

The Daily Tar Heel

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131 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

N.C. GOP lost its supermajority. What changes?

Republicans lose override power over future governor

By Sarah Clements
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

After the November election, Republicans in the N.C. General Assembly lost their ability to override gubernatorial vetoes along party lines after only retaining 71 out of 120 House seats, one seat shy of their previously held supermajority.

A supermajority allows a party to override a veto with a two-thirds vote in both the state house and senate without having to consult the opposing party.

Republicans have held the supermajority since April 2023, after Rep. Tricia Cotham (R-Mecklenburg), elected as a Democrat, switched parties during her term.



DTH DESIGN/MILA HORSLEY

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MONEY

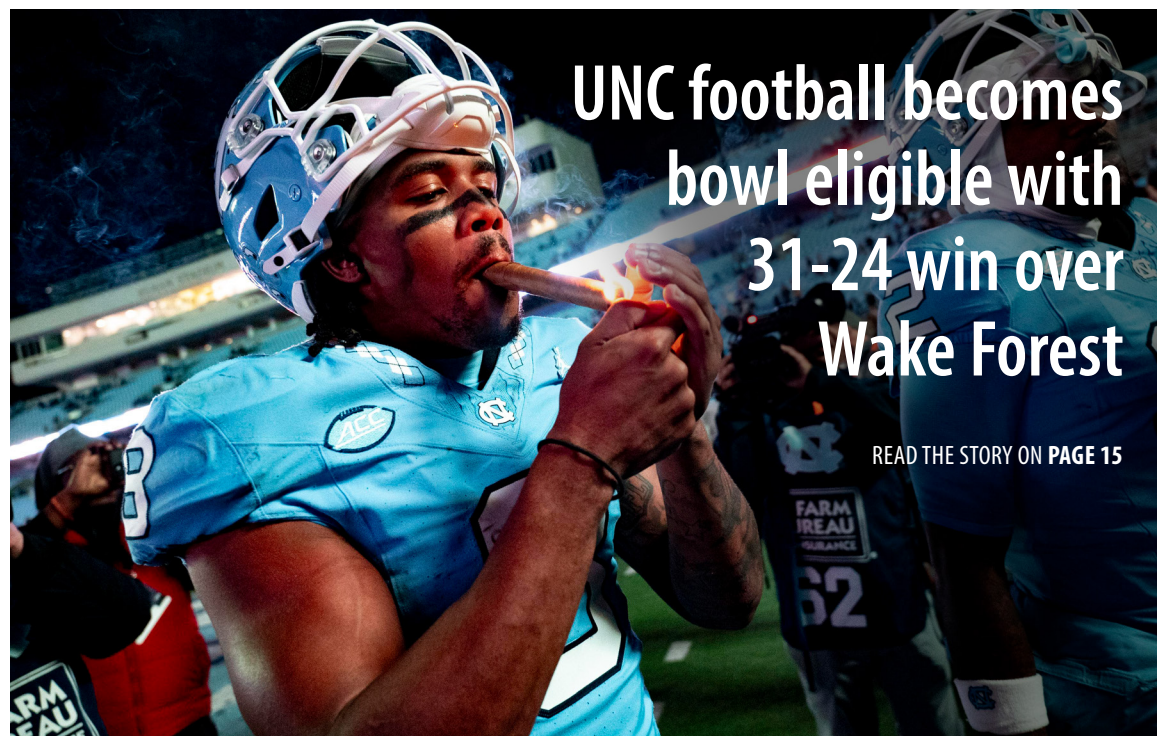
Equity questions surround scholarship

Morehead-Cain nominations may favor certain students

By Regan Butler
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Socio-economic equity concerns surrounding Morehead-Cain Scholarship nominations for both sophomore and first-year applicants were reignited by the Nov. 4 announcement of the Morehead-Cain Foundation's new Sophomore Selection Scholars. Some Morehead-Cain recipients

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DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

North Carolina junior wide receiver Kobe Paysour (8) lights a cigar as he exits the field after UNC defeated Wake Forest at Kenan Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 16.

