

The Daily Tar Heel

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130 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 131, ISSUE 27

ORDER'S UP

The wait is finally over



PHOTOS BY MCKENZIE BULRIS

UNC seniors Madeline Alt and Julia Chaverin cheer as the staff of Raising Cane's prepare to draw the first name from the restaurant's "Free Cane's for a Year" lottery on Nov. 7, Raising Cane's opening day.

Chapel Hill welcomes Raising Cane's

By Lola Oliverio
Senior Writer
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A line wrapping around the Brockwell Building at the intersection of Franklin and Columbia streets was a common occurrence last week, as customers waited for a taste of North Carolina's first standalone Raising Cane's.

Chapel Hill community members were already lining up outside the new restaurant the evening before its Nov. 7 opening.

N.C. State graduate student Derek Ho, camped out in a tent



Derek Ho, wearing a chicken costume, was the first person in line for Raising Cane's. He and Rameses stand outside the new restaurant on Nov. 7.

on the sidewalk overnight to become the first person ever served by the location.

"It definitely felt uncomfortable at times. But one of the things that I tend to strive for is to seek discomfort — that is my life motto," Ho said. "So essentially, I just kind of took this opportunity to seek that discomfort, because really, the coolest things in life happen when you kind of live outside your comfort zone."

At 7 a.m. on opening day, Ho

SEE RAISING PAGE 7

SCHOLARSHIP

Sophomores join Morehead-Cain

Fifteen students received stipends in unprecedented step

By Akash Bhowmik

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Last week, 15 UNC sophomores officially joined the Morehead-Cain class of 2026 in an unprecedented step announced by the Morehead-Cain Foundation earlier this fall.

The Morehead-Cain Scholars Program, the first merit scholarship program established in the United States, traditionally only offered a full-ride college scholarship to incoming first-year UNC students.

Unlike typical scholars who receive stipends of approximately \$12,000 each semester, the

SEE MOREHEAD-CAIN PAGE 3

EXPERIENCES

Grad students look for social connection

Some share how they find community on and off campus

By Kathryn Bragg

Senior Writer
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Graduate students constitute nearly a third of UNC's enrolled population, and nearly a third of them said they do not see themselves as part of a broader campus community, according to the 2022 Healthy Minds Study conducted by the Division of Student Affairs.

"I'm not really that connected to campus," Paula Castellanos, a graduate student pursuing a

SEE ONE-IN-THREE PAGE 9

FOOTBALL

Tar Heels keep Victory Bell

Students storm field following 47-45 victory over unranked Duke

By Shelby Swanson
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As Beau Maye stood in the stands, watching a sea of UNC students and fans pour onto the field following what was likely his little brother's last home game, it was hard to piece together his emotions.

"I couldn't even tell you," he told The Daily Tar Heel. "It's kind of just crazy after the game. It's an unbelievable ending. It's

hard to really fathom."

His words were soon cut short. Drake Maye was making his appearance on ACC Huddle on the far side of the field. The crowd surrounding him roared, "One more year! One more year!"

The sophomore quarterback, a projected top-three NFL draft pick, could only chuckle in response. And, if this is truly his final home game, could it have been scripted any better?

In a 47-45 double-overtime win over rival Duke, Drake once again came up clutch for No. 24 North Carolina, orchestrating a crucial overtime-forcing drive in regulation and scoring a go-ahead

touchdown in the second overtime. Drake's 342 passing yards and late-game heroics allowed the Tar Heels to retain the Victory Bell for the fifth straight year.

Although, he might have had a difficult time reaching the bell after the game.

After Duke's try at a game-tying two-point conversion went awry, UNC students rushed the field. Soon, "Jump Around," "All I Do Is Win," and "Hark the Sound," blasted from the speakers as fans danced. Some, overcome by emotion, just laid down on the turf.

SEE DRAKE MAYE PAGE 12



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC sophomore quarterback Drake Maye (10) hurdles Duke senior safety Jaylen Stinson (2) during the football game in Kenan Stadium on Saturday. UNC beat Duke 47-45 in double overtime.



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SUPPORT GROUPS

Some international students search for stronger community

CAPS offers some mental health resources for these students

By Lily Kane

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For first-year Ajier Awan, the move from South Sudan, where she grew up, to UNC was a “a huge transition.”

From navigating class registration to dealing with culture shock, Awan said one of the most significant challenges was finding a community. After initially struggling to find people she could relate to and connect with, Awan said she eventually found most of her friends through One Africa, an association for students of African descent at UNC.

Susan Chung, a clinical social worker with Counseling and Psychological Services who works with international students, said feelings of isolation are common among international students.

Çağıl Torgal-Aksoy, a psychology intern at CAPS who works with Chung, said a contributing factor to this loneliness is the separation international students experience from their families and support systems.

“Our international students are very isolated,” Chung said. She also said many international students just exist without being included as part of the campus.

First-year Sophia Moloo, who is from Canada, agreed that distance from home is a challenge. She said she has not found the transition to UNC to be particularly difficult, but thinks that being from Canada has

made the transition easier for her than for students from countries farther away. Moloo cited the move-in process as one example of this difference. She said being just a two-hour plane ride from home meant that her parents could help her move in, unlike most other international students.

“The majority of international students, when I met them, they came alone — and for them, move-in was really hard,” Moloo said.

In hopes of combating this isolation and helping students find a community, Chung started a support group for international students in fall 2022. The group of 12 meets once a week to talk about everything from identity to transitioning to life in the United States.

“I’m really passionate because I’m an immigrant myself,” Chung said.

Torgal-Aksoy, who assists the group, said the international student members find support within the small community.

“Most students don’t have their families, like main support systems here with them, so I think it’s particularly important for them to have a space that they can feel supported and support others, too,” Torgal-Aksoy said.

While the support group is no longer accepting new members for the fall semester, Chung said interested students can join in the spring by filling out a form on the CAPS website and doing a screening interview to determine if they would be a good fit with the group.

CAPS offers other resources for international students, including drop-in counseling hours three times a semester. Chung said she also hosts a monthly “Teatime with Susan,” which focuses on a different



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC first-year Ajier Awan poses for a portrait at the Old Well on Nov. 7. Awan is a member of One Africa, an association for UNC students of African descent.

theme each month, including homesickness and adjusting to American life.

CAPS also offers mental health services through the Multicultural Health Program. Chung said the MCHP is geared towards supporting students of color and international students specifically.

Still, Chung said she wishes more resources were available to international students, particularly because seeking mental health support is often stigmatized in international communities. In particular, she said she would like international students to have a designated counselor who may understand the issues they face better than existing CAPS counselors.

Moloo said she thinks designating international students to mentor first-years from the same country or region might be a better way to provide support because not

all students may feel comfortable opening up to an adviser who does not share their experiences.

“I think if it was student-led, it might create more of a community,” she said.

Awan suggested a similar mentorship program, and also said a student-based organization that brings together all of UNC’s international students, regardless of origin, should be established at UNC.

Chung said she hopes that non-international UNC students would consider the challenges of isolation that international students are facing.

“Imagine yourself as an international student in another country. I hope they can understand, ‘Oh, that must be hard,’” Chung said.

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University

The Daily Tar Heel

Morehead-Cain adds 15 new sophomore scholars

Continued from Page 1

foundation said the new sophomore Morehead-Cain scholars will receive a stipend of \$2,500 per semester. The sophomores will receive the stipend for five semesters beginning in spring 2024.

"The Foundation recognizes that sophomore enrollees into the Program already have a range of mechanisms for paying for college, and many desire to maintain existing scholarship arrangements while adding the flexibility and opportunities afforded to Morehead-Cain Scholars," the Morehead-Cain Foundation said in an email.

The selected sophomores this year include students from five North Carolina counties, six states and China. The Daily Tar Heel spoke with three of the selected scholars.

Shuyan Wu

Shuyan Wu, a scholar on the pre-public health track, said their main interests are health equity — helping people on an individual health level and on a collective health level.

Wu, who is originally from Beijing, China, said they always had a passion for social justice. Coming from an immigrant background of migrant workers, they said they spent several years in high school living and working with the migrant community.

"I understand their struggles and their need for more accessible policy and social plans," Wu said. "I came in as a sociology major, but during my time at UNC I explored public health, and I found out health is not only about the physical conditions but also the psychological and overall social well-being of humans."

Wu said she hopes to bridge what she calls a "science gap" in her clinical research, or the gap that exists between theory and practical implementation.

"There are other people like me and they're still struggling," Wu said. "Because I am fortunate enough to study abroad, to have this opportunity to learn, I would like to get back to my community."

Christopher Arraya

As a first-generation Latino student, scholar Christopher Arraya said many activities for first-generation or underrepresented students often have educational, social and financial constraints. However,

he said becoming a Morehead-Cain scholar makes those interests feasible.

Arraya, an Office of Undergraduate Research student ambassador, is currently researching the political polarization on Facebook during the 2019 Bolivian political crisis.

"My whole family is Bolivian," Arraya said. "I'm a first-generation student in America, so I've been really interested in connecting back with Bolivia and seeing how it's all working with the skills that I have, which is more in the sociology and computer science fields."

Arraya said he wants to emphasize his research through the resources Morehead-Cain offers, like the Lovelace Fund for Discovery.

"I feel like I'm able to give back to a lot of people just through that," he said.

Kassandra Ciriza-Monreal

Scholar Kassandra Ciriza-Monreal said when she moved to the United States, she felt distanced from Mexico, where she had lived for 16 years. She said participating in Latinx-focused student organizations like AMEXCAN and Mi Pueblo gave her a space for her and other students to express themselves.

"All of these communities and organizations bring that feeling back to me," Ciriza-Monreal said.

Ciriza-Monreal said the availability of a sophomore application gave her a chance at the scholarship that she otherwise would not have had as a North Carolina community college transfer student.

While Ciriza-Monreal said she is someone representing first-generation students, Latin-American students and transfer students, she said she wants to set an example for other students from similar backgrounds.

As a current media specialist for the Institute for the Study of the Americas, Ciriza-Monreal said that she hopes to go back to her community college system and help bring opportunities to students, especially immigrant students.

"Sometimes the language barrier or the mindset of some of the students were like they have been overlooked their entire life," Ciriza-Monreal said. "I just want to make them believe in themselves and show them that the resources exist and that they can achieve those resources."

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RELIGION

'This place made Chapel Hill feel like home'

Faith-based organizations provide community, resources

By Claire Harutunian

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Heel Life lists more than 40 "faith and religion" organizations that offer support for students. Although not a comprehensive overview of all organizations, here is an introduction to some of the available resources.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Presbyterian Campus Ministry strives to be a welcoming community that invites students to belong, believe and become, according to their website. The ministry offers Thursday night programs at 6 p.m. that include a student-cooked meal.

"PCM is a progressive campus ministry that is wide-open wrestling with questions and doubt as it relates to faith, and we're an LGBTQ+ welcoming ministry," PCM Minister Reverend Berry French said in an email.

Cameron Mewborn, a UNC senior who is the moderator for PCM, said that the ministry is a "safe and affirming" place that is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Baha'i Student Association

First-year Issa Masumbuko founded the Baha'i Student Association with friends this semester to provide a place for community members to have an "enlightening conversation" at UNC.

Baha'i spaces are typically community oriented. Masumbuko said he wanted to bring that atmosphere to campus after a past club for Baha'is died down.

"How can we use spirituality or religion as a means to achieve social changes?" Masumbuko said.

This is one of the core questions the group plans to focus on this year.

North Carolina Study Center

The North Carolina Study Center embraces the pillars of hospitality, education, vocation and discipleship, Haley Gray, UNC junior and lead intern at the center, said.

The center is not affiliated with a denomination, and its mission is meant to "cultivate Christian life and thought at UNC," according to the center's mission statement.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AVERIE CHAPMAN

The North Carolina Study Center hosted a family weekend brunch on Oct. 28.

Students can participate in regularly scheduled Bible studies and seminars, as well as the Fellows Program, which holds sessions about scripture, theology and Christian thought over three years.

Muslim Students Association

The Muslim Students Association is a "religious, social, and outreach student organization" that is meant to connect Muslim students at UNC and in Chapel Hill, according to their website. The association holds weekly events including prayer sessions, educational services and social opportunities.

"One role is that we are an advocacy group for Muslim students on campus," Manaal Iqbal, president of MSA, said.

MSA reserves a room in the Student Union open to students for prayer every day. Iqbal said the group is open to everyone interested in learning about Islam or who wants to participate in their gatherings. The association also provides other resources for students, including a roommate search form.

UNC Hillel

UNC Hillel is meant to be a "student-driven and staff-supported" space for Jewish and non-Jewish students, Hannah Spinrad, executive director of North Carolina Hillel, said.

Hillel hosts weekly Shabbat celebrations on Friday nights and bagel brunches on Tuesday mornings.

"We are a pluralistic and egalitarian Jewish community," Spinrad said. "Our goal as an organization isn't to convince someone what or how to be Jewish, but figure out what way, if anything, they want Judaism to be incorporated into their lives."

According to their website, Hillel focuses on growing a commitment to their five key values — community, hospitality, learning, spirituality and justice.

Hindu YUVA

Hindu YUVA — which stands for Youth for Unity, Virtues and Actions — aims to be a space for religious appreciation and to unite students who want to celebrate Hindu culture.

"More than anything, I would say that the reason that I've stayed is because we are a family," Atharva Vispute, a UNC junior and the co-president of Hindu YUVA, said.

The group holds meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. A main event that Hindu YUVA organizes is the annual Diwali celebration which has about 600 attendees.

Vispute said that the group is open to anyone and is hoping to have more interfaith conversations.

Newman Catholic Student Center Parish

The Newman Catholic Student Center Parish is a group dedicated to community, welcoming people regardless of where people are on their spiritual journey.

"We want to be people's home away from home," Liz Riegel, the associate director of campus ministry at the center, said.

Carolina Catholic Night, which is held every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m., includes a free home-cooked meal by students.

For more information and a comprehensive list of religious organizations at UNC, visit heelife.unc.edu.

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MENTAL HEALTH

Carolina Housing collaboration brings wellbeing coaches to Hinton James



DTH/ABBEY MCKEE

A Carolina Housing flyer provides more information about WellBeing Coaches.

By Amie Cook

Staff Writer

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Carolina Housing is partnering with the UNC School of Social Work to provide a new resource to support Hinton James residents: WellBeing Coaching.

The program allows students who live in the first-year residence hall to meet with two WellBeing coaches who are master's students in the School of Social Work. They meet one-on-one to discuss challenges the resident might be facing, including stress, time, academics and relationships.

One of the WellBeing coaches, Devon Pelto, is also a coach for another peer well-being program already offered within the School of Social Work. She said her role as a

WellBeing coach is an internship for the program and is an extension of the work already being done.

Pelto described the program as a way for students to talk through challenges they are facing with a nonjudgemental third party and make action plans to tackle them.

"It's really just a thinking partner helping people see things from all different kinds of perspectives," she said.

Megan FinCannon, associate director of residential living at Carolina Housing, said WellBeing coaches provide more support than resident advisors, but the program is less formal than the University's Counseling and Psychological Services.

"We're hoping having WellBeing coaches that students can access in the residence halls can help bridge that gap

and maybe make it where less people need to go to CAPS," they said.

FinCannon helped launch the WellBeing program in Hinton James and said the idea for the program came from meetings with the Residence Hall Association in 2021, which advocated for more support for students.

Although Carolina Housing began providing coaching to Hinton James residents in the spring, this semester marks the first full academic year the service will be offered.

FinCannon said Hinton James was chosen to host the two coaches because it has the largest first-year population on campus. By placing the coaches in a first-year residence hall, she said they are trying to help students develop a habit of asking for help.

Compounding issues like living away from their families for the first time,

navigating a university and managing adult responsibilities can make stress pile up for students, Pelto said.

