

The Daily Tar Heel

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132 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 133, ISSUE 14

BACK IN THE HALL

TROPICAL STORM CHANTAL | LOCAL IMPACT

Businesses rebuild after historic flooding

Trader Joe's has reopened, others remain in recovery

By Eva Edwards
Staff Writer

Six weeks after Tropical Storm Chantal, businesses in Chapel Hill are still recovering from the flooding.

Tropical Storm Chantal, which was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time it reached the area, deposited 6-9 inches of rain in Chapel Hill in the late evening of July 6. The storm devastated businesses across Chapel Hill, including in Eastgate Crossing and University Place, as well as residential complexes.

Eastgate Crossing was built on top of Booker Creek, which makes it particularly susceptible to flooding. The flooding caused businesses in the shopping center to experience varying degrees of damage, ranging from infrastructure damage to inventory loss.

Many businesses in Eastgate Crossing are still recovering from and repairing the storm's damages, and are uncertain of when they will reopen.



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Business owner Elie Abou-Rjeileh repairs his shop at Eastgate Shopping Center on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Olmaz Jewelers, a retail jewelry store at Eastgate Crossing, experienced between \$250,000 and \$350,000 in loss of inventory and showcases, as well as additional costs for store remodeling.

The designer jewelry business is currently open under limited operations at a temporary location in University Place. Elie Abou-Rjeileh, the co-owner of Olmaz Jewelers, said they estimate that the business

will not be open again in its Eastgate Crossing location until October at the earliest.

"The Town of Chapel Hill and the mayor of Chapel Hill have

CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

Decades of artwork damaged at Eno Arts Mill



DTH/HAYDON BODE

Ceramic artist Jessica Sandford works with clay at her porch home studio on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Artists come together to heal after tropical depression

By Shreya Senthilkumar
Staff Writer

When clothing designer Shaerie Mead walked into Eno Arts Mill on July 7, she was met

with a floor that buckled beneath her feet and water streaming from the building's basement.

"When I got to my studio, I couldn't even open the door because there was so much stuff that had just been moved and shifted and tipped over," she said.

Mead's studio, which was tucked in the back of the mill,

contained out-of-print design books and vintage sewing patterns — most of which were destroyed by the three feet of water that flooded the building the previous night.

The flooding was a result of Tropical Storm Chantal, which was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time it reached the area. It caused

heavy rainfall throughout Orange County on July 6 and impacted various businesses across the county, including Eno Arts Mill in Hillsborough.

The mill is managed by the Orange County Arts Commission and is composed of two community art spaces within the historic Eno River Mill. These spaces include studios for Mead and 13 other artists to create paintings, music and other artwork.

Since 2020, Mead has used her studio to run her business, IONA Clothing. She spent the next weeks after the flood cleaning out her studio and sanitizing water-soaked fabrics.

"I'm very glad that I was able to save my fabric, because that was my major monetary investment, and I'm still able to use it and make things with it and it's all good and fine, but I'm very sad that I lost a bunch of work — a bunch of past work — like work that I referenced a lot," she said.

Ceramic artist Jess Sandford, whose studio was across the hall from Mead's, said she lost ceramic chemicals and furniture in the flood.

Sandford, who had been working out of the mill since December, checked on her studio on July 7 after receiving a photo of the back of the mill.

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FUNDING

UNC slashes aid for future out-of-state admits

The \$17 million decrease will not impact current students' financial support

By Claire Harutunian
Senior Writer

As universities across the nation adjust to state and federal funding cuts, UNC leadership announced budget cuts for operational savings of approximately \$70 million. According to the campuswide email sent on July 30, these cuts include the reduction of out-of-state financial aid from 44 percent to 18 percent of total support, saving \$17 million.

"The decision is intended to bring Carolina in line with peer institutions and to focus financial resources on North Carolinians, as the University's primary responsibility is to serve in-state students," UNC Media Relations wrote in an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel.

Media Relations also wrote that the change will not impact current students or incoming first years, and that the process will be phased in over time. Scholarship programs including the Carolina Covenant, Honors Carolina and the Morehead-Cain Scholarship will remain open to out-of-state students.

"All of those remain in place, but in an era of belt tightening, our primary responsibility is to North Carolinians, and we're going to focus on them

CONTINUE ON PAGE 3

Q&A

Lee Roberts says we're in an 'era of belt-tightening'

The chancellor talks putting 'North Carolinians first,' the future of humanities programs

By Regan Butler
University Editor

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DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC Chancellor Lee Roberts poses for a portrait in his office at South Building on Aug. 7.



Dread it, run from it, destiny arrives all the same.

THANOS



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Alpine’s replacement, kiosk ordering and more



DTH/AMANDA KIRKPATRICK

First Draft Deli sits in the former location of Alpine Bagel Cafe in the Student Union on Sunday, Aug. 17.

Students discover expanded seating and new food options for fall semester

By Emily Brietz
Staff Writer

The long-awaited news of Alpine Bagel Cafe’s replacement is here. As students begin the fall semester, they’re discovering First Draft Deli at Alpine’s former location in the Student Union, as well as several other changes from Carolina Dining Services.

Ava Astilla, chair of the Student Dining Board, said First Draft Deli will be similar to Alpine and will sell bagels with vegan and halal options. However, unlike the third-party vendor, CDS will operate and manage First Draft directly.

“I think it’s going to go over really well with students,” Astilla said.

Astilla went to the soft opening for First Draft on July 24 to try out the new menu. She said she’s excited to see it open for students throughout the first week of class.

“I think it’s going to be a brand that people are going to be really excited about, and I think they’re going to enjoy the overall quality of the food,” Christen Carawan, UNC’s director of dining, said.

When Alpine shut down in May, many students took to social media to express their disappointment at the bagel shop’s closure. UNC senior and frequent customer Madison Avery said the switch in restaurants feels like a “betrayal.”

“I’m going to try [First Draft], but Alpine felt like Chapel Hill, and I don’t think that this is ever going to be able to top that,” Avery said.

Another dining spot that received a rebrand this summer was Port City Java, the coffee shop located inside Chase Dining Hall. The space will now be known as Cafe 1789 and brew Larry’s Coffee, a Raleigh-based roaster.

“I was on South Campus, so I went [to Port City Java] every so often if I needed a caffeine boost nearby. So, I was sad to see it go,” Marli English, an at-large member of the Student Dining Board, said.

However, English said she is excited that UNC will be serving more of Larry’s Coffee, because she has been wanting the University to replace its larger chain options with local alternatives.

Since the new coffee spot will be run through the University, Astilla said she is

looking forward to potential benefits such as altering the menu based on student feedback to eliminate the waste that comes from serving unpopular items.

Along with the new food options, a new kiosk ordering option will be available at restaurants like First Draft, Rams Head Market, Bojangles and Subway.

“You’ll walk in the front door, you’ll see them, and you’ll order just like at Panera and places like that,” Carawan said.

Carawan said CDS also has a new register system that will provide a revamped online ordering experience, allowing it to be more user-friendly than in the past.

“I think that students are going to really appreciate the convenience of it all, because obviously we’re all busy,” Astilla said. “And if someone wants to grab a lunch during a busy school day, I think these new methods are going to make it a lot easier for us to do that.”

English said she hopes the mobile ordering system will make lunch rushes easier on employees, too, while Avery said it may exacerbate certain issues, such as students picking up the wrong orders.

In addition to new vendors and ordering system updates, CDS has also chosen to make a few infrastructure changes to expand seating.

Inside Lenoir Dining Hall, CDS has rearranged seating and built additional bar seating around the perimeter of the dining hall to maximize space. The downward escalator has also been removed and replaced with a new staircase in the same spot, which Carawan said will allow more people upstairs in compliance with the current occupancy regulations.

With these changes, CDS will be keeping a closer watch on occupancy for safety in high-traffic areas like Lenoir Dining Hall, Carawan said.

“You may see some of that, and people being like, ‘Hey, can you hold off a minute? We’ve got to let these people in, and then we can let more up once others come down,’” she said.

Due to increasing enrollment, Carawan said more seating has also been added outside the Student Stores and Lenoir.

Astilla said she still sees opportunities for more outdoor seating on campus, such as around the Pit.

X: @ecbrietz

Budget cuts increase competitiveness for non-resident financial aid

Continued from Page 1

first,” Chancellor Lee Roberts said in an interview with The DTH.

Roberts said the reduction of aid to 18 percent is intended to align with the 18 percent of non-resident students enrolled at the University — the limit set by the UNC System Board of Governors. This cap is required in accordance with UNC System Policy 700.1.3, which went into effect this semester.

Alyssa Gallo, a UNC junior from Dorset, Vt., said being an out-of-state student results in more expenses including higher tuition, travel expenses and moving costs. According to the Office of UNC Scholarships and Student Aid’s website, the 2025-26 out-of-state tuition cost, not including fees, is \$43,152. The in-state tuition cost for this academic year is \$7,020.

Gallo is the outreach and social media chair for the Out-of-State Student Association at UNC and receives a full scholarship through the Carolina Covenant scholarship program.

“That’s why I chose UNC, truthfully, it’s the financial aid they offered me, and I’m super grateful for not only the aid itself, but for the community that the Covenant Scholarship has offered me,” Gallo said.

In the campuswide email announcing budget cuts, the heading for the section concerning the out-of-state aid reduction is titled “North Carolinians First.”

Ella Scherock, a UNC junior from Ellicott City, Md., said she does not receive scholarships through UNC, but that outside scholarships have made her education accessible.

“So, if you really love North Carolina, don’t have these phrases that they’re using like ‘North Carolinians first,’ and trying to take

away that access from us with the scholarships stop you from pursuing a college career at UNC,” Scherock said.

Evan Gilmurray, a UNC junior from Bridgewater, N.J., said he was not particularly bothered by the language, but was surprised that the University’s announcement email was only sent to current students. He said he hopes future applicants know this information.

Gilmurray said the University met all of his demonstrated financial need along with awarding him a Carolina Futures grant.

“They’ve made coming to Carolina a possibility, because Carolina out-of-state without financial aid is an expensive school,” he said. “But, I will say that my financial aid doesn’t hold a candle to what even full-price in-state tuition is.”

Media Relations wrote that over the past two years, there has been a 30 percent increase in out-of-state applications and that the University expects the number of applications to “remain robust.”

“Out-of-state students are crucial to the health of our university and, I would argue, to our state,” Roberts said in an interview with The DTH. “Not only do they greatly enrich our campus life and community, but the data shows that about half of them are still here in North Carolina five years after graduation.”

“I would hope that in reducing financial aid, whether for the out-of-state student population or for both the in-state and out-of-state, [the funding] would go to very seen programs or changes at the University that would benefit all students,” Gilmurray said.

Editor’s Note: University Editor Regan Butler contributed reporting to this story.

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HUMANITIES

Areas of study with low enrollment may see funding cuts

Programs with ‘waning interest’ will be evaluated rigorously

By Akash Bhowmik
Senior Writer

On July 30, UNC announced a plan to identify operational savings of up to \$70 million, which includes potential cuts to academic programs with low enrollment in response to funding cuts and budget restrictions at the state and federal levels.

Roughly \$38 million in savings will come from organizational changes at UNC, such as consolidating administrative staff and functions, while an additional \$17 million will be saved primarily by reducing financial aid for out-of-state students.

The remaining approximately \$14 million in savings have been identified via “academic prioritization,” evaluating academic programs, research centers and institutes.

“We haven’t made any decisions yet, but the humanities are in no way under threat here,” Chancellor Lee Roberts said in an interview with The Daily Tar Heel.

In an email statement to The DTH, UNC Media Relations wrote that an estimated \$2 million from that amount will be saved by reviewing academic

programs with decreased enrollment and diminishing interest.

They added that the remaining \$12 million will be saved by phasing out the VTAE and ELEVATE programs, which are aimed at adding diversity to the faculty and providing professor funding, respectively, over the next four years, as well as implementing reductions in research center and institute funding.

“Enrollment numbers are the primary consideration, including trends over several years. A small or temporary dip in enrollment is not a reason to consider cancelling a program,” Media Relations wrote.

Although UNC System Policy requires that the University conduct a review of existing academic degree programs annually to ensure continued alignment with state needs, a more “rigorous” academic evaluation of programs will be conducted this year.

“The Provost is leading a working group comprised of leaders from units across campus to evaluate our academic programs and ensure collaboration,” Media Relations wrote. “We are in the early stages of the process. Leadership’s aim is to be thoughtful and thorough while maintaining our academic integrity, financial viability and commitment to the state of North Carolina and its people.”



DTH DESIGN/SARAH FENWICK
Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock.

“The humanities are crucial to Carolina, and I would argue, to any large university,” Roberts said.

Media Relations did not comment on whether any academic programs have already been identified as having “waning interest.”

According to the UNC System data dashboard, certain humanities majors make up the largest group of students with low enrollment. In spring 2025, the most recent term for enrollment data, approximately 300 students are enrolled as philosophy or religious

studies majors, compared to more than 4,000 students in the health professions and over 1,300 students in mathematics and statistics.

Junior Nicholas Andrews, president of the UNC Philosophy Club, said that the impact of philosophy cannot be fully measured by looking only at enrollment numbers.

“Lots of people do philosophy as a second major,” Andrews said. “Something that will give them good education in the humanities and will help them piece together

all the different pieces of their belief systems in addition to gaining practical STEM skills.”

Without a philosophy department, Andrews said many people would not gain an experience where they would be able to reflect critically on their own beliefs and the claims of others.

The announcement of UNC’s budget cuts comes after several financial reductions for higher education institutions. This includes a provision in the sweeping domestic policy bill signed into law by President Donald Trump requiring that degree programs’ eligibility for federal student aid be based on graduates’ ability to meet certain income thresholds.

English Ph.D. student Ulyera Brooks said she now must think more frequently about how she can justify her research topic, which specializes in Black studies, to other individuals.

“These are very rich cultures who have played a significant role in our mainstream canon,” Brooks said. “These cultures — if we ignore them as we have, historically speaking, they can fall to the wayside.”

Brooks said she thinks everyone should have the chance to learn just how diverse, rich and edifying different cultures are, and how they can speak to a bigger picture.

X: @akashbhowmik159

CEREMONY

UNC legend Tyler Hansbrough speaks at New Student Convocation

Men’s basketball alumnus returns to Dean E. Smith Center

By Jordan Andreasen
Staff Writer
and Caleb Schalliol
Staff Writer

The class of 2029, transfer students and graduate students celebrated New Student Convocation on Sunday; a long-standing tradition that, this year, featured a notable keynote speaker: UNC alumnus and basketball player Tyler Hansbrough ‘09.

The decision to make Hansbrough the keynote speaker at convocation was announced at the July 31 Board of Trustees meeting by Chancellor Lee Roberts. Every year, it’s the chancellor’s responsibility to select a UNC alumnus to address students at the ceremony.

“I know he will share an inspiring message and it’s going to be a fun and exciting day for these new Tar Heels,” Roberts said in the University Communications and Marketing press release.

Hansbrough’s roots at the University run deep. During his time at UNC, he was unanimously voted the National Player of the Year in 2008. Then, in 2009, Hansbrough led the UNC Men’s Basketball Team to a NCAA Championship against Michigan State University.

Hosted by New Student & Family Programs, convocation took place at the Dean E. Smith Center and ran from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The ceremony opened with words from Roberts welcoming the new students. He addressed the class of 2029, noting that this was the largest first-year class in UNC’s 232-year history.

“We’ve been looking forward to meeting you, and we’re also eager for you to meet each other,” Roberts said in his address.

Following his opening remarks, Roberts called Hansbrough to the stage. The basketball player’s speech was delivered in three distinct points:



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH
Former UNC basketball player Tyler Hansbrough speaks at New Student Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 17 at the Dean E. Smith Center.

what it means to be a Tar Heel, the UNC community and how a student’s time at the University will shape the foundation of their future.

Additionally, Hansbrough emphasized the value in supporting one another.

“The most important thing to me is to make connections, and it’s hard to narrow it down to one [takeaway], but be yourself,” he said in an interview with The Daily Tar Heel following his address.

Toward the end of his speech, Hansbrough touched on his recent decision to co-teach at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, describing it as a full circle moment.

“It’s amazing how life brings you back to where you belong,” he said in his speech. “The same campus where I learned so much as a student is now where I get to give back and help shape the next generation of Tar Heels.”

Hansbrough will co-teach Media and Journalism 377: Sports Communication with Hussman professor Livis Freeman. While Hansbrough later admitted to The DTH that he never saw himself teaching a course at the University, he hopes that he can highlight the value of sports reporters communicating with players.

After Hansbrough’s remarks, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jim Dean and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Amy Johnson spoke, also offering advice to new students. Following their addresses, Student Body President Adolfo Alvarez delivered a speech reassuring students that regardless of their background, they matter.

“No matter where you come from, whether you’re in-state, out-of-state or an international student, you belong here,” Alvarez said.

Following convocation, new students went to Kenan Stadium to attend FallFest, an event that kicks off the start to the new academic year by allowing students to connect with the campus community.

For first-year student Elliott More, the ceremony exceeded his expectations, with Hansbrough’s message particularly coming through loud and clear.

“I think [his speech] hit some good points about learning who you become through college, and the decisions you make that lead up to that,” he said.

X: @calebschalliol

Q&A: Chancellor talks budget changes, tenure

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Before the 2025-26 academic year began, University Editor Regan Butler sat down with Chancellor Lee Roberts to discuss key issues impacting students and faculty.

This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Daily Tar Heel: You’ve recently made trips to Washington D.C. to participate in lobbying efforts on behalf of restoring some lost federal research funding for UNC. You’ve also met with state legislators. I was wondering if you’ve seen any substantial results from these talks.

Lee Roberts: I will say, when it comes to federal research funding, it is absolutely still an unsettled, uncertain situation. But, I think it’s also true to say that the situation might not be quite as dire as folks might have feared earlier this year, and I say that for a couple of reasons.

One is that when we look at the level of federal research funding going forward, how are the [National Institutes of Health] and National Science Foundation funded in the federal budget that legislators are working on now? It seems reasonably clear, if you look at what the House and the Senate have done, that they are not going to cut the NIH and the NSF significantly.

DTH: Speaking of funding, this past July, University administrators including yourself announced \$70 million in budget cuts within UNC. One sizable reduction was in out-of-state student financial aid, which decreased from 44 to 18 percent. Why did this area face such a staggering cut?

Roberts: It’s important to underscore that no current students will be affected by this reduction. It will be implemented over time as new students come in. We still have millions of dollars available for non-resident financial aid, and we also still have some of our other scholarship programs available for non-residents. In an era of belt-tightening, our primary responsibility is to North

Carolinians, and we’re going to focus on them first.

DTH: Along with these funding cuts, you also announced that academic programs with “low enrollment and waning interest” will be evaluated more rigorously than in typical annual reviews. Many programs with comparatively low enrollment rates at UNC are in the humanities. Do you see a future at UNC where these fields of study don’t exist?

Roberts: I’m optimistic about the future of the humanities. They’re crucial. The low enrollment review, that’s a routine effort. It does need to be done more rigorously in the time of tight budget circumstances. We haven’t made any decisions yet, but the humanities are in no way under threat here.

DTH: UNC faculty whose tenure appointments were delayed this past spring still have not received a formal explanation from the Board of Trustees, nor the administration. The DTH also obtained emails in which trustees voiced their opposition to tenure and entertained its elimination. Additionally, former Provost Christopher Clemens claimed you supported the initial delays as a cost-cutting measure. Is this all indicative of changes to come regarding tenure appointments at UNC?

Roberts: I think tenure is a competitive imperative. There’s really no argument with that. I recognize there’s a range of views about tenure. I’ve heard a lot of good arguments on both sides, but the one incontrovertible fact is that all of our peers use tenure the way we use it. If we want to be the kind of university that we have been in the past and that we plan to be in the future, tenure is going to be part of that equation for the foreseeable future.

X: @reganxbutler

LOCAL EATS

‘You’d really come home’: Mama Dip’s Kitchen closes after 49 years

The Rosemary Street restaurant permanently shut its doors in July

By Iris Eyster
Staff Writer

Mildred “Mama Dip” Council opened Mama Dip’s Kitchen with \$64 in 1976. After 49 years of serving the community as a local institution, the restaurant permanently shut its doors in July.

Spring Council was 19 when she first started working at her mother’s restaurant. Spring Council said in the beginning, the Councils were waiting for people to discover the delicious food.

Once they did, Mama Dip’s Kitchen became a place where everyone — from students and construction workers, to mayors and people who were formerly incarcerated — were welcomed at Mildred Council’s table.

Around 25 years ago, Marcie Ferris and Bill Ferris first visited Mama Dip’s Kitchen, which sat on West Rosemary Street in Chapel Hill.

Inside, the restaurant had a dessert case filled with chunky slices of pound cake and peach cobbler, and a chalkboard with the vegetable casserole of the day, Ferris said. What made Mama Dip’s Kitchen interesting to the Ferrises was not only the delicious smell of the food or ever-changing casserole menu, but what was outside.

“You had to wait on the steps to get in,” Marcie Ferris said. “There was a line to go in, and it was Black and white customers. That was the first thing we noticed, that this was an integrated restaurant, that had not resegregated in our contemporary era, as many restaurants have.”

When the Ferrises first started going to Mama Dip’s, Mildred Council would go table to table greeting customers herself.

“What made the restaurant stand out is that it was homegrown,” Bill Ferris said. “Mrs. Council had grown up in this community, and she was deeply rooted in her family and in all the friends, both Black and white, who helped her get a start when she first opened the restaurant. You felt like you’d really come home when you were there.”

The Councils and the Ferrises would go on to be long-term friends.

“She’s a global name in food and Chapel Hill was blessed that this was where she hung her hat and called home,” Bill Ferris said.

Bill Smith, former owner of Cat’s Cradle and former head chef of Crook’s Corner, said in Mama Dip’s Kitchen’s early days, while the food

“Mama’s legacy is not in that building, but it’s about what we create from what she has given us.”

Spring Council
Mildred “Mama Dip” Council’s daughter

was always good and the place always smelled great, the restaurant staff — then largely made up of Mildred Council’s family — were still learning.



Photos courtesy of Nick Pacini, Bre Welles, Logan Savage and Adobe Stock.

DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

“They weren’t really very good at it to begin with,” Smith said. “They weren’t used to dealing with the public.”

The Councils learned quickly. After a 1985 visit from Craig Claiborne, a restaurant critic for The New York Times, Mildred Council gained national recognition. Mildred Council published a cookbook in

1999 titled “Mama Dip’s Kitchen,” which sold more than 250,000 copies worldwide. Even with heightened publicity, Mama Dip’s remained distinctly homegrown.

“I think the most important part is the community within Chapel Hill,” Spring Council said. “That was more important to us as who we are, rather than the publicity that we received from that.”

Many of Mildred Council’s family members have started their own food-related businesses, from cookie

companies and a biscuit bakery to recipe books and a cake mix brand.

“Mama’s legacy is not in that building, but it’s about what we create from what she has given us,” Spring Council said.

X: @dthcitystate

FOOD & DRINK

Al’s Burger Shack expands with new sports bar

Puddin’s Beer Shack offers extra space for game day crowds

By Ha Lien Gaskin
Staff Writer

Puddin’s Beer Shack, a new bar from the team behind Al’s Burger Shack, opened July 29 on the corner of West Franklin Street and North Graham Street.

The bar acts as an extension of the nationally recognized burger restaurant. It is located directly next to Al’s Burger Shack and offers indoor and outdoor seating, five large TVs and a bar.

Charlie Farris, the owner of Puddin’s Beer Shack and Al’s Burger Shack, said he decided to open Puddin’s Beer Shack when he noticed that during sports game days, there were too many people to fit inside the Al’s Burger Shack space.

“One of those days where there was a football game during the day and then a basketball game at night — those days are just insane, so busy,” he said. “So I was here, and I was like, ‘Every seat out here is taken. There’s people with nowhere to sit.’ I was like, ‘You know what? We need to expand.’”

The bar’s name is a tribute to Lindsay “Pudding” Faucette. For over 30 years, Faucette was the cook for the UNC chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the fraternity where Farris served as president from 2003-04.

“Every football game day, a bunch of people [were] popping in, ‘Hey, where’s Puddin’ at? Where’s Puddin’ at?’”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE FARRIS

Families sit outside under the patio at Puddin’s Beer Shack, an extension of Al’s Burger Shack on Franklin Street.

Farris said. “They’d go find him in the kitchen or grilling out the side and have a beer with him. He always cooked pig. He cooked a pig for every football game. And so he connected generations of SAEs.”

As customers walk in the door, they’re greeted with a depiction of Faucette on a large UNC-themed mural by Chapel Hill artist Loren Pease.

Puddin’s Beer Shack offers a low-key, casual spot to watch a game, Farris said. The bar has ten beers on draft, with some of the options rotating for variety, as well

as a selection of wine. Cocktails, like peach bellinis and mimosas, will be served on Sundays.

The space is also available for hosting private events such as birthday parties and rehearsal dinners, with Farris saying the venue can accommodate up to 100 people inside and on the patio. As the

indoor space serves as an extension of the Al’s Burger Shack venue, customers can also order from the burger restaurant’s menu.

Chris Christiano is the bar manager and head bartender at Puddin’s Beer Shack, and a self-described “beer nerd.” Christiano said he hired employees with no prior bartending experience in order to train them in a way that worked best for his system.

“Right now we’re just ramping up for when September comes, and football season,” Christiano said.

Sydney Mahon, a bartender at Puddin’s Beer Shack, said despite having no bartending experience, she felt very prepared for her first shift.

Mahon said she is excited to interact with more customers as football season kicks into gear.

“The Duke game’s definitely gonna be a big one,” she said. “I’m sure there will be people camped out here for hours ahead of time.”

One customer, Cristian Diaz, happened upon the bar due to its proximity to his workplace. He said he enjoyed the bar and even brought a friend on his second visit.

“I was telling my friend over here about this place, and that’s the reason that I brought him here,” Diaz said. “First thing, people — very nice. Everybody’s smiling, taking care of you. And second thing, they got Guinness, one of my favorite beers.”

X: @halienwug

N.C. LEGISLATURE

New mini-budget provides temporary funds

Bill includes Medicaid cuts, continued financing for schools

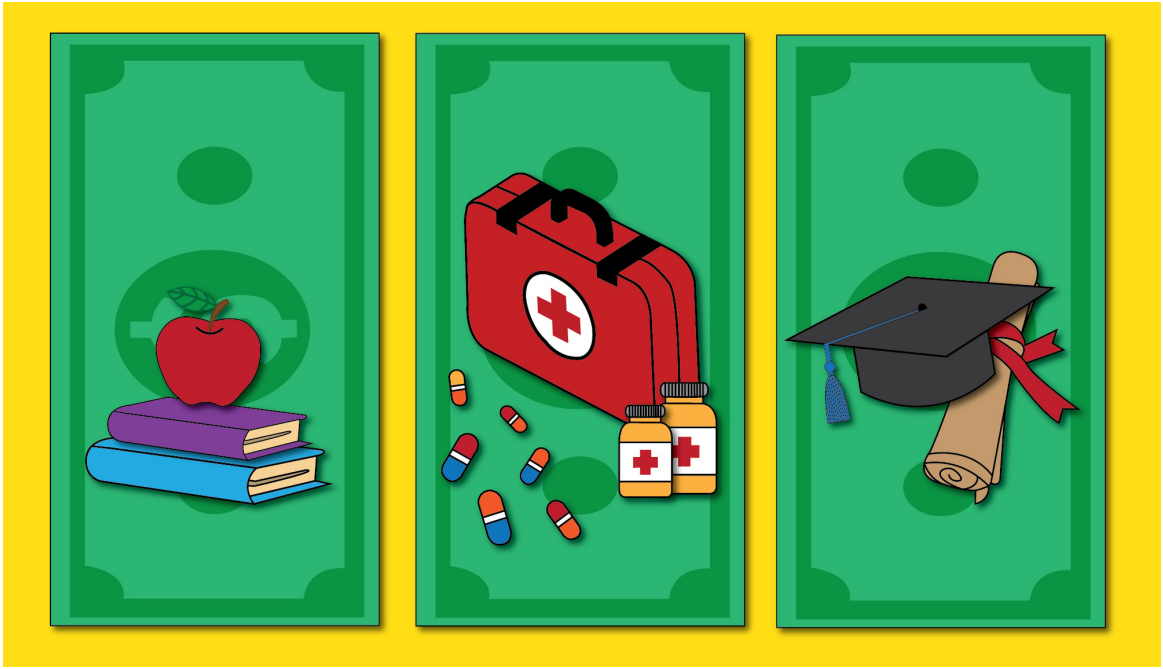
By Kristin Kharrat
Senior Writer

On Aug. 6, Gov. Josh Stein signed House Bill 125, which provides targeted funding for specific programs amid the state budget impasse, into law. The budget bill, or “mini-budget”, will allow operations to continue in the fiscal year in the absence of a full state budget.

The North Carolina General Assembly failed to agree on a budget for 2025-27 before the start of the fiscal biennium. N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Orange) said President Donald Trump’s sweeping budget bill complicated state lawmakers’ ability to produce a state budget. The state was operating under the 2023-25 budget from July 1 until the bill was signed into law.

Public policy analyst at the NC Budget and Tax Center Sally Hodges-Coppel said the state functioned through a continuation budget between July 1 and Aug. 6, where appropriated funds match those from the previous budget. This means funds that are non-recurring were not received, and appropriations were not adjusted for inflation or population growth.

The mini-budget also ensures that the state has a base budget, Marcia Evans, the communications director for the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, said.



DTH DESIGN/KATRINA DONG

“It funded the base budget for the current biennium that started July 1, so it allows agencies to begin their plan for the next two years, but it does not allow any changes,” Evans said.

The mini-budget is not a substitute for a comprehensive state budget, Hodges-Coppel said. Although it overrides the continuation budget, the mini-budget only funds a limited amount of minimal needs.

“The [mini-budget] fails to provide the certainty that agencies need to be effective in their missions, they fail to provide certainty that local governments need to plan sustainably, and they also make it hard to hold

lawmakers accountable to the people they are elected to serve,” Hodges-Coppel said.

While the mini-budget is limited, its contents still have effects on the decisions of individuals, communities and institutions. Buansi said the provision that directly affects the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area is capital projects funding for UNC, but the region’s residents will still be impacted by statewide provisions. He said one of the downsides of the mini-budget is that it does not directly address district-based needs.

According to Evans, the mini-budget provided funding for

Medicaid. However, the NC Department of Health and Human Services required more funding than provided due to the impact of H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The DHHS released a statement and said they will provide lower reimbursement rates to Medicaid providers as a result of the funding cuts. Hodges-Coppel said this change will make providers less likely to accept Medicaid patients.

Since the bill reduced the amount of federal dollars allocated towards Medicaid, the state is now responsible for providing \$800 million to the program to maintain access, Buansi said. The mini-budget only

appropriates around \$600 million to the program.

The cuts to Medicaid will threaten the healthcare access of around 3 million North Carolinians and cause half a million to lose health coverage by 2034, Hodges-Coppel said.

The mini-budget also does not address the immediate need for increased funding for public schools, Buansi said, nor does it provide salary increases or inflation adjustments for public school employees. He said this is because more taxpayer dollars have been used to finance private school vouchers in urban-dense regions.

“If we were to shift that money over to public schools or to government operations, we could do a lot more in terms of having a state government that works and is more responsive to the people,” Buansi said.

Only a comprehensive budget would effectively address the state’s challenges with recruitment and retention, teacher pay and spending on students, Hodges-Coppel said.

Buansi said that he has heard constituents’ concerns regarding the mini-budget’s lack of funding to support services that uplift working class and low-income families.

“It’s just a really challenging time fiscally for state agents, local governments, our higher education systems, our public school budgets and the failure to pass a comprehensive budget is just making everything worse for those North Carolina residents and the folks who are trying to serve them,” Hodges-Coppel said.

X: @kristinkharrat

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Many shops faced inventory damage

Continued from Page 1

been awesome in helping us through this process, providing us assistance in knowing what our options are,” Abou-Rjeileh said.

The Chamber For a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro partnered with the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro to set up the Economic Recovery Center, a webpage where businesses can find resources, such as a reopening guide and forms to apply for loans.

Janell Dixon, the public affairs specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, said loans can be used to cover the cost of products, lost revenue and relocation.

Business physical disaster loans are intended to cover the cost of inventory, real estate and physical aspects that make up a business, and applications are due Sept. 23. Economic injury disaster loans cover lost funds for employees and business owners, and the applications are due on April 27. These loans are meant to help businesses cover invisible damages, which may not be realized until months after the disaster.

“After disasters, some damages are easy to see, but some are invisible,” Dixon said. “So for businesses, the invisible damage is often a silent disaster affecting their finances.”

Numerous businesses affected by the floods from the storm have also set up GoFundMe pages to recover lost revenue, pay employees and rebuild their stores.

Mary Stowe, the owner of Yarns Etc... in Mariakakis Plaza, will use funds from the business’ GoFundMe to move to a new location. Yarns Etc... lost most of their inventory and internal fixtures, as well as irreplaceable personal items, including Stowe’s original knitting patterns, various notes and designs for magazines.

“A small college town like this thrives on its local businesses, and I can’t — I really need to be able to reopen. And right now, the major problem is finding a place that is affordable,” Stowe said.

While many businesses affected by the storm are still closed and recovering, some have begun to open in their original or temporary locations.

Trader Joe’s reopened at Eastgate Crossing on Aug. 18. Stoney River Steakhouse and Grill reopened in its location at University Place Aug. 11. Med First Primary & Urgent Care, which was located in Eastgate Crossing, is now operating in a temporary location at Rams Plaza. Guglhupf Bake Shop will reopen in its Eastgate Crossing location Aug. 19.

“I have a lot of support, and I have a lot of people who want to see me reopen,” Stowe said.

“A small college town like this thrives on its local businesses.”

Mary Stowe
Owner of Yarns Etc...

IMMIGRATION LAW

N.C. General Assembly expands ICE detainment authority, overriding Stein’s veto

All Republicans and one Democrat voted in support of H.B. 318

By Joseph Cole
Staff Writer

The N.C. General Assembly overrode Gov. Josh Stein’s veto of House Bill 318, titled the Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act, on July 29. The new law grants Immigration and Customs Enforcement expanded authority over detaining people in custody at jails and other local confinement facilities.

The General Assembly overrode Stein’s veto by a vote of 72-48 in the N.C. House of Representatives and a vote of 30-19 in the N.C. Senate. All Republicans in both chambers voted to override the veto, with N.C. Rep. Carla Cunningham (D-Mecklenburg) being the only Democrat to vote in favor of the override.

H.B. 318 grants ICE the ability to detain individuals for an additional 48 hours after the time they would otherwise be released from a confinement facility. It also increases the amount of charges that require law enforcement to notify ICE, now warranting ICE to be notified for any felony charges, DUI charges and additional misdemeanor charges.

Rick Su, a professor of law at the UNC School of Law, said the bill reflects the General Assembly’s goal of not just deportation, but maximizing punitive detention before deportation to send a message.

“I think the message is very clearly to be afraid,” Su said.

N.C. Rep. Brian Echevarria (R-Cabarrus), one of the primary



DTH FILE/AVA SHARON

The N.C. General Assembly, located in Raleigh, N.C., is pictured on April 17.

sponsors of H.B. 318, said he was motivated to sponsor the bill to ensure all sheriffs cooperate with ICE after some sheriffs were not compliant with H.B. 10. The law required sheriffs to notify ICE of people in their custody for certain charges who they could not determine the immigration status of.

“I am a child of immigrants, but even in my community we understand that there is a right way to do things,” Echevarria said. “We don’t want people jumping the line and causing problems in our community.”

Ashlyn Nuckols, the development and communications manager for Refugee Community Partnership, said the uncertainty surrounding the potential impacts of H.B. 318 causes an erosion of trust in local institutions.

Nuckols said the bill targets leaders of local institutions, saying

it would not be necessary if law enforcement was self-motivated to take punitive action against migrants and refugees they work with.

“Instead, lots of people have found that working together is what makes our community safe,” Nuckols said. “And, at the state level, they want to try to penalize us for building the communities the way that we want to.”

Su said because immigration law involves state and federal cooperation, the impacts of H.B. 318 will be largely dependent upon federal actions.

“Usually, we think that states develop policy that is implemented and enforced entirely by the state, and therefore we can calculate what we want to do,” Su said. “So this whole situation is going to be much more complicated before it becomes more clear.”

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ON TV

Students are excited to see UNC’s campus on screen

‘The Summer I Turned Pretty’ airs weekly through September

By **Jaya Nadella**
Staff Writer

Students have been looking forward to seeing the campus they know and love represented on screen in season three of the Prime Video original show, “The Summer I Turned Pretty,” which began airing July 16 and will continue releasing weekly episodes until mid-September.

UNC campus is used as a set for the show’s fictional Finch College, where characters Belly Conklin, Jeremiah Fisher and Taylor Jewel navigate the emotional ups and downs of student life. UNC alumna Jenny Han — author of the books inspiring the hit series — was drawn to the campus for filming because of UNC’s classic college town charm, drawing on her own experiences as a former student.

Martin Johnson, a professor in UNC’s film studies department, said using an actual university campus highlights how college is often the backdrop to the many other things happening in our lives.

“If you’re a teacher, you think about college primarily as around education, about what your students are doing and what grades they receive and then that sort of thing,” Johnson said. “But if you’re a student on campus, you’re thinking about your career, your life [and] your



Photo courtesy of Mason Miller.

relationships... You often figure out who you are when you’re in college and set your path going forward.”

A production of this magnitude has several moving parts, from the creative direction and costuming to those on screen. Some UNC students were cast as extras in the series, which filmed on campus last summer, including junior Josie Powell. She said she heard about the opportunity to be an extra through TikTok, which

prompted her to go to UNC’s website for more information about casting.

As a fan of the series and theater lover, Powell said she was intrigued by the opportunity.

“I grew up doing theater, so I felt the acting part is just very natural, but never have I gotten to do it to a professional extent,” she said.

In her casting email, Powell was informed that she had been chosen to act as one of the volleyball players

at Finch. She was also chosen as a featured extra and got her hair and makeup done on set.

She said what surprised her most about the experience was how many takes were required for each scene, saying there were around 72 takes for the two-minute scene she was in.

Powell also said she did not expect the main cast to be as welcoming as it was. During the

shooting experience, she got to speak to Gavin Casalegno, who plays Jeremiah Fisher.

“In our [non-disclosure agreement], they’re like, ‘Do not speak to the actors, this is their working time,’” she said. “So that was another thing that 100 percent surprised me, because they would talk to you like you were a friend or something like that.”

Looking back on the experience, Powell said she would definitely do it again.

“It’s just really cool that everybody who gets to watch this show gets to almost be a part of the UNC community and just see what that’s like, because my experience on set was very warm and welcoming, just like the school is,” she said.

Johnson said that filming at UNC rather than in a traditional production location like New York may pique the interest of prospective students or viewers wanting to see the school with their own eyes.

Even for students who were not part of the production, seeing their campus on screen remains impactful. Meredith Anderson, Powell’s friend and longtime fan of the show, was at her first-year orientation while the series was filming in 2024. She said that seeing UNC in the show deepened her love and appreciation for the campus.

“You don’t realize until you kind of see it like that, how beautiful our campus is,” Anderson said.

X: [@dthlifestyle](https://twitter.com/dthlifestyle)

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Eno Arts Mill artists continue to rebuild

Continued from Page 1

Once she saw the extent of the damage, she said she entered “work mode” and started to assess what she could salvage. Among the items she was able to save were her two pottery wheels, but their functionality is questionable.

“You just don’t know,” she said. “This event could just continue to affect us for the next couple years.”

Still, Sandford considered herself lucky and said there were others who lost decades of work.

This was the case for landscape artist John Dempsey, who lost 20 to 25 framed drawings dating back to 1982.

Dempsey, who was leasing his studio for a third year, described the loss as a slap in the face. However, he also said he was less affected compared to those who lost work that was more important to them.

“It’s difficult with artwork because you put time into it, so you’re kind of losing all this effort that you’ve done in the past,” he said. “It’s kind of getting washed away.”

With the help of community volunteers, the mill was cleared out within a few days. However, Katie Murray, director of the OCAC, said the mill will not reopen until January 2026.

For Dempsey and Sandford, this means continuing to work out of their homes.

“I get up in the morning and think, ‘Oh, I should get to the studio,’ and then I think, ‘Oh, I don’t have a studio,’” Dempsey said. “I’m still kind of accepting it emotionally.”

But despite the loss of space and materials, the community support for artists hasn’t wavered.

Murray said the OCAC has collected around \$60,000 in donations to set up a relief fund for artists who lost their work. Additionally, the Golden Belt Artists in Durham hosted a showcase to display Eno Mill artists’ work.

The ArtsCenter in Carrboro even offered Mead a desk to work at so she can continue supporting herself and her son. Sew Liberated, a pattern company in Chapel Hill with which Mead has worked, also set up a GoFundMe for her with a goal of \$7,000. The fundraiser quickly received over \$12,500 in donations — enough to cover the costs of everything Mead lost in the flood.

“I’ve never lived in a place that has been so supportive of the arts in my life,” Mead said. “So, I’m very, very grateful to be here.”

X: @dthlifestyle

MUSIC

WXYC and Siembra NC host concert

Six-hour benefit event held to raise funds for local social justice group

By Lola Oliverio
Lifestyle Editor

Activists and art lovers alike gathered at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro last Saturday for a “benefit shindig” to raise awareness and funds for Siembra NC, a local grassroots Latine social justice group.

Siembra’s mission is to protect North Carolina’s Latine communities from discriminatory employers and landlords, as well as from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The organization was created in 2017 in response to President Donald Trump’s anti-immigration legislation and operates in several counties throughout the state.

The event was a joint effort by WXYC 89.3 FM — UNC’s student-led freeform radio station — and the ArtsCenter, Orange County’s largest arts education provider. It ran from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and featured several local artists and bands, as well as tabling by Siembra. Food Not Bombs Carrboro, a volunteer-led food distribution organization, provided free dinner for attendees.

Rather than purchasing tickets, attendees were granted entry if they provided proof of donation to Siembra.

Event-goers were encouraged to bring their own clothes to screenprint on, but they could also purchase merchandise for sale from WXYC as well as the artists performing at the event.

The event came together, in part, through convenience. Danny O’Shaughnessy, the live events manager at the ArtsCenter, is a WXYC alum, and his intern, Kate Golden, is a current WXYC DJ and the station’s event coordinator.

“We basically just had a conversation like, ‘Look, we’ve got all these connections. Like, why not make something happen?’ And so we just set to work pretty much right away,” O’Shaughnessy said.

He said the idea for the event to be a benefit show came naturally.

“We wanted to make it really something that brought the community together,” he said.

Artists performed throughout the entire six-hour event, with live DJ sets in between. También, a Durham-based samba-jazz group performed first at the event, followed by Nathan Bowels, an improvisational banjoist and keyboardist from Hillsborough.

Charlie Paso, a post-hardcore group from Raleigh played next, followed by Renzo Ortega, a Peruvian Carrboro-based artist who played a mix of electronic, acoustic and noise music. Verity Den, an ambient drone group from Carrboro, closed out the show.



DTH/LOLA OLIVERIO

Kate Golden and Kaia Chen hold up a screenprinted shirt at the ArtsCenter x Siembra NC x WXYC Benefit Shindig on Saturday, Aug. 16.

O’Shaughnessy said that, though the event was put together quickly, all of the artists the organizers reached out to wanted to play.

“It’s been a lot of fun and really, really, refreshing to see just how the communities came together for something like this,” O’Shaughnessy said.

At their table, Siembra gave out flyers with information on the organization and their upcoming programming. Part of the purpose of Siembra’s table was to promote their next event, a 4th Amendment Workplace Celebration and campaign launch party in Chapel Hill.

“Celebration is always good. That’s why we’re having [more events],” Duncan Rodriguez, a DJ at WXYC and student organizer with Siembra, said. “But I like this one because it’s a bit more localized and kind of integrated into Chapel Hill and Carrboro.”

Golden said it was fun to kick off the school year with such an important event.

“There’s a lot of, not even legislative stuff, but, just, unsound injustices that are going on with the current administration, and helping from a grassroots, local level feels like an important way to enact change and get involved,” she said.

Siembra will hold their 4th Amendment Workplace Celebration on August 24 at the United Church of Chapel Hill.

Editor’s Note: Lola Oliverio is a DJ at WXYC. Kate Golden is a copy staffer at The DTH.

X: @lolaoliverio

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

UNC junior releases debut sci-fi book with local publisher

‘The Missing Will Be Found’ brings readers into the year 2073

By Emma Arthur
Staff Writer

In August 2024, UNC student Blythe Klayner released her first novel, “The Missing Will Be Found,” under the pen name “Raidin.” Klayner is a junior double-majoring in media and journalism and English and comparative literature, with a minor in studio art. In her post-apocalyptic science fiction book, Klayner brings readers into 16-year-old Meira’s universe after the world has been rebuilt in the year 2073.

Meira’s utopian life is seemingly perfect until her parents vanish without warning. She’s drawn into a group of government critics and meets a rebellious stranger who embodies everything the government aims to eliminate.

With her memories fading and the truth slipping further away, Meira must confront the hidden realities of the world she thought she knew.

Klayner has been writing all of her life. In elementary school, she wrote stories about her toys, creating a special world for them to interact; in middle school, she wrote her first long-form story.

“[That story] was also science fiction, so that’s when I realized I loved writing that genre as well,” Klayner said.

Klayner began writing “The Missing Will Be Found” the summer before her junior year of high school, which was when she realized she wanted to spend as much time as she could writing books while balancing being a student.

In the early stages of writing her book, Klayner viewed it as something fun she did in her free time.



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC junior Bythe Klayner poses for a portrait at the Coker Aboretum on Monday, Aug. 18.

“I had no idea that it was going to turn into an actual book,” Klayner said. “I was at my friend’s house during the summer and I just started writing, and then it just continued and continued.”

During her first two years at UNC, Klayner said she learned skills that she is confident will improve her writing even more in the future.

“I realized that it only goes up from here and you can always learn more,” she said.

To publish her book, Klayner worked with local publishing company Wisdom House Books. She said they were incredibly helpful as she was trying to juggle being a first-year student in college while beginning the publishing process.

Clara Jackson, the president and co-owner of Wisdom House Books, said Klayner had incredible drive and follow-through in her writing.

“When it comes to being an author, you really have to be disciplined and open at the same time,” Jackson said. “She has an

amazing education and that’s what struck us, she’s an excellent writer and the editing didn’t take very much at all.”

Ted Ruybal, the graphic designer at Wisdom House Books, created the cover of Klayner’s novel. He drew inspiration from a cover concept and previous artworks she had made.

“I’m glad that she was able to find us and we were able to produce her book that’s different, original and right for her,” Ruybal said.

Klayner is currently writing her second book, titled “The Pursuit of the Sun,” a fantasy novel aimed toward older audiences.

Klayner said she hopes her work can help others feel heard.

“I have so many books that — especially in high school — helped me, so I just hope that will happen with mine,” she said.

X: @dthlifestyle

REVIEW

‘Eddington’ confronts the madness of 2020 America

Ari Aster’s latest film tackles an ambitious scale of plot and genre

By Taylor Motley
City & State Editor

In his latest film, “Eddington,” Ari Aster masterfully encapsulates the mayhem of a society thrown into uncertainty and conflict in 2020. When the teaser was released, the premise felt too ambitious — a political piece focused on the tumultuous year of 2020 that was produced just five years after it happened. However, after watching “Eddington,” it’s clear that the recentness of the subject matter was not a hindrance, but rather enabled Aster to accurately depict the chaos of it.

The unsettling nature of “Eddington” is reminiscent of Aster’s previous works, including “Hereditary” and “Midsommar.” However, rather than unnerving audiences with jumpscare, “Eddington” builds discomfort by forcing audiences to reckon with themselves and their actions during 2020.

Set in the fictional rural town of Eddington, New Mexico, the film begins in May 2020. Amid mask mandates, Black Lives Matter protests and internet conspiracy theories, Eddington sheriff Joe Cross (Joaquin Phoenix) clashes with the town’s mayor Ted Garcia (Pedro Pascal) as they each have their own vision of what is best for the community.

“Eddington” captures the essence of the United States during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost eerily so. Aster is unafraid to critique both the craze of anti-maskers — cross spits out the all-too-common excuse of having asthma and not being able to breathe — and the selfishness of white liberalism. And it is this scarily accurate screenplay that makes “Eddington” so powerful.

Garcia appears as a likeable guy and respectable mayor during the

film’s exposition, even amid Pascal’s smug and righteous portrayal of him. After all, he’s working against Cross, who establishes himself as a bitter pain from his first scene, in which he goes back and forth with police from the surrounding pueblo about why he should not have to wear a mask.

“Eddington” quickly reveals the deception of Garcia’s progressive persona when we see him advocating for a massive technology center by SolidGoldMagikarp to be built in Eddington, despite concerns about its environmental impacts on residents. Aster paints SolidGoldMagikarp as a looming enemy of Eddington through long shots in which the technology facility’s monstrous size dominates the town’s natural beauty, compelling audiences to see how the two are antithetical.

The film’s teenaged side characters also play a key role in illustrating the collective insanity of society in mid-2020. Brian (Cameron Mann) becomes a fierce advocate for the Black Lives Matter movement when he recognizes it as a way to win over his crush, Sarah (Amélie Hoeferle). Aster’s screenplay echoes many common sentiments of white liberals who make no effort to pursue change beyond words.

Clocking in with an 148-minute runtime, “Eddington” certainly feels its length at times due to the ambitious scale of plot and genre it takes on. Each act seems to derail the expected plot and, with it, the genre. What starts as a modern Western quickly unravels into a crime and thriller film. These genres are not given enough time to come to fruition independently or in conversation with the film’s broader themes, only providing temporary entertainment but no deeper influence on “Eddington.”

Despite its bloated runtime, “Eddington” is unparalleled in its poignant portrayal of the U.S. in 2020, as well as the many types of characters that inhabited and shaped it.

X: @dthlifestyle



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Dungeons. Dragons.
Magic. Meetups.**

Rosemary Street. See you there.

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pies or by the slice.
Open 'till 3 a.m.**



Opinion Desk’s goals amid an impassioned political climate

By Sydney Baker
Opinion Editor

and Madelyn Rowley
Assistant Opinion Editor

On July 20, the widely circulated YouTube channel Jubilee published a controversial debate with journalist Mehdi Hasan entitled “1 Progressive vs 20 Far-Right Conservatives.” With over ten million views to date, the outwardly racist and inflammatory content shocked viewers across the Internet. Content like this will naturally raise questions about the role of opinions and the outlets that platform them. Should material like this even be published? Is it ethical to benefit from what is no more than intentional ragebait of conscientious viewers?

As opinion editors and writers ourselves, we recognize the unique responsibilities that come with platforming varying attitudes and beliefs. There is an untenable impact in even hearing out the opinions of another; bigoted content has an indisputable psychological impact on those who are forced to engage with it. These are not just columns and weightless words — they carry emotional implications.

At The Daily Tar Heel, we champion journalists and students exercising their First Amendment rights. At the Opinion Desk, however, we are capable of recognizing the



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

DTH Opinion Desk editors Sydney Baker and Madelyn Rowley pose for portraits at the office on Thursday, Aug. 14.

distinction between legally protected speech and productive, ethical speech. We refuse to cross the line into platforming illegitimate, bigoted rhetoric. It has no place on the desk, no place at The Daily Tar Heel and no place at the University.

We intend to promote productive, intentional messaging whilst maintaining diversity of thought. Here’s our plan for how to do that this year in a divisive climate:

1. We will be cognizant of the federal attack on the First Amendment and the hostility linked with student journalism as young activists are doxxed and targeted across the country. We will not pacify the voices on our desk to be compliant with a federal or university administration if it is not reflective of our authentic beliefs.

2. We will take advantage of our desk’s ability to connect with voices outside of The Daily Tar Heel

through guest essays. In the past, this feature of the Opinion Desk has been underutilized but also underpublicized. We encourage our readers to submit guest essays when they find our content lacks a specific perspective or voice. These external articles serve as a check on our coverage, especially when certain columns elicit dissension.

3. We will continue to facilitate the publishing of pieces that we

don’t personally agree with, whether they be from our staffers or guests’ submissions. Unlike The Washington Post, whose Opinion Desk has been strong-armed into regurgitating the beliefs of owner Jeff Bezos, ours will allow for full freedom of discussion in all meetings and editing sessions. Controversy is inextricable from the process of publishing opinion content. Producing columns that spark discourse will always be a priority over content that will be well-received by our audience and agreed upon readily.

4. We will be uncompromising and stringent in our fact-checking, ensuring that the truth at the foundation of the desk’s opinion columns is reliable and well-founded. Our desk frequently covers topics of sensitive and polarizing nature — we understand that there is no room for error in editing. We will work closely with the rest of our management team to maintain consistent standards our readership can trust.

Oftentimes, when people refer to “today’s divisive political climate,” they do so in an implicitly negative context — as if one ought to be more subdued, as if such beliefs are unreasonable. We disagree. In fact, we believe that the expression of impassioned opinions is a rightful reaction to a host of tragedies and complexities that occur around us daily. As editors, our job isn’t to extinguish inflamed voices and fervent convictions. Our job is to ignite them.

X: @dthopinion

The Kvetching Board is back and better

By Emily Gessner
Kvetching Board Editor

The Daily Tar Heel hasn’t published anything related to our Kvetching Board since 2019. You probably don’t even know what it is.

Allow me to enlighten you. Kvetch is a Yiddish word meaning “to complain.” The DTH’s Kvetching Board opens up our publication to anyone who wants to voice their opinion, complaints or small wins.

This year, you’ll see the kvetch section in our weekly Wednesday paper and our website. You can submit entries through an online form, and cycles will run Tuesday to Monday.

Help us bring the Kvetching Board back this year by submitting; with any luck, your anonymous entry will be chosen. Former entries include:

“It’s FDOC and I have already identified The Man Who Talks Without Raising His Hand in my feminist philosophy class,” from 2017.

“It’s pronounced ‘yee-roh.’ Love, your favorite Bottom-of-Lenoir cashier,” from 2016.

“I don’t have any kvetches. I’m just poor and not funny,” from 2016.

We look forward to getting to know your triumphs and your grievances. Welcome back, Kvetching Board.



SATIRE

Lee Roberts has really great jeans

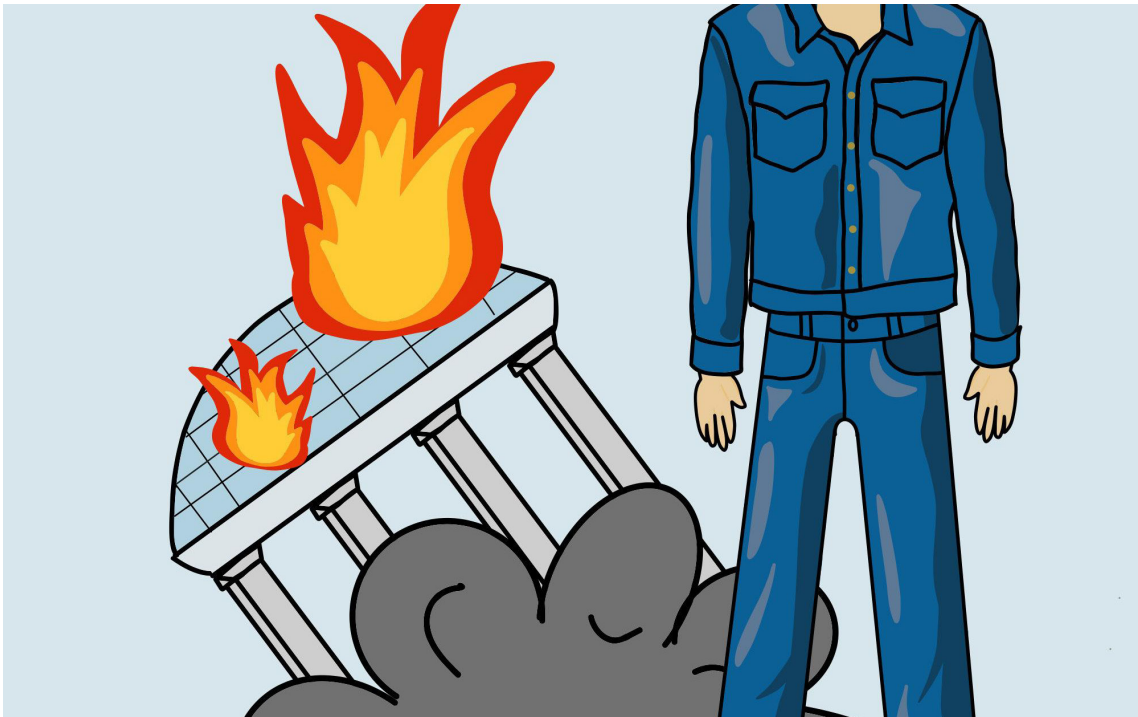
By Sydney Baker
Opinion Editor

Last FDOC, you could find Lee Roberts firmly shaking hands with students across campus, posing in selfies by the Old Well and talking charismatically to people about his deep interests in metal fence architecture. But this year was different. On Monday, the chancellor (and the Board of Trustees) decided he hadn’t done something controversial in a while. So in a spectacle in the Pit, Roberts decided to show off what he’s never shown off before — his really great jeans.

In his signature vocal fry and sultry eyes, the chancellor posed on the ground while rasping, “Genes are passed down from parents to offspring, often determining traits like hair color, personality and even eye color. My jeans are blue.” His all-denim outfit was handcrafted from a conglomeration of gameday jean dresses donated by UNC sororities, as well as thrifted jorts from Rumors. The outfit was tied together with his gelled hair, so neatly coiffed that he kept having to exclaim “My eyes are down here!”

This elaborate production was made possible by funds recently acquired from cutting DEI and raising out-of-state tuition. And this exhibition is Roberts’ latest attempt at publicity since the release of his custom bath water soap, which, after a lack of sales, is now being pumped through the South Campus bathrooms.

Intermittently, the nearby Pit preachers shouted into their microphones “Lee Roberts has great jeans,” though it’s not clear if they were paid to do that or if it was an off-the-cuff addition to their daily sermons about the kinds of people destined for hellfire.



DTH DESIGN/MEG JENKINS

At the mention of jeans during his Pit performance, many victims of the UNC STEM departments watching in the audience had hallucinations of Punnett squares and PTSD-related tremors. Also in the audience were the creators of Tuff Fit Tuesday, who quickly disappeared at the sight of denim on denim. Then fights started breaking out, with a group of fraternity brothers standing in front of Roberts’ denim protectively as another group of students started shouting things about “propaganda” and “eugenics” and “Robert E. Lee reincarnate!”

Roberts began to speak, clarifying that great jeans look great on everyone. Then, he shared that he specifically really likes jeans that are “skinny, straight and light wash.”

Roberts left before returning with 40 police officers in tow, who were also adorned in denim uniforms. Their back pockets were the perfect size for holding pepper spray, handcuffs and the aspiration to physically assault a couple of students.

Since FDOC, the campus has been buzzing with outrage over Roberts’ controversy. But his jean spectacle has only continued to spread across campus, like unflattering low-rise skinny jeans in 2016. The University is considering renaming the Dean E. Smith Center to the Jean Jome. Carolina Blue will be replaced with the color medium wash, and our school’s phrase will now be “born, bred, denim.”

“It’s not a eugenics dog whistle or a wink to white supremacy. It’s a bad pun,” the BOT said in a press

release. “People need to calm down.” Lee Roberts also sent out a non-apology via email: “Dear Carolina Community, ‘Lee Roberts has great jeans’ is and always was about the jeans. My jeans. My story.”

So as groups across campus argue whether his production was a subtle signal of an affinity for certain races or just his flair for flare jeans, Roberts sits contently in South Building with a smile on his face.

A lot of people question Roberts’ qualifications for chancellorship and how he’s performed so far. But this spectacle was an important reminder of one of his best virtues: Lee Roberts has some really great jeans.

X: @sydneyj_baker

COLUMN

In coverage of Gaza, American media is failing us



PHOTO COURTESY OF OMAR ASHTAWY/APA IMAGES

Palestinians inspect the devastation following an Israeli strike that hit Gaza City's southern al-Zaitoon neighborhood in August.

By Madelyn Rowley
Assistant Opinion Editor

Accurate, fair, complete. In my very first writing class at UNC, I learned these three pillars as the elementary standards of acceptable reporting. Throughout the year, we memorized a few rules that writers must follow in order to meet these standards: a) the most relevant information goes in the headline, b) avoid unnecessarily complicating the subject at hand and c) never, under any circumstances, use the passive voice.

A headline like this, for instance: “Deadly Aid Deliveries in Gaza,” published June 4 by The New York Times, would fail an acceptability test. It lays atop a story about Israeli soldiers shooting Palestinian civilians at food sites, thus clearly diluting the subject at hand and lacking a reasonable description of what is to follow in the reporting. So, too, would this headline fail: “Monday Briefing: Dozens Killed in Gaza,” published July 21. Notably missing in a title like this is the answer to the most critical of questions: killed by whom?

These examples exist as part of a systemic trend that has taken over major media outlets in the United States: in depictions of Israel’s bombardment of Gaza, vague, passive and biased writing has dampened Israel’s destructive impact. Subsequently, Israel has been partially absolved of guilt and released from scrutiny. A sickening report from The Intercept details how this reporting bias extends into word choice, as outlets have reserved the most emotive terms for Israeli, not Palestinian, victims. In major outlet coverage of

Israel and Gaza in the first six weeks after the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, “the term ‘slaughter’ was used by editors and reporters to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 60 to 1, and ‘massacre’ was used to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 125 to 2. ‘Horrific’ was used to describe the killing of Israelis versus Palestinians 36 to 4.” The writers and editors at The New York Times and The Washington Post do not need me to coach them on basics of acceptable reporting — they are some of the best in their field, highly skilled and relentlessly

trained on the how-tos of grammar and clarity. So in the face of these staggering statistics, such bias cannot be chalked up to an accident. It can only reasonably be classified as a lie by omission that, at best, disregards Palestinian humanity. At worst, it prolongs a genocide attempt. I cannot and do not singlehandedly blame individual journalists for the faults of their institutions. I imagine there have been many tense moments between conscientious journalists and their editors who revise articles to be softer and less “divisive.” But there is no room for errors of such magnitude in one of the few careers that have real-world implications. Unjust coverage prompts readers to turn away from the plight of the suffering and lifts meaningful pressure from politicians to end arms sales and call for an immediate ceasefire. At what point will the devastation reach a level of indefensibility? How many more children must die before our coverage of their death becomes even mildly respectable? It is not the job of the media to play God, to diffuse impact, to decide what actions warrant appropriate dealings out of blame. It is our only job to report accurately, fairly and completely — three pillars which have been disregarded for over a year and a half. The start of a school year is often a time to eagerly look forward to our prospective futures and careers. As a student who used to deeply covet the legitimacy of a position in these once-heralded newsrooms, it is horribly demoralizing to witness the systemic failure that permeates this coverage. I triple-check my elementary classroom reporting to ensure it meets the most foundational qualifications of journalism. I feel it is reasonable to expect my flagbearers to do the same.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

It’s time to leave ‘performative’ men alone

By Victoria Kirova
Columnist

Spotted on campus: male, 19 to 25. Wired headphones in, phone lit up displaying “Summertime Sadness” by Lana Del Rey, iced almond milk matcha in hand. Subject is wearing baggy jorts, a collared flannel shirt and non-prescription glasses. The most notable features are a Labubu clipped onto his side pocket and a tote bag carrying a single novel — “The Handmaid’s Tale.” To the casual observer, he is just another college student. But a well-trained eye can see through this act immediately — an infamous “performative male.” In this recent social media trend, these men are displayed as the embodiment of pure deceit. According to the extremities of their act, a man who holds intellectual conversations with women or expresses themselves through creative hobbies is nothing more than a master manipulator who should be avoided at all cost. While the joke is entertaining — and although such calculated men do exist — the “performative male” trend reveals a greater problem surrounding modern day authenticity: Why do people feel so uncomfortable when men embrace their femininity? The characteristics of a “performative male starter pack” are easily identifiable, indirectly becoming a checklist of things to avoid if one wants to appear in touch with their masculinity. However, this mindset sets us back years, as it encourages men to embrace a conformity driven by stereotypes of emotional immaturity and oblivion.



DTH DESIGN/VERONICA CHEAZ

This brings about the question: what does real authenticity even look like anymore? When people are simply being themselves or trying to discover new interests, they are accused of being fake. However, the real “performativity” seems to be the hyper-masculine ideals that these young adults feel forced to conform to. It is beginning to appear as though a harmless trend has

become less about spotting “fakes” and more about reinforcing these untrue norms. Nowadays, it appears as if the only acceptable pursuits for a college-aged man include a gym addiction, playing a sport and joining a frat.

These are completely respectable hobbies if they are pursued intentionally, but classifying real masculinity by these pastimes is problematic. The irony of it all is that the men who partake in these safely masculine activities are oftentimes the most performative of them all — by avoiding listening to any Clairo songs or drinking a matcha latte, they are repressing their inner

femininity and consequently embodying an inauthentic version of themselves. The stigmatization of interests is simply fortifying the clichés we have been striving to dismantle. How many business majors would make great artists and how many athletes would be passionate dancers if they were allowed true freedom of expression? Let a man take a pottery class for reasons other than the graduation requirement, and let him join an a cappella group without forcing him to pretend his passion for singing is ironic. A man in your class should be able to listen to Taylor Swift and enjoy romance novels without making up excuses for these interests. Yet, despite this pressure to fit the generic mold of masculinity, college students have started to resist the judgmental stares and the claims of performativity. Through wearing jewelry, experimenting with makeup and even painting their nails, men are embracing a part of themselves that society tries so hard to subdue. These choices, as small or as big as they may be, are necessary steps toward showcasing balance within oneself and experiencing a sense of true liberation during a pivotal stage of development. Call it a performance if you want. But imagine the freedom of staring out into Polk Place and seeing a group of guys wearing lip gloss, unashamedly blurring Sabrina Carpenter — and nobody looks twice.

X: @dthopinion

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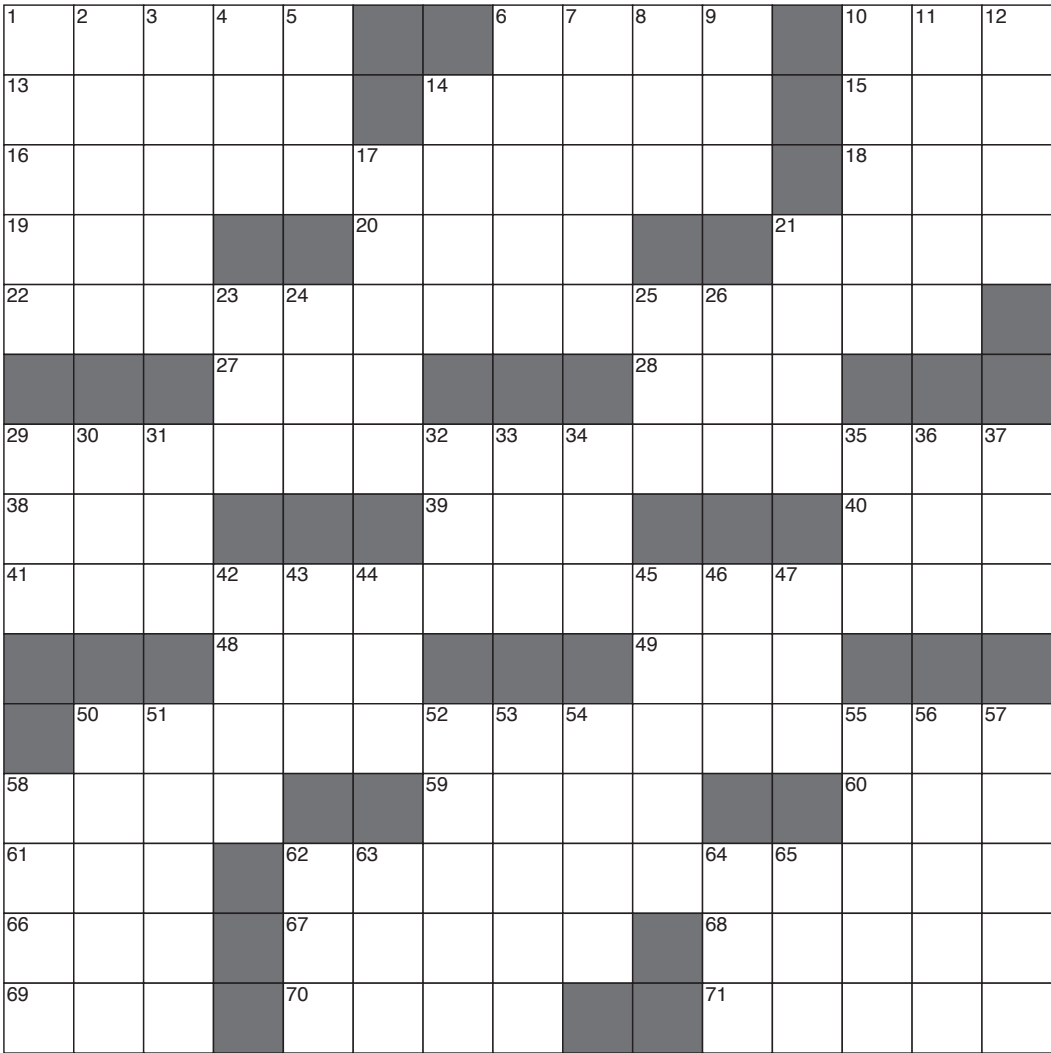
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Obituary: Judith Gail (Judy) Petty, 70, of Mebane passed away on Thursday, August 14, 2025. She was retired from the accounting department with UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. She is the daughter of the late Eugene and Virginia Canada Petty. She was preceded in death by her son, Patrick Bradley and sister, Brenda Sturdivant. She is survived by her sisters, Kristi Petty and Cheryl Masters; best friend and co-worker who was always there for her, Linda Conn; nieces and nephews. A graveside service to celebrate her life will be 11:00 Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Westwood Cemetery in Carrboro.



“When in Rome”

This week’s puzzle was created by Brigit Pierce, The Daily Tar Heel Crossword Editor. Brigit is a junior studying Economics.

ACROSS

- 1 Salsa or merengue, for example
- 6 African country with a stereotypical frat guy name
- 10 Beach bottle letters
- 13 Stranger Things little sister
- 14 Largest living mammal
- 15 Redundant addition to chai
- 16 Limits
- 18 Rosé and Bruno Mars hit
- 19 Tsp. or tbsp.
- 20 Nordic capital
- 21 Threatening word, with “or”
- 22 Ray Bradbury novel published in MCMLIII
- 27 Burned disc
- 28 “___ live and breathe!”
- 29 Charles Dickens novel published in MDCCCLIX
- 38 Csc reciprocal
- 39 Rank above king, perhaps?
- 40 Animal also known as wildebeest
- 41 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. novel published in MCMLXIX
- 48 Sigma follower
- 49 “To ___ is human”

- 50 Solomon Northrup memoir published in MDCCCLIII (also an MMXIII Oscar-winning film)
- 58 Flamenco props
- 59 Polite alternative to 29-down
- 60 Camp Childish Gambino song
- 61 Classroom farm animal
- 62 Emperor, legate and praetor, or a description of 22-, 29-, 41- and 50- across
- 66 Detroit export
- 67 Wear over time
- 68 Nigerian capital?
- 69 61-across skeleton type
- 70 To the nth degree
- 71 Playground taunt

DOWN

- 1 Late night coffee option, perhaps
- 2 Essential oil therapy
- 3 Final inning, usually
- 4 Syringe meas.
- 5 Slay, colloquially
- 6 Pinochet birthplace
- 7 Asian capital that celebrates tet

- 8 iMac option?
- 9 ___ Moines
- 10 Room for a horse
- 11 North Carolina-founded soft drink
- 12 One of three sisters in Greek mythology
- 14 Hand, mouth or brain follower
- 17 #9 point guard for the Celtics
- 21 Toolbar option
- 23 Leg exercise with Balkan origins, presumably
- 24 Biblical mother
- 25 Tic’s partner
- 26 2000s CBS crime show
- 29 Mary’s transport into Bethlehem
- 30 Up to, for short
- 31 Actress de Armas
- 32 Blubber
- 33 Fire’s duet partner in George R. R. Martin series
- 34 Suffix denoting comparison
- 35 FB alternatives for photo sharers
- 36 Chemical suffix
- 37 Family car
- 42 Maladies often treated with cranberry juice
- 43 Part of LGBTQ
- 44 Carolina or Duke blue
- 45 Organ often broken
- 46 Hosp. rooms with caps and gowns
- 47 Address, of sorts
- 50 Anxiety prescription
- 51 Opener
- 52 Knight dress
- 53 “___, set, go!”
- 54 All there
- 55 “___ not lost”
- 56 Turns suddenly
- 57 College admissions aspect
- 58 Clock part with hands
- 62 Jesse Jackson title, abbr.
- 63 Catan resource
- 64 Things en vogue
- 65 ___ chi

Answers to “What you missed”



Horoscopes



Today’s Birthday:
August 20, 2025

Take advantage of this time in your life while it’s here. You only get to experience this year once, so don’t spend too much of it dwelling on the past or worrying for the future. Every day brings new challenges to be overcome and memories to be made.

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

ARIES

Today is a 9 — Make today special. Appreciate the small details around you that you would normally take for granted.

TAURUS

Today is a 7 — Don’t forget to take care of yourself. Big goals are important, but sometimes you have to start with the basics. Drink water and take time to rest.

GEMINI

Today is an 8 — Be on the lookout for an army of third graders. They may be small, but they have strength in numbers.

CANCER

Today is a 7 — Check in on those close to you. You never know who might need someone to lean on.

LEO

Today is a 9 — Get a pet. Get two pets. Maybe even three. There are lots of animals out there that need a home, and you know you want one. This is your sign.

VIRGO

Today is a 9 — This is an overwhelming time. Slow down and take the time to focus on what’s important to you.

LIBRA

Today is a 6 — Family, whatever that means for you, is everything. Keep building and maintaining connections to the people who mean the most to you.

SCORPIO

Today is an 8 — The object most immediately to your left will save your life in the near future.

SAGITTARIUS

Today is a 5 — Buy yourself a silly little drink. You deserve it...

CAPRICORN

Today is an 8 — Don’t wait around for opportunities to find you. If something is truly important, you have to chase it.

AQUARIUS

Today is an 8 — Summer is almost over. Go to the pool! Playing mermaids is possibly the most important thing you can do at this exact moment.

PISCES

Today is a 9 — You are entering a time of change. Be ready and willing to adapt, and this can be a time of growth for you.

Men’s soccer assembles fresh lineup: ‘There’s a reason why everyone’s brought here’

Of the Tar Heels’ 29-man roster, 16 players are new

By Connor Foote
Senior Writer

Of the 11 that started for UNC men’s soccer in last season’s agonizing NCAA tournament exit against Furman, only three remain: graduate midfielder Andrew Czech, senior defender Parker O’Ferral and senior goalkeeper Andrew Cordes. When combined with a short preseason, team chemistry is an obvious pressure point. And while many of last year’s players are gone, the outlook remains the same for 15th-year head coach Carlos Somoano.

“I have not spent one second thinking about that, and I’m not going to spend one second thinking about it,” Somoano said. “We turned over some great players from last year. We miss them, love them, but I don’t think it’s about who you don’t have.”

That confidence in his squad showed in North Carolina’s last tune-

up game, a 3-2 exhibition win over VCU Friday night at Dorrance Field. For this season to go well, the restock — of the 29-man roster, 16 are new — will be of utmost importance.

UNC started out quick, dominating possession in the attacking half and gathering some decent looks despite a bevy of VCU fouls. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville transfer Nacho Abeal shined early, motoring around midfield to disrupt the opposition’s lead-up play.

“We don’t practice to win a game, we practice to win a national championship,” Abeal said.

In a preseason coach’s poll, UNC finds itself just outside the top 25. For the Tar Heels to break into the top 25, 11 first-years, including U-20 Canadian national team member Immanuel Mathe, will look to make an immediate impact.

“I do think they’re really quickly embracing Carolina culture,” Somoano said. “That’s huge, because that’s gonna be the foundation for anything that we do on the field.”

Somoano’s five-man backline is completely new and wingback play



DTH FILE/TAYLOR NOCK

UNC midfielder Andrew Czech (27) dribbles the ball during the men’s soccer game against the College of Charleston at Dorrance Field on Oct. 8, 2024.

will need to be consistent in driving his press on the flank. Czech and Abeal, along with graduate midfielder Jack Sandmeyer, look to control the center of the field with quick, incisive passes and good footwork. Up front, Danish sophomore forward Bertil Rygaard Hansen returns beside University of San Francisco graduate

midfield transfer Gabriel Bracken Serra. Squad depth may prove to be the most important quality in the final third.

Conviction in the system is apparent across the team, but there’s still work to be done.

Leading 2-0 at halftime, UNC looked near-infallible — passes were

on point, play was smart and shots found the net — but VCU came out after the break with composure and began to find attacking lanes. The strong, fast play Somoano wants from his team appeared to peter out after the second goal.

“It’s not gonna fall into place right away,” Czech said.

The Illinois native stressed his role in communicating Somoano’s goals to the rest of the team.

“Carlos definitely has a certain way that we play — work as hard as we can together, stick to our core values and that’s what I’m trying to highlight and spread to the guys,” Czech said.

With a tough ACC schedule ahead of them — a September run of games features four of the top 20 on the ballot — that mentality can’t spread fast enough.

While Czech acknowledges that some might catch on faster than others, he is confident, both for his new teammates and the season ahead.

“There’s a reason why everyone’s brought here,” Czech said.

X: @connorgfoote

ICON

UNC baseball facility dog retires after nine years of golden service

Rehab retriever aided in both physical and mental recoveries

By Alexandra Jones
Senior Writer

REMINGTON, UNC’s beloved facility dog, retired this summer after nine seasons with the UNC baseball team.

Many fans would recognize this furry friend as a highlight of trips to Boshamer Stadium, having watched him stand alongside the team and aid in game day activities.

But this golden retriever did so much more than fetch.

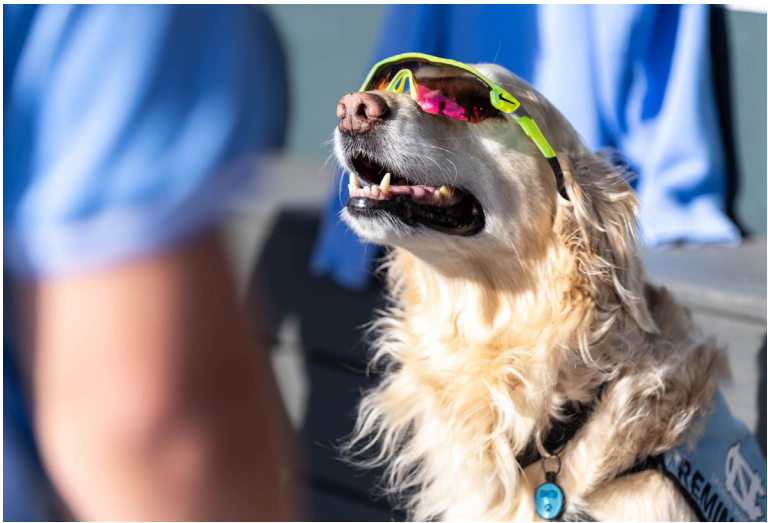
REMINGTON served as the first-ever rehabilitation dog in ACC history. The 11-year-old golden retriever is an expert at sensing and relieving stress in humans. With an arsenal of over 100 tricks, REMINGTON’s comforting presence and extensive training supported the UNC baseball program since he was two years old.

“He’s helped the baseball players through rehabilitation, both mentally and physically, just being a part of their program,” head athletic trainer Terri Jo Rucinski said. “It’s hard to rehab through post surgery, and him just being there every day for them is a testament to [how much] it’s a grind to go to rehab every day, and with him there, it just makes it so much better.”

REMINGTON arrived in Chapel Hill as part of a paws4people initiative, an organization that trains and assigns Assistance Dogs to clients, after Rucinski applied to get a dog for the baseball program.

After receiving word that he was assigned to a high stimulation environment at North Carolina, Deputy Executive Director of paws4people Danielle Cockerham took over as REMINGTON’s trainer.

“We would have considered it at that time, and still do, a very VIP placement in our mind,” Cockerham said. “To make sure he is ready to tackle things like the baseball field and a PT clinic and room and be



DTH FILE/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC Athletics Rehabilitative Facility Dog REMINGTON sits in the dugout with other players during the baseball game on Feb. 26.

ready to fly on the plane with Terri Jo and the team. Typically it’s about one-and-a-half to two years of prep work and training to get a dog ready for their job.”

Rucinski then became REMINGTON’s handler, putting in over 80 hours of work during the summer to prepare him. The pair went to the mall, w and, of course, baseball games.

After a summer of hard work, REMINGTON was ready.

In addition to being a service dog and providing support for Rucinski’s disabilities, REMINGTON was dual-certified to help aid in the mental and physical recovery of UNC athletes. He also traveled with injured athletes to appointments, emergency department visits and testing — like with former UNC infielder Johnny Castagnozzi.

Before Castagnozzi’s surgery to remove a blood clot, REMINGTON jumped up on the bed, sensing anxiety and nerves. Castagnozzi noted that in addition to the impact of REMINGTON on physical health, the dog helped his teammates be more open about their emotions.

Before each game, REMINGTON would trot out to the player line for the national anthem, sporting a North Carolina branded hat in

his mouth. He’d sit alongside the athletes until the final note — garnering a reputation as UNC baseball’s mascot.

And although those moments on the field were the only ones that the fans saw, REMINGTON put in hard work before and after each game to keep the team healthy.

Former UNC pitcher Jake Knapp also emphasized how much Rucinski means to the program, and how she and REMINGTON got him through the tough rehab of his Tommy John injury.

“I don’t think they truly understand how much they’ve done, not only for me, but a bunch of other people that were there before me and that are there now,” Knapp said. “Their ability to love each of us and take care of us every single day is something that will be remembered forever, especially for me.”

X: @alexjdjones_

COLUMN

Previewing this year’s DTH football special edition

By Matthew Maynard
Sports Editor

Growing up, I always had the same routine.

I’d get up at 6 a.m. before school and watch ESPN’s SportsCenter. I loved catching up on the news or games that I missed while I was asleep the night before. I’d talk to my dad about everything sports related, whether he wanted to or not.

And during the college football season, I couldn’t wait to watch those big-time matchups.

I still vividly remember watching former UNC running back Giovanni Bernard return a 73-yard punt against N.C. State to win the game. I remember Chris Davis’ 109-yard return against Alabama in the Iron Bowl after Nick Saban opted to send a first-year kicker on for a 57-yard field goal attempt. I remember watching LSU and Texas A&M battle it out in seven overtimes.

Those are the moments I love about sports. The ones where you never know what is going to happen.

When I was selected to be this year’s sports editor for The Daily Tar Heel, I found myself getting asked the same question over and over again by family, friends and neighbors.

“How good is UNC football going to be this year?”

It’s a fair question given the attention surrounding the program, and one I’ve struggled to answer.

I’ve given each of them the same response.

“Honestly, I don’t know.”

North Carolina’s new head coach Bill Belichick obviously has a proven track record. After all, he is an eight-time Super Bowl champion. He’s coached some of the greatest players to ever play the game. He built a dynasty with the New England Patriots, winning six Super Bowls as the head coach.

On the flip side, however, he’s never coached collegiate football. He brought in 70 new players through a combination of the transfer portal and high school recruiting.

It’s a lot of roster turnover but in this era of college athletics,

it’s nothing new. Combine the uncertainty of those players with a first-time college head coach and it’s really just a guessing game.

That’s the part about college sports that I love so much.

If there’s one thing I can guarantee about this year, it’s that The DTH Sports Desk will have readers ready for the upcoming season when the annual football preview hits blue boxes next Wednesday. Over the past few weeks, the entire desk has conducted interviews and done research to help put out the comprehensive guide to UNC’s squad.

In-depth player features on key contributors that delve into more than just their college accolades or experience. Interviews with former high school coaches, parents and the players themselves.

Graduate quarterback Max Johnson’s lengthy recovery following his five surgeries after shattering his femur in the season opener last year against Minnesota. How hard it was not knowing what was going to happen. Thinking he might lose his leg. Now being back out on the field.

In-depth position previews that break down every position group to help readers get familiar with all the new names. A TCU game preview listing key facets for Belichick’s squad ahead of the Sept. 1 season opener.

Photos and designs from our talented photo and design desks to make everything come together.

No, it won’t tell you how the season will go or how good the new-look UNC football team will be. But sit down, read the paper and be ready for those unpredictable moments that make college sports so great.

X: @mdmaynard74

TIES ABROAD

Travel bans, visa restrictions keep students from home

UNC international community expresses U.S. re-entry concerns

By Dania Al Hadeethi
DEI Coordinator

The past few months saw large-scale changes to U.S. travel policies alongside interstate conflicts abroad. For some UNC students and faculty with international ties, these recent domestic and global developments have impacted their summer breaks and caused uncertainty.

The travel restrictions and regulations under the Trump administration have been in flux. On June 4, President Trump issued a travel ban for 19 countries, which took effect on June 9. The ban fully restricts citizens of 12 countries from entering the U.S. and partially restricts those from the other seven.

Some students have chosen to cancel their travel plans to avoid risking their safety or any difficulties re-entering the country.

Derailed student travel plans

A UNC student, who chose to stay anonymous for safety reasons, said they had plans to go to either the United Kingdom or Nigeria to visit their relatives. They didn't travel to either, partially because they feared their social media posts could have prevented them from returning to the country.

"I'm a citizen, but even for people that are citizens and people that are born here, there's a sense of worry that what you post online, you'll face repercussions for it," they said.

Hannah Ceesay, a junior at UNC, said that her mother is currently in The Gambia, their home country, to visit family. She said her mother was worried about going this year and risking being detained upon re-entry to the U.S. because of the new travel policies and her mother's pro-Palestinian activity online.

"It's very uncertain, I guess worse, because she's very visibly a woman of color and Muslim," Ceesay said.

Ceesay said her mother has faced scrutiny when traveling in the past and that every time there is talk of banning travel from Muslim-majority countries, like during Trump's first travel ban in 2017, it causes problems. Ceesay's family now travels less than they used to, she said.

"My mom is starting to carry her papers around again, even though she's lived here for over 30 years," Ceesay said.

Impact on international students

The U.S. Department of State announced on June 18 that it will increase screening and vetting measures for student visa applicants, including examining their online

amount the average student does here, and even the smallest mishap can lead to you losing that degree, that's \$200,000 down the drain instantly, so it's something I didn't want to risk," they said.

The student said being away from their family has been hard and seeing their close friends get to go home has affected them negatively. They also said that they have been trying to avoid the media because it takes a toll on them.

Students and faculty affected by global conflict

Claudia Yaghoobi, a Roshan Distinguished Professor of Persian Studies and the director of the Center for the Middle East and Islamic Studies, said she experienced difficulties during the Iran-Israel war in June because much of her childhood was spent during the 1980s Iran-Iraq War, and the trauma from those events came back.

"You want to do something, but you can't, and sometimes we are paralyzed by those feelings," Yaghoobi said. "And I was paralyzed when the U.S. basically got involved and attacked Iran."

She also said another layer to that trauma is the survivor's guilt. She was able to escape war this time because she was in the U.S., but some of her family members, friends and fellow Iranians could not leave the country.

Yaghoobi said there are international students at UNC from Iran who have connected with her and see her as their safe space. She said those students are worried about their families in Iran, and were also triggered significantly by the survivor's guilt.

Yaghoobi said those international students are not only experiencing helplessness but also have to worry about their visas, because if they leave the U.S., they won't be able to come back.

Haya Odeh, a senior who is a first-generation Palestinian-American, also said she has experienced a sense of helplessness.

Odeh said there were talks between her family to visit relatives in Jordan this summer but those were immediately shut down after Israel attacked Iran. She also said the U.S. foreign policy and travel bans endanger her family here and abroad.

"It's so upsetting that I can't have the freedom to travel back to my home," Odeh said. "Though I'm a citizen here, there's that internal connection of, 'that is my land, that is my home, that is my people, that is my family.'"

In the proclamation of the travel ban, Trump said that the policies are intended to protect U.S. citizens and prevent harm to national interest.

Odeh said that policies like travel bans are not intended to keep people safe, but to constrain movement and cut people off.

"They shape our lives here. They decide whether our communities see refugees welcomed or vilified, whether our taxes fund health care or endless war, whether we can

freely or be trapped by geopolitics," she said.

X: @dailytarheel



PHOTO COURTESY OF YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS/TNS Secretary of State Marco Rubio attends a meeting between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., on April 7.

Welcome to Carolina.

The University Compliance Office has resources related to sexual and interpersonal violence, stalking, and discrimination and harassment.



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