UNC football becomes bowl eligible with 31-24 win over Wake Forest

READ THE STORY ON PAGE 15

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Undergraduate Senate advances own interests through gerrymandering

Some former, current members denounce corruption within body

By Aisha Baiocchi
Special Projects Editor
enterprise@dailytarheel.com

Within five months, 11 members of student government re-did the entire districting and election process for Undergraduate Senate.

Some current and former members of student government have raised concerns that these changes advance the interests of those already involved in student government rather than the entire campus community.

"Everything is performative," Samuel Hendrix, a former senator and member of student government said. "And it's performative for them, never for the student body."

Andrew Gary, a graduate justice on the UNC supreme court who self-identified as one of the major architects of these changes, admitted the changes amount to "gerrymandering."

'A shadow government'

Former chair of the Undergraduate

"Everything is performative. And it's performative for them, never the student body."

Samuel Hendrix
Former member of Undergraduate Senate

of a Transitional Council, giving 11 student government members "all powers delegated to the

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FEATURE

UNC student shares her life through poetry

Melody Dalili is the second Tennessee Youth Poet Laureate

By Alexis Clifton
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

It was on April 20 of this year, while getting food at Chase Dining Hall and listening to an announcement on a phone call, that UNC student Melody Dalili received the life-altering news that she would be the second Youth Poet Laureate of Tennessee.

"I think when I walked out of Chase, I laid on the brick on the ground and I just sat there for a little bit, and I was like, 'What is going on?'" Dalili said.

Since then, Dalili has played an impactful role not only in her community in Tennessee, but also the community she has found in Chapel Hill, sharing the intricate story of her life and experiences through poetry.

Prior to being named Youth Poet Laureate of Tennessee, Dalili was announced as the 2022-23 Knoxville Youth Poet Laureate on April 10, 2022 when she was 16, just two years after being removed from an abusive home. The life she faced while growing up plays a heavy role in her work and her drive for change.

The gravity and importance of her new role, Dalili said, didn't hit her until her very first event as Tennessee Youth Poet Laureate, while sitting in a hotel room after being flown back home for the occasion.

"My writing is so unique to my own personal experiences that when people say that they are moved by my poetry, it feels like they're also moved by personal experiences," Dalili said.

After being removed from an abusive home, Dalili found herself homeless for four years, living with her father in a warehouse he

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DTH/HAYDON BODE

UNC sophomore Melody Dalili poses with her book, "Thank You For Staying," on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

“You will not find poetry anywhere unless you bring some of it with you.”

JOSEPH JOUBERT

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PRINT MANAGING EDITOR
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Mail and Office: 109 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Laney Crawley, editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
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MAINTENANCE

UNC community members discuss memorial upkeep

Alumnus says Unsung Founders monument is neglected

By Maeson Wagner
Senior Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The Unsung Founders Memorial in the center of McCorkle Place has an inscription on the tabletop that reads, “The Class of 2002 honors the University’s unsung founders, the people of color bond and free, who helped build the Carolina that we cherish today.”

The memorial is a two-foot tall stone table held up by bronze figurines and surrounded by five stone seats, inspired by the stones in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery that mark the graves of unknown Black individuals, many of whom were enslaved, who contributed to the creation of UNC.

Earlier this year, Kenneth Wilson, a retired Duke University professor and UNC alumnus, wrote in an email to The Daily Tar Heel saying he noticed the monument was “dirty and unkept.”

When Wilson visited the memorial last March, the figurines holding the table up had some cobwebs, he said. When he went back a few weeks later, he said he noticed a layer of filth over the tabletop, and that somebody had spilled what looked like a milkshake on the seats.

Wilson said that when he showed his cousin the monument on Nov. 3, she was “taken aback” by how poorly maintained it was. When he visited three days later, Wilson said the apparent milkshake had been cleaned up but there were



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

The Unsung Founders Memorial stands in McCorkle Place on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

more cobwebs around the figurines and bird poop on the seats.

“So I thought, well, let me look at the other memorials, or whatever you want to call them, in the area,” he said.

He added it was clear somebody had made efforts to keep the nearby General William Davie Bench, Joseph Caldwell Monument, Old Well and Morehead sