dean and as vice provost for artificial intelligence and chief AI officer, he helped shape important conversations about how our institution can lead responsibly in a rapidly changing landscape," Egerstedt said in the release. "We wish him the best as he heads to Worcester Polytechnic Institute later this year."

UNC Media Relations wrote to The Daily Tar Heel that they had no further comment regarding Bardzell's departure.

The Provost's Office is working to select an interim vice provost for artificial intelligence and chief AI officer to fill Bardzell's position.

## GREEK LIFE

## UNC National Pan-Hellenic Council inducts new members

Historically Black groups host annual introduction events

By Maya Keating  
Staff Writer

For many students at UNC, the sound of chanting and synchronized steps cutting across campus signals something sacred and is a moment that represents months of hard work. For those who are joining one of the Divine Nine this semester — the historically Black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council — it means initiation.

UNC is home to eight of the Divine Nine, who welcome new members, or neophytes, through a process known as initiation or crossing. That event is followed by a "campus presentation," in which those new members are formally introduced to society as part of the organization.

The initiation process involves months of commitment, with timelines that vary with each organization. Much is unknown about the process, but that secrecy is intentional and deeply rooted in history, Ty Besses, the president of the UNC-CH National Pan-Hellenic Council, which serves as the governing body for the Divine Nine on campus, said.

The Divine Nine emerged during the rise of Jim Crow laws and systemic exclusion, during which Black students were excluded from joining predominantly white fraternities and sororities. The organizations were built on principles of scholarship, service,

leadership, cultural uplift and community advocacy, according to the NPHC website.

According to the UNC-CH NPHC bylaws, the group's purpose is to "enhance fellowship among the historically Black fraternities and sororities on campus through closer interaction among one another in the interest of improving social and philanthropic relations and increased communications with the University population."

Besses described the initiation process as more than just joining a student organization. He noted that the process is selective, as organizations are looking for campus involvement, good character and values that align with their own.

"I mean, I think they're just very sacred," Besses said. "The processes, the knowledge that you gain, the things you learn, it's all very sacred, a sacred process and also a sacred brotherhood or sisterhood."

This sacredness can be observed during campus presentations. T'Keira Mack, the secretary of external affairs for UNC-CH NPHC, said that the campus presentation includes historical information that members must know about the sorority or fraternity and allows new members to show their own level of creativity. Besses said this creativity is expressed through singing, poetry, skits and more. Traditions include a Homecoming Step Show and a Stroll-Off, both of which highlight artistry and exciting choreography.

Apart from campus presentations, Mack said the UNC-CH NPHC helps to curate a community where Black students can engage with



DTH/JACKSON AUCHINCLOSS

The Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. holds a campus presentation outside Morrison Hall on March 8.

one another and work to help the community through community service and volunteering.

"I feel like being at a [predominantly white institution], having our small community within the National Pan-Hellenic Council is an amazing way to just release from the social pressures of the school, the academic pressures of the school, as well as life in general," Mack said.

Mack recalled her initiation in spring 2025 as a moment of pride.

"To me, crossing meant showing my loved ones, my family, my friends, as well as the people in the sorority I was going to enter that I'm here, I'm proud, very much proud, and I know my stuff," Mack said.

Aarthi Srinivasan, a sophomore and close friend of a neophyte, went to a campus presentation last semester. She remembers the

atmosphere being high-spirited and supportive of those participating.

During the campus presentation, the focus shifts fully to the neophytes, with each movement and action serving as a reflection of what they have learned about their organization and its values.

"It was really cool to see them come up one at a time because they were super passionate and they had a lot of energy," Srinivasan said.

The moment is energetic and entertaining, but it is also important to current members and alumni who have gone through the process.

"I mean, it's just a day of celebration really, just honoring the legacy of the people who come before you, honoring the people that made you and also that you're honoring yourself and showing off your work," Besses said.

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## Students still pursue Russian amid federal funding cuts

UNC's Russian Flagship Program was one of eight in the U.S.

By Lydia Winstead  
Senior Writer

Even before UNC junior Eloise Herdegen began to learn Russian at UNC, she had experience speaking the language and studying abroad in Kyrgyzstan.

In the summer before her first year at UNC, she participated in the National Security Language Initiative for Youth, a weeklong program funded by the U.S. Department of State. As Herdegen began to get involved, she said she was introduced to another opportunity that motivated her to choose UNC.

While she initially thought attending college in Washington, D.C., would be more optimal for studying foreign policy, what drew her to UNC was another federally funded program designed to help students achieve professional status in Russian: the Russian Language Flagship.

The Russian Language Flagship is a part of a larger program at universities across the country that focuses on languages considered more difficult to learn and that are "important for U.S. national security and economic competitiveness," according to its website.

Along with funding study abroad opportunities for students, including a capstone year abroad, the program

brought more resources to UNC's Russian Studies Program, including professional tutors and resources for cultural events. The flagship launched at UNC in 2020 as part of a four-year cycle, which participating universities must reapply for to receive associated grant money.

Herdegen applied to the flagship program once she arrived at UNC, and said she planned to use funding from the program to study abroad the following summer.

Then, on March 19, 2024, she said she received an email with no warning from the program director notifying participants that UNC would terminate the flagship at the end of the 2023-24 school year and would "not offer financial support for the Capstone year abroad beyond the 2024-2025 academic year."

The four-year cycle was up — but

programs dedicated to Russian, out of the 31 total language programs the DOD supported at 23 U.S. universities. At the end of the 2020-24 grant cycle, 13 of these programs — including the Russian Language Flagship at UNC — had their funding terminated.

While Herdegen and other students who were planning to study abroad the following school year were still able to receive their expected funding, Herdegen said she and other students had real concerns for their academic future, questioning if they should transfer to a university that still had the program.

"This was meant to be 'my thing.' I wanted to come here for this," she said. "So it was really unfortunate when it got cut like that."

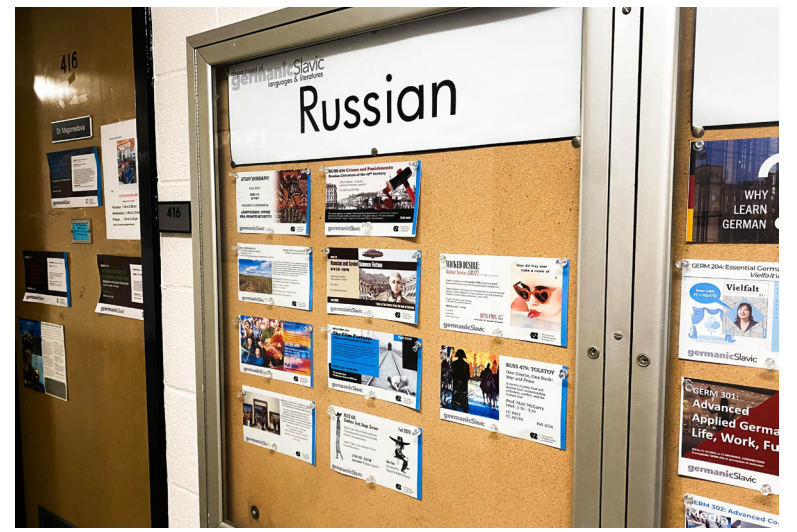
According to reporting by Inside Higher Ed, the decision to terminate funding for some of the language programs was due to cuts coming from the U.S. Congress.

However, the decision to cut the Russian Language Flagship at UNC

was not related to the quality of the University's program, teaching assistant professor of Russian Matt McGarry said. He said that in its time hosting the program, UNC had consistently sent students through their capstone study abroad year, and the number of participating students had grown each year.

"The thing about it is this: anytime you get in with the federal government, federal priorities change," McGarry said.

Even though universities like Portland State University had their



DTH/HARRISON LENNON

A board in Dey Hall is pictured on Saturday. It advertises the variety of Russian courses taught at UNC.

funding continued for the next cycle, William Comer, director of the program at PSU, said their institution still shouldered some impacts.

Comer said in previous years, students were allotted up to \$20,000 to cover their study abroad costs throughout their time in the program, including their capstone year. But after 2024, students are only able to receive \$5,000 or \$10,000 for studying abroad during the summer.

While UNC senior Nicole Juzaitis didn't specifically come to UNC for the program, she said she chose to study Russian instead of other languages because of the flagship. After its funding was cut, Juzaitis was also still able to study abroad and ended up doing so in the same program as Herdegen in Yerevan, Armenia.

She said that Herdegen had begun discussions with former program directors for ways to continue some

of the aspects of the program at UNC, even without the funding. During the 2024-25 school year, Herdegen and Juzaitis participated in forming the Russian Studies Forum at UNC.

Now, the group provides tutoring opportunities to replicate the experience that the program provided, along with cultural events and opportunities to continue speaking in Russian together. Although only upperclassmen remain who would have participated in the program, Juzaitis said many UNC students are still motivated to learn Russian.

"We're very much still seeing the same level of passion and commitment, it's just in this different form," she said.

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## OBITUARY

## Local volunteer, advocate Mae McLendon dies at age 75

She had a strong ambition for public service work

By Elise Strickland  
Staff Writer

Mae McLendon, a lifelong public servant, committed advocate and respected community member, died on March 17 at the age of 75 in Carrboro.

Mae McLendon was born on Aug. 6, 1950, to parents Amos and Martha McLendon in Red Springs, N.C., in Robeson County. McLendon was the youngest of three girls, the baby of the family, with two older sisters, Hattie Miles and Helen Galbreath. Mae McLendon is survived by her daughter Anissa McLendon and Galbreath.

Ever since her childhood, Mae McLendon was outgoing, loved to read and learn, and already had great interest in serving others, specifically the elderly and her broader local community. Mae McLendon and her family left rural Red Springs in 1964, relocating to Orange County's Pine Knolls neighborhood.

Mae McLendon's ambition to serve reflected figures that had raised her, including her mother, Martha McLendon, who was one of seven women that played a role in the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service's founding around 1963. Mae McLendon helped continue her mother's work, and today, the Inter-Faith Council is now the primary organization serving people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Chapel Hill and Carrboro area.

Jackie Jenks, executive director of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, said from her first days working at the organization, Mae McLendon was an instant mentor to Jenks because of the admirable dedication and deep community roots she held.

"She was an elder, a wise elder, to many of us who looked up to her, and looked to her strengths and support and wisdom," Jenks said. "She wasn't a loud person, but she definitely was someone with great presence and strength and conviction."

She began ninth grade at Lincoln High School in Chapel Hill, and was later transferred to Chapel Hill High School as part of the county's integration efforts. The transfer reflected the Town's freedom of choice policy, although Mae McLendon had little autonomy in the decision, being one of the Black students hand-picked to move schools.

At Chapel Hill High School, Mae McLendon was a part of the girls basketball team, where she wanted to play like the boys did, but was limited by the era's restrictions on women's sports.

At 16 years old, Mae McLendon became the proud mother to her



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF MAE MCLENDON

Orange County resident Mae McLendon died on March 17 at age 75.

only child, Anissa McLendon. After having her daughter, Mae McLendon took a break from her education, but was able to later return to high school and receive her diploma. As a young parent, Mae McLendon felt blessed to have received a plethora of devoted support from her family and the community, which she also referred to as her family.

After being admitted into each college she applied to, Mae McLendon began her post-secondary education at UNC in 1969, where she went on to receive a bachelor's in sociology and her master's in social work.

University housing and resources for women were limited, so Mae McLendon was accepted on the condition that she lived at home while pursuing her degree. Residing with her family in Pine Knolls, Mae McLendon walked from her family's home

to campus each morning, dropping her daughter off at day care along the way.

At UNC, Mae McLendon was involved in extracurriculars that blended community, culture and service. As a member of UNC's Black Student Movement, Mae McLendon was committed to their work in identifying unjust realities and participating in collective action

to make them right. Mae McLendon notably participated in the 1969 food service strike, calling for fair treatment of food servers at the University.

Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee said that although she connected with Mae McLendon in later years, primarily through discussion with former classmates, she came to understand that Mae McLendon was a tenacious protester from early on in her life.

Mae McLendon remained guided by this spirit, involving herself in lifelong commitment to community work and demonstrating a deep faith in humanity. Foushee said during every conversation she had with Mae McLendon in the later stages of her life, her priority remained being

involved in service work.

had a community, strengthened by Mae McLendon, with a deeply shared identity and pride. Growing up locally, Mae McLendon had a unique connection with campus community members that enabled her to create a family between the University and the local community by introducing students — especially those who had moved a distance from home — with campus staff, Pine Knolls residents and Northside residents.

Foushee said although Mae McLendon was one of her constituents, Foushee still frequently turned to McLendon for marching orders and valued guidance about Foushee's role in government.

"She definitely had the leader spirit, but didn't step out in that way, if that makes sense," Foushee said. "When she talked, you would listen."

Always with a smile and in good spirits, Mae McLendon was recognized as a tireless worker who contributed to every corner of the community and connected with members from all walks of life. These ways in which she embraced living, made Mae McLendon an innate role model to the community and its volunteers, Jenks said.

"Ms. McLendon, she was first

and foremost, just cared so much about people. She was all about community. She was all about making progress for our most vulnerable and for working people and for families," N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Orange) said. "Really since the beginning of my public service, she's been an adviser to me."