First-year student and Hinton James resident Bree Lavender said the program could help students who don't feel comfortable talking to someone who they have to see regularly.

"With my RA, I have to know her the whole year, so some people might find that awkward talking to someone that they're going to see a lot," she said.

Pelto said students who want to connect with a WellBeing coach can fill out an intake form through QR codes posted throughout the residence hall.

"Even the smallest ways of prioritizing mental health and offering more and different kinds of resources can go a long way," she said.

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ACADEMIC STRAIN

Humanities faculty faces burnout

Some professors call for support from the UNC System

By Olivia Metelo
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Last fall, Chair of the Linguistics Department Misha Becker said she found herself feeling burnt out and questioning whether she had the energy to teach students and conduct research.

She would soon negotiate a “much-needed” semester of Research and Study Assignment leave for the 2023 spring semester.

Becker faced burnout — something some UNC faculty have voiced concerns over. With the recent restrictions on distinguished professorships for non-STEM fields, some humanities professors said they feel that policy changes and lack of support from the North Carolina legislature have especially contributed to stress and burnout within their departments.

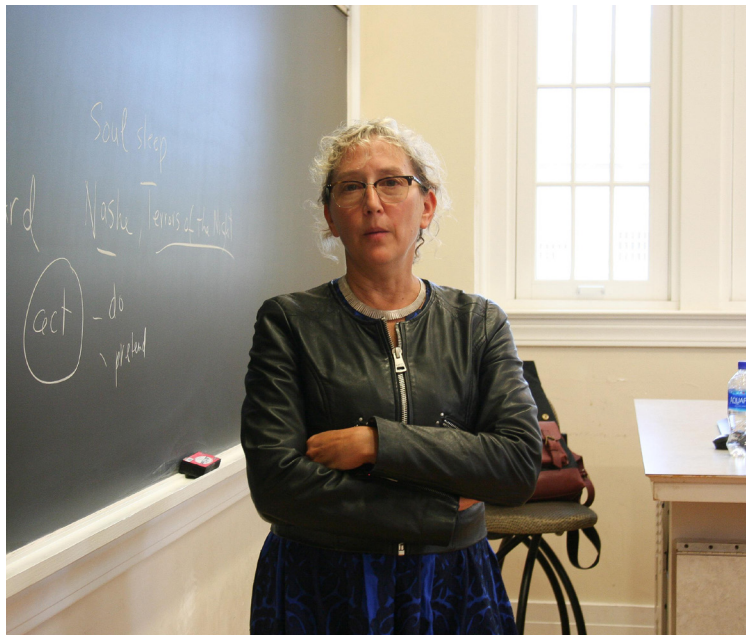
“We have been under attack. We’re the ones who are losing tenure track lines, who are having funding taken away, who aren’t able to fund programs,” Jessica Wolfe, professor of English and comparative literature, said.

RSA leaves — like the one Becker took — are allowed once every 5 years for tenured and tenure-tracked faculty. For Becker, taking leave meant rejuvenating her ability to do her job well.

“I think if I hadn’t been able to take that leave in the spring, I would have had a very hard time coming back this fall,” she said. “And feeling like, ‘Yes, I have the energy to teach my students and do my research.’”

She attributes her burnout to having to balance chairing, teaching and conducting research — a feat she calls “almost impossible.” Wolfe said she also feels the effects of burnout and spoke of the importance of taking an academic leave.

“It’s not that we want time away from teaching because we don’t like teaching or we think scholarship is more important, but that actually a balanced life involving both of them stands to benefit both ends of one’s career,” Wolfe said. “My teaching benefits my scholarship and my



Jessica Wolfe is an English and comparative literature professor at UNC.
DTH/JAKE HOGAN

scholarship benefits my teaching.”

She said while professors in the STEM field face their own challenges — like securing external research grants — humanities professors face large teaching burdens that aren’t reflected in the policy-making decisions.

“I think particularly they made clear that they don’t understand that teaching a humanities class, one with a great deal of reading and writing and the grading of student essays, is much more labor intensive than teaching a class in the hard sciences where all the tests can be run through a scantron machine,” Wolfe said. “I cannot run Shakespeare essays to a scantron machine.”

While members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and the state legislature have recognized the important connection between research and teaching within STEM fields, the same level of recognition is not there for humanities and social sciences fields, professor of classical archaeology Donald Haggis said.

He said there is not a specific “villain” to blame for this change, but that there needs to be a systemic shift in how the intersection of research and the humanities is treated.

Haggis noted that faculty burnout also stems from the need to balance administrative tasks in addition to their teaching and research. He said often this type of work

can hinder a professor’s ability to conduct research and get tenure — all of which is necessary to qualify for an RSA leave.

“That, at least on the pre-tenure level, can lead to burnout, and certainly leads to a lot of stress,” Haggis said. “Because faculty have to find a way of fitting in their research into their workday, which is kind of impossible to do.”

Becker said she had similar feelings in her role as chair of the linguistics department. She said it is difficult to balance her chair responsibilities with teaching and research, despite having a reduced teaching load as a chair.

“If I didn’t have to teach at all, I would be great at this job,” Becker said. “I could be a great chair and I could get my research done, I could publish. I can’t do that if I’m teaching at the same time.”

Becker said these issues make it harder for many faculty members to do the work they’re passionate about.

Wolfe voiced her frustrations with the lack of support for the humanities field, especially from administrative entities like the UNC System.

“What we can be reasonably assured of, is that it will be a top-down decision and we will have absolutely no say in the matter,” Wolfe said.

Abby Pender contributed reporting to this story.

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PUBLIC FORUMS

‘Complicated and bureaucratic’

Students reflect on the process of reserving outdoor spaces at UNC

By Riya Sharma
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When planning last fall’s Democracy Day protest, UNC junior Sam Hiner faced several issues reserving on-campus spaces.

“I found that the booking process was incredibly frustrating and bureaucratic and a lot more drawn out than it needed to be, to the point where I was having heated arguments with certain administrators,” Hiner said.

Most outdoor campus spaces at UNC are open to the public. Some areas are managed by “designated units” that handle scheduling internally, according to UNC Media Relations. Information about reservable campus spaces is hosted on Reserve Carolina.

Registered student organizations, campus departments and campus-based non-affiliates can book most campus venues on 25Live, the registration tool utilized by the Carolina Union. Requesters must complete access training before they can make their first reservation. To make a reservation, requesters must submit a fifteen-section form with information about their event.

UNC’s Facilities Use policy states that UNC permits gatherings in any exterior location, and University-affiliated groups are encouraged to use open space with written approval. Some spaces, like the Y-Court, the Pit and other “Major Open Spaces,” do not require prior approval.

Zach Greenberg, the senior program officer for campus rights advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), said physical spaces on UNC’s campus are fully bound to the First Amendment. The University must ensure that space usage rules are viewpoint and content-neutral. Greenberg said while private universities promise students the right to free speech on a contractual basis, public universities allow students to demonstrate on a constitutional basis.

FIRE ranked UNC the lowest of nine colleges and universities in North Carolina in its 2024 College Free Speech Rankings. The ranking is based on a compiled student survey that evaluated factors like comfort in expressing ideas, disruptive conduct



DTH FILE/KENNEDY COX

UNC students protest an exhibition at Polk Place on Oct. 24, 2022.

and administrative support on campus. Of UNC students surveyed in FIRE’s 2024 rankings, 51 percent said they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

Hiner, the executive director of the Young People’s Alliance, said his group struggled to work within the system for their Democracy Day event. He added that issues he had with booking the event were due to limitations on 25Live preventing the space from being used effectively.

Christina Huang, president of the UNC Affirmative Action Coalition, also said 25Live is complicated and bureaucratic.

“It’s so difficult because you’re making us do a lot of labor that shouldn’t be on us. Why is it so difficult to reserve a space?” Huang said.

However, Luke Diasio, an organizer for UNC’s chapter of March for Our Lives, said he had not experienced issues with bureaucracy.

“As someone who’s organized protests in the past, I have felt like UNC’s setup for that has been accommodating. I haven’t felt very limited by it,” Diasio said.

Outreach chair for UNC’s chapter of Planned Parenthood Generation Action Sarah Zhang said student organizations with fewer resources or time might face restrictions using the 25Live tool.

Zhang said an anti-abortion display in Polk Place last fall was an example of protections surrounding free speech, even if the message was disturbing to some viewers on campus.

“We had an emergency Planned Parenthood meeting to figure out what we could do, but because they had gone through the University to get a permit, we couldn’t dismantle it,” Zhang said.

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EQUITY

Carolina Union employees voice workplace concerns

One UNC senior said the job was ‘not worth [his] sanity at all’

By Natalie McCormick
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The Carolina Union is the third largest employer of students on campus behind Carolina Housing and Campus Recreation. Employing approximately 140 students, Union employees have unique — sometimes difficult — experiences based on the positions that they hold.

One of the most common grievances that Carolina Union student employees have is the pay. Employees say it is not enough for the work required of them. The average student pay range is between \$9.50 to \$11 an hour based on their position.

As an employee, students are required to work at least 10 hours a week throughout the semester, including finals week. Students also open and close the Union — sometimes as late as 3 a.m.

In an email statement to the Daily Tar Heel, Alexandra Marchesano, the executive director of the Carolina

Union, said academics come first and the Carolina Union works with its student employees to come up with a schedule at the beginning of the semester that works around academic and personal schedules. Because of this, students may work after traditional working hours.

BJ Miles, a UNC senior, worked for the Carolina Union in guest services between November 2021 and December 2022 before quitting after experiencing multiple issues with his team’s leadership.

“The job itself I loved, it was just the extra stuff — the coworkers, the managers, the way everything was handled that was horrible,” he said.

Miles said he was scheduled to work during fall break in 2022 without signing up for those shifts. He then emailed his supervisor about the scheduling and said he felt they did not prioritize his concerns.

“The Union can be very demanding, and sometimes when they’re demanding, they forget that we’re students at the end of the day,” he said.

In a written statement to The Daily Tar Heel, Miles recommended that the Carolina Union provide better training for supervisors to handle conflict and



DTH FILE/DEREK PENG
UNC students walk by the Student Union on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022.

issues with employees, as well as better training for supervisors.

“For \$9.50 an hour this job was not worth my sanity at all,” said Miles.

A current Carolina Union employee who asked to remain anonymous said that they’ve enjoyed their time working there and the team has been very flexible with scheduling.

They said that about two years ago, the Carolina Union had a lot of restructuring to help improve departments, including increased support for student organizations

and more opportunities for student leadership and engagement. While they said it benefitted their team, other departments are still a “bit shaky,” due to the absence of around-the-clock full-time staff.

“At night, in the evenings there isn’t full-time staff all the time. On the weekends, there isn’t full-time staff at all,” she said.

The Carolina Union employee said that with the restructuring, however, there is now more of an expectation for full-time staff to not just be there from nine-to-five, because students work much earlier or later hours than this.

In her email, Marchesano said that many full-time employees work outside the traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. work hours, including two part-time employees who support evening events and operations.

TJ Edwards, a student at the University, works at the Union as an audio-visual coordinator and is chair of the Carolina Union Board of Directors. While they love their job because of the people, they said they feel as though the pay at the Union is unfair for the amount of work asked of student employees.

While they had previous

experience working in the AV field, they said a lot of people come in not knowing how to operate a soundboard or lights, and the current staff ends up having to teach them.

“They are expected to be able to perform at a high level in these roles for \$10.30 an hour when you’re an assistant,” Edwards said.

At the beginning of the school year, Edwards started the Student Employee Conditions Committee, an ad hoc committee designed to fight for the increase of student employee pay with the end goal of \$15 an hour.

In her email, Marchesano said that the Carolina Union continually works to make sure that student employees feel supported through efforts such as the Forum of Union Student Employees, as well as the Student Employee Development Committee.

“We’re always having smiles on our faces because of the environment and work culture that we’ve created as students,” Edwards said. “But the actual work of it is not the part that makes me like coming into work.”

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City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Chapel Hill sees high voter turnout, some tight leads

Over 12,000 votes cast, a 20 percent increase from 2021

By Henry Thomas
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This year, over 2,000 more votes were cast in the municipal elections for Chapel Hill mayor, town council and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education than in 2021.

Chapel Hill elected Jess Anderson as its mayor with nearly 59 percent of the vote. According to a poll done by Public Policy Polling, Anderson and fellow mayoral candidate Adam Searing were predicted to be within a percent of each other.

Over 12,000 votes were cast in the Chapel Hill mayoral election, marking a nearly 20 percent increase from the 2021 municipal election.

Theodore Nollert, Amy Ryan and Melissa McCullough won three of the four open seats on the town council. The fourth spot is currently held by Elizabeth Sharp, but Renuka Soll is 16 votes behind — within the margin for a recount. Sharp and Soll both earned 10.7 percent of the vote. The final election numbers, including provisional ballots and late mail-in votes, will be counted over the next week.

Sharp compared the slim margin in this race to the 2019 town council race, where Tai Huynh won a seat by 24 votes.

“It does seem like municipal elections, at least in Chapel Hill, the margins are really, really slim,” Sharp said.

Meredith Ballew, Rani Dasi, Barbara Fedders and Vickie Feaster Fornville won the four open seats on the school board.

Anderson, the mayor-elect, said this election’s turnout may have been impacted by there being two well-defined sides of the race.

She said some of the more contentious issues of this race include the Housing Choice text amendment and the conversion of

a portion of the American Legion property for affordable housing.

“The nature of the mayor and council races this year was a little more contentious than previous years that I’ve been involved in,” Anderson said. “This was definitely the most challenging and difficult race that I’ve run.”

She said there was a big push from both sides to get people to the polls and more media coverage of the election.

“We’re at a crossroads of trying to figure out how the town is going to move forward into the future and there were some pretty clear choices presented especially between the two mayoral candidates,” Amy Ryan, the reelected town council member, said. “I think with the council candidates, too.”

Gerry Cohen, a former Chapel Hill Town Council member and current member of the Wake County Board of Elections, said, though municipal elections have some of the lowest turnout rates of any election, this year’s races may have seen some of the highest participation in a decade.

The election saw a turnout of about 26 percent of eligible votes cast in Orange County, compared to just 10.6 percent statewide and

23 percent in Orange County in the 2021 municipal elections.

Cohen said engagement is up compared to the 2021 municipal election in UNC’s precinct, which includes residence halls.

“There were like 270 votes in that precinct on Election Day in 2021 — this year was like 470,” Cohen said.

He said that, of the 170 same-day registrations in Orange County, 59 of them lived in residence halls in the UNC precinct. Cohen also said a common phenomenon among young voters is voting very late in the election season.

Theodore Nollert, a graduate student who was elected to the town council, said it is still a consistent challenge to incentivize young people to vote.

Nollert said that in municipal elections, older demographics are more reliable voters, though Chapel Hill has a high number of young people registered to vote.

“That’s the most important takeaway about turnout — if we can build a model for that on this campus and show people how it’s done, we have a model that we can spread across the state,” Nollert said.

X: @dthcitystate



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Municipal election signs line Franklin Street on Nov. 1. Jess Anderson was elected to be Chapel Hill’s next mayor, with nearly 59 percent of the vote.

Some Orange County ballots yet to be counted

Sixty-three provisional, 59 absentee ballots need to be verified

By Brantley Aycock
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DTH FILE/PHILIP LE

In Orange County, 61 provisional ballots were cast on Election Day, and two provisional ballots were cast during early voting. Gerry Cohen, a member of the Wake County Board of Elections, said 61 of the 63 total provisional ballots were cast in Chapel Hill.

The ballots are yet to be officially counted and incorporated into election results.

In North Carolina, provisional ballots can be cast by a voter if their eligibility is not confirmed at the time that they vote.

Voters may have to cast provisional ballots due to reasons such as voter registration or address discrepancies, lack of acceptable ID, voting in the incorrect precinct or other questions of eligibility.

In the unofficial results for Chapel Hill Town Council, there is a 16-vote difference between the fourth place candidate, Elizabeth Sharp and fifth-place candidate, Renuka Soll.

Sharp and Soll ran on a slate with mayoral candidate Adam Searing.

Cohen said these 63 provisional ballots, as well as the 59 absentee ballots that have so far been received and any others received in Chapel Hill by Nov. 13, will be counted on Nov. 16, and the results will be finalized on Nov. 17.

“With my experience handling provisional ballots in Wake County and other places and looking at what percentage of various categories were approved in the past — I’m going to predict that 32 of the 61 will eventually be counted,” he said.

According to state law, every citizen who seeks to vote can cast a provisional ballot. No voter can be turned away from polls without being given the option to cast a provisional ballot.

Once cast, provisional ballots are set aside while election officials

research the voter’s qualifications to vote, according to the N.C. State Board of Elections website.

If the voter is found to be eligible to vote in the election, their vote will be counted with the other ballots in that election. If they are found to be ineligible to vote, their ballot will remain unopened and uncounted. Official election results include all provisional ballots cast by qualified voters.

“We research every provisional ballot to see if we can find an attempt for the voter to register or that the voter is eligible, and then we present our findings to the Board of Elections — that’s our five member board who ultimately make the decision of whether or not to tabulate a provisional ballot,” Rachel Raper, the director of elections for Orange County, said.

Cohen said, even if all of the voters who cast the votes that are likely to be counted voted for mayoral candidate Adam Searing’s slate, it may not affect the margin between Sharp and Soll.

“You can see how close the votes were for the various candidates for one slate versus the other, like the top three were on a slate with Jess Anderson, and they all have within a couple 100 votes of each other,” Cohen said.

He also said, because Sharp and Soll were running on the same slate, it is unlikely that the provisional ballots nor the absentee ballots for Chapel Hill will have a major impact on the final election results.

X: @dthcitystate

COLUMN

The successes and pitfalls of our election coverage



DTH/KENNEDY COX

By Ethan E. Horton
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When Editor-in-Chief Emmy Martin hired me in April to succeed her and be the 2023-24 city & state editor, I immediately created a document to plan for the 2023 elections.

I wanted to do things differently — and the biggest change I wanted to make was to focus primarily on the

issues driving the campaigns, rather than the campaigns themselves.

And, if I’m honest with myself, I think we accomplished that goal in the Chapel Hill elections, but not in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education or Carrboro elections.

In our compilation of election coverage, you’ll notice the section on Chapel Hill is longer and more comprehensive than the other sections. That’s a pretty accurate reflection of the contentiousness of the races, but also a reflection of our attention to the different races.

In our Election Preview print edition, we ran issue-focused stories about misinformation, sustainability, turnout, nonprofits and land use. But, all of those stories focused primarily on the Chapel Hill elections. We even talked to sitting Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger about her thoughts on the election and put out a story about a campaign finance violation from Adam

Searing’s campaign. Earlier in the campaign, we ran a story about a potential nonprofit law violation to benefit Searing and his slate.

The only Carrboro-focused story in the Election Preview was on the Bolin Creek Greenway. Yes, the greenway is a contentious topic, but it’s not the only issue Carrboro campaigns were talking about. Candidates were also running on the implementation of the Town’s comprehensive plan, affordable housing and racial equity.

The only CHCCS story in the Election Preview was a feature on Vickie Feaster Fornville, the first in a series of features on CHCCS candidates. That series, plus coverage of a candidate forum, was the full extent of our coverage on the school board elections. My personal mental excuse was that our desk didn’t have the bandwidth to comprehensively cover the policy differences between the candidates, but surely there was something we

could have written about — like school resource officers or the opportunity gap.

For Carrboro and CHCCS, we covered most of the candidates, but few of the big issues.

Our election night coverage, though, was maybe the best it’s ever been — not to toot my own horn or anything. We had an amazing website created by our data desk with live results and maps, we had awesome graphics for the winners of the two mayor races and we had a great team in the office working to get stories on the results out as soon as possible.

So, if I had to give advice to the next city & state editor who has a municipal election to cover: Don’t neglect parts of our community. Carrboro’s elections weren’t quite as contentious, but the races there deserved more of our attention. Sure, 13 candidates is a little daunting to cover, but don’t let a large

number of candidates stop you from getting in the weeks with as many of them as you can. Cover the issues relentlessly.

We get another shot at election coverage in the spring in the 2024 primaries, and we’ll be better. March 5, 2024 — here we come.

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READ THE DAILY TAR HEEL’S 2023
MUNICIPAL ELECTION COVERAGE



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New paid parental leave statute goes into effect

The provision in S.B. 20 expands benefits for state employees

By Defne Önal

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Senate Bill 20's paid parental leave statute, which was modified by the state legislature in June, went into effect earlier this month. The statute entitles state employees to up to eight weeks of paid leave following the birth of a child and up to four weeks after adopting or becoming a foster parent.

The employees must also be employed by the state for at least a year before receiving the leave.

Helen Gross, the principal at Swansboro High School and thus an employee of the state, said she is excited to see paid parental leave as a new benefit for staff. She said previously, staff members who had children were required to use their own leave.

"Sometimes, they would go on short-term disability, but primarily they were using their own leave and many times they would be in a leave without pay situation because they wouldn't have enough leave in order to cover the length of a maternity leave, which averages between six to 12 weeks for most new parents," she said.

Gross said the new policy is a powerful move in the right direction, and that it is going to make public school staff recruitment competitive compared to the private sector.

She said daycare centers in coastal North Carolina have long waiting lists, so providing paid parental leave to teachers relieves pressure and is an attractive employment benefit.

Thomas Tomberlin, senior director of educator preparation, licensure and performance at the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said full-time and part-time employees get the same duration of paid leave, but that part-time employees' salary is prorated.

"If you're part-time and the salary for the position is \$60,000 and you're working 50 percent time, of course, you earn \$30,000 a year," he said.

Before the June modification, state employees receiving paid parental leave must have worked at one employer for at least a year beforehand.

Before this parental leave policy was passed in S.B. 20 over the summer, Tomberlin said the laws and policies of the states had established each school district as independent employers.

"We interpreted that movement between those districts would restart your clock on this," he said. "When the General Assembly understood that that's how we were interpreting it, they went back and revised it to say any service in a participating entity — so anybody who participates in the state paid parental leave system — if you transfer between those entities, you can count the service in the prior when you move to the new place."

Ingrid Bego, an associate professor of political science and international studies at Western Carolina University, said universities have been



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC economics professor Luca Flabbi in his Gardner Hall office on Tuesday.

flexible in terms of handling paid leave. But, she said that from a gender perspective, one doesn't want to create legislation that discourages women from reentering the labor market.

"There is a sweet spot there," Bego said. "Eight weeks is not that. Eight weeks is very, very short. I mean, it's very rare in the developed world to have two-month-olds going to daycare."

Luca Flabbi, a UNC economics professor, said the ideal duration of paid parental leave is five to six months equally divided between

the parents and for the leave to be mandatory.

"There is definitely a lower bound — a minimum amount of leave that is really effective," Flabbi said. "There is also an upper bound, and I'm referring to the northern European countries that have leaves of 15 months or 18 months."

Flabbi said when the duration of the leave is so long, they induce women to stay out of the labor force for a very long period, and that they lose job and career opportunities.

Rep. Wiley Nickel (D-N.C. 13th)

he believes the state legislature should not be using paid parental leave as a substitute for abortion availability. S.B. 20 outlawed most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy, but some of the abortion provisions of the law were placed under an injunction last month.

"It's just an absolutely horrible bill for women in North Carolina and for families," Nickel said.

He said something he can do right now is continue to build support for paid parental leave in Congress.

X: @dthcitystate

EDUCATION

Public School Forum reports statewide teacher vacancies

Educator shortages have not returned to pre-pandemic levels

By Huda Kamal

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North Carolina public schools are currently facing major teacher shortages, according to a recent report on teacher vacancies and recruitment trends by the Public School Forum of North Carolina. The report addressed ongoing issues in school systems since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students in districts with higher populations of students of color are disproportionately impacted by teacher shortages, the report said. It said districts are often hiring less qualified teachers due to a decreasing number of qualified applicants.

Vacancies in every region of North Carolina were higher in 2022-23 than they were pre-pandemic.

Sara Howell, a policy program manager at the forum and one of the report's authors, said it was created after people began noticing teaching crises during and after the pandemic.

According to the report, the pandemic led some educators to question whether or not teaching was adding or detracting from their quality of life. Some were steered away from that career due to the negative attitudes surrounding teaching and public education, the report stated.

Howell said, at the beginning of the pandemic, teachers were seen as superheroes.

"They went from superheroes to villains overnight," she said. "As all these cultural components started to come in and there were fights about masks, and there were fights about what was being taught in schools, it kind of went from 'teachers are heroes' to 'teachers are the villains.'"

Teachers quit because they did not



DTH FILE/IRA WILDER

Students leave East Chapel Hill High School on Sept. 12, 2022.

want to enter that fight again, she said.

She said there have been teacher and funding shortages in the state for decades. The pandemic highlighted and exacerbated that, she said.

The Public School Forum actively works toward advancing equitable educational opportunities, and Howell said this report looks to do right by kids, their families and teachers.

Farea Khan, the principal of Al-Iman School in Raleigh, said as a private school, it has many teachers who tend to stay long-term.

Al-Iman implemented added benefits for the 2023-24 school year to support teacher retention, Khan said.

She said Al-Iman does little things to boost teacher morale, including adding more teacher wellness days.

Al-Iman has been able to implement the report's suggestion of ensuring financial viability and stability for teachers by adding salary increases because it can sometimes be easier to obtain salary approvals as a private school, Khan said.

Bryan Proffitt, the vice president

of the N.C. Association for Educators, said there is a crisis in public education across the country.

"What it looks like is kids getting to school late because we are not paying bus drivers enough so we can't fill those positions," he said. "What it looks like is kids being in classes that are taught by permanent or long-term subs because we don't have qualified people in the classroom."

Oznur Hatip, a teacher at Green Level High School in Cary, said while class sizes are getting larger after the pandemic, many educators have left the teaching profession.

She also said she thinks teacher pay is low in North Carolina due to a lack of a teacher unions, and that it is challenging to find certified teachers because of wages.

"We are getting so many people, they are moving from different states, housing is increasing exponentially, but the school capacities are almost the same," she said.

X: @dthcitystate

LEGACY

'Big shoes to fill': Carrboro finance director retires

Arche McAdoo worked with the Town for more than a decade

By Makenzie Mills

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Arche McAdoo, the finance director for the Town of Carrboro, announced his retirement on Nov. 6 after 13 years working with the Town.

Throughout his career, McAdoo has worked in public and nonprofit agencies. He has held several senior-level financial management positions, including at the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center at Research Triangle Park.

He said the role of a financial officer has evolved throughout the course of his professional career.

"I think initially when I started in my career, the role of the finance officer was strictly debt, limited to all the financial transactions and things," McAdoo said. "Over the years, as the markets changed, and as they changed the management, the finance officers evolved into more strategic planning, policy elements and impact, in addition to all the other financial aspects."

McAdoo, an Orange County native, also received a master's degree in business administration from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC.

He said one of his proudest accomplishments was expanding Carrboro's enterprise resource program so more people could access it by creating a comprehensive online approval system. He was also a part of the initial implementation of North Carolina's Community Development Block Grant Program for non-entitlement cities.

Randee Haven-O'Donnell, a member of the Carrboro Town Council and one of McAdoo's longtime co-workers, said that because Carrboro does not have the commerce and tax base that their regional partners do,

having a fiscally-wise and professional expert is critical.

"He is exceptional at understanding the fiscal challenge and how to build resiliency and creative opportunities for the use of general funds within the Town," Haven-O'Donnell said.

Haven-O'Donnell said he provided a steady, assured hand during the most trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown amid economic uncertainty.

"The reason Carrboro stands on two legs is because of the finances," Haven-O'Donnell said.

Damon Seils, the mayor of Carrboro, said McAdoo's legacy of conservative budgeting has served Carrboro well and helped the Town achieve its goals.

"Arche's approach to budgeting has helped new and experienced council members understand how to do Town budgeting — he knew how to explain things to those of us who are not finance experts in a way that we could understand," he said.

With McAdoo as financial director, the Town's Annual Budget Report and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report has been recognized with awards of excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association.

"He's leaving big shoes to fill, but he has definitely earned his retirement," Seils said. "I think it's safe to say that he stayed because we liked him so much, and we kept talking him into staying for so long. I'm really happy that he's finally gonna get some time to relax and enjoy retirement."

McAdoo said that, in his retirement, he is most excited about having free time for himself.

"I guess to have time to do some things for myself that I want to do, that by working full-time you just don't have enough energy nor time to do some of those things, such as travel," he said.

X: @dthcitystate

LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Purple Bowl announces relocation

Popular restaurant to move further down West Franklin Street

By Olivia Gschwind
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The Purple Bowl will relocate to 505 W. Franklin St. following the purchase of its current leased space by Longfellow Real Estate Partners. The current space will be developed into a 320,000 square foot building.

According to an email sent to the Chapel Hill Town Council on Oct. 23 by Paula and Taylor Gilland, mother and son owners of The Purple Bowl, they came to an agreement with Longfellow to move out of the business's current space in summer 2024.

Paula and Taylor Gilland said in the email that The Purple Bowl was committed to the move and "will no longer push back against the Longfellow project and instead will focus on creating a new community space further down West Franklin Street."

The location of 505 W. Franklin St., which formerly housed the Top of the Hill Distillery, was acquired by Northpond Partners in 2021 and will also house THRIVE Coworking.

Taylor Gilland said the relocation process started in November 2022 when he heard the building that The Purple Bowl is in would be redeveloped. He said, when he initially heard about the building being redeveloped, the business considered closing down.

He also said the Town has been "pretty terrible to deal with"

throughout the process and did not help the restaurant find its new space. Taylor Gilland said in the email that the Town should do more to help Chapel Hill retain its local flavor instead of encouraging development, which can cause hardship to small local businesses.

Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger said the Town was not involved in promoting the Longfellow purchase of 306 W. Franklin St. She said the town council wasn't aware that the building purchase had even occurred until after it happened.

She also said research has shown the Town needs more life science and wet lab facilities — like those to be developed at 306 W. Franklin St. — to provide the jobs that have previously led graduates away from Chapel Hill.

Dwight Bassett, the director of economic development and parking for the Town, said this type of development will aim to fill a workforce gap that can support downtown businesses year round.

The Town created the Downtown Small Business Relocation Grant Program and opened applications during July and August to provide support amid this type of redevelopment.

The Purple Bowl applied for the grant, which will distribute \$100,000 to selected businesses scored on rubric criteria that include downtown vitality, business health and community benefit. The recipient results will be released to the public as soon as performance agreements are signed. Grant amounts will be disbursed in increments of \$20,000.

"Part of why we created the displaced business grant was we wanted businesses to know that they're equally important as job creation," Bassett said.

Taylor said additional funds, such as a grant, would cover a fraction of The Purple Bowl's moving cost, which he said is typically around \$1 million. He said opening in a new location is like starting a business from scratch.

"We're hoping to do it for less than that," he said.

Hemminger, who has a background in real estate, said it is possible Longfellow offered The Purple Bowl more money to relocate than what the lease agreement would've given the business otherwise. Longfellow declined to comment on the specifics of its deal with The Purple Bowl.

Gilland said the Town did not play any role in helping find the space at 505 W. Franklin St., but emails obtained by The Daily Tar Heel show Hemminger suggested the space at 505 W. Franklin St. to Gilland in March 2023. Gilland said a friend and long-time customer, Shea Rush, introduced The Purple Bowl to Northpond Partners, a Chicago-based real estate investment firm that owns the building at the new location.

Michael Nachtsheim, a senior analyst for Northpond, said the firm wanted to find tenants that would complement each other and be a good addition to the Chapel Hill area.

"It's great that we can give them a new home," Nachtsheim said. "And it seems like the people in Chapel Hill really do enjoy their business."

Northpond declined to comment on details related to the cost of outfitting the building, which is currently office space.



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ

The Purple Bowl sits on West Franklin Street on Oct. 18.

Current plans for The Purple Bowl's new location include an additional 700 square feet of space with a large patio, about three times the size of the current location. It will have a stage for live music and a shuffleboard court, as well as a separate coffee bar and window to order from outside.

Paula Gilland said even with the excitement of a new space, there is still risk. Moving the location a quarter of a mile down West Franklin Street will make it a longer walk for students, she said, especially for those who live on South Campus.

"At a new space, we're going to have to get the students to change their foot traffic pattern to come down there," she said.

The Carolina Economic Development Strategy is a

partnership between UNC and the Town to promote economic vitality in downtown Chapel Hill. Part of the program includes the Innovation District: Economic Development Strategy — a plan to promote the presence of research and startups in the downtown Chapel Hill area that typically go to Durham or Research Triangle Park.

Hemminger said this strategy aims to reshape downtown into a year-round economy rather than one built around the academic year.

"We love our students, but downtown businesses can't exist on a nine-month economy," Hemminger said.

X: @oliviagschwind

Raising Cane's now open in Chapel Hill

Continued from Page 1

changed into a chicken costume.

Ho described the experience as "fantastic," but also said that, while camping, some passers-by heckled and shouted profanities at him.

"It was a good time," Ho said. "It was an interesting experience to say the least."

Raising Cane's is the first open business in the intersection in almost two years, with Lula's, Seafood Destiny and Midici all closing.

The location of Raising Cane's was previously home to Lula's, and before that, Chapel Hill staple Spanky's.

The 120-year-old property on the corner of East Franklin Street and Columbia Street was purchased in 2021 and underwent extensive remodeling for the Raising Cane's opening.

"One thing that we wanted to make sure we did was preserve the history, as well as be able to really provide the Chapel Hill community an exceptional restaurant," Brian Stegall, the Raising Cane's regional vice president of restaurants, said.

The Chapel Hill Raising Cane's opened on Nov. 7 — which was also Election Day.

In an article, local civics blog Triangle Blog Blog wrote they hoped the lines at the polls would be as long as or longer than at Raising Cane's. INDYweek conducted a poll on Election Day at Raising Cane's, in which 25 individuals in line were surveyed. Only two students had voted.

People have continued to line up around the block at the restaurant every day since the grand opening. Sometimes, the store had a police officer stationed by the door to mitigate foot traffic and let groups of customers into the restaurant.

UNC student and football player Jaden Selby said the line moved quickly and the food was good.



DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS

UNC students and other community members stand in line outside Raising Cane's on the restaurant's opening day, Nov. 7.

"The quality of the food was very good, but I feel like in three months when the hype goes down, the quality of the food will go down," he added.

Stegall said the ribbon-cutting opening ceremony saw an attendance of over 200 people, and within the first few days of opening, the location served around 8,000 customers.

Rameses, UNC cheerleaders and a DJ were also present at the opening day event. The first 100 customers in line received commemorative T-shirts and 20 people who entered a drawing won a year's worth of Raising Cane's.

"North Carolina has been a market we've been excited to open in for a long time, and no better place than Chapel Hill," he said. "We cannot be more appreciative of the community who supported us these first couple of days."

The interior of the restaurant is different from the building's previous occupants, Lula's and Spanky's. The interior has retained its exposed brick walls but now has several disco balls hanging

in the middle of the ceiling. The restaurant also houses a giant dog statue, as well as multiple newly-painted murals and a portrait of Elvis Presley.

UNC senior Jaylen Harrell said the new Raising Cane's location is something new and different for the community.

"I feel like Franklin Street needed this," he said. "There isn't too many spots to eat at — all the traditional spots are kind of getting old and played out."

The restaurant was initially reported to have a closing time of 3:30 a.m. Currently, though, the business closes at midnight Sunday through Wednesday and closes at 1 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Stegall said the restaurant would evaluate the closing times and see what the community needs after the first few weeks of business.

"We wanted to make sure when we opened this restaurant, we wanted to make sure we did it right," he said. "And by all means, our team has delivered."

X: @lolaoliverio



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THORNE WILLIFORD

Joe Van Gogh opens new location on UNC campus

By Saudah Jannat
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Joe Van Gogh — a coffee business with locations in Chapel Hill and Durham — opened a new location in Roper Hall on UNC campus on Nov. 6.

Robbie Roberts, the owner of Joe Van Gogh, started roasting coffee in 1991 and opened the first Joe Van Gogh in Timberlyne, N.C. in 1995.

Roberts said that Joe Van Gogh has also been providing UNC Hospitals with coffee for nearly 7 years.

"Joe Van Gogh already sponsors the women's soccer games, so I think ultimately, Van Gogh's hope on this campus is to support each other: both us supporting students and students supporting us in a positive feedback loop," Em Walsh, the store manager of the new location, said.

According to Roberts, Aramark, who handles concessions for UNC, initially reached out to the business about their interest in opening a location on UNC campus and then the two groups

began discussing a timeline.

"It's definitely felt like a long time coming, just finally getting to open fully and to offer all of our products and everything be set up how we feel like it's going to work best is very gratifying," Walsh said.

Though this new location was publicly announced in a September Instagram, it has been in planning for three years, they said.

"It's been a while that we had known it was coming, but getting it here had a lot of inspections to go through," Roberts said.

Apollo Suen, the assistant store manager of the new store, said the new location has encountered challenges getting acquainted with dining services on campus.

He said that getting aligned with UNC standards — for example, nutritional information — and having Joe Van Gogh's culinary director work with a nutritionist on campus, has been a big thing.

"It's just like any other new restaurant or new cafe opening in the weeks prior, in the months prior, to setting everything up," Suen said.

X: @dthcitystate

ADVERTISING

Student influencers create content, market products for peers

Brand ambassadors earn money from promoting online

By Marisa Rosa

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Growing up, UNC alumna Bella LoRe always had an aspirational relationship with the people she saw online.

She was enamored with lifestyle content on YouTube and, in high school, she started experimenting on her own. She soon discovered she had a passion for social media.

LoRe graduated from UNC in 2023 with a degree in advertising and public relations. During college, she was both a full-time student and a growing content creator.

"I'm not some viral, famous person at all," LoRe said. "I just really like creating, and I think it's really fun and very enriching and very fulfilling."

Today, she has over 76,000 followers on TikTok. She described her target audience as her peers — people who are going through the same stages or experiences of life that she is.

She now makes content about life after graduating college and navigating the new stresses of adulthood.

"I've come to realize that the

cornerstone of what I really want to create is just sharing common experiences and hopefully connecting with someone who's going through the same thing," she said.

Reece Tuggle, a student influencer at UNC, also aims to create content for her peers, which she said includes current and future UNC students.

"Especially my freshman year, I felt like not a whole lot of people were really showing what their lives were like here at UNC," Tuggle said.

Since pivoting to UNC-focused content, Tuggle's TikTok account has reached over 89,000 followers.

Unlike LoRe, who has aspired to be a content creator since childhood, Tuggle's following resulted from a few random viral videos.

One of Tuggle's first viral videos was a TikTok poking fun at NARS Cosmetics product names. Tuggle later applied to become a brand ambassador for the company, and while she is no longer an ambassador for NARS, she has been partnering with brands ever since.

According to LoRe, payment for sponsored content varies depending on both the brand and the type of content that's being created. She said that brands pay less for product integrations and more for content that is fully dedicated to the product.

In her experience, brands have



DTH DESIGN/LAUREN PYKE

paid anywhere from \$50 to \$2,000 for sponsored content.

Kayla Tran, a junior at UNC, described her experience working with brands differently. When she was an ambassador for University Tees, she had a more hands-on role.

She received a percentage of whatever she sold for the collegiate apparel company. Her primary job was reaching out to potential buyers and placing orders on their behalf.

For a \$1,000 order, she said she could make about \$150-200. Tran said that as a part of

her job she had to attend weekly meetings, consistently reach out to organizations and individuals and fill out and submit order forms.

"I just felt like it wasn't really worth it," Tran said. "So I feel like in a way, it's kind of taking advantage of college students."

LoRe mentioned that for new creators who don't have experience with negotiating, getting fairly compensated for their work can be a challenge.

A lot of new creators aren't aware that they should charge brands for the

usage rights in addition to sponsored content, she said. Usage rights allow brands to make a one-time payment to the creator, and in exchange, the brands can use the created content across multiple platforms for an agreed-upon amount of time.

Tran said that many aspiring college-aged content creators who receive free products in exchange for making branded content often don't get enough monetized engagement to financially compensate for their time and effort.

LoRe recommended a number of resources available to students who are looking to become brand ambassadors or student influencers, such as the InfluenceHer Collective.

LoRe said that it's important for aspiring content creators to focus on producing content that they're passionate about instead of making "perfect" content. For her, passion leads to consistency, and with consistency comes growth.

"I think something I've really learned is that there really is an audience out there for every person," she said. "Whatever your interest is, there's someone out there who wants to see what you want to make. It's just a matter of finding them."

X: @dthlifestyle

DANCE

Club offers a swingin' good time

Carolina Swing hosts biweekly meetings to teach students basic steps

By Shreya Senthilkumar

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On Nov. 2, a classroom in Carolina Hall was transformed into a makeshift dance studio as tables were pushed to the side and jazz music flowed through the speakers.

For an hour, this space belonged to the Carolina Swing Dance Club, which hosts biweekly lessons for students to learn and practice the basic steps.

The dance form was created by African American dancers in Harlem during the 1920s and was typically a partner dance with fast, yet casual choreography.

"There are steps and rules and everything, but they're very lax, and that's what I think appealed to people in the 1940s and '50s," Maddie Behnke, the club's treasurer, said.

The lessons are currently taught by Behnke and Carolina Swing co-presidents Casey Lepley and Annie Veum.

There are many styles of swing, but the club specifically focuses on East Coast Swing. This style includes moves such as the 1930s Charleston, which includes a pattern of footwork that involves "rock steps" and kicks to upbeat music.

Veum said that the club's time commitment is very flexible.

"It's not something that you feel judged with," she said. "It's all about learning together and figuring out how to dance better and how to do these things, and I think that's really fun, and it's a really great community as well."

The club board focuses its first few lessons of the semester on teaching the basics of swing and slowly progresses to more complex moves. One of the first moves the club teaches is a six-count, which involves a series of steps and footwork over six beats.

"We try not to intimidate people too much, especially because we get a lot of people who are like, 'Oh, I can't dance,' and I was like 'I didn't dance coming into this either,'" Lepley said. "But it's not meant to be hard or intimidating, and we really just want people to know that, especially since it was a social dance."



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC student Juliette Gringeri dances with co-teacher Casey Lepley during a Carolina Swing Dance Club practice on Nov. 3.

While the club board acts as teachers, Lepley, Veum and Behnke said they are always learning from others.

Lepley said she learns new moves from other swing dancers at social dances hosted by the Triangle Swing Dance Society.

Veum said that she enjoys learning from club members who know other styles of dance, such as country or West Coast Swing, and incorporating those styles into their lessons.

Juliette Gringeri, a junior at UNC and a new member of Carolina Swing, said she was initially unfamiliar with the style of swing that the club taught.

"I learned West Coast Swing, and I did that primarily, so I'd never done any of this other stuff, so it's really fun. We learn new stuff every class, so it's kind of a bunch of everything," she said.

Lepley and Behnke expressed that the club's main goal is to ensure that members are having fun in a safe space, including eliminating the gender and height requirements that come with partner dance and allowing members to dance on their own rather than with a partner.

"We just want people to enjoy themselves, because if they're not enjoying themselves, then what's the point of being at the club?" Lepley said.

X: @http_shreya

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GROWTH

Dorm gardening provides a breath of fresh air

Plant Parenthood sells houseplants, brings nature to students

By Jackson Fromm
Staff Writer
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Sophomore Dylan Nicks said that when he sees a new leaf coming in on one of the many plants growing in his dorm, “it’s a great feeling.”

Nicks and his roommate Max Nelson, also a sophomore, wanted to share that feeling with others on UNC’s campus. Last year, the two founded Plant Parenthood, a business that aims to be an accessible seller of houseplants for students on campus.

The Plant Parenthood co-founders are involved in a growing dorm gardening movement. Whether it be owning a plant or two or running a full-scale operation, as Nicks and Nelson describe their setup, dorm gardening can provide a refreshing bit of nature to a space that often lacks any.

“When you first step into a dorm, it’s just a blank room, often cinder blocks, and you’ve got to actually make it what you want to be,” Nelson said. “And I think that through

introducing plants and through dorm gardening, you can really help make that space your own and make it a space that you want to be in.”

And the two have introduced many — rows and rows of plants underneath their lofted beds, they say, with multiple grow lights overtop.

“It’s actually a sight to see,” Nicks said. “When people walk into the room, they’re taken aback because, you know, a hundred plants under a bed is not what you’d typically expect.”

While an operation of this scale may not be typical, others have similar desire to bring nature into their living spaces. Nicks and Nelson said they are often mistaken for another gardener in their building — a “rival,” they joked, who has outdoor plants set up on the walkway of his outward facing dorm.

“I think that it shows that there’s definitely a want in the student body for more nature and plant life closer to home,” Nelson said.

That desire is clear in first-year Arryn Rodriguez’s dorm. They grow succulents and a pepper plant, which they said brings liveliness to their room — and palate.

“The pepper plant I use in my cooking, they’re macho peppers,” Rodriguez said. “They’re around the



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/SAMANTHA LEWIS
Potted plants sit on the windowsill in a bedroom on Tuesday.

same spice level as jalapeños. I cook them with my quesadillas that I make.”

Mint, basil and small tomatoes are growing in first-year Chris Vasallo’s dorm. He showed his plants under the grow lights and said he likes to pick and eat the tomatoes from the vine.

With the student demand, Plant Parenthood offers the supply. Affiliated with Student-Made UNC, they host

pop-up shops to sell houseplants, often in sustainably-sourced pots.

“We noticed that there was sort of a lack of people that were providing that sort of service on campus,” Nelson said. “If you want to get a plant for your dorm, you got to go pretty far away and it can often be cost-prohibitive, especially if you don’t have a car.

So, we wanted to see if we could help bridge that gap.”

Nelson credited Davis Library as a place that does a good job adding greenery to student life, mentioning its inclusion of plants in hallways. However, the two think UNC residence halls could include more greenery in spaces where students like to relax.

For those looking to sprout new plant life in their dorms, Nelson said tough plants that can handle a little neglect, like pothos or succulents, may be a good place to start.

Nicks was adamant that keeping plants isn’t as hard as it may seem.

“Plant care is not this mystifying thing,” he said. “You get light and water, and then you’re good to go. It’s literally just scheduling your care for your plants. It’s all about how much you care about it.”

Nicks said he got back a lot from adding plants to his room.

“Plants really opened up the space,” Nicks said. “It causes a need for constant light in the room, which is great. It makes people feel more at home, more relaxed in their own space. Also decoration, they look great. Plants, oh my God, they’re killer.”

X: @jacksonfromm29

One-in-three graduate students feel disconnected from UNC community

Continued from Page 1

master’s degree in social work, said. “I go there when I have to go to class, but it’s really hard, because I have so much going on, that I do wish I had more time to build that community.”

Castellanos’ program is only one year long, and its intense pace requires her to prioritize academic deadlines over socializing. She spends her free time with her partner and dog rather than building friendships with her classmates, who she said are not very connected socially.

For graduate students in longer programs, their cohort can be the first line of social connection.

Mathematics doctoral student Luke Conners, who serves as vice president for communications for the Graduate and Professional Student Government, said that community among students is often program specific.

“A lot of that stems from just the folks you end up spending a huge amount of time with early on in your grad school experience,” he said. “It’s very formative. You go through the same struggles together and you get to know each other, and then those bonds hopefully tend to stick around for a lot of folks.”

Simone Wilson, a doctoral student in the School of Education and the co-president of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, said that the graduate community can even be concentration specific.

“Yeah, you can build community, but what happens when you don’t really like the people in your strand or your cohort?” she said. “And then you’re just kind of searching for friends elsewhere, which is really hard to do.”

Affiliate organizations like the BGPSA try to foster relationships across departments, Wilson said.

Second-year master’s student Alex Ladan, the director of community engagement for the GPSG, said that free food and events draw graduate students to campus.

Daniel Vélez Castano, co-president of the Latine Graduate and Professional Student Association and a doctoral student in earth, marine and environmental sciences, said the LGPSA fosters community support for



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK AND UNSPLASH
DTH DESIGN/CARSON ELM-PICARD

those struggling to find it.

“The most important thing is to find that there are other people in the same situation,” he said. “So you could feel more like you aren’t alone.”

Castellanos said she would like to attend events put on by clubs and organizations at UNC, but she can’t leave class or work to make the weekday times.

It’s hard to coordinate adults in different life stages, Wilson said.

Wilson balances coursework, a puppy, BGPSA responsibilities and the maximum possible hours of employment as a TA, as well as working as a wellness consultant. So, she often spends her spare time with her own friends from school, rather than attending organized gatherings that feel more like work events.

“A lot of the grad student activities are designed for very young people, or single people or people who live close,” Mary Hamner, a religious studies doctoral student, said. “And I’m 40, I’m married and I live in Raleigh instead of Chapel Hill, so I’m not going to go to a pizza party on a Saturday night.”

However, Hamner said that she’s not bothered by the gaps in social programming for graduates.

“I don’t need UNC to entertain me, you know?” she said. “I’m grateful when there are things, rather than mad when there aren’t.”

Instead of relying on academic events, some graduate students frequent local establishments with

community programming. Conners said he attends trivia with a group of his peers weekly at Haw River Tap & Table. Hamner said she frequents Arcana Bar and Lounge, which is located in Durham and hosts events like movie nights, costume parties and a goth prom.

The graduate students also said they enjoy doing a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing or visiting local parks with their pets.

“The farther you get from campus, the density of undergrads to grads tends to shift, whereas when you get all the way out into Carrboro, if you run into students, it’s almost entirely going to be grad students,” Conners said.

Wilson said she feels awkward socializing and going out in Chapel Hill, especially on Franklin Street. She said she and her friends prefer to attend restaurants, concerts, museums and clubs in Durham and Raleigh that they find more culturally diverse and accepting.

For Hamner, a full social life is crucial to academic success.

“I try to prioritize my social life and my personal life and just free time generally, because I figured out that I’m a much more happy and productive scholar if I also have strong personal relationships and feel like I have a social life,” she said.

X: @dthlifestyle

NOVEMBER

don’t miss these arts and culture events

17 Studio Ghibli Night, The Varsity Theatre, 4 p.m.

17 WXYC Decades Dance – Pump Up the Jam: an 80s Glam Rock Dance Party, Cat’s Cradle
Doors open at 9:30 p.m.

17-19 Carrboro Film Fest, The Arts Center Buy tickets to select showtimes at carrborofilm.org

18 Much Ado About Nothing Opening Night Celebration, PlayMakers Repertory Company
7:30 p.m.

18 28th Annual N.C. American Indian Heritage Celebration, N.C. Museum of History
All day

28 North Carolina Symphony Holiday Pops, Memorial Hall
7:30 p.m.

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

Opinion

The Daily Tar Heel

COLUMN

Why North Carolina should, but won't, legalize marijuana

By Emma Culley
Columnist

Last Tuesday, Ohio voted 'yes' on State Issue 2, becoming the 24th state to legalize recreational marijuana.

Though marijuana is only legal in roughly half the nation, support for its recreational use has risen from 12 percent in 1969 to 70 percent in 2023, according to Gallup polls.

Maybe you're wondering, "Why are people pushing to legalize marijuana?" There are a number of incentives.

First, according to the Marijuana Policy Project website, the government would gain the ability to regulate and collect taxes on marijuana by legalizing it — benefitting the government and consumers. This would lead to improved quality control and labeling, perhaps similar to nutrition labels, giving buyers better transparency and safety about what they're consuming. It could help remove what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention call the most used federally illegal drug in the United States from an illegal underground market, while allowing the government to generate tax revenue from its sales.

Second, criminal enforcement of marijuana-related crimes can be racially biased. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, Black individuals are nearly four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white counterparts, despite both groups using marijuana at roughly equal rates.

While the country's deeply racist criminal justice system and mass incarceration problem are topics far too vast and complicated to be fixed with the resolution of a single issue, beginning with the national decriminalization of a less-dangerous drug is an important step in preventing unjust and racially biased arrests.

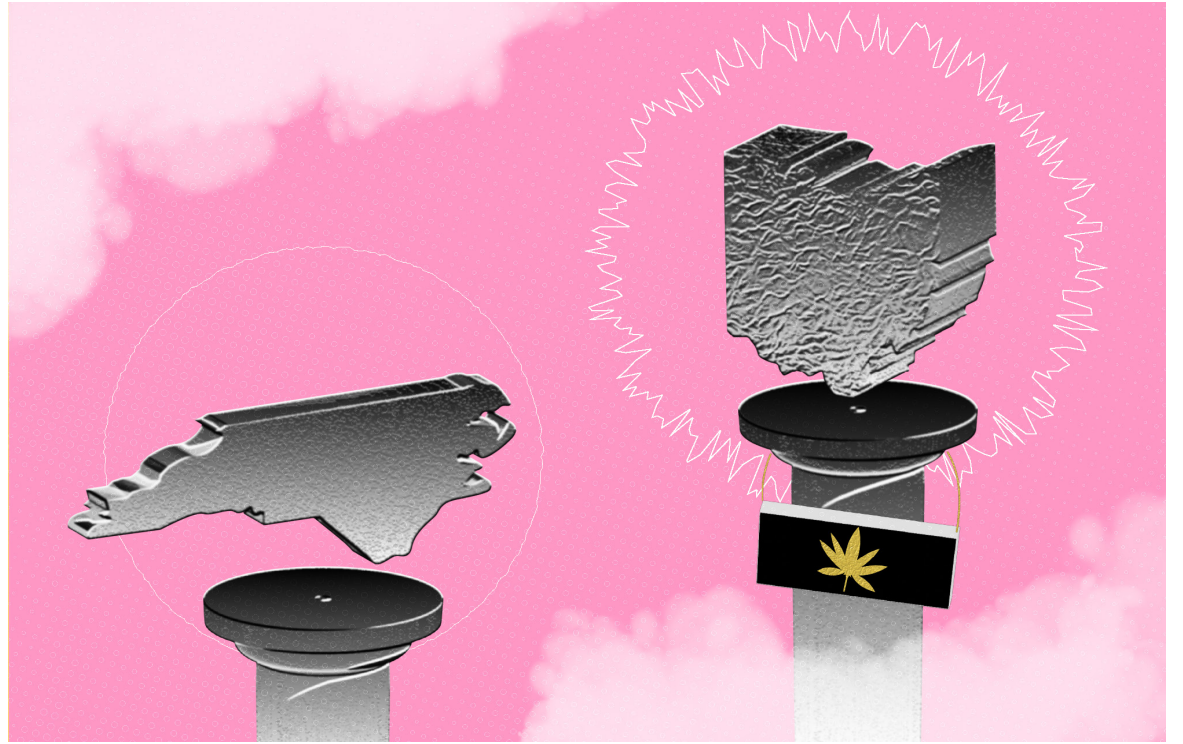
Third, enforcing marijuana laws costs the government nearly \$3.6 billion a year, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. This is money that could be much better spent — I can personally think of at least 50 different ways.

Additionally, marijuana has medical benefits that can alleviate some symptoms of anxiety, Parkinson's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and the effects of chemotherapy. It can also lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation, and prevent relapse of other drug and alcohol addictions.

Given these incentives, you may be wondering: Will North Carolina be the 25th state to legalize recreational marijuana? The answer, unfortunately, is probably not.

Ohio and North Carolina parallel each other in a few essential ways: Both have Republican-led state legislatures and are swing states that voted for Trump in 2020. Despite these similarities, it's hard to say that the Ohio decision made last Tuesday gives North Carolina residents any hope of a similar change.

Unlike people in Ohio, North Carolina residents don't have



DTH DESIGN/SHAMIL LUQMAN

the power to initiate a statewide initiative or referendum. This is important because it was Ohio residents, specifically the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, that got Issue 2 on the ballot.

So even though 57 percent of North Carolina voters support the legalization of recreational marijuana, according to a 2022 poll by SurveyUSA, the only hope for a statewide change is if the state or federal legislatures initiate it.

But, perhaps the GOP-led legislature will surprise us. In fact, earlier in the year, House Bill 626 and Senate Bill 346 — both pieces of legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana — each passed its first reading. However, neither has gained traction since, and it's uncertain if the issue will be revisited within the legislative session.

The criminalization of the drug seems to be more harmful than the drug itself. You can help change this.

If this is something near and dear to your heart, consider lighting up the issue by writing to your representatives and making it a higher priority on their list.

In the meantime, if you or people you know are friends of "Mary Jane," make yourself familiar with UNC's medical amnesty policy and the resources and information available to you.

X: @dthopinion

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EDITORIAL

Redistricting cannot mean gerrymandering

Gerrymander? I hardly know her.

On Nov. 7, North Carolina voters went to the polls for the Chapel Hill and Carrboro municipal elections. While this year's voter turnout was the highest it has been for 10 years in Chapel Hill, next year's elections may look different.

In April, North Carolina's Supreme Court ruled that it had no power to decide on partisan gerrymandering. The majority-GOP bench cleared the way for a similarly Republican legislature to draw up a new U.S. House map; one that is projected to swap the current 7-7 split between the two parties with one which would favor Republicans; giving them 11 seats to a Democratic four. This is not North Carolina's first encounter with gerrymandering.

After the 1990 census, the North Carolina General Assembly redrew its congressional districts and created a second majority-Black district in the state. This was challenged and in 1993, the landmark *Shaw v. Reno* case was taken up by the Supreme Court, which ruled against gerrymandering on the basis of race. This ruling has stood since then, despite a possible nullification earlier this year.

The Supreme Court upheld the protection, ruling that the Voting Rights Act insured protections against racial gerrymandering. However, the General Assembly continues to do as it pleases with the state supreme court in tow. This blatant abuse of power and authority has reared its ugly head, notably with the drawing out of Rep. Jeff Jackson in the most recent congressional maps, now situated in a heavily Republican district. Jackson announced his intention to run for North Carolina Attorney General, and called out the hypocrisy of the General Assembly's actions, insisting that he would fight against corruption once he gains the title of attorney general.

Last year in Maryland, a state judge got rid of a map drawn by Democrats, and last

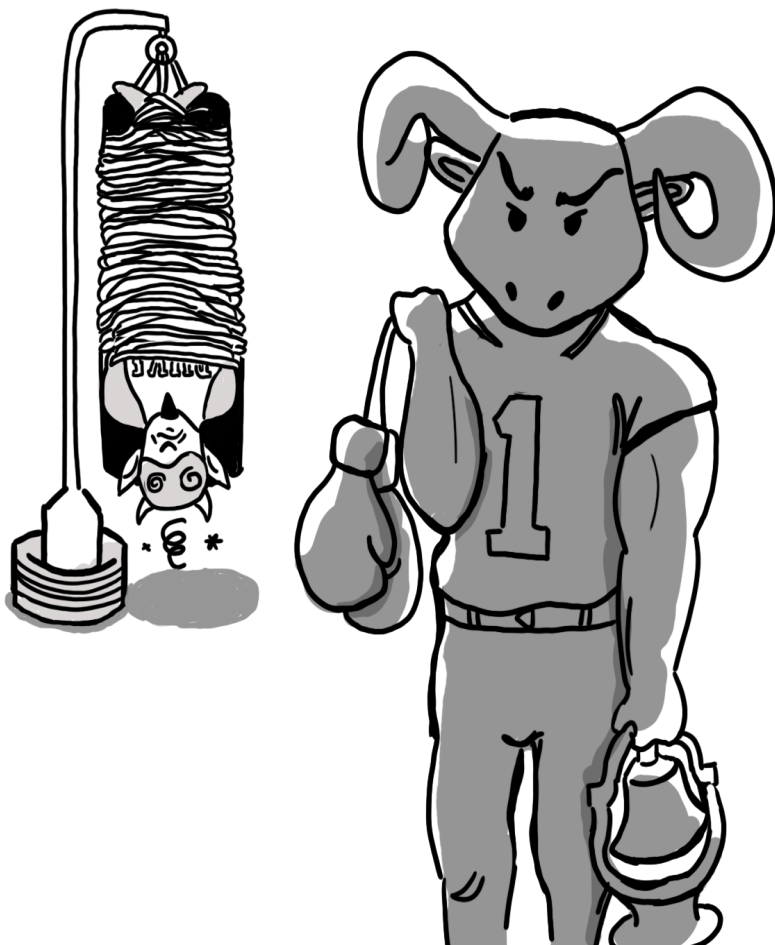
February, the North Carolina Supreme Court got rid of a map drawn by Republicans. Gerrymandering, regardless of the party, is harmful to democracy and the will of voters in the impacted state.

Gerrymandering allows representatives to choose their voters. A 2021 study conducted by the MIT Election Lab consistently found that gerrymandered districts controlled by both political parties produced fewer bills than their non-gerrymandered counterparts.

Both parties are guilty of wielding redistricting power. Gerrymandering ensures that politicians can protect themselves from changing demographics and political wills of their constituents. Partisan gerrymandering also harms voters because it often comes with other institutional voting barriers that disproportionately target minorities. In 2018, the Republican-majority North Carolina State Legislature passed a bill requiring photo ID for voting and only allowed forms of identification that Black voters disproportionately lack. The law was eerily reminiscent of post-Civil War era voter suppression tactics. Although the North Carolina Court of Appeals ultimately ruled that this bill could not be enforced due to its disproportionately negative effect on black voters, the bill would not have even passed through the legislature without gerrymandering. Democratic North Carolina lawmakers, who received a minority of seats in both the House of Representatives and the Senate despite winning a majority of the vote for both parts of the legislative branch, introduced a bill intended to improve voting equity. This bill did not make it through the legislature. The idea of redistricting, is promising. However, rather than being used in a way that ensures representation when communities grow, state representatives utilize it to fulfill their own agendas.

X: @dthopinion

(WE) BEAT DOOK.



ETL

DTH CARTOON/EMMA LEWIS

COLUMN

Panera's 'Charged Lemonade' calls into question energy drink culture

By Franklin Payne
Columnist

On Sept. 10, 2022, Sarah Katz, a student at the University of Pennsylvania, ordered Panera Bread's Charged Lemonade, a sugary, unassuming drink that contains 260 milligrams of caffeine in 20 fluid ounces.

Katz had a heart condition called long QT syndrome type 1, a heart-signaling disorder causing fast and chaotic heartbeats. After drinking this Charged Lemonade, she experienced cardiac arrest and later died.

Although the caffeine amount was labeled on the beverage, drinks are not required to disclose caffeine content on their labels, much less indicate what a normal dosage actually is for the stimulant, leaving habitual college consumers facing detriment.

Caffeinated beverages have become quintessential for the average college student's lifestyle. They allow us to power through the late-night study sessions and survive mundane early-morning lectures. Students fulfill an urge to be constantly alert and efficient as the pressures of college grow. 51.5 percent of college students consumed a caffeine level equivalent to four or more cups of coffee per day in a 2018 study.

Energy drink brands have capitalized on this culture, hiring students as brand ambassadors, driving around attention-grabbing Red Bull branded cars and even standing in the Pit to hand out

sample energy drinks to students.

What could be more convincing to become hooked on energy drinks than to make them highly available on campus and sell them as a necessity for academic success? These companies know their audience. While these drinks may be sold as silver bullets to many daily problems, the overconsumption of them leads to worse health outcomes.

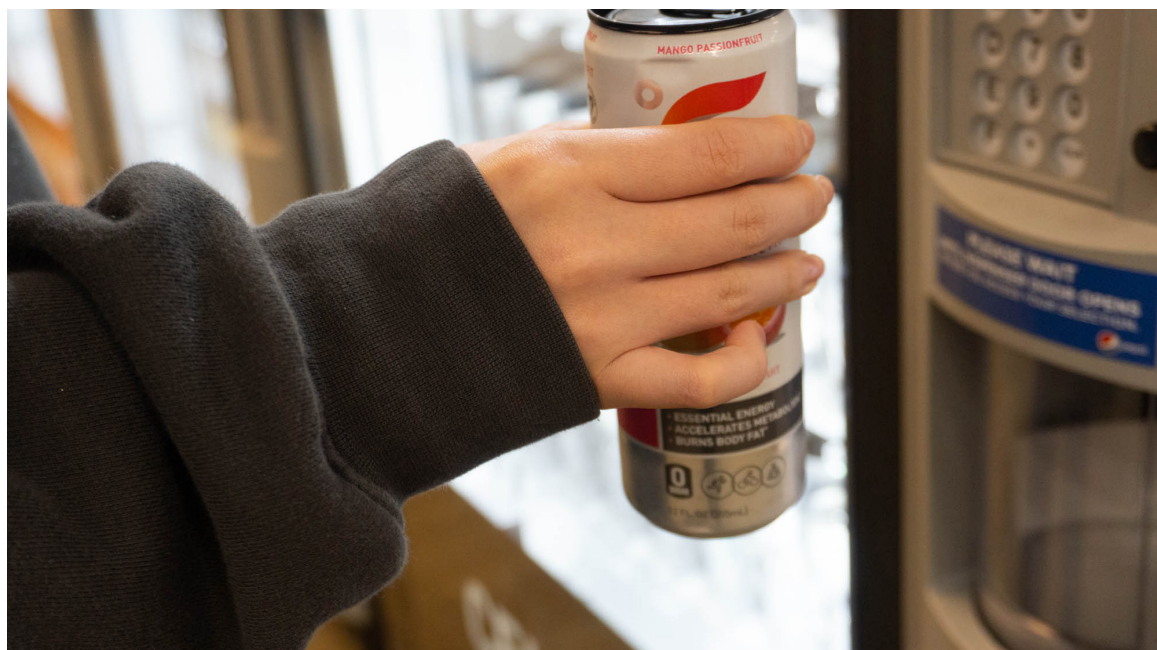
A few universities have gone so far as banning sales of energy drinks on campus due to their negative influences on students. In 2016, Middlebury College banned the sale of energy drinks on campus linked to "problematic behavior" such as "high-risk sexual activity."

While I do think that students might need to reevaluate their dynamic with caffeine, I'm not the moral police and will not go so far as say they need to be banned: I would surprise myself if I'm not in Davis Library during finals guzzling a Sparkling Peach Vibe Celsius or a concerning amount of Diet Mountain Dew.

I do think college students need to be given the relevant information to make these choices, be aware of the negatives, understand the potential benefits of energy drinks and have a scale for regulating consumption.

Food and drink labels use the estimate of 2,000 daily calories for calculating average daily values for energy, macronutrients and micronutrients, giving us a general guide of whether our consumption is within reason.

Alcohol information courses in high



DTH/RITA YOU

A UNC student purchases an energy drink from a vending machine on Nov. 7.

school and college talk extensively about quantities to understand the amount of drinks someone has consumed. If we received extensive information dedicated to teaching us about safe consumption for alcohol and food, why should things be any different for caffeine?

If you ask me how many milligrams of vitamin D the average person needs, I wouldn't be able to tell you unless I was looking at a nutrition label. How can companies or government agencies expect consumers to understand the daily

value of caffeine in milligrams without a guide?

An energy drink is an energy drink in the eyes of a consumer. However, the reality can be quite different with regard to the caffeine they contain. A Bang energy drink can have 300 mg of caffeine in 16 fluid ounces while a 12-ounce Red Bull drink only has 114 mg of caffeine, both holding the same title of energy drink with the associations of productivity, jitteriness and synonymy with enhanced academic performance.

Energy drink companies, enforced by our government if necessary, must provide transparent guides to their consumers, especially when they have created this culture of necessity around their products. If left unchecked, we will see the tragedies of our inactivity by allowing companies to set their own rules and manipulate a culturally vulnerable population.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

Dear UNC: Make student parking more accessible

By Mariam Ali
Columnist

As I'm leaving my 3:30 p.m. class, my thoughts are overclouded by an alert that stops me in my tracks. I realize my car is in danger of having a \$30 fine. I imagine it confidently wavering back and forth on my windshield, announcing the crime I've just committed to the whole world.

An unwanted reminder that totally diminishes all my enthusiasm remaining for the rest of the day.

I run out of the building to my Toyota Corolla in hopes of reaching my car before a ticket. However, the first thing that greets my vision is the white slip on my windshield.

Written in bold ink, it is a request (putting it nicely) to pay my new fee. Disregarding any financial situations an individual might have, this fee increases if not paid on time.

My frustration only grows as I am taunted by a UNC Transportation and Parking vehicle circling the parking lot, providing cars with the impending doom of a greedy fine. Navigating the parking situation on UNC's campus has, without a doubt, become a demanding expedition for students who rely on personal transportation.

Many students work part-time or full-time jobs to financially support themselves through college. Having better access to parking is essential, as it directly impacts their ability to travel conveniently.

First-year students, in particular, face a hurdle as they are bound by UNC's Transportation and Parking Ordinance, which strictly prohibits them from parking on campus. This means that first-years who bring their vehicles must find alternative parking off campus, but they are also restricted from buying an official permit for the RR Lot — a notably popular choice and possibly the only

option for many students.

From my experience a few years ago, the bus journey to the RR Lot is often tedious and can take up to half an hour or more, depending on road conditions and the weather.

While the UNC Transportation and Parking website mentions several options to address student parking needs, it falls short of adequately emphasizing the obstacles and inconveniences students may face.

"I can't believe I paid \$347 and still can't find parking in my designated lot," junior Lilia Su said in a text message.

She mentioned experiencing this issue on five separate occasions when her assigned parking lot was full, leading her to use overflow parking at the UNC Outdoor Education Center, which meant an additional 10-15 minutes of walking to reach her destination.

"I've been late to work due to this issue," she said. "It makes me wonder what I'm even paying for."

Su's assigned parking at the Boshamer Lot is a 10-15 minute walk to many places on campus. Still, compared to parking at the UNC Outdoor Education Center, it can require a 30-minute walk to reach various campus locations, further highlighting students' inconvenience.

The thought of securing parking on UNC game days feels like a Herculean task, and the streets become a bustling pedestrian parade. These adventures feel as uplifting as finding a needle in a haystack.

"I've noticed that, especially during football games, the University doesn't seem to prioritize student parking, even when there are plenty of vacant parking spots available," junior Peyton Brown said.

Whether during special University occasions or on an



DTH/GAGE AUSTIN

ordinary Tuesday, students frequently encounter difficulties when it comes to finding accessible parking, which can significantly disrupt their daily schedules.

Although UNC Transportation and Parking allows non-first-year undergraduates to apply for an on-campus parking lottery, it does not guarantee a parking spot, and students often must find other alternatives.

"I once found myself in a situation at Craige Deck where I couldn't move my car, resulting in me continuously getting fined," senior Cole Prezant said.

This issue continues to impact many students, and actively seeking viable solutions to increase accessibility for student parking on campus is a first step toward resolving this problem.

Some potential solutions include expanding parking facilities to accommodate the growing student population, implementing a more efficient shuttle service to ease the

burden of finding parking spaces or promoting carpool initiatives to reduce the number of individual vehicles on campus. These strategies would aim to mitigate students' parking woes while fostering a more accessible and sustainable parking environment.

The University should also establish a more fair appeals process. Including more transparent guidelines for fines could reduce unintentional violations and need for fines in the first place.

The parking dilemma on UNC's campus presents complex challenges for students, with fines, long walks and limited options becoming a common theme. It's time for UNC to prioritize student parking and address the frustrations that have become all too familiar.

X: @dthopinion

QuickHits

Reawakening Fashion

The Met Gala theme just dropped and it's the best it has been since "Heavenly Bodies" in 2018. We have high hopes for this year's theme, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion," and expect that it won't allow for monstrosities like Jared Leto's catsuit from last year.



Queues around the corner

The Raising Cane's opening perhaps had too much anticipation. We think they are stingy with the Texas Toast, but the sauce somewhat compensates for that and justifies the queue down North Columbia Street.



The end of football season

The last UNC football home game was on Saturday. Now we wait another year for tailgates and rushing the Kenan Stadium field after beating Duke. We are struggling to cope with this.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which comprises twelve board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.

Sports

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

UNC men's soccer falls



DTH/NATALIE PEOPLES

The UNC men's soccer team reacts after loss in the ACC Championship game against Clemson at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary on Sunday.

Coaches and players cite season-long fatigue, lack of energy

By **Brendan Lunga**Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

Senior midfielder Ernest Bawa watched in silence as the Clemson men's soccer team celebrated its ACC Championship victory. It was a sight of despair, and fatigue, that was mirrored by his fellow Tar Heels on the pitch.

In North Carolina's first ACC championship game since 2018, the Tar Heels fell 1-1 (5-3) in penalty kicks. The contest displayed an issue that has plagued UNC all year: a lack of energy. Game after game this season, head coach Carlos Somoano has pointed to fatigue as a problem for the team. On Sunday, after playing four games in two weeks in the ACC Tournament, it finally caught up with them on the biggest stage as the Tar Heels mustered just two shots on goal across regulation and two overtime periods.

"We were just laboring the whole

game long," Somoano said.

UNC took the lead in the 49th minute after graduate midfielder Quenzi Huerman found the ball in the box off a pass from junior midfielder Andrew Czech.

After the ball found the back of the net, though, Huerman appeared tired on the pitch. The Seton Hall transfer, who Somoano labeled as the vocal leader of the offense, was unable to produce another shot all game. With Huerman and others struggling to run up and down the field, the UNC offense sputtered.

In the 83rd minute, the team's lack of energy finally came back to bite them. Attempting to secure a pass from sophomore midfielder Sam Williams, Huerman was late to the ball and earned a yellow card for the ensuing tackle.

Off the set piece, the ball eventually found the feet of Clemson midfielder Ousmane Sylla, who faked out a UNC defender and capitalized on an opening to tie the game. Somoano marked this as a product of the team's fatigue.

"We were organized and prepared, but we just limped into our spots on that set piece,"

Somoano said.

By the time UNC reached overtime, the Tar Heels could produce nothing offensively to challenge the Clemson defense. Long crosses and entry passes were easily handled by Tiger defenders. In total, Clemson outshot UNC 4-0 in the two overtime periods, but the UNC defense was able to hang on to keep North Carolina in the game and force penalty kicks.

"As a coach, you can see how hard they were laboring just to move around the field and to cover ground and to get to spots," Somoano said.

Fatigue has been an issue for UNC all year. Against a 2-7-4 William & Mary team on Oct. 17, the Tar Heels reached the low point of their season. Unable to find the back of the net, UNC labored to a 0-0 tie against the Pride. Huerman used that moment as a point of reckoning for UNC.

"It's going to come down to how much we want it," Huerman said.

In the ACC Tournament, the Tar Heels appeared as though they did want it, but signs of this same issue still lingered. In the quarterfinals against No. 6 Wake Forest, UNC barely held onto a 1-0 lead while possessing the ball just 33 percent of the time. Somoano said the lackluster second half was the result of the Wednesday to Sunday turnaround in the ACC.

Clemson head coach Mike Noonan echoed a similar sentiment.

"It's the hardest conference in the country, and it's as difficult a tournament, if not more so, than the NCAA Tournament, to get to this point," Noonan said.

While Somoano emphasized that "there's no excuses" after the loss in the ACC Championship game, the Tar Heels have reached a point of no return. Like Huerman said, it's going to come down to how much they want it. And Somoano is confident that UNC will find its way.

X: @brendan_lunga18



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC sophomore quarterback Drake Maye (10) runs from Duke linebacker Tre Freeman (12) during the homecoming game in Kenan Stadium on Saturday.

Drake Maye earns a likely 'fairytale ending'

Continued from Page 1

The last time North Carolina fans stormed the field — following an upset victory over No. 9 Wake Forest in 2021 — Drake, who was redshirted for the season, was, in his own words, "a nobody."

"I was just Luke Maye's brother," he said.

But this time?

"I had a lot of people coming up to me, I was slapping some hands, but I was just trying to get out of there," he said. "I didn't really know what to do."

While the field storming may have come as a surprise to Drake, UNC's ultimate win didn't. Despite a Duke interception and recovered onside kick, as well as a three-point deficit for UNC with 41 seconds left in regulation, Drake remained composed.

"He played with confidence and he never even flinched," head coach Mack Brown said. "When there was 41 seconds left, I said, 'Hey,' and he said, 'We're good, Coach. We got this.'"

In just six plays and 38 seconds, Drake moved the ball to Duke's 25-yard line to set up junior place-kicker Noah Burnette's game-tying field goal.

Then, in double overtime,

Drake rushed toward the end zone, spinning and finally extending his left arm to record a five-yard touchdown. On the ensuing two-point play — which Brown said "normal people just don't make" — Drake sealed the game. With two Blue Devil defenders closing in, he kept his head up and found junior tight end John Copenhaver for a short pass.

"I think he's as good as anybody I've ever been around," Brown said of Drake. "He's unbelievable, and I said that to the team in there. We have the best quarterback in the country."

And although Drake admitted he still prefers last year's winning touchdown pass to Antoine Green at Wallace Wade Stadium as his favorite moment of the rivalry, he took a second after Saturday's game with the ACC Huddle crew to soak in the moment.

Drake hasn't confirmed his plans for next year. But if this game serves as a bookend to his career at Kenan, there's perhaps no better way for the quarterback to go out.

"It's a fairytale ending," he said. "And you can write about it."

X: @shelbyswanson

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Field hockey showcases new penalty corner offense, scores big

The team will compete in Friday's Final Four in Chapel Hill

By **Caroline Wills**Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

In the 29th minute of Friday's 6-1 routing of William & Mary, the North Carolina field hockey team tried something a little different on its penalty corner opportunity.

Senior forward Paityn Wirth inserted the ball to the top of the circle to senior back Romea Riccardo, and sophomore midfielder Sietske Brüning drew back her stick as if preparing for an immediate shot on goal.

But instead, Riccardo snuck the ball behind Brüning for junior midfielder Jasmina Smolenaars to collect and send toward senior midfielder Katie Dixon in the middle of the circle, who guided the hard-hit ball into the right corner of the cage, extending the lead to 2-0.

In the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament this weekend, No. 1 UNC showcased new options in its penalty corner offense. The Tar Heels found the back of the cage on three corner attempts in Friday's match against the Tribe. Then, three out of four North

Carolina goals came off a corner in Sunday's 4-2 win over No. 9 Harvard to advance to the Final Four.

Before Friday's game, UNC was 21-122 in corner opportunities this season. But for the first time this year, the Tar Heels scored more than two goals on corners.

A typical North Carolina penalty corner usually follows this form: After the insert, the ball is stopped for first-year forward Charly Bruder to launch a powerful, one-hit stroke towards the cage. However, going into the tournament, Dixon said it is crucial for the team to work on more attacking options off the corner.

"Honestly, we've stuck with Charly's hit a lot, and that's been working a lot," Dixon said.

With more ball movement and different Tar Heels taking shots on corners this weekend, numerous UNC players recorded goals. In the second half of Friday's match, Wirth scored twice off a corner by hugging the far left post right after her insert to tap in deflected shots.

Then, on Sunday, when North Carolina needed a goal after Harvard trimmed the deficit to 3-2, junior midfielder Lisa Slinkert stepped up with her own direct shot, sealing the victory.

"Our connection in there has just



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Senior forward Paityn Wirth (10) inserts a penalty corner in Karen Shelton Stadium on Sunday during the second round game of the NCAA tournament against Harvard.

been a lot better, so we're finally able to do more than just a straight shot," Wirth said.

Even with all their new options, the team hasn't completely ditched the Bruder one-hit. Rather, head coach Erin Matson said on Sunday that the additional tactics reinforce the element of surprise whenever the Tar Heels look to the first-year for a shot at the top of the circle.

Against the Crimson, Bruder found

the back of the cage twice on penalty corner attempts with her threatening wind-up shot, providing UNC an early lead going into halftime.

"Her shot is a rocket," Matson said. "All spring, all fall we've been working on just harnessing it and to get it on target because it's going to go in nine times out of 10."

While the versatile corner options already make UNC harder to scout, Matson said the flexibility of the

players in the penalty offense make it even harder for opponents to prepare for. As the team looks to face No. 5 Virginia for the third time this season in the semifinals, a level of unpredictability will be crucial in these offensive opportunities.

"There's always more variations we can create," Matson said. "We'll have to continue to stay one step ahead."

X: @carolinewills03

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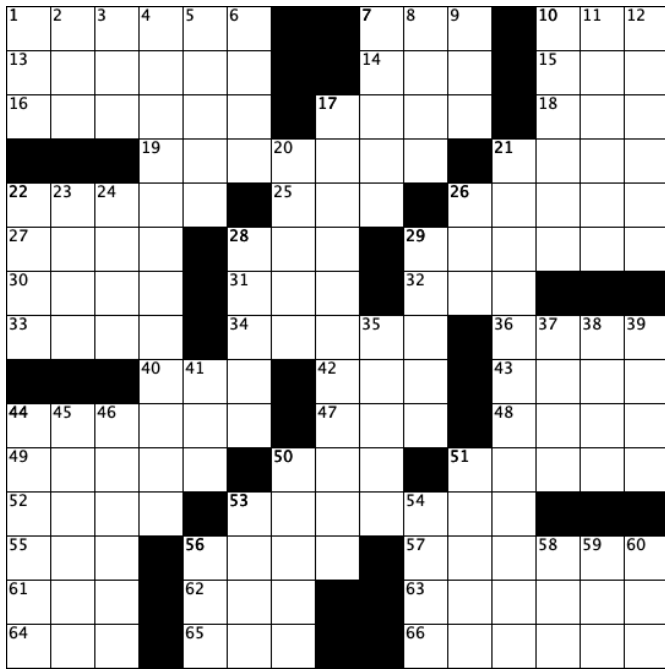
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This week's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC junior majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

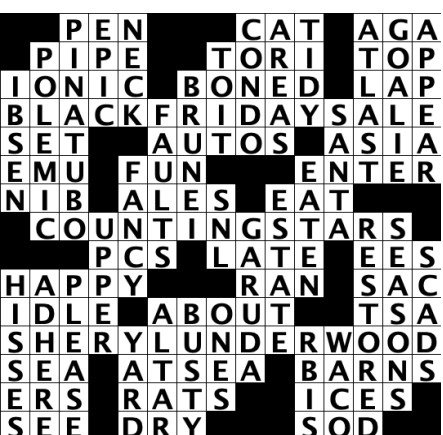
Title: Bottle of the Bands

Across

- 1 Insecurities
- 7 Eight of these in a gal.
- 10 Word before 'single' or 'man'
- 13 Clever, skillful
- 14 Spot for sleepy pets
- 15 "I believe....," to texters
- 16 Status for ~34% of UNC faculty
- 17 "Darkest Hour" actor Oldman
- 18 Nav. app
- 19 Ruins, relics
- 21 1992 rock musical "The _____ Tommy"
- 22 Clutches
- 25 Wile E. Coyote's choice weapon
- 26 If He's Not Here, then where?
- 27 The Nike swoosh, for one
- 28 Cringy 2015 dance move
- 29 Button-downs, for one
- 30 Religious affirmation
- 31 Under the weather
- 32 Trig. function
- 33 Blend together, like people
- 34 Like Solo without Chewbacca?
- 36 Graham and Dennings, collectively
- 40 Canoe necessity
- 42 The 'S' in SOB
- 43 Creepy Pennsylvania lake?
- 44 Reason to skip practice
- 47 Use a stool
- 48 Raise one's voice
- 49 Bullwinkle, for one
- 50 Waves and weaves
- 51 Petite
- 52 Pull trig after wine night, say
- 53 By one means or another
- 55 Ripen, like cheese
- 56 Coop females
- 57 Email crime warnings
- 61 "Game of Life" vehicle
- 62 Hotel type, like that on Pittsboro Street
- 63 _____/Palestine discussion
- 64 Monograms for Ms. Turner
- 65 Outdoor smooching, e.g.
- 66 Samples different wines

Down

- 1 Opposite of 'dis
- 2 Keats poem "____ on a Grecian 3-Down"
- 3 Keats poem "2-Down on a Grecian ____"
- 4 Wisconsin band with 70s blues-rock edge
- 5 Michelin products
- 6 Flower neck
- 7 Flower, for one
- 8 Driveway surfaces
- 9 Espionage agents
- 10 Steve Winwood classic "_____ Love"
- 11 Bring into the country
- 12 Lobs the softball, say
- 17 90s band famous for "Hey Jealousy" and "Mrs. Rita"
- 20 Whatever
- 21 "Ballad of a Southern Man" band
- 22 Word before 'rock' and 'shot'
- 23 City that wasn't built in a day
- 24 Prolonged periods
- 26 "Even if" (text speak)
- 28 Anne Frank's "_____ of a Young Girl"
- 29 Fragrance
- 35 "Make some _____ for THIS band!"
- 37 Length-times-width product
- 38 Cash register
- 39 Wall Street command
- 41 "Roses ____ red..."
- 44 "Brace for _____"
- 45 Chewy candy bar filling
- 46 Heath Ledger, Jack Nicholson, and Joaquin Phoenix
- 50 Prima _____, opera star
- 51 Oft-spicy chip dip
- 53 Email button
- 54 "Hang on a second!"
- 56 Groovy
- 58 Jailhouse snitch
- 59 With 'off,' golfing term
- 60 Classic Benzes, abbr.



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HOROSCOPES

If November 15th is your birthday...



Today's Birthday (11/15/23). You're a powerful team together this year. Dedicate regular connections for romance, fun and creativity. Navigate tricky winter waters with your partner, before springtime feeds inspiration. Summer health and fitness flower. Share support for autumn peace of mind and heart. Join forces for good.

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

<p>ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19) Today is an 8 — A professional project grows naturally. An opportunity reveals hidden treasure. Fortune favors taking a bold initiative. Provide leadership, guidance and stewardship. Take notes. Share progress.</p>	<p>LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22) Today is a 7 — A good coach sees your blind spots. Adjust technique for greater efficiency and ease. Small changes make a big difference. Discuss health and fitness goals.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21) Today is a 9 — Make business deals, connections and favors. Talk about passions and purpose. Negotiate terms. Discuss options and potential. Listen carefully. Sign on the dotted line.</p>
<p>TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20) Today is an 8 — Follow your heart to exciting adventures. Conversation grows into something beautiful. Develop your research and creative ideas into functional reality. Explore and investigate.</p>	<p>VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22) Today is an 8 — Savor your beloved people. You're especially charming and persuasive. Grab an opportunity to dance with someone attractive. Share flirtatious banter. Romance sparks in conversation.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19) Today is a 9 — Fortune favors a personal project. Take advantage of beneficial conditions to advance. Others wonder how you manage. Get support when needed. Express your heart.</p>
<p>GEMINI (MAY 21 -JUNE 20) Today is an 8 — Contribute to build financial strength with your partner. Collaborate to manage projects. Align on budgeted expenses. Together, you can generate the resources you need.</p>	<p>LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22) Today is a 7 — Take care of family. Manage household chores and responsibilities. Make repairs and upgrades. Replenish reserves. Infuse love into your home. Bake something fragrant.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18) Today is a 7 — Peaceful settings inspire productivity and imagination. Gather inspiration from a recent dream. Savor natural connections. Clean your spaces. Let your creativity percolate. Organize.</p>
<p>CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22) Today is a 9 — Deepen a delightful connection. Take advantage of unexpected circumstances. Romance, collaboration and partnership are all on the table if you play your cards right.</p>	<p>SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21) Today is a 9 — You're especially brilliant and creative. Discuss your latest passions and invite participation. Express what's in your heart. Get the word out about what you love.</p>	<p>PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20) Today is a 7 — Friends help you make an important connection. Share dreams, suggestions and advice. Keep communication channels open. Contribute to group conversations, chats and efforts.</p>

SUDOKU

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC beats Lehigh in second game, 90-68

Experience and communication help lead team to victory

By Noah Monroe

Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

Armando Bacot doesn't remember last year, or so he says.

However, if the graduate center did think back to the start of the 2022 UNC men's basketball season, he would've recalled how the team often let lesser opponents hang around in early games, never scoring a truly definitive victory.

And in the first half of the then-No. 19 Tar Heels' contest against Lehigh, it seemed to be happening once again. With 13:25 left in the game, Mountain Hawk guard Tyler Whitney-Sidney nailed a jumper to cut North Carolina's lead to just three points.

But so far this season, unlike last, North Carolina has demonstrated the composure needed to react and pull away from its opponents. North Carolina took control, outscoring Lehigh 37-18 in the remainder of the game on its way to a 90-68 victory on Sunday. This, along with UNC's ability to break off a back-and-forth battle against Radford for an ultimate 86-70 win in last week's season opener, demonstrate a sense of calmness that head coach Hubert Davis said stems from having multiple veteran players out on the floor.

"Armando's been here for five years," Davis said. "Cormac [Ryan] and Paxson [Wojcik] have played in college for four years, five years, so there's a calmness because they've been there before."

The two returning starters from last year's team — senior guard RJ Davis and Bacot — helped North Carolina win the game by a margin of 22 points on Sunday. The pair led the team in points, with both scoring 22 and Bacot notching his third-career 20-point, 20-rebound game.

In addition to this experience,

the poise that North Carolina displayed on its run might have also been the result of increased intensity from the third-year head coach. To start the second half, North Carolina's field goal percentage significantly dropped as the team went 3-for-12 from the field, something that junior forward Harrison Ingram said was a result of North Carolina not playing as a team.

"We were shooting bad shots," Ingram said. "We were all trying to get our own and, I mean, we were shooting open shots but that's not the shots we want."

During the under-16 media timeout in the second half, Davis said he communicated to his team that they weren't playing with enough passion and that they needed to ramp it up.

"He felt like our intensity was just not where it needed to be," RJ Davis said. "He just wanted to see that emotion and passion that he knows that we could play with and that he wanted to play with."

After this, the Tar Heels broke the game open and established

their dominance. Once UNC started to play five-on-five basketball, the shots began to fall, and the team went 12-for-19 to end the game.

The fact that North Carolina was able to apply the message Davis gave during the timeout, and apply it successfully to the game, showcased not only the calmness that Davis frequently mentioned but also the maturity of a team that features an average player age of 23.

With five graduate students and three seniors, North Carolina has plenty of experience, and thus, plenty of players who have played a lot of college basketball, allowing them to get out of situations like Sunday with composure.

"I mean, the maturity of the team with just the veterans and the experience, I think we listen and then we go out on the court and then do what they tell us," RJ Davis said. "I think that's going to be so special for us."

X: @themoahmonroe



UNC graduate forward Armando Bacot (5) makes a move toward the basket in Sunday's game against Lehigh in the Dean E. Smith Center.

DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tar Heels narrowly evade upset to Davidson, 74-70

Pressure, hot shooting from the Wildcats kept the game close

By Ben McCormick

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Charlise Dunn was on a tear.

After netting a corner three to cut then-No. 16 North Carolina's lead to one point, the sophomore guard hit another triple on Davidson's next possession to give the Wildcats their first lead of the game.

Despite the ensuing chaos — the Tar Heels went 6-14 on free throws in the fourth quarter and had no field goals in the final two and a half minutes — UNC narrowly avoided the upset in a 74-70 win. North Carolina had numerous attempts to put the game away throughout Sunday night, but hot shooting from the Wildcats forced the Tar Heels to make unexpected adjustments.

"Usually, if a team makes 10 threes, you don't win that game," head coach Courtney Banghart said. "And so, there were a lot of big plays down the stretch. A lot of not so good plays down the stretch. But for a relatively new roster, how they handle adversity is a good sign."

The setbacks began before the game even started. Earlier that day, UNC found out senior forward Anya Poole, who was listed as day-to-day with a lower leg injury, would sit out the contest. With the veteran cornerstone sidelined, the Tar Heels were forced into small-ball lineups with 6-foot-1 senior Alyssa Ustby at the five.

UNC wasn't prepared to run small ball for extended periods. The Tar Heels even played some zone defense, which Banghart said they hadn't practiced with the small lineups either.

"I like that Ustby's in the game, that makes me happy," Banghart said. "In terms of what do I like about that lineup, I can learn to like it. I liked it a lot last year, but I like to practice it if we're going to play it."

It wasn't an ideal lineup, and after Dunn's 3-pointer put Davidson in front, the two teams exchanged leads for the next four minutes. With 18 seconds to play,



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ

Senior forward Alyssa Ustby (1) prepares for a rebound during the game against Davidson in Carmichael Arena on Sunday.

senior guard Deja Kelly was fouled with UNC up, 70-69.

The career 78.4 percent free-throw shooter missed both. Ustby corralled the rebound and kicked it out to graduate transfer Lexi Donarski, who was fouled. Donarski, an 85.1 percent career free-throw shooter, stepped up to the stripe and missed both. This time, Maria Gakdeng collected the offensive rebound. After being fouled, the worst career free-throw shooter of the trio, at a mere 55.9 percent, sank both shots to ice the game for the Tar Heels.

"I think we just knew that we needed to close the game out and that meant going harder than we had been going before," Gakdeng said. "So, Alyssa getting that rebound, then me, that whole sequence — I feel like that was just grit at the end of the game, just making sure we're going hard."

Donarski got even got the chance to get those two misses back at the line, and did just that in the last nine seconds to make it a two-possession game.

When UNC tried to pull away on Sunday night, Davidson pushed back. Problem after problem emerged, but the Tar Heels managed to find a solution every time.

"One shot didn't change it," Donarski said. "There were a lot of big shots, including Maria's free throws. I just think that we trust each other a lot and we're comfortable with whoever is taking that shot."

X: @BenMcC33

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Sophomore forward is 'a game changer'

Ally Sentnor leads UNC women's soccer to win in first round

By Noah Monroe

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As Ally Sentnor walked off the field of Dorrance Field, a group of fans shouted, "You're the GOAT."

The redshirt sophomore forward just laughed.

Later, when asked about her weak-footed goal to give North Carolina the lead in an eventual 3-1 victory over Towson to kickoff NCAA tournament play, Sentnor instead wanted to talk about the play from sophomore midfielder Kate Faasse to set up the goal.

"She worked her butt to get to that end line and keep that ball in, so all credit to her," Sentnor said. "I think just the unselfishness to cut that back was just incredible as well."

Despite her deflection of praise, Sentnor was arguably the key factor in the win on Friday, recording a goal and an assist to help UNC overcome an initial 1-0 deficit. After Bella Sember tied the game

up, Sentnor scored a left-footed goal in the 60th minute, putting the Tar Heels ahead. Later, in the 84th minute, Avery Patterson extended the lead to 3-1 with a header from Sentnor's corner kick.

Outside of UNC's first-round victory, Sentnor's impact on the team this season has been evident — North Carolina is 8-1-2 when Sentnor has recorded a point, but 3-0-6 when she's been held in check. "I think I just go into a different mindset," Sentnor said. "At the end of the day, my eyes are on the goal and once again just doing the best I can do for the team."

Head coach Anson Dorrance repeatedly mentioned the word "committed" when asked about Sentnor. Whether it was discussing her commitment to her craft, to recovering from an ACL or to the team, Dorrance praised the Hanson, Mass. native for her work ethic.

"When people look at these great players they say, 'Oh she's got so much natural talent.' Well you know what, yes, she's talented, but everyone on our roster is talented," Dorrance said. "The thing that separates Ally is her commitment to her craft. She wakes up every

morning and she sorts out 'What am I going to do today to get better?'"

After scoring a goal against N.C. State on Sept. 30, Sentnor was held pointless for the next four games — a stretch in which the Tar Heels went 1-0-3, including three straight 1-1 draws. Then, on Oct. 22, Sentnor recorded an assist against Syracuse and has since parlayed that into a four-game streak of recording at least a point. Friday was the second game this season in which Sentnor has recorded three points.

As North Carolina continues down its path in the NCAA tournament, looking to make it back to the College Cup Final after falling short last year, it's safe to say that as Sentnor goes, so go the Tar Heels.

"She's just a rockstar," redshirt senior defender Maycee Bell said. "Every time she gets the ball, there's an opportunity to score. Teams have to mark her, teams have to know where she's at, at all times. Even sometimes when she's not getting the ball, she's making other people open by doing that. She's just a game-changer, to be honest."

X: @themoahmonroe



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ

Redshirt sophomore forward Ally Sentnor (21) looks for a pass during the first-round NCAA tournament game against Towson on Friday at Dorrance Field. UNC won, 3-1, and Sentnor recorded a goal and an assist.

BREAKOUT SEASON

'A diamond in the rough': Sophomore volleyball standout Sadie Swift shines

The middle blocker ranks seventh in the ACC in blocks

By Anna Page Lancaster
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For much of her life, Sadie Swift thought of herself as a basketball player. Growing up in Austin, Texas, the UNC sophomore middle blocker was a hooper before she started to take volleyball "more seriously" in eighth grade.

After being recruited by Roots Volleyball club, Swift quickly adopted the identity of a volleyball player first, basketball player second.

If her production for North Carolina this season is any indication, Swift made the right choice.

After a rookie season in which she saw action in just 16 total sets, Swift has emerged as a defensive cornerstone for the Tar Heels as a sophomore, and her 99 blocks on the season rank seventh in the ACC.

"I think there were some advantages to playing basketball for so long, but then it took me a little bit," Swift said. "It took me a little while to learn those technical skills, but once I got those down, I feel like that's when I really started to enjoy volleyball."

'A diamond in the rough'

Former UNC coach Joe Sagula said he's lucky to have spotted Swift early in her recruiting process.

"The feeling on the staff was, 'Wow, we've got a diamond in the rough!'" he said. "Somebody who was under-recruited, who is then all of a sudden appearing as a senior in high school, and people are starting to take notice, like, 'Where did she come from?'"

Swift's athleticism, confidence and humor drew Sagula. He said she was a "seamless" fit on team, as she matched the program's structure and personality from the beginning.

Sagula said Swift didn't act like a first-year on the court last season,



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Sophomore middle blocker Sadie Swift (7) hits the ball during the volleyball match against Duke on Oct. 25 in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

instead leading by example in her own unique and laid-back way.

"She's been a key member of the team, which we thought she could be," Sagula said. "And it's all falling in place for her."

'She wanted to be really good'

Swift's preparation for this season started back in January — both in the weight room and in on-court practices.

"I just felt this sense from Sadie that she wanted to be really good at this," head coach Mike Schall said. "She committed to doing the work."

Swift said she has specifically focused on being disciplined at the net. Unsurprisingly, both Swift and Sagula credit some of Swift's recent growth to her basketball days. According to Sagula, playing multiple sports added to Swift's athletic IQ. Even in college, Swift has participated in intramural basketball, putting her athleticism towards something "less serious."

"She knows how to finish with her hands over [the net]," Sagula said. "And I think that's just a natural thing that she's very gifted at — good talent to have."

'She's a calming presence'

Swift is known by her coaches and teammates alike for being a friendly competitor. While Schall said typical competitive players are "tearing people apart," Swift competes with a smile on her face. On top of Swift's calming presence on the court, Sagula described her as having a funny and dry sense of humor.

"Even in high-intensity situations, she's a calming presence," first-year outside hitter Sydney Nolan said.

Nolan said she and Swift became fast friends, describing the middle blocker as humorous, lighthearted and fun. Swift, according to Nolan, is always looking for everyone's best interest and has been helpful from day one. For Nolan, it comes down to the little things, like Swift constantly offering rides to the first-years.

Swift's breakout performance can be seen as a silver lining to a disappointing season in which they currently have a 12-13 record. As North Carolina looks to wrap up its conference slate with a pair of home matches, it's safe to say Swift will continue leading the way.

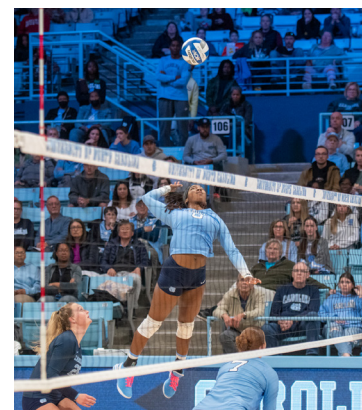
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UNC VOLLEYBALL

'She always bounces back'

Transfer Emani' Foster impacts team offense, culture

By Matthew Maynard
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DTH/LARA CROCHIK

Graduate outside hitter Emani' Foster (8) spikes the ball at the volleyball game against Virginia Tech in Carmichael Arena on Nov. 3.

Emani' Foster remembers being the little kid waiting for UNC volleyball players to sign her poster after home games.

Now, the graduate outside hitter is the one signing the autographs at Carmichael Arena.

After the Henderson, N.C. native graduated from UNC Charlotte in May, her mom, a UNC alum, encouraged her to move closer to home and play at UNC.

"I was like, 'Okay, I'll check it out,'" Foster said. "And then when I went on my visit, it was just really nice."

Foster has fit in seamlessly since joining the Tar Heels, starting in all but two games in 21 appearances this season, emerging as a calming and consistent presence for UNC.

"I never really see her go up and down emotionally," Shaffmaster said. "Even though sometimes like we all make mistakes, like she'll make a mistake or two in a row, she always bounces back."

X: @mdmaynard74

While Foster was initially shy around the team, head coach Mike Schall said she's turned into a vocal leader at practice and in the huddle during timeouts.

But to hear Foster tell it, she tries to lead by example.

"I'm not really the most vocal leader on the court," Foster said. "But I feel like just by my demeanor on the court, I usually keep a pretty level head and just try and keep the team focused and relaxed."

Teammates gravitate towards Foster, whether during practice or when they have downtime. Younger players, particularly first-year outside hitter Sydney Nolan and sophomore middle blocker Sadie Swift, spend a lot of time around Foster, learning from her three years of college volleyball experience.

"It's a very welcoming and magnetic thing to be around her," Shaffmaster said.

Aside from her impact on the team's culture, Foster adds another attacking threat to the Tar Heels with her "violent kill," according to Schall.

"She's one of the best offensive players in the conference right now," Schall said. "And I don't hesitate saying that. The range of shots that she can hit is pretty special, and for her to be able to attack from the front row and back row — there aren't a ton of outside hitters doing that."

Foster's tallied double digit kills in 12 matches, recording a season-high 19 in three separate games. As the Tar Heels wrap up conference play in the coming weeks, it's safe to say Foster will continue to be one of the team's cornerstones.

"I just wanna make this my best athletic and academic year," Foster said. "I want to try and achieve things that I haven't achieved before and play at a higher level."

LEADERSHIP

Anton Down-Jenkins returns as graduate assistant

Olympian and former UNC athlete dives into new role on team

By Moira Martin
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Even as a 15-year-old, Anton Down-Jenkins loved passing along knowledge to his club diving team in New Zealand.

Since then, the UNC diver has competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, won back-to-back ACC Diver of the Year honors and collected three gold medals at the ACC championships.

Down-Jenkins has returned to the program as a graduate assistant for the 2023-24 season. Aside from assisting coach Yadiel Gamboa in watching the trampoline and dry board stations, his firsthand experiences as a competitive diver have helped him make deeper connections.

"It really is just an extra set of ears, eyes, hands for coach Gamboa and keeping the energy good and making sure everyone's happy," he said. "Just being here whenever I can be."

At the University of South Carolina, Down-Jenkins quickly became a perennial contender



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS/JEFF CAMARATI

Anton Down-Jenkins dives during a meet against Virginia in Koury Natatorium on Jan. 22, 2021.

in the NCAA Championships. However, at regional competitions, he couldn't help but notice the family-like dynamic and strong culture in Chapel Hill.

"A big part of why I wanted to transfer was because I wasn't having fun diving and competing," Down-Jenkins said. "And then coming here, [Gamboa] really wants us to work hard, do what we have to do; but if we're not enjoying it along the way, what's the point?"

Gamboa's emphasis on enjoying the sport helped propel Down-Jenkins to the 2020 Olympic Games, where Down-Jenkins said he quickly succumbed to pressure, self-doubt and "insane imposter syndrome," in Tokyo. With millions watching him compete on TV, he struggled.

"I don't believe that I should've been there," he said. "And [Coach Gamboa] was really that support system for me."

Down-Jenkins recalls these struggles, and how Gamboa helped him through.

"He did the best he could do with how stressed I was and just told me to trust the process," Down-Jenkins said. "We've been through it, put in the work, and I think we both kind of knew that when I got on the board as competition started I'd be fine."

Through his senior and fifth-year seasons, Down-Jenkins volunteered to coach for the club diving team, a time period in which Gamboa said he saw flashes of coaching potential.

Be it in practices or at competitions, Gamboa said Down-Jenkins was "always giving advice" to his teammates.

"Even if he's not having a good day, he's got a smile and gets a smile out of someone else," Gamboa said, later adding, "As soon as he [started] on the pool deck, he is very good with that."

Senior Aranza Vazquez, a national champion on the UNC dive team and fellow 2020 Olympian, said she appreciates having a coach with recent diving experience.

"You can tell he knows what we feel when we're in the pool," she said, later adding, "So you can

actually tell that he understands what's going on."

During a brief meeting in August, Down-Jenkins and Gamboa decided it was best for Down-Jenkins to forgo the Paris 2024 Olympic circuit and focus on his future outside of the pool.

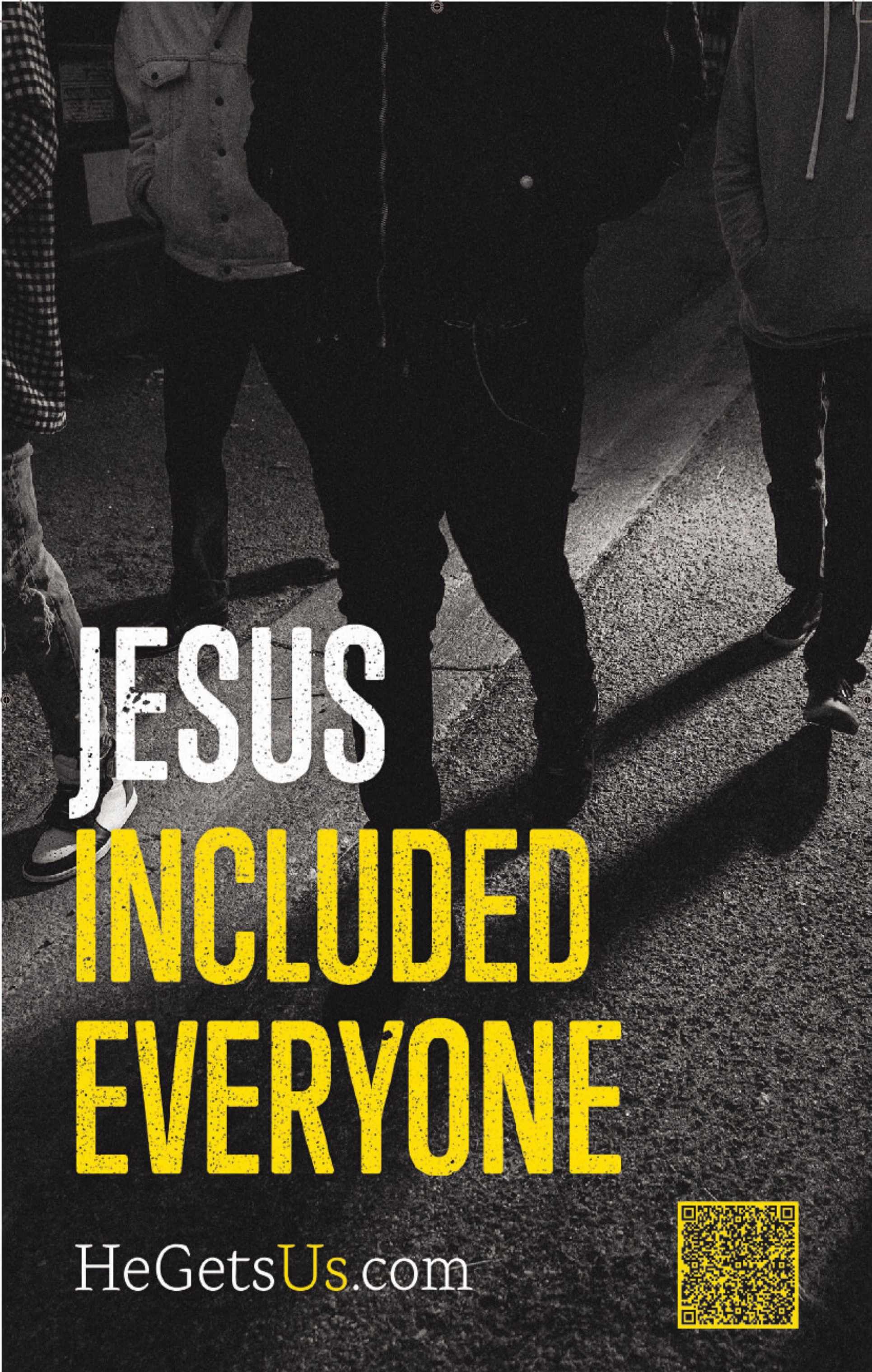
Despite coaching several of his former teammates, Down-Jenkins said his new role isn't "weird or awkward." The coach treats his position as a level playing field with his athletes, giving them a sense of autonomy in their training.

Overall, this team chemistry has propelled the UNC swim and dive program to a 3-0 men's and 2-0-1 women's record in dual meets to start the season. Additionally, Vazquez has continued to dominate, sweeping the springboard events against South Carolina on Nov. 3.

As the season progresses, Down-Jenkins is thrilled to contribute to the same energy and family-oriented atmosphere that initially drew him to UNC.

"I'm just stoked that I get to continue being a part of [the team] and help all of the current divers and divers that are going to join our team in the future to have an amazing experience here [like] I did."

X: @moiramartin010



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