From her youth to adulthood, Mae McLendon embraced an extraordinary number of opportunities in her professional, political, social and spiritual lives.

For more than two decades, Mae McLendon worked at the N.C. Department of Adult Correction. McLendon had just as extensive local volunteer experience, serving in various positions at the Durham County Cooperative Extension, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, the Marian Cheek Jackson Center and the Town of Carrboro's recreation department.

Beyond her profession and volunteering, Mae McLendon's commitment to service and community also occurred at the spiritual level through her work at the St. Paul A.M.E. Church. There, Mae McLendon participated in multiple church boards, as well as being deemed the unofficial photographer and weekly e-newsletter editor for a time.

Through her experiences, Mae McLendon held a profound wealth of knowledge which she shared with intentions to keep the community informed, reflecting her values in service and commitment to giving back. As a mentor to him, Buansi said that Mae McLendon's expertise in all levels of North Carolina politics as well as her intellectual advice was invaluable to him.

"She had a passion for people and a love of community. A community connector, an information highway," Foushee said. "These are the things that I think about when I think about Mae Belle McLendon, and I will truly, sincerely miss her very deeply."

Mae McLendon was the recipient of several awards in areas such as lifetime achievement, outstanding service and commitment to volunteering. She was honored as recently as this March, receiving the 2026 Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award, paying tribute to her commitment to service, positive difference and community impact.

Buansi said he hopes Mae McLendon's community will do everything in its power so that her memory will be honored and celebrated for generations to come.

"A great part of her legacy is going to live on through us," Buansi said. "The people that she has shared her advice and shared her mentorship, shared her guidance with — there are too many to count."

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## Duke Energy rates rise due to growing energy needs

Continued from Page 3

reroutes power lines to quickly restore service.

Duke Energy estimates that the Carolinas' energy needs will grow eight times faster over the next 15 years compared to the past 15 years. Duke Energy has filed 38 advanced development projects, resulting in a need for 5,610 megawatts, up from eight projects requiring 1,350 megawatts in spring 2023.

Data centers are becoming a major part of the increased need for energy, with 30 percent of economic development projects in the Carolinas being data centers. Ninety-two data centers have already been constructed in North Carolina, with 128 planned across the Carolinas. Once finished, these projects will need 37 gigawatts of energy.

Matt Abele, executive director of the NC Sustainable Energy Association,

said they want data centers to invest in solar and battery storage on-site and to cover the costs of additional resources added to the grid.

"It's about ensuring that, as data centers do call North Carolina home, that we're providing the right tools and resources for them to be able to access the grid," he said. "And to do so in a way that mitigates costs to the rest of ratepayers."

Under the N.C. General Assembly's Power Bill Reduction

Act in July, Duke Energy is also now allowed to raise the base rates of its consumers to cover the cost of construction of new power plants. The act also removed the requirement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 70 percent before 2030. In February, a judge dismissed a lawsuit against Duke Energy filed by the Town of Carrboro, which would have held them accountable for damages due to climate change.

The N.C. Utilities Commission

will have public hearings across the state about the rate increases throughout April and May.

Duke Energy also recently proposed to combine Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolinas by the start of 2027, with Duke Energy claiming that the combined resources will result in more than a billion dollars in savings across all consumers.

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K-12 EDUCATION | SCHOOL CLOSURE

# CHCCS cites enrollment decline as reason for potential closure

Continued from Page 3

and a lack of families with school-aged children in the area. Other factors include the increased opting-out of public school for private school, charter school or homeschooling.

In a 2024 school bond referendum, the Chapel Hill community voted to allocate funds to renovate some of the district's oldest schools. Carrboro Elementary School, Estes Hill Elementary School and Frank Porter Graham Bilingue Elementary School will all be renovated. In order to honor their commitments to these projects, the district is now left to consider the remaining three for closure.

As the possibility of a school closure undergoes debate, the district has held various community discussions open to the public. Further community meetings will be held at the considered elementary schools in the near future, according to the district website.

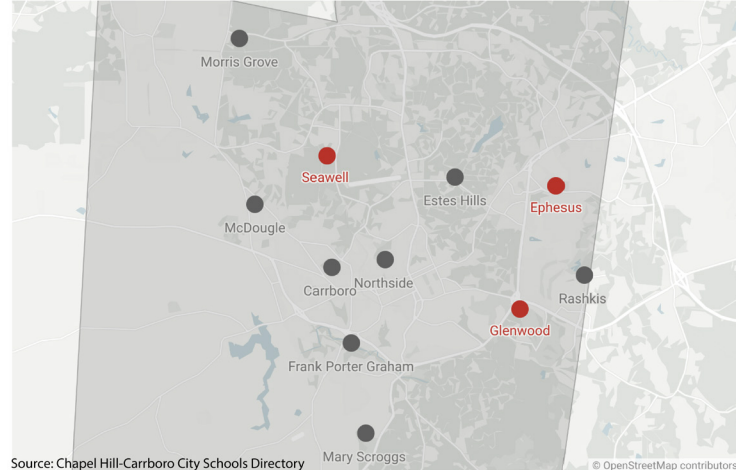
Andy Jenks, chief communications officer at CHCCS, said the district understands that the matter can mean more to community members than the financial and structural factors being discussed.

"These are deeply personal topics for people who work there, for families who send their children to these schools and for the students who attend them today, to say nothing of the generations of community members who have walked the same sidewalks or crossed the same streets to go to some of these schools," Jenks said.

Chris Esposito, parent of three

## CHCCS is considering three elementary schools for potential closure

Seawell, Ephesus and Glenwood elementary schools may face closure amid the district's declining enrollment and funding reductions.



Source: Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Directory DTH DATA/ALEENA SEBASTIAN

children at Ephesus Elementary, worries that not enough factors are being considered in the district's efforts to tighten their budget.

"There hasn't been a lot of housing development in Chapel Hill that would be attractive to families with young children," Esposito said. "And that's been true for a long time, but it's actually changing very rapidly right now."

Esposito also said he thinks the board should make clear that the majority of money saved when closing a school comes from staff reductions, not facility reductions, and that future staff reductions are on the horizon whether a school closes or not.

Former CHCCS School Board Chair Mia Day Burroughs was the main

archivist of a comprehensive timeline of the history of the CHCCS district. Burroughs said the establishment of elementary schools in the area was often a response to overcrowding, and that up until the 2020s, CHCCS was a steadily growing district.

Even as the district faces an impactful decision in the coming months, Burroughs remains optimistic about the future.

"Time marches on, and things change," Burroughs said. "And we just have to tuck our memories away and enjoy those and let the district and the professionals do what they need to do to make the best educational system for our kids."

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# In the heart of Briarcliff, Ephesus Elementary faces uncertain future



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Ephesus Elementary School, pictured on Thursday, is one of three schools in the district facing potential closure.

## The school is projected to maintain enrollment over the next decade

By Rita Choufani  
Staff Writer

As their school faces potential closure, educators and parents alike at Ephesus Elementary School are embracing the motto that "Ephesus is All of Us."

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education recently decided to evaluate Ephesus Elementary, Glenwood Elementary and Seawell Elementary schools for potential closure amid the district's declining enrollment and reduced funding.

Andy Jenks, the chief communications officer at CHCCS, said the district began identifying trends that suggested the district was experiencing a decline in student enrollment in the early years after the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that as time continues to pass, declining enrollment cannot still be explained by the pandemic. Jenks said the CHCCS enrollment is declining from a high of about 12,000 students roughly 10 years ago to a predicted 9,500 students in the next 10 years.

"We're taking what we think is a leadership approach to decision making, what we've called a crossroads, not a crisis. A crisis is when you wait too late to take action. A crossroads, where we are right now, is the ability to make decisions on our own time and with our community's involvement to help shape the future of our district," Jenks said.

Tiffany Englert, the PTA president at Ephesus Elementary, said the Ephesus community was surprised that Ephesus was one of the schools being considered for closure since the school is predicted to maintain enrollment.

"There are many schools in this community that unfortunately don't have that, and it makes us wonder, you know, why Ephesus? Why, when we're outperforming other elementary schools academically with the highest number of children with exceptional needs, then how are we a good consideration for this closure?" Englert said.

Ephesus Elementary is one of few CHCCS elementary schools

projected to maintain enrollment over the next decade, and it is projected to do so despite its lack of a magnet program. With a capacity of more than 400 students, the elementary school's utilization rate is projected to rise rapidly for Ephesus to 86 percent by 2030 and remain over 80 percent through 2035.

"I feel really disappointed that there seems to be a narrative that others have created about Ephesus in which we are somehow not a diverse community, and that just really couldn't be farther from the truth," Englert said.

50 percent of students at Ephesus are from minority populations, with high linguistic diversity in Russian, Mandarin, Burmese, Spanish and Karen.

"Ephesus is right in the heart of a neighborhood where many families walk to school and have for more than a generation," Jenks said.

At Ephesus, 99 students live within half a mile to the school and 80 students walk or bike daily.

"Many of our parents are already making decisions about how to keep utilities on and bills paid. Adding the burden of transportation to another school creates an additional challenge that is neither practical nor equitable," Jennifer Allred, a pre-K teacher at Ephesus, said.

Ephesus serves low-income families, and transportation is a significant concern for many parents, Allred said during a public comment period at a CHCCS Board of Education meeting. Ephesus is a Title I school, so it receives federal funding to support low-income families.

"Ephesus is a true community school," Former Ephesus Principal Victoria Creamer said.

She said that as a former principal and former parent, she is extremely sad that the school might close.

Some Ephesus parents made a music video titled "Ephesus is All of Us" to express their love for the school in wake of the announcement for potential closure.

"Ephesus, like our Glenwood and our Seawell families, have turned out passionately to advocate for our schools and as a school district," Jenks said. "Again, nobody wants to have these difficult but necessary conversations. In the same breath, though, I would say this is the level of engagement that you want to see."

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## K-12 EDUCATION | SCHOOL CLOSURE

# Glenwood Elementary could see its decades-long history end

The district's oldest school has operated for more than 70 years

By Sakethram Maramraj  
Staff Writer

With more than seven decades of history, Glenwood Elementary School's future is uncertain as Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools considers three elementary schools for possible closure.

The CHCCS Board of Education recently voted to evaluate Glenwood, alongside Ephesus and Seawell elementary schools, to possibly be closed. Andy Jenks, chief communications officer for CHCCS, said the district's consideration of school closures stems largely from long-term enrollment declines.

During the 2024-25 school year, Glenwood Elementary's enrollment was 390 students. As enrollment decreases, the district also receives less state funding, which is tied to student numbers.

"If you have fewer students, it stands to reason that you'll get less in state aid," Jenks said.

Jennifer Levenbook, a parent planning on applying for her child to attend Glenwood Elementary, said the district may be overlooking certain demographics in the Chapel Hill area, especially children who were born after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When the district says, 'Oh, the population is shrinking of children,' because we weren't surveyed and nobody came and counted, I'm wondering where they're getting that," Levenbook said.

She said she wonders if the population is just shrinking for a few years but will increase by the time her child, who is currently 3, starts elementary school.



DTH/SOPHIA GRACI

Glenwood Elementary School, pictured March 25, is one of three schools in the district facing potential closure.

"Our overall approach as a district will be to put our students in newer, fewer schools," Jenks said.

From roof replacements to HVAC systems, aging buildings often carry the largest projected capital

needs, which directly factor into the 10-year maintenance outlook, Jenks said. He said the district is approaching the declining enrollment and potential closure as a long-term structural adjustment rather than an emergency.

Kathryn Greenberg, whose younger brother recently attended

Glenwood Elementary, said her brother's time at Glenwood has made him who he is. She said her brother made a lot of friends and loved his teachers.

"People put a lot of trust in the

**"I think Glenwood provides an opportunity for people who want to explore a different culture, different language, throughout elementary school."**

**Kathryn Greenberg**

Sister of former Glenwood Elementary student

schools where they send their children, especially elementary school because they're so young," Greenberg said. "And people really build connections with faculty and other children at

the school and the environment they build there, and I think that that can be a hard thing to lose."

She said her brother participated in the school's Mandarin dual language magnet program and

has continued studying the language in middle school. Glenwood is the only elementary school out of those being considered for

closure that offers magnet programs. In addition to the Mandarin dual language program, Glenwood has a world language magnet program.

Greenberg said the Mandarin

dual language program is a defining feature of Glenwood.

"I know there's a lot of Spanish dual language for people who want that, and I think Glenwood provides an opportunity for people who want to explore a different culture, different language, throughout elementary school," Greenberg said.

Levenbook said the Mandarin program was important in attracting their family to the school. If the district closes the school, her family would consider moving to a different district that does offer a Mandarin program, Levenbook said.

Carol Kelly, former Glenwood student and retired educator, said it's sad for her to think about Glenwood closing. She said a lot of people in Chapel Hill went to Glenwood and have positive memories of it.

"Whether it's an institution that you love or you have ties to, you have to look at practicalities," Kelly said.

While the evaluation process relies heavily on data, Jenks acknowledged the emotional weight of potential closures for families and alumni.

"These are incredibly personal conversations and personal topics for a big portion of our community," he said.

He said the district is working to balance financial and logistical considerations with community concerns by holding meetings, gathering feedback and delaying final decisions until CHCCS' analysis is complete.

Levenbook said she wants the Board to consider continuing the Glenwood magnet program, even if the school closes.

"I would like them to know that the magnet is doing what it's supposed to do and being an attractant," Levenbook said.

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# Highly ranked Seawell Elementary named a candidate for closure

The school offers unique outdoor education experiences

By Kate Sinha  
Staff Writer

Located on 9115 Seawell School Road, Seawell Elementary School is one of three schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district at risk of closing due to rising operational costs and declining student enrollment. Seawell was built along the Bolin Creek Greenway and shares a nearly 90-acre campus with Smith Middle School and Chapel Hill High School.

CHCCS Chief Communications Officer Andy Jenks said Seawell, Ephesus and Glenwood elementary schools are at risk of closing because they are the three oldest facilities that are not currently scheduled to be replaced over the next 10 years. As a result, the CHCCS Board of Education voted 4-3 on March 5 to study the impacts of closing the three elementary schools.

If Seawell is to close, its students would be assigned to schools through a redistricting process, Jenks said.

"We have a decline in student enrollment, and we're currently operating more schools than we need, and so we're looking at possibly closing one or more schools in order to position ourselves for success in the future," Jenks said.

Seawell has a diverse student population, with about two-thirds of

its students in the 2024-25 school year coming from racial minority populations. It serves families coming from five continents, with more than 20 languages represented. Many families enrolled at Seawell have parents who are engaged in short-term academic appointments at UNC or in other faculty and staff positions.

Holding more than 400 students, Seawell offers a variety of unique educational components. The Learning Environment for Advanced Programming initiative, for example, helps meet the needs of gifted students through additional programming and electives. Seawell also offers many outdoor learning facilities including the "Crittter Corner" animal barnyard, and it is in close proximity to the Carolina North Forest, which contains 750 acres of woodlands with access to trails and a diverse ecosystem.

Scarlett Coley, president of the Seawell Elementary School PTA, said her family moved to Chapel Hill for Seawell Elementary's outdoor learning resources, garden, living animal barnyard and campus design. She said Seawell provides a sense of grounding and well-being in a world of technology, advancements and concerns about mental health.

"The kids can be outside and experience nature and the adjacency

**"In this day and age, it's pretty rare that a public school offers the things that Seawell offers."**

**Sarah Abrahams**

Seawell Elementary PTA board member at-large

to the Carolina North," Coley said. "So Seawell is in this amazing location where there's so much access to nature."



DTH/MICHAEL PEARSON

Seawell Elementary School, pictured Tuesday, is one of three schools in the district facing potential closure.

Sarah Abrahams, a Seawell PTA board member at-large, said her family moved for similar reasons. She said students have unique access to more outdoor learning and are able to actively engage with the earth, even when transitioning to class.

"In this day and age, it's pretty rare that a public school offers the things that Seawell offers," Abrahams said. Seawell

Elementary, which Niche and the U.S. News and World Report both rank as the district's top elementary school, is the only school

in the district on a shared campus with both a middle school and high school. Coley said it is beneficial for the young students to see older students care for them and act as role models for success, having a huge impact on them academically.

"There are two high school students that come twice a week to their class, and they are totally beloved by the students," Abrahams, who has a daughter in second grade at Seawell, said. "And you know, their engagement is the result of that physical proximity, that closeness."

Coley said while it was not the board's intention, the process of the district deciding which school to close has started to get heated — but their school has tried to avoid adding

any fuel to the fire. As members of the PTA, Coley said that their goal is to share information and help people understand aspects of Seawell that they may not already know, such as the nature-based campus.

Abrahams said that the potential closing of Seawell is impacting teachers, families who have kids at the school and people who are considering moving to Chapel Hill and are trying to decide where they want to live.

"I think this school community is obviously very emotionally connected and affected, and everybody has a lot of thoughts and feelings," Coley said. "And I think that's districtwide."

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# Imagine This! Carolina South Renovate and Connect



## ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN CONCEPT (ONLY)

### PROPOSED BUILDINGS

1. Entertainment / Country Music Venue / Food + Beverage
2. Food + Beverage
3. Retail / Food + Beverage Below and Graduate and Family Housing Above
4. Retail / Food + Beverage Below and Graduate and Family Housing Above
5. Food + Beverage and Entertainment Space
6. Retail / Food + Beverage Below and Graduate and Family Housing Above
7. Hotel with Ground Level Retail and Village Market with For-Sale Housing Above  
± 2 Levels of Housing above Hotel; 11 Condos Per Level
8. Retail / Food + Beverage
9. Retail / Food + Beverage Below and Graduate and Family Housing Above
10. Club Food + Beverage and VIP Event Space
11. Practice Gym + Player Development
12. Student Housing (approx. 400 Beds)

- P1** Parking Deck  
± 180 Spaces Per Level
- P2** Potential Parking Deck  
± 100 Spaces Per Level

### EXISTING BUILDINGS

13. Renovated Dean E. Smith Center
14. School of Business Parking Deck
15. Media and Communications
16. Koury Natatorium
17. Williamson Athletic Center + Basketball Museum

### PROPOSED LAND USES

- Retail
- Housing
- VIP Event Space / Player Development
- Hotel / Hospitality

- Renovated Smith Center With Needed Additions • Long Awaited South Campus Connection To Main Campus
  - Amenities To Serve Growing Student Population and 5000 Current Underserved Students • Game Day Fan Experience!
  - Better Serve Kenan Flagler and Hospital Population • New Student, Graduate and Family Housing • Additional Improved Parking • Easy Walk For All
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# Lifestyle

## The Daily Tar Heel

### EDITOR'S NOTES

## Student band For The Record balances standing out and fitting in

The indie ensemble performed in the DTH office in February

By Lola Oliverio  
Lifestyle Editor

On the day of For The Record's first-ever gig, the band settled on a pre-show breakfast at Sutton's Drug Store on Franklin Street.

However, a hearty meal never pairs well with nerves.

"I was about to throw up," senior guitarist, pianist and one-time drummer Henry Malcolm said.

Nausea aside, the show went off without a hitch.

"It's just so funny because you'll have the nerves like that right before that first gig, and then you'll get two songs in, and all the nerves are gone, and you just have so much fun," UNC alumnus Spencer Garris, who serves as For The Record's pianist and part-time sound engineer, said.

What began as a hodgepodge group of frat brothers jamming in basements has become a popular seven-piece indie band with a reach outside the Chapel Hill community.

All of the members are either current or past UNC students, and, despite several of the members being in the same fraternity, For The Record hesitates to label themselves a "frat band."

When asked directly whether or not they would classify themselves a frat band, however, Garris conceded, "By definition, we probably are."

Aside from Malcolm and Garris, the band — which formed in February 2023 — consists of singers Quinn Armour, a senior; alumnus Diego Fleury Mendible; bassist Aldric McMahan, a junior; drummer Coleman Rambo, a senior; and guitarist Matthew Taylor, a junior.

Most of the group — minus McMahan, who had "never touched a bass" prior to the band's inception — hoped to form a band coming into college. Rambo, Malcolm and Fleury Mendible — who they initially found through his roommate, who heard him singing in the shower — spearheaded the effort and then began scouting out other musical colleagues to fill in empty spaces. They brought in Armour through Garris' roommate's girlfriend.

"When I came in [to college], I was telling my friends, I was like, 'I just want to be in a band here,'" Armour said. "And so when it worked out, it was kind of unreal."

Throughout the years, the band has played numerous gigs, ranging from frat lawns to the iconic music venue Cat's Cradle.

"There's just so many opportunities to play that is never gonna happen ever again. Like, everyone wants a band at like, every single event. So like, it's almost too easy to be a band here," Malcolm said. "Like, I almost don't think it's even that impressive, because of how easy it is to do, but it worked out for us, I guess."

Being in a band is a large commitment on top of school and work, so the lineup frequently rotates and members fill in for one another. Malcolm said he and Garris are the only two members who have never missed a gig.

"We're adaptable," Fleury Mendible said. "We can make it work."

"That's actually what's special about us, is a lot of us can play multiple instruments, so if someone has to miss, then we fill in and the crowd can never tell," Armour added. "Like, we cover it up really well."

Despite their ability to fill in for one another, members continue to graduate and move away, meaning



DTH/AMELIE FAWSON

For The Record performs in the DTH office for an episode of "Editor's Notes" on Saturday, Feb. 28.

practices have become fewer and farther between. The group — notably Garris, Malcolm, Fleury Mendible and Armour — hopes to put out original music soon, but are holding off until they make something they feel truly proud of.

"We always wanted to put out an original, but we don't want to put one out just for the sake of putting one out," Malcolm said. "If it's going to be ass, then we prefer not to do it, so we're going to keep trying 'til we find a good one."

As a college band, For The Record has found it difficult at times to stand out amongst their peers, partly due to pressure to perform

certain covers of popular songs.

"Like, you don't want to play 'Kilby Girl,' but then you play something that you like, and no one really cares," Henry Malcolm said.

When asked what kind of bands they wished people cared more about, several members answered in unison: "Geese."

Despite these challenges and pressures to blend in, For The Record has managed to find their own niche within the UNC student band ecosystem, partially because of how many members they have.

"Seven people is kind of ridiculous, but you get a lot of guitar parts in with two [players]. You get a lot of vocal

parts with two [singers], and you can do like, any song, because our range — the vocal range is kind of infinite with a boy and a girl," Malcolm said.

This, coupled with their knack for sound mixing and unique harmonies, has carved out a unique spot for the group.

"Not to toot our own horn, but I do think we're good at live mixing, because of Spencer and Henry's ear," Fleury Mendible said. "I think we've gotten pretty good at figuring out our own sound."

Amelie Fawson contributed reporting to this story.

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### PHILANTHROPY

## 12-hour dance marathon supports children's hospital

Meet the groups who entertained the all-day dancers

By Brooke Davis  
Staff Writer

The 28th annual UNC Dance Marathon, hosted by Carolina For The Kids, brought hundreds of students together on Saturday to dance, sing, laugh and raise money for the N.C. Children's Hospital. Over its history, the event has raised more than \$7 million.

And as the participants danced to support their cause, 10 other groups of singers, dancers and athletes performed during the marathon to entertain the dancers themselves. Over the 12-hour marathon, these performers brought joy to participants and families who were present at the event.

The Carolina Girls, UNC's dance team, started the morning off with an energetic performance. Lydia Kampe beamed as she danced, the rhinestones on her uniform reflecting light in the dark gymnasium and waking up the sleepy audience. Her teammate smiled back at her, having choreographed the routine herself.

"Dancing is obviously so much fun, but the people you do it with makes it so special," Kampe said.

Kampe added that what makes the Carolina Girls special is not just who they're dancing with, but who they're dancing for.



DTH/BROOKE DAVIS

Entertainers perform during the UNC Dance Marathon at Ram's Head Recreation Center on Saturday.

"It's always fun to get involved with the community, especially events that involve kids, because so many kids — especially little girls — look up to us," Kampe said.

The marathon continued with more performances from vocal groups and dance ensembles. The crowd watched and listened intently, as many of the

performances were in unique styles.

One of the groups was Blank Canvas, a large student-run dance club that showcases dancers of all styles with all levels of experience. For group member McKenzie White, choreographing their routine for the marathon was a challenge she was eager to take on.

"It's always rewarding to come out and see the kids are having a blast in there," White said.

Group member Olivia Vorhis said Blank Canvas was passionate about supporting the marathon's cause, but also about uplifting the students who organized the event and the other performers who were involved.

In addition to singing and dancing, the marathon also featured jump roping. The Carolina Jump Rope club smiled and waved to the crowd as they flipped, kicked and jumped rope to the beat of the music they performed to.

The Carolina Jump Rope team also performed at the marathon last year. Kaylin Long, a member of the team, said the group loves to support the cause and see which other groups get to perform.

"It's really awesome to see both people being excited and learning more about jump rope, and also us being able to give back to the community and learn more about [the Dance Marathon] organization," Long said.

The jump ropers performed toward the end of the marathon — when the dancers were getting tired from being on their feet all day. Still, the team encouraged the audience to clap along.

"I just love performing and sharing jump rope as a whole, because I think it's such a joy-filled skill or sport," Audrey Isaacs, a member of the team, said.

The dance marathon raised \$228,223.94 for the N.C. Children's Hospital. While raising support and funds, the marathon also united dancers, singers and athletes through the love of performance and support for their communities.

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REVIEW

# Spring fashion at UNC is what you make of it

Here are the four key takeaways from outfits around campus

By Nadia Jefferson  
Senior Writer

If you are anything like me, the idea of a new season's fashion can be overwhelming. With trends circulating and the weather constantly fluctuating, it's hard to stay up to date with what to wear. So, I went around the UNC campus to look for inspiration from my fellow students. This is what I learned.

**1. A cool shoe can elevate an already-fire outfit.**

I spotted Rafeal Edgerton, a junior exchange student from England, wearing long dark-wash jean shorts, a white button-down tucked in to show a brown belt, a black bandana and seemingly plain white and black Converse. However, these Converse were beautifully designed and painted by fellow student Alivia Weum. Weum creates unique, hand-painted necklaces, and she painted these shoes for Edgerton upon request.

With a blue ocean background peppered with black sharks, these hand-painted Converse went perfectly with Edgerton's outfit. The combination of the white button-down and fresh kicks made this an ideal spring outfit, catching my eye immediately.

I learned from these shoes that you don't always need to buy what's trending or popular



DTH/NADIA JEFFERSON  
First-year Livia Benson's denim bag sits next to her on Polk Place on Friday.

— unique shoes, especially ones handmade by a fellow student, are better, more sustainable and personal than anything you can buy in a store or online.

**2. You can put accessories in your hair! It's ok.**

I was Quad-sitting — a fitting colloquial term for sitting on the Quad — and out of the corner of my eye, I saw a flash of white in blonde hair. I immediately walked over to a group of girls sitting on a blanket, and upon closer inspection, I noticed that the white flash was, in fact, two lace ribbons in first-

year Jess Fedo's hair. I typically stick with the same accessories — chunky and layered silver jewelry — and I haven't worn hair ribbons or accessories in years. However, Fedo inspired me to bring back my barrettes.

A hair accessory is the perfect complement and already something I have sitting around collecting dust, so I can accessorize and elevate my outfits for free!

**3. A bag is everyone's best friend.**

Looking around campus, I couldn't help but notice that almost everyone has a cool school bag or purse.



DTH/NADIA JEFFERSON  
Seniors Clark Sutphin and Mason Roth sit on a bench on Friday.

It could be an outfit matching a crossbody tote as seen on seniors Clark Sutphin and Mason Roth. Or a denim bag, such as first-year Livia Benson's, or the chic red briefcase I saw first-year Joseph Cuello carrying. A cool school tote works with any outfit.

I use the same school bag, but unfortunately, it's quite large and a little boring. So, I'm knitting a lined, granny square tote bag for my new school bag, inspired by all the unique bags I see on campus.

And the most important lesson I learned is:

**4. Spring Fashion doesn't have a true definition.**

Whether it's the brown boots, shorts and cool top combo I saw seniors Lynnlee Little and Morgan



DTH/NADIA JEFFERSON  
Senior Natalie Travis (middle) stands with juniors Rodrigo Roque-Hernandez (right) and Theo Edmond (left) on Polk Place on Friday.

Wilson wearing, or a simple t-shirt, a pair of shorts and flip-flops like I spotted sophomore Reece Brigman sporting, a spring outfit can be anything you want.

Other overall fire outfits I saw include those worn by senior Natalie Travis, junior Rodrigo Roque-Hernandez and junior Theo Edmond.

You don't always need to buy new things or constantly wonder if your outfit is perfect for the new season. Try new things, accessorize or even commission student artists to make you new pieces, whatever it is, wear whatever makes you most comfortable and happy — that's what I've learned.

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## Spring 2026 Phi Beta Kappa Initiates



- Erika Katriina Allison — Neuroscience
- Tiantian Bai — Biology
- Kayla Basinger — Exercise and Sport Science
- Kendall Smalley Beason — Economics / Political Science
- Lily Anne Bertlshofer — Environmental Science
- Jack Connor Blankenbaker — Physics
- Kendall Jenna Cannon — Biology
- Albert Carlson — History / Public Policy
- Shiwon Chang — Neuroscience
- Tara Yang Chen — Philosophy / History
- Amelia Yubin Cho — Psychology
- Lev Hillel Cohen — Public Policy
- Lily Victoria Contre — Psychology / Linguistics
- Michael Royce Cummings — Biology
- Ethan Curb — Economics / Political Science
- Chetan Rajesh Daswani — Biomedical Engineering
- Caroline Leigh Davis — Chemistry
- Lyn Dias — Neuroscience
- Michael Robert Ditillo — Economics / Statistics
- Isabel Ebin — Economics / Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
- Ari Alexander Etin — Economics / Psychology
- Michael Farrell — Psychology / English and Comparative Literature
- Owen Daniel Fay — Biochemistry / Chinese
- Katherine Olivia Fiore — History / Public Policy
- Macy Elizabeth Floyd — Political Science / Global Studies
- Kathleen Cooper Fort — Computer Science
- Gabriel Martin Franzi — Physics / Philosophy
- Sunhee J Frecker — Peace, War, and Defense / Economics
- Robert D. Gaines — Sociology / History
- Erickson Douglas Gilliam — Communication Studies / English
- Eliana Rachel Halivni — History / Sports Administration
- Whitney Elizabeth Hall — Public Policy / Economics
- Gray Elizabeth Hamby — History / Environmental Studies
- Lauren Catherine Hamilton — Political Science / English
- Marissa Belle Harper — Music / Political Science
- Vivian Jia Jun Huang — Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures / Medical Anthropology
- Sawyer Husain — Public Policy / Geography
- Hudson Thomas Iannacone — Economics

- Vanessa Michelle Ibarra — Psychology
- Adesiwa Igbinigie — Biology
- Michael Jaberi — Economics
- Christian Andrew Jahnel — Computer Science / Statistics and Analytics
- Zongyue Jia — Mathematics / Statistics and Analytics
- Ewan Davis Jones — Romance Studies
- William Cooper Jones — Data Science / Political Science
- Tushar Joshi — Neuroscience
- Avery Elizabeth Keen — Political Science / Psychology
- Jack Kendall — Neuroscience / Psychology
- Ford Kerr Khoudary — Physics / Mathematics
- Kate Killian — Neuroscience / Data Science
- Catherine Eugenie Kim — Chemistry / Mathematics
- David Wynne Kipp — Biomedical Engineering
- Simon Kodack — Biology
- Olu Namdi Kopano — Global Studies
- Mariah Noelle Kurtovic — Chemistry
- Grace Ella Laskowsky — Psychology / Political Science
- Emma Lau — Biology
- Marvin Lee — Public Policy / Peace, War, and Defense
- Raife Addison Levy — Biology / English and Comparative Literature
- Emma Lewis — Public Policy
- Yanpei Li — Information and Library Science / Biology
- Kylie Anne Limerick — Chemistry
- Thomas Liu — Biology
- Andrew Luke Longo — Linguistics
- Tony Luo — Mathematics / Philosophy
- Langdon Mainert Luther — Economics / Political Science
- Madhura Manjunath — Neuroscience
- Arian Parikh Mehrotra — Business Administration / Biology
- Jackson Elliott Mills — History / Political Science
- Micah John Morse — English and Comparative Literature
- Kelsey Jean Mueller — Global Studies / Asian Studies
- Maya Ann Musselman — Philosophy / Sociology
- Landon Norris — Public Policy / Environmental Studies
- Elias Larson North — History / American Studies
- Kishori Villars Patel — Peace, War, and Defense / Public Policy
- Sarah Ponseti — Biology
- Samya Pottlapalli — Computer Science

- Jiayi Qiu — Computer Science / Economics
- William Edward Ratliffe, III — Statistics and Analytics / Economics
- Julianne Ramsey Reynolds — Biology
- Noa Kathleen Roxborough — Global Studies
- Samuel T. Salam — Exercise and Sport Science / Economics
- Mary Christina Salyards — Sociology / English
- Siddharth Sankaranarayanan — Chemistry / Music
- Caroline Faith Selinger — Political Science
- Shea Seufert — Philosophy / History
- Tucker Carstan Shank — Political Science
- Abigail Cait Shannon — Psychology / Medical Anthropology
- Emma Kate Sherrill — Public Policy / Environmental Studies
- Sophia Doeyeon Shin — Political Science / English and Comparative Literature
- Alyna Brooke Sigel — Public Policy
- Ankit Singh — Chemistry
- Minzheng Song — Computer Science / Statistics and Analytics
- Coleman Stephens — Biomedical Engineering
- Mathias Alexander Robert Strother — Neuroscience
- Carli Susanne Swisher — Environmental Studies
- Katherine Kelly Taylor — Biology
- Maggie Motes Thornton — Environmental Studies
- Bella Vandersall — Public Policy / Economics
- Sarah VanHorn — History / Global Studies
- Gayatri Venkatesan — Neuroscience
- Davis Avery Walker — Biomedical Engineering
- Chenxi Wang — Mathematics / Biology
- Gefei Wang — History / Political Science
- Manchen Wang — Psychology / Philosophy
- Liam Joakim Westberg — Physics / Contemporary European Studies
- Ali Thomas White — Biomedical Engineering
- Charles Rockwell Wilt — Statistics
- Grace Marian Wolf — Economics
- Boshen Yang — Computer Science / Statistics and Analytics
- Yizhe Yang — Statistics and Analytics / Biology
- Esther Yu — Physics
- Hang Yu — Physics / Mathematics
- Kyna Lisette Cortez Zaldivar — Biology
- Molly Zolotor — Environmental Science

# Sports

## The Daily Tar Heel

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Despite loss, Indya Nivar had career night against UConn

The standout senior guard scored 20 of UNC's 42 points

By Alexandra Jones  
Assistant Sports Editor

FORT WORTH, Texas — Indya Nivar walked out of the UNC locker room alongside Nyla Harris and head coach Courtney Banghart.

She wiped her eyes as she made her way towards the postgame press conference for the last time. Reality set in.

"A lot of emotions. I haven't really been able to process them all, but just really proud of my teammates, my sisters," Nivar said.

Harris sitting to her left, Banghart to her right and all her teammates still in the locker room all said the same about the senior guard:

The Indya that everyone saw Friday is the Indya they see every day. She deserves all the praise.

"I'm so proud of her," Harris said.

UNC women's basketball's role model and rock solid leader, quiet in words, but loud in her actions on the court, had a long-awaited breakout game on Friday evening. Nivar recorded a career-high 20 points, plus eight rebounds, in No. 4 seed North Carolina's 63-42 loss to No. 1 overall seed UConn at Dickies Arena in the Sweet 16. Despite the loss, Nivar stuffed the stat sheet and kept her team in the game on Friday evening, showing why she was chosen to lead this North Carolina team against the toughest of opponents.

The senior guard was responsible for almost half of UNC's 42 points and was the lone Tar Heel in double figures. Shooting woes plagued the game — North Carolina made just 17 field goals all game. Nivar made eight of them.

She played a team-high 37 minutes against the Huskies — nearly 18 times the minutes Nivar was getting upon arrival in Chapel Hill. Her sophomore year, after transferring from Stanford, UNC faced then-No. 1 South Carolina. Nivar played just two minutes the whole game.

Banghart pulled her in and told the harsh truth:

"Listen, this is not how it's going to go, but this is where you are," Banghart said. "You've got to get better."

She could've walked away. She could've given up.

A lot of people would have.

Instead, she trusted the coaching staff and leaned into her own authentic journey. Nivar wasn't always easy to coach along the way, Banghart said, because she got in her own way. They had to work together to squash any doubt she had in herself so she could shine.

In the locker room after the game, Nivar thanked Banghart for what she had done for her.

"That's how it's supposed to be, right? That you coach a kid that means as much to you as you mean to them," Banghart said.

Before the two walked out of the locker room together, Harris told Nivar that playing with her really pushes her as a player to step up and be better in times when she feels like she could relax.

But as recently as a year ago, Nivar never thought she would be in this role.

Last season, she was surrounded by four upperclassmen: three seniors and then-sophomore guard Reniya Kelly. Banghart knew the next year's team would look vastly different and Nivar would be surrounded by talented, but young, players.



DTH FILE/AMANDA KIRKPATRICK

UNC senior guard Indya Nivar (24) looks for a pass during the game against Clemson on Feb. 5.

So she looked to Nivar to fulfill one last role before she left.

"Now I'm going to force you to lead," Banghart said. "I've asked you to do everything else, I haven't asked you to lead and now I need you to lead."

Nivar looked at her in doubt. That's not what she wanted to do. She's not the most naturally vocal person, sophomore guard Lanie Grant said, but she knew the young team needed it, so she stepped into the role anyways. Even if it was uncomfortable.

And she did it in her own authentic way, which was on full display on Friday. But she never stopped talking to her team on the court. Even when the Huskies went up by double digits.

After UConn went on a 12-0 run to begin the second half, Grant kept looking at Nivar, who was always calm and stoic — never rattled. It was the same message every time.

"Next play, let's go," Nivar said. "Just keep going, one play at a time."

Grant described Nivar's leadership as magnetic. A style that pulls the best out of everyone.

Harris, next to Nivar after the game, had a similar assessment: Her energy is contagious. The way she carries herself is contagious.

"I think having a player like that on your team, you need that, because it ignites everything else for the rest of the team," Harris said. "Makes everybody else want to do the same thing."

And this contagious energy kept North Carolina in the game on Friday. Five minutes into the game, Nivar elevated for a soaring block against UConn's KK Arnold. Seconds later she was racing through the defense and converting to give UNC a 7-6 lead.

Nivar was all over the court. She fought and fought to keep the Tar Heels in it with 11 points in the first half. It stood out from any offense she had played throughout the season. But her teammates weren't surprised.

"I'm just so glad everyone else got to see it as well, because that's Indya we see all the time," redshirt sophomore forward Ciera Toomey said.

And the Indya they see all the time never fails to make the team laugh, but is also there to help through hard times. Since she had experienced so much in her career, Nivar was always willing to just sit and listen or give insight when needed.

Toomey saw her friend group come together when Nivar and Harris led them to beat Duke on senior night. She reflected on the

endless trips out to eat together, getting to know her in both spaces, knowing how special she is — not only as a teammate.

"I've gained one of my best friends in life, you know," Toomey said, trailing off in tears.

Grant will miss whenever Nivar

comes over to her and chest bumps her after an and-1 play. Sophomore guard Elina Aarnisalo admired her consistent positivity and work ethic every day.

The clock ticked down and Nivar converted for UNC's last score of the game. An and-1.

As Nivar subbed out of the game with 39 seconds left, down 63-42, her and Harris went down the line and hugged each person. Her hug with Banghart dwelled a little longer than after last week's game against Maryland.

In the postgame press conference, Nivar echoed how proud she was of the team staying together, even through a game where UConn ran away with it.

"I'm just very proud and I hope they can build off this next year," Nivar said.

Nivar helped deliver the team to back-to-back top 4 seeds and Sweet 16s.

She gave everything she had on Friday to try and deliver them further. Every drive to the basket she bullied through contact. Every 50-50 ball she dove for. And every time her teammates fell, she was right there to pick them back up.

Banghart told her team in the locker room it's a good life lesson when you give something everything you have, and when you have enough courage to tell the world how important it is to you, usually things work out.

They sure did for Nivar. "Her growth and I think her leadership this year, I'm not sure it could happen to a better kid," Banghart said.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Shooting struggles, turnovers plague North Carolina in loss

Continued from Page 3

of the NCAA Tournament at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, on Friday. UNC's season concluded in the Sweet 16 for the third consecutive season after notching a season-high 24 turnovers and shooting 4-for-22 from deep.

Sophomore guard Lanie Grant couldn't help but sarcastically chuckle when digesting her stat line.

"You know it's bad when you have more turnovers than rebounds and assists and points," Grant said, laughing. "Everybody on [UConn's] roster is elite defensively."

Over UNC's two outings last weekend, she combined for 35 points and just four turnovers. But against the Huskies, Grant — along with many of her teammates — struggled immensely. The three starting guards, Grant, Elina Aarnisalo and senior Indya Nivar all combined for 15 turnovers. Grant and Aarnisalo went 2-for-19 from the field.

The shortcomings were binary. North Carolina tallied a season high in turnovers, and according to head coach Courtney Banghart, UConn forced those giveaways. The shooting woes, though, were not for a lack of good opportunities. The Tar Heels just couldn't convert, shooting a season-low 28.3 percent from the field and draining just 17 field goals all game.

"The turnovers are mostly a function of their ball pressure," Banghart said. "But the 3-point shots are not sped up because they're unguarded. And so you just have to shoot better in a game like this."

The Huskies have the top-ranked scoring defense in the country. UNC faced the other three No. 1 seeds — South Carolina, Texas and UCLA — to begin this season. But the intensity that UConn brought was miles beyond anything North Carolina had seen.

"They really execute their stuff with a really high level," sophomore guard Elina Aarnisalo said. "And we couldn't match that."

The Tar Heels were tasked with breaking a full-court man-to-man press every time they inbounded the ball, and their ball-handlers

consistently struggled to break that pressure.

Those live-ball giveaways led to easy buckets for the Huskies. Rinse and repeat.

"I've said it all year, there's no defense for a turnover," Banghart said.

Despite 11 turnovers in the first half, UNC only trailed by 8 points at the break due to an incredible defensive start. North Carolina held the Huskies to their own season-low 28 points in the first 20 minutes.

The score implied the Tar Heels were in striking distance. But the stats and execution — paired with one of UConn's worst halves of the season — said otherwise.

And it all unraveled in the third quarter.

The Tar Heels wore down from the constant duress, going scoreless for the opening 5:38 of the third quarter. The struggles that UNC advertised in the first half ballooned out of control.

North Carolina suffered six turnovers in the period, even after trying to be stronger with the ball in the second half. And when open looks came, they didn't go in.

Nothing was working.

Suddenly, that underdog mentality that UNC flashed in the opening minutes went stale.

"To beat a team like this, you have to be really good. You have to make your open shots. You have to take care of the basketball," Banghart said. "And we didn't do that."

UNC shot 11.8 percent from the field in the third quarter, tying a season low for points in a quarter with five.

After that momentary lead in the middle of the second period, North Carolina was outscored 52-30. The 42-point output is the lowest of the season.

In a matchup that demanded near perfection, the Tar Heels fell well short. After an up-and-down season that Banghart deemed a success postgame, it was the simplest fundamental that eventually buried UNC.

"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket tonight," Grant said.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Marcus Paige departs program for assistant job at UNC Charlotte



DTH FILE/AVA SHARON

UNC assistant coach Marcus Paige cheers during the men's basketball game against Kentucky on Dec. 2, 2025, at Rupp Arena.

Former Tar Heel and assistant coach joins Wes Miller's staff

By Matthew Maynard  
Sports Editor

and Ava Sharon  
Deputy Photo Editor

Marcus Paige, a UNC men's basketball assistant coach, is leaving the program and will join the coaching staff at UNC Charlotte. His departure comes after the firing of former head coach Hubert Davis last Tuesday.

Paige joined Davis' staff three years ago as director of player and team development before making the jump to assistant coach in 2024.

Paige played at North Carolina from 2012-16, racking up 1,844 points, 299 3-pointers and 602 assists. The star point guard was a first-team All-ACC selection and second team All-America in his sophomore year.

After he graduated, Paige played professional basketball in both the NBA and G League before continuing his career overseas.

He joins Wes Miller, who was announced as the UNC Charlotte head coach on March 23. Miller also played college basketball for North Carolina under Roy Williams from 2004-07.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETICS

UNC sophomore guard Elina Aarnisalo (17) dribbles the ball during the Sweet 16 game against UConn at Dickies Arena on Friday.

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## The highs and lows of Hubert Davis' coaching career

Key moments that defined the UNC head coach's tenure

By Beckett Brantley  
Assistant Sports Editor

and Alexandra Jones  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Hubert Davis era at North Carolina is over. And it was a rollercoaster, to say the least.

Five seasons later, it's time to reflect on the ups and downs the program has gone through since Roy Williams retired in 2021.

Here are four highlights and four pitfalls of Davis' time at the helm of UNC men's basketball:

### Highs

#### Beating Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium in head coach Mike Krzyzewski's last home game and in the 2022 Final Four

The unranked Tar Heels stormed into Cameron Indoor Stadium on March 5, 2022, and secured a monumental 94-81 upset over the No. 4 Blue Devils in Davis' first season as head coach for his first career top-five win.

Davis' opening regular season finale spoiled Krzyzewski's final home game in Durham.

And they did it again less than a month later, in Krzyzewski's true final game of his retirement tour. The rivalry returned for the third time that season, and for the first time in the NCAA Tournament, and the Tar Heels came out on top again.

Behind 28 points from former guard Caleb Love and a 3-pointer with 25 seconds left, UNC rallied to an 81-77 win to upset the No. 2-seeded Blue Devils.

#### 2022 Championship game run as an 8-seed

The once-in-a-lifetime Final Four win against Duke was just one piece of a larger historic run.

Entering the 2022 tournament as an 8 seed, the Tar Heels easily blew past Marquette in the first round but then faced the defending national champions, Baylor. Even after blowing a 25-point lead in the second half, UNC rallied behind RJ Davis' career-high 30 points to defeat the Bears, 93-86, in overtime.

Love carried North Carolina to a nailbiting 73-66 victory over UCLA in the Sweet 16 to face No. 15-seeded St. Peter's in the Elite 8. UNC took care of business against Cinderella to meet rival Duke in the Final Four for one of the most monumental wins in program history.

North Carolina's journey ended in the national championship game, but after downing the 2021 national champions and grabbing a second rivalry win in the process.

#### 18-0 at home this season

For the first time since winning the 2017 national championship, North Carolina went undefeated at the Dean E. Smith Center in the 2025-26 season.

The impressive feat included wins over blue bloods Kansas and Duke, where the Tar Heels faced halftime deficits in both but were able to rally in the second half to keep a zero in the loss column.

Even more telling, North Carolina accomplished this despite injuries to key players like Seth Trimble, Caleb Wilson and Henri Veesaar.

#### Recruiting success

Davis boasted massive recruiting success from both high school and the portal during his time at North Carolina.



Former UNC head coach Hubert Davis cuts the net after North Carolina won the East Regional on March 27, 2022.

From the portal, Davis was able to acquire Brady Manek in the head coach's debut season, then Cormac Ryan and Harrison Ingram two seasons later. This season, he recruited UNC standout center Veesaar from Arizona, a crucial piece down the stretch for the Tar Heels, especially after injuries struck.

His resume from a high school recruiting standpoint was excellent, securing commitments from top-ranked players like Elliot Cadeau, Ian Jackson and Drake Powell in his third and fourth seasons. Ahead of this season, he gained a commitment from consensus top-10 prospect Caleb Wilson, who lived up to his potential before his season was cut short due to a broken thumb.

UNC's 2026-27 recruiting class includes top-25 recruits Dylan Mingo and Maximo Adams, although their commitments might be in question with the coaching change.

### Lows

#### Loss to VCU in 2026 NCAA Tournament first round

Losing to 11 seed VCU in the first round of the NCAA Tournament evidently canceled out an 18-0 home record and the impact of the loss of likely top-5 NBA Draft pick Caleb Wilson.

The 6-seeded Tar Heels gave up a 19-point lead last week, losing 82-78 in overtime to bow out of the tournament in the first round for the second year in a row.

After wins over Kansas, Kentucky and Duke, it seemed as though Davis had earned another year, but the loss to the Rams a year after a loss to Ole Miss brought on *deja vu*.

#### Losing to Kansas in 2022 National Championship

The 72-69 loss to Kansas in the 2022 National Championship wasn't the worst loss of the Davis era, but as the finale to an improbable 8-seed run, it immediately became one of the biggest "what ifs" in UNC basketball history.

Leading by 15 at halftime against the 1-seeded Jayhawks, it seemed that the Tar Heels would seal the deal in

Davis' first season after closing an average season strong and beating Duke in the final game of the season and in the Final Four. Instead, UNC squandered the biggest lead in national championship history.

If UNC had held on, the conversation about Davis might be much different, but shooting struggles in the second half dashed the dream for a talented but shallow team.

#### Missing the NCAA Tournament in 2022-23 as the preseason No. 1

The come down from the national title game never truly ended. UNC was named the preseason No. 1 with a slightly less talented rotation, but the crop of transfer and first-year recruits never truly gelled with the four returning starters.

Missed opportunities, inconsistency and defensive trouble warped the season into an embarrassing blemish early in Davis' head coaching career.

North Carolina went 11-9 in conference play — including two losses to Duke — and lost to Virginia in the quarterfinal of the ACC Tournament. It became the first Preseason No. 1 to miss the NCAA Tournament.

#### 2024-2025 Duke Sweep

The UNC-Duke games stand alone from the season, rivalry-induced fervor pushing the Tar Heels to improbable wins. But rarely does UNC lose to Duke three times in one season.

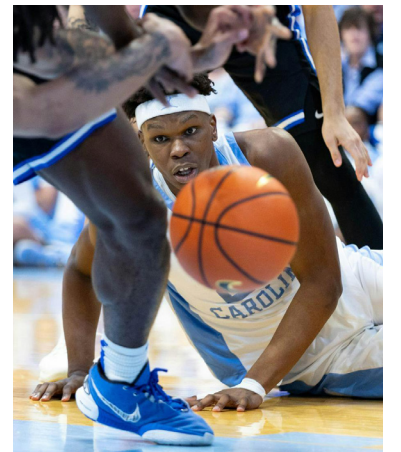
The first game in Cameron Indoor last season was never close. UNC held on a little longer in the Dean E. Smith Center, but that game was effectively over by halftime. When the infamous lane violation by Jae'Lyn Withers on a potential game-tying free throw led to a 74-71 loss in the semifinal of the ACC Tournament, Duke completed the 3-0 sweep for the first time since 2002.

Rivalry bragging rights are as important as anything for the perception of the head coach at North Carolina, and those three losses stuck out as an emblem of what was otherwise a mediocre season.



DTH FILE/EMMA PLUMLY

Former first-year forward Drake Powell (9) watches a free throw on Jan. 15, 2025. Powell was selected 22nd overall in the 2025 NBA Draft.



DTH FILE/CONNOR RUESCH

Former junior forward Ven-Allen Lubin (22) goes for the ball during the game against Duke on March 8, 2025. UNC lost 82-69.



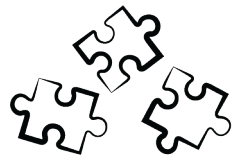
DTH FILE/HELEN MCGINNIS

Former junior forward Armando Bacot (5) dunks the ball at the game against Duke at Cameron Stadium on March 5, 2022. UNC won 94-81.

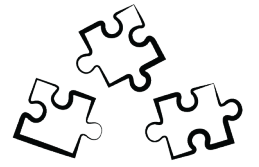


DTH FILE/IRA WILDER

Former sophomore guard RJ Davis (4) cries after the NCAA championship loss to Kansas in New Orleans on Monday, April 4, 2022. UNC lost 72-69.



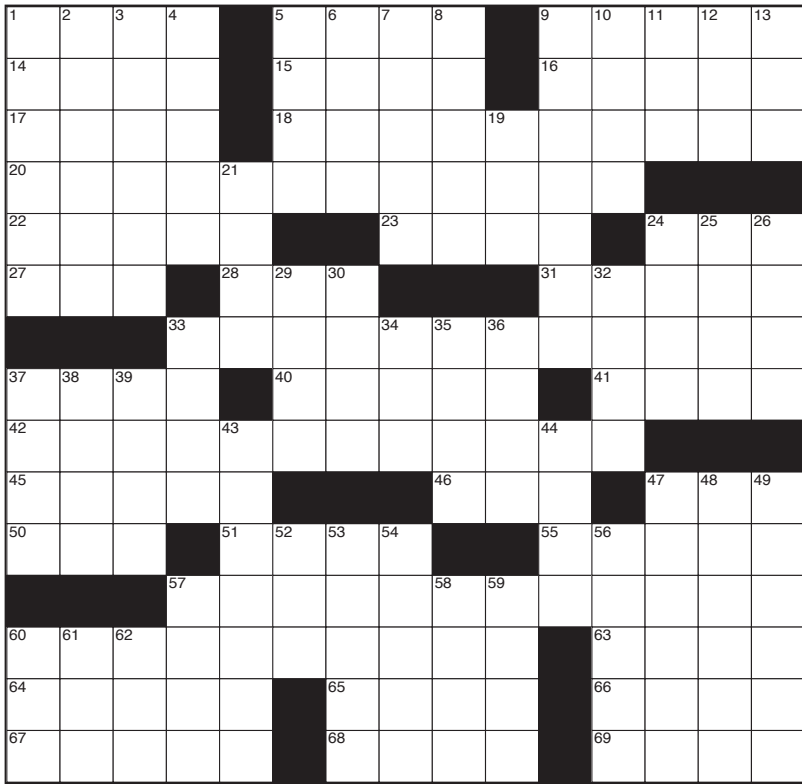
# FUN 'N' GAMES



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### “Sir, Yes Sir”

This week’s puzzle was created by DTH Crossword Editor Brigit Pierce and DTH Enterprise Editor Aidan Lockhart.

**ACROSS**

- 1) Big dipper?
- 5) Dutch cheese variety
- 9) Formal decrees
- 14) Steak sauce brand
- 15) Car logo with four interlocking circles
- 16) Disorder often treated with a CPAP machine
- 17) It's frequent and it isn't mean
- 18) Someone with their head in the clouds
- 20) \*\* Nether regions, or a low-ranking soldiers reporting for doody
- 22) Zealous
- 23) Drive-\_\_\_\_\_
- 24) The ACC's Cavaliers
- 27) P in the Greek alphabet
- 28) Sticky substance
- 31) Shenanigan
- 33) \*\* Binding promise, or a military officer who swears a lot
- 37) Iranian ruler overthrown in 1979
- 40) Apt name for a baby born on Christmas
- 41) It's around a foot?
- 42) \*\* Mom-and-pop shop, or a high-ranking officer wearing tags
- 45) Not here
- 46) Zeta follower
- 47) Lil' dog
- 50) Leave something in stitches?
- 51) Look shocked
- 55) True alternative
- 57) \*\* Big time ball player, or a serviceman who's always on a base
- 60) Rule
- 63) 47-across sounds
- 64) Zora \_\_\_\_\_ Hurston (author of "Their Eyes Were Watching God")
- 65) Super Bowl highlight, for some
- 66) Second largest Hawaiian island
- 67) Cold ones are caused by herpes
- 68) "All My \_\_\_\_\_," Arthur Miller play
- 69) Jazzy Fitzgerald

**DOWN**

- 1) Tent sleeper
- 2) "Yay!"
- 3) Visible light between 420-450 nanometers
- 4) Annoy
- 5) Middle \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Trick
- 7) Become accustomed (to)
- 8) Green Bay linebacker Parsons
- 9) Not 55-across
- 10) High hops content beers
- 11) Additionally
- 12) Top type
- 13) Day on which college football is usually played, abbr.
- 19) Forget to turn the stove off, e.g.
- 21) Jason's ship
- 24) Salt Lake State
- 25) Don Corleone
- 26) Dull pain
- 29) Apex predator sometimes referred to as "blackfish"
- 30) National gemstone of Australia
- 32) Sniffer
- 33) "Moonstruck" Oscar winner

- 34) Hosp. locales
- 35) Repetitive learning
- 36) Tons
- 37) Three-stripe rank, abbr.
- 38) Giggle, in texts
- 39) Fresh
- 43) Provides entertainment
- 44) Tennis's Nadal, to fans
- 47) Like many words ending in "s"
- 48) Of value
- 49) Old name for Iran
- 52) 1977 Steely Dan album
- 53) Pepper \_\_\_\_\_ (Iron Man's love interest)
- 54) "Wicked" actress Cynthia
- 56) Best effort
- 57) Moscow \_\_\_\_\_
- 58) Lend
- 59) Finishes
- 60) Hospital workers found in 35-d
- 61) Want ad abbr.
- 62) Long-nosed fish

Got questions about the crossword? Send us an email at [crossword@dailytarheel.com](mailto:crossword@dailytarheel.com)

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

		6					1	7
5				1				
				5	9	8		
								5
2			8	6				1
1								4
	8	9	7	2				
				3		2		9
6	2					4		

## Horoscopes



Today's Birthday: April 1, 2026

Your whole life, you've been treated like a joke. 'Tis the burden of all those born on April Fools' Day — never to be taken seriously. But that's about to change. A project or goal you've been working toward is about to be completed, and all those around you will be in awe. This is your year. Go big, or go home.

**ARIES**, today is a 4 — They're just not that into you. You should try the new UNC student dating app, Anchor. You'll be asked about your childhood trauma. Isn't that romantic?

**TAURUS**, today is a 3 — Hubert Davis may be out of a job, but you certainly aren't. A lucrative offer is coming your way. Just be patient.

**GEMINI**, today is a 9 — Be careful where you sit today; there's pollen EVERYWHERE (and other substances too). You don't want to ruin your outfit.

**CANCER**, today is a 2 — Call your mom. She misses you.

**LEO**, today is a 6 — Full moons bring out the crazy, and there's a full moon tomorrow. Expect a character from three seasons ago to send you a text out of the blue. Will the moon bring out the crazy in you too?

**VIRGO**, today is a 10 — DO NOT drink that tequila. You will make poor choices if you do.

**LIBRA**, today is a 3 — Good luck is coming your way. Trust the process. In the meantime, get yourself a fun beverage.

**SCORPIO**, today is a 4 — It can't get any worse. Take solace knowing it's only up from here.

**SAGITTARIUS**, today is a 7 — Buy some flowers at Trader Joe's to surprise someone you love. And buy some for yourself too. Simple joys will keep you going this week.

**CAPRICORN**, today is a 6 — Drink some water. That's why you have a headache.

**AQUARIUS**, today is a 9 — You're about to have the best day of your life. And if you play your cards right, you might even get a ride on Lee Roberts' golf cart.

**PISCES**, today is a 3 — You need to get some fresh air. Too much time indoors is making you go stir crazy. Go on a long walk, and when you return, you'll feel so much more productive.

Answers to last week's sudoku:

6	2	8	5	1	9	7	3	4
5	4	3	2	6	7	8	9	1
7	1	9	3	8	4	6	2	5
4	9	6	7	2	3	1	5	8
3	7	5	1	4	8	9	6	2
2	8	1	9	5	6	4	7	3
9	6	2	8	3	1	5	4	7
1	3	7	4	9	5	2	8	6
8	5	4	6	7	2	3	1	9

Answers to "Open Enrollment"

T	R	I	P	S	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E
G	U	E	S	T	P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E
I	N	D	I	A	T	O	D	O	L	I	S	T
F	T	S	T	I	L	T	E	R	S	O	S	O
	L	I	S		R	I	B					
F	A	C	E	C	A	R	D	S	O	C	H	I
A	R	E	A	A	P	E	X	B	E	A	S	T
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	C	A	R	O	L	I
T	O	T	E	M	S	A	N	E	E	T	A	S
N	O	D	U	H	L	S	D	T	R	I	P	S
		S	I	T		I	V					
M	M	D	C	T	R	O	O	P	S	S	E	W
D	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D	E	L	I	T
M	A	M	A	T	R	I	E	D	T	U	N	A
A	D	V	I	S	I	N	G	S	M	E	L	T

The Daily Tar Heel is now accepting community crossword submissions!

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# Opinion

## The Daily Tar Heel

SATIRE

# New AI chancellor drops: ChatGPLee

By Margeaux Pierson  
Columnist

Chancellor Lee Roberts made the executive decision to transform himself and the rest of UNC's administration into a team of ChatGPT bots, fittingly named ChatGPLee. Research from the new "School of AI" and support from OpenAI's Sam Altman have fully funded these innovations.

Roberts will be taking his job to the next level as he takes a backseat from his room on Banwa Private Island and lets ChatGPLee take the wheel. UNC administrative officers were told to go home and be with their families for a little while, as the new administration essentially took the form of Karen from "SpongeBob SquarePants."

Recently, Roberts had a meeting with budget and financial analysts where they asked Chat for a helping hand. An anonymous source showed us the conversation:

"How can we optimize productivity without actually doing anything while also cutting costs?" human Roberts typed in.

Chat followed with four sections — outlining where Roberts had



DTH DESIGN/LYDIA CHEN

been absent and how he could further salvage his reputation by disengaging with the University.

However, Chat concluded the generated bullet lists with an intriguing question in the Chancellor's Oval Office:

"Have you considered replacing yourself?" Chat queried.

It also offered another suggestion: to increase the amount of classes offered,

UNC will have ChatGProfessors. Attendance will still, of course, be in person and mandatory; only the professor will be AI.

Classes in the School of AI have revolved around building AI models for ChatGPLee and ChatGProfessors. These students are not only learning how to construct the tool of the future — each also has their own personal Chat assistant to

help with their research and think critically for them.

As UNC expands this area of innovation, each student will have their own personal ChatGPLee by the end of 2026. However, until those assistants are developed, all students are strongly recommended to utilize their University-provided Claude Cwork membership.

Students have also been heavily encouraged to switch their major and apply for the School of AI — a highly selective program admitting 99.99 percent of applicants. The school is expanding rapidly, despite their rigorous courses and demanding requirements.

Undergraduate researchers are also working with ChatGPLee to replace advisers and the admissions office. When prospective students and family call the admissions office, they are even directed to an AI voice that imitates Roberts himself.

Other times, it surprises callers with an impression of Rameses. Callers are rarely directed to real people — it is almost never necessary, as these AI bots are extremely advanced and in

tune with responding to callers' human needs.

Students and professors (the real ones) alike are very excited about this development. They recognize the need to learn to use AI before AI learns to use them.

Similar to high school students being allowed to use Desmos on online ACT examinations, UNC students will be allowed to use ChatGPLee during any of their exams. ChatGPLee will essentially have all the same features as GPT, but it will be advanced to reflect Roberts' unfathomable intelligence and supreme moral values.

Recent interviews with Roberts reveal the extent of his transition into GPLee; our team was unable to reach him in person, so we liaised via his personal bot. After asking him about his plans for the future of UNC and ChatGPLee, he responded with a few paragraphs explaining how UNC was the epitome of quality, productivity and economic efficiency.

"And honestly — that's growth," ChatGPLee said.

opinion@dailytarheel.com

## DEI editors overhaul The DTH newsroom

Continued from Page 1

So, we found it necessary to hire a second DEI consultant to audit every single headline for harm, especially inflammatory ones like "Traffic blocks Franklin Street," which prompted dialogue on not misgendering vehicles. We hired a third DEI editor to audit the first two, which is simply best practice. We even commissioned an external review of our print editions for the past year after someone described the font as "a little too aggressive." The review took six weeks, cost \$20,000 and concluded that the font was fine. But, it noted that the review process itself had been a "meaningful spiritual journey for all included." We framed the report and hung it in the yurt.

The yurt, formerly our newsroom, is a decompression and intention-setting sanctuary that we are enormously proud of. Morning meditation is mandatory. Shoes are not permitted. We conduct entire meetings through interpretive movement because words, as our facilitator explains, carry inherited power structures. The staff has found it deeply nourishing. The yurt was another addition far beyond our budget, but we figured the wealth would trickle up.

Most excitingly, our editor-in-chief election on Saturday was won privately in a landslide by Zohran Mamdani — the wokest democratic socialist we could think of, and a person who has never heard of us. He has not responded to our emails, DMs or the letter we mailed to his campaign office, likely because he is very busy — as of press time, he is visiting a Catholic mass despite being a Muslim and leading a city that we

do not cover. This is exactly the kind of interfaith cross-platform energy we were looking for. We are confident he will be in touch very soon.

The Opinion section, too, has undergone quite a revolution. Having determined that editorial rejection is a form of epistemic gatekeeping, we began publishing every submission, provided it cleared our 14-page ideological alignment rubric. The rubric explains our column-writing criteria, like how any mention of centrist or right-leaning politics will be redacted. Last Wednesday's edition ran 289 pages! It included a reported investigation into whether the Davis Library elevators are a metaphor for late-stage capitalism and a counterargument to the counterargument on the counterargument of Pit Preachers.

We are so proud of everything The Daily Woke Heel completed this year. We are proud of the yurt, the audits and the reconstruction of workflow. We are most proud of the logo. We hope you are too.

We are also proud to announce that we are closed. We spent all our money on DEI efforts. We did not consider Klarna.

In an attempt to stay afloat financially, we even reached out to the University for student fees, which we haven't taken since 1993. We were soon informed that Chancellor Lee Roberts had already allocated available resources elsewhere, including, we were told, an initiative to convince Caleb Wilson to stay another year. It was a no-go.

Many have said we went "too" woke. We are currently auditing that perspective.

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SATIRE

## In loving memory of Bojangles biscuits (2003–2025)

By Mary Blake Nobles  
Editorial Board Member

On a January afternoon, a wave of anticipation overcame fans in the Dean E. Smith Center. Graduate guard RJ Davis sank a free throw to advance the Tar Heels to their 99th point in a thriller against Boston College. Just 1 point stood between them and the golden 100 that meant Bojangles biscuits were in their future. The referee passed Davis the ball. Fans' hands clapped on cue and went in the air. A brief silence transformed into a roar as Davis crossed the coveted threshold.

For a moment, time stood still. But that exhilarating overtime moment was over a year ago. If only we had known the bleak future that would come. Davis earned a number of accolades — his jersey hangs in the rafters for a reason. Yet we seldom remember the joy he brought when he gave fans biscuits for the last time.

The tradition was born in the 2003-04 season, where scoring 100 points at home meant fans could visit their local Bojangles for a free sausage biscuit. And what a wild ride they had. When we stepped on the neck of a barely-Division-I team in early nonconference play, biscuits were there. When we pulled off high-scoring performances against ACC teams, biscuits were there. And when we finally secured a win after a thrilling back-and-forth game in overtime, biscuits were there.

What was especially cherished about our time with biscuits was the opportunity to give bench players a moment in the spotlight. Subbing in when a win was guaranteed, the beloved "Biscuit Boys" would display their talents, bringing us to the sacred 100th point as fans cheered for biscuits.

For a moment this season, fans hoped that it wasn't a death, but a dormancy. When the Tar Heels hosted the East Carolina University Pirates in December, fans were led to believe an early Christmas gift



UNC 'Biscuit Boys' Creighton Lebo (left) and Duwe Farris (right) celebrate a 3-pointer made by RJ Davis on March 14, 2024.

in the form of \$1 sausage biscuits was on the way. Yet, in the name of sportsmanship, they came up 1 point shy — a high-scoring win, but a devastating blow to biscuit faithfuls.

But today, the biscuits aren't just stale, they're no longer on the shelf at all. With Hubert Davis' firing and yet another season cut far too short, fans are starved of biscuits and the hopeful feeling that accompanied them. One-hundred-point games feel like a thing of the past, not a feat that could reasonably happen.

While biscuits remained present throughout Tar Heels' lives over the last couple of decades, the partnership was not without its challenges. Just as the biscuits rose in the oven, so, too, did prices. Even when inflation tried to strain the deep bond between fans and their sausage biscuits, the excitement didn't fade. Free or \$1, fans still shouted, "We want biscuits!" when the 100-point threshold was within reach.

We will forever mourn the tenacity and lively plays that meant securing biscuits. Not only did biscuits keep fans well-fed on Bojangles, but they gave them a common cause to rally behind. Even those with no intention to visit the restaurant couldn't refuse the biscuit chant. Nor could they suppress the suspense that captivated them as the scoreboard inched closer and closer to triple digits.

It is true: the glory days of biscuits have passed. Still, we mustn't let their memory pass with them. Some day, future generations of Tar Heels will question, "How come we call bench players 'Biscuit Boys?'" It is our responsibility to respond with a chuckle and fondly reminisce about the wild days where 100-point games still happened and fans united over the prospect of a biscuit reward.

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SATIRE

# Fever points replace credit hours in new registration system

By Kriti Peechu  
Columnist

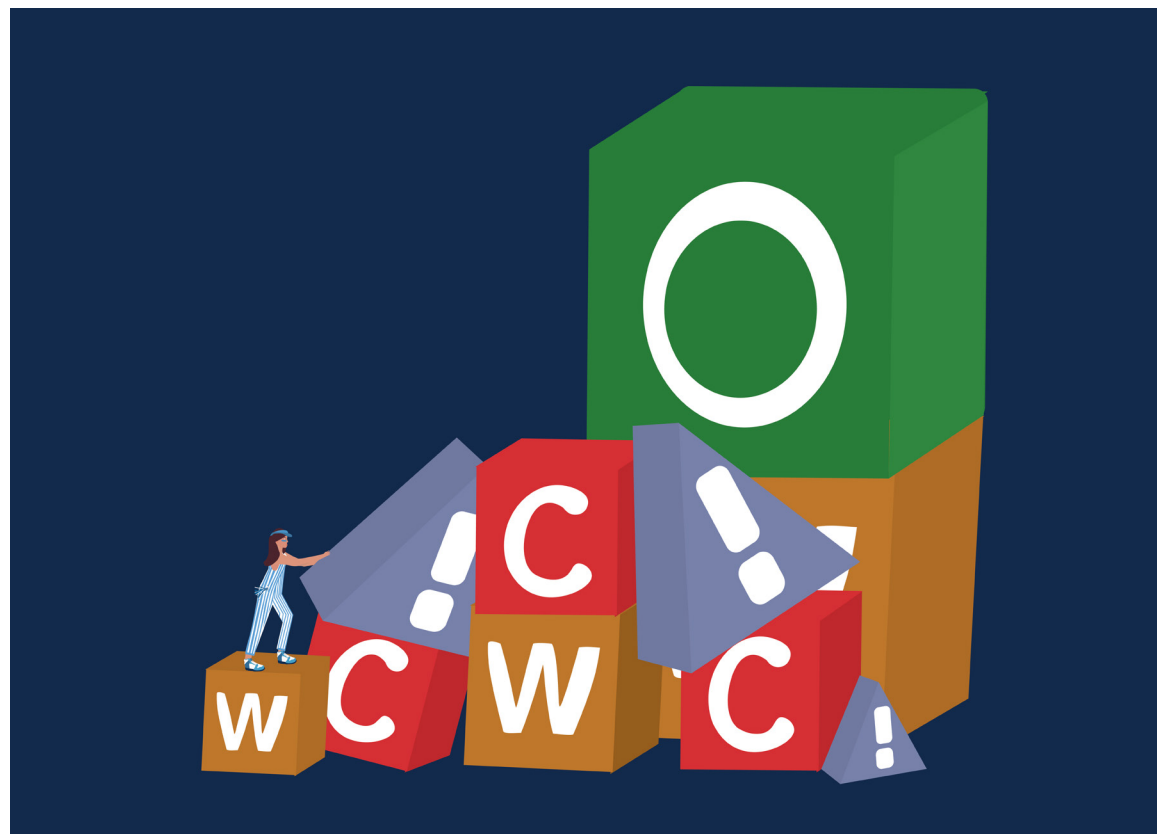
On Monday, March 30, UNC announced that beginning in fall 2026, traditional credit-based class registration will be replaced with a system based on Carolina Fever point totals.

Under this new policy, students with higher numbers of Fever points will receive earlier enrollment appointments during registration, taking precedence over students with ARS accommodations, scholarship recipients and even student-athletes themselves. The current system — which begins with a round of priority registration and then schedules students based on the number of completed credit hours — was described as “really dumb” by the Board of Trustees.

“There is no reason to offer students enrollment times based on how many credits they have,” said Chancellor Lee Roberts in a press conference that came out in tandem with the policy change announcement. “All it does is give an unfair advantage to nerds. Or, people trying to graduate on time, I guess.”

The University reasoned its new changes on the basis of “academic-athletic concordance” and “surrendering attachment to strategic course planning.”

“We know football season wasn’t the best this year,” Roberts admitted, reminiscing fondly on some of the blowout losses throughout the season. “But that’s no reason to leave in the middle of a game. Your attendance — from beginning to end of each athletic event — will directly affect your ability to escape an 8 a.m.



DTH DESIGN/ELLA HARDIN

organic chemistry lecture. Oh, don’t make those faces. It’ll be great.”

Details of the policy have been made available to students on ConnectCarolina as of Monday at 8 p.m. Going into effect on July 1, 2026, one Fever point will be given for scanning into any and every athletic event there is. An additional 500 points will be awarded to students who remain for the entire event, subject to the following conditions:

1. Students must sing the Carolina classic “I’m a Tar Heel Born”

at least once during the game, with 50 points awarded for each rendition (with a max of seven). Missing a note will result in a 10-point deduction, tracked through audio-monitoring watches distributed at the start of each game.

2. Those same watches — conveniently equipped with biometric sensors — will also track students’ heart rates to ensure a high BPM reflecting consistent enthusiasm, making another 75 points up for grabs.

3. Students can earn another 75 points for wearing Carolina Blue merch. It just must be purchased from the second floor of Student Stores, and it must be an item over \$100. Simple, really.

4. Finally, Fever Points will never reset — ever. For students who have been slacking, administrators advise preparing alternative academic plans, like swapping your planned LFIT requirement for Intro to Medieval Miming. It won’t help

you progress in your degree, but you’ll learn some handy skills when styling tunics in silence.

Most are less than thrilled by the new changes to the current beloved class registration system. One sophomore biochemistry major complained, “I’ve maxed out my credits each semester to graduate a year early, but now I’ll be spending the next two on the bleachers. God, I feel like I’m in a Taylor Swift song.”

However, not all is so doom and gloom. A cohort of Tar Heels who have attended every single athletic event during their time at Carolina is ecstatic.

“Finally,” said one student, who requested to stay anonymous in fear of being barraged by outraged juniors. “All those nights spent doing homework during men’s wrestling paid off. I didn’t get a UNC-Duke ticket this year, but at least I’ll be locked in for a spot in the elusive BUSI 100.”

Backlash from the announcement was swift on social media. Students flooded Instagram and TikTok with hashtags like #CoolTheFever and #ThisIsBillBelichick’sFault.

In response, the University Registrar officially joined the conversation, putting out a banner announcement on their website stating, “The Registrar is fully in support of the Board’s decision to center academics around athletic devotion. We believe the new changes will prepare students for real life, where institutional lunacy typically gets in the way of common sense, efficiency and fairness.”

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## Strikes launched from ‘Iron Dean Dome’

Continued from Page 1

solely on defensive — not offensive — efforts.

However, as the old adage kinda goes, the best defense is a good offense — and UNC is coming out guns blazing. Chancellor Lee Roberts has announced a lucrative \$800 million weapons contract with weapons manufacturing firm Lockheed Martin in an interview with the Carolina Review, citing the need to protect the home court from hostile neighboring universities.

Two members from the UNC System Board of Governors spoke on the condition of anonymity, stating that RTX, formerly called Raytheon Technologies, has been contracted for development on two C-RAMS to assert air control. In addition, Palantir has been tapped to utilize its defense and intelligence software Gotham to identify opponents — or even its own players — who have records of sexual misconduct or other allegations.

The United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth stated, “This might be the most technologically advanced era of basketball yet.”

To commence the Iron Dean Dome’s announcement, UNC administration launched a defensive strike against Duke University, firing 47 cruise missiles at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The results of a poll by The Daily Tar Heel show signs of discontent within UNC’s student body. In response to the question, “Does Carolina North have the right to defend itself from Duke aggression?” 46 percent answered, “No, we need the funding elsewhere for real student needs.” 33 percent answered, “Yes, but only if it can hold a second-half lead.” The remaining 21 percent said they

would rather not comment — they still need a post-grad job.

The building of the Iron Dean Dome has also gathered national attention, with Congressional Republicans and Democrats uniting to pass a bipartisan funding measure for the facility.

When asked about concerns over Carolina North’s construction potentially leading to further gentrification and displacement of Chapel Hill’s Northside residents, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries simply stated that “Carolina North has a right to exist as it was promised to UNC 86 years ago.”

Since the ruling two years ago, administration officials, using \$3.8 billion of annual aid from Congress, have effectively seized control of all games played, leaving students with less than 5 percent of total seats and 100 percent of their tuition used to fund the University’s latest expansion.

The current Dean E. Smith Center reserved 4,357 permanent seats for donors who contributed to the campaign that paid for the stadium’s construction and 2,100 seats for endowment donors — now, the new Iron Dean Dome will reserve permanent seats for the UNC Pi Kappa Phi fraternity to commemorate the brave, patriotic students who defended the United States’ flag from Marxist protestors in the spring of 2024.

In a speech to the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Roberts said, “I wish to salute the fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina who protected the American flag.”

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## Tar Heel Verses

Sponsored monthly by Bob Young '57 in honor of his wife, Pat, and the 1957 UNC National Championship basketball team.

### My mom is telling me why she will never forgive me, but I’m busy listing professional wrestlers in my head from A-Z

Anonymous

Arn Anderson. Brody King. For rejecting the name she gave me. For rejecting the body she prayed for me to have. That she read books and ate lemons and fish and spinach and yogurt for me to have. For keeping her up at night worrying what I’ll do to that body, which she made for me, which she gave up salt for. CM Punk. Dax Harwood. Eddie Guerrero. Like a stale promo, like a work I can see right through, I’ve heard this one before. Like a too-stiff chop in the ring it’s still bruising. Fire Ant. Goldust. Harley Race. Iron Sheik. I want pyro on my way down the ramp. I want to be so big nothing can touch me. Eyes screwed shut, show of pain, I want to shimmy out of the hold. Get my foot up on the ropes. I want to carve out a place for myself to go where I can close and lock the door. Jeff Jarrett. Kazuchika Okada. Lita. Mick Foley. I want hot red blood, crimson mask down my face. I want to dig the blade out of my wrist tape and hide it in the palm of my big hand. Nigel McGuinness. Owen Hart. Pac. Queen Aminata. Mama is telling me I will never be a man but in my head I’m entering the world where righteous victory exists. Line of bodies glistening in bright light and fog and sweat. I’m down on the canvas but I’m primed for the sunset flip. I’m countering the finisher. I’m kicking out at two. Razor Ramon. Samoa Joe. Terry Funk. Every fight scripted so you can see right through it. Every ending predetermined. Everything so clear I never need to explain myself to anybody. Of course I’m grateful for the gift she gave me. Of course I want to be big and shining and dangerous. Kneeling in the ring spitting real blood at the camera. Undertaker. Vader. William Regal. On the couch in her living room I sit still and take it. X-Pac. Yuta. Zack Sabre Junior. No matter what I do, I’m never winning.

Bio

The author prefers to remain anonymous.

SATIRE

# Dining halls to be demolished, relocated

By Anna Gage  
Columnist

Amid all the recent University controversy regarding the potential relocation of the Dean E. Smith Center and breaking news that ground will be broken on the Carolina North project in 2027, one media release has slipped under the student body's radar.

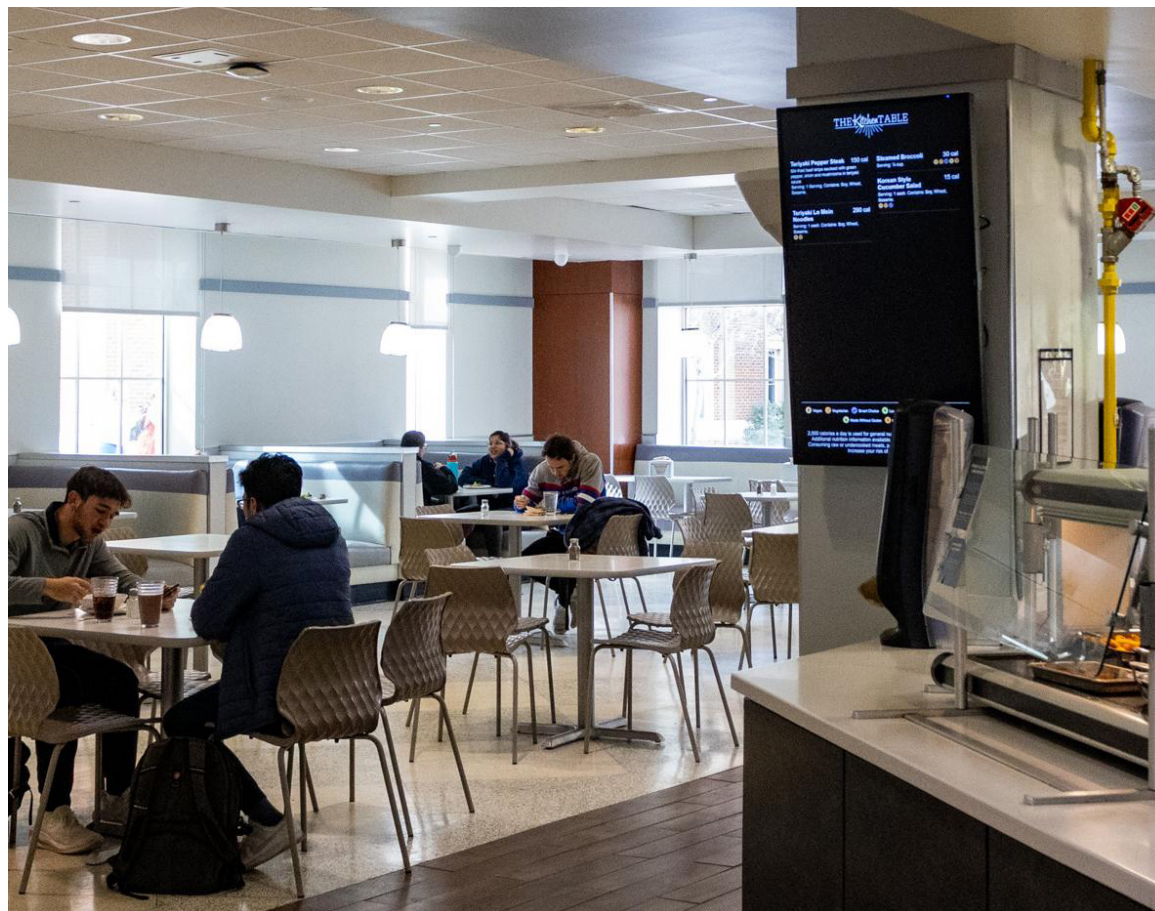
In 2030, the University will break ground on Carolina EAST, or "Eat A Snack Today." The campus, designed exclusively for dining, will boast replacements for both Chase and Lenoir dining halls, each set to be demolished in fall 2026.

While plans for Carolina North have included a bus system, students will be required to walk to Carolina EAST as part of the University's new program to promote health, nutrition and fitness. The buildings will be moved largely in part because students need to "walk off" calories en route to and from the dining hall, according to UNC Media Relations' announcement.

"We're super worried about the American obesity epidemic, and figured, why not get ahead of the problem while we still can?" UNC athletic director Bubba Cunningham said. "Calories in, calories out."

One UNC applied sciences professor suggested an alternative explanation for the buildings' relocation. He noted that the structural integrity of the dining halls will likely be affected by the sheer weight of thousands of pounds of kale and spinach the University is preparing to import for its public health campaign.

UNC has announced that the new building will boast a concrete base and reinforced walls to



DTH/AMANDA KIRKPATRICK

Students munch on chicken and bugs for lunch at soon-to-be-demolished Chase Dining Hall on Jan. 29.

accommodate this new shipment.

When questioned as to why they would not renovate rather than rebuild, Chancellor Lee Roberts stared off into space.

"I'm just so happy you're all getting angry about this," he said. "Being angry means you care."

The most outraged contingent of students on campus regarding the recent dining relocation is our hungry, hungry first-years.

They have organized in response to the controversy with their own coalition. Instead of "Eat a Snack Today," they propose "Eat a Snack Now," concerned that snack consumption "today" is simply not soon enough.

The group has planned a protest for the fall where students will hold hands around Lenoir and Chase 24/7 to prevent the demolition — while wearing shirts with the phrase

"RenovATE, don't relocATE." They have also assembled a group of unlimited meal plan holders to provide green takeout boxes for their volunteers.

The group's leadership is most concerned about the availability of temporary on-campus eating options in the year between Chase and Lenoir's knock-down and the construction of new facilities.

Carolina has developed a

temporary feeding plan for students during the EAST's construction period, called the Making UNC Healthy, or MUNCH. Each afternoon, students will be invited to forage from the UNC Edible Campus gardens located in front of Lenoir and Davis Library to substitute for their on-campus meals.

The University has purchased a seed sprinkler in preparation for the veggie-forward feeding program. UNC's administration has also announced that EAST's dining halls will include VIP sections to woo foodie admits away from Duke's steakhouse, The Commons, and toward UNC's quinoa.

Available only to students on the new Unlimited Premium meal plans, priced at \$10,000 per semester, these VIP rooms will include access to one daily Erewhon strawberry — as well an exclusive sound bath and nap room for rest and relaxation.

One Carolina Dining Services employee was caught on tape discussing the new renovations.

"Well, frankly, with the markup on these plans, if these rooms convince 100 students to move from a 200-meal plan to unlimited, the renovations will pay for themselves."

The most controversial element of the relocation involves the distance of EAST from the main campus, which administrators have described as "walkable, in theory," for students comfortable crossing Interstate 40 between classes. But, Board of Trustees members have responded to these safety concerns extensively.

"We don't really care," they said.

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SATIRE

## Race-conscious admissions have returned — along with Lenoir coleslaw

Continued from Page 1

When UNC released its admissions figures for the Class of 2030, its historic diversity was noted. What the press release omitted was less than one percent of admitted students were white. It is, depending on who you ask, a civil rights crisis.

The shift traces directly to the 2023 Supreme Court ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*, which prohibited the use of race as a factor in college admissions. What followed was a decline that was unpredictable. For the class of 2030, white enrollment had not just declined; rather, collapsed.

The legal response was swift. In *UNC v. Students for White Admissions*, the Supreme Court revisited its own precedent. The Court reasoned that a truly race-blind and pro-merit process had paradoxically produced the least diverse outcome possible.

Colorblindness, the 6-3 majority (split on color lines) wrote, is not neutrality. The ruling reinstated race-conscious admissions — with the specific mandate of addressing white underrepresentation. DEI for white people is back on the table.

Stephen Miller, a White House official, told reporters that North Carolina could now "return to allowing Heritage students to attend their state college without systemic barriers." He also added a call for a White History Month.

On campus, the effects of a declining white population were already being felt. The free sunscreen

dispensers that were once a fixture around campus had disappeared. The Christian recruitment tables had been replaced by Buddhist and Islamic student organizations.

In the Chase and Lenoir dining halls, the menus had undergone a radical transformation. Western staples had largely given way to butter chicken, jollof rice and tacos, with coleslaw notable in its painful absence.

Academic life had produced its own inequities among students. White students interviewed described a campus culture in which the advantages they had long taken for granted — professors who looked like them and the unspoken ease of being the demographic majority — had evaporated, leaving only: the grades.

"They sit in Davis and study for 25 hours a day," said one junior, referring to his peers from immigrant families. Several white seniors described adopting more ethnically ambiguous names for recruitment — one specific student cited the example of going from Ryan to Rahul on a computer science internship.

Students in Greek organizations reported difficulty in continuing their traditional rush practices, noting a shortage of "moggers in Vineyard Vines." Sorority members described unease at watching their spray tans and ALO attire spread across the student body — feeling that their culture had been "appropriated."

Blonde students on campus have reported being approached by peers who ask to touch their hair. Even one student was asked,

"Was your grandpa also a part of the Irish famine?"

UNC's administrative response to the ruling has taken many drastic steps. The University announced the creation of WEAS center — the White, Euro-centric and Aryan Studies, designed to study the histories of Heritage Americans. DEI officers have been reinstated with revised goals, with white students receiving additional protection under Title VI, new Kumon enrichment methods and dedicated no-seasoning sections in dining halls.

"White people have been treated very badly," President Trump said at a press event last Thursday, when asked about the developments. He did not elaborate.

Not everyone on campus has welcomed the new direction. An Indian-American prospective student from Green Hope High School noted that under the new framework, a white student from Sampson County with a 1270 SAT and 3.7 GPA would be chosen over himself with a 1570 and a 4.8.

"What else does he bring?" the student asked. "His heritage? Is that what we're measuring now? I thought the whole point was merit."

It is a question the University has not yet formally answered. A spokesperson said UNC remains committed to a holistic review process and to fostering a sense of belonging for all students. The coleslaw, she confirmed, will be available starting in the fall.

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## Davis on the hunt for 'real job', sources say

Continued from Page 1

rushed Alpha Kappa Psi, and I've been rejected from the Kenan-Flagler Business School after not having a freshman summer internship.

In the fall, I will pursue my own entrepreneurial endeavor by creating an internal rivalry team at UNC by creating a second D1 men's basketball team called the All-Star Heels, which will only recruit players from inside the Carolina family — think Tyler Hansbrough, James Worthy, even Michael Jordan if he responds to my email requesting a Zoom coffee chat.

Yet, more than my ups and downs as the North Carolina head men's basketball coach, I hope to be remembered for my love for the Tar Heel family.

I may not have brought in any shiny NCAA Tournament trophies or beat Duke every time we faced them. But I'll always sweat the

UNC argyle print. I'll always bleed Carolina Blue or Pantone 542 or whatever the hell it's called. I will always fondly look back at my stylish plaid game day suits that are now tucked away, even once they start gathering dust. And I will always be inconceivably lucky to have had the chance to work with such talented kids.

After meeting with UNC's career center and Honors Carolina professional development coaches, I hope I have answered the elusive questions — why you? Why me? Why us? Whether it be McKinsey & Company, maybe Deloitte or maybe somewhere else, it seems time that I find my new family.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact me at [rainbowballprincess@unc.edu](mailto:rainbowballprincess@unc.edu).

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DTH FILE/CONNOR RUESCH

Fifth-year Hubert Davis sweats after meeting with Honors Carolina career coaches for a 60-minute resume and cover letter training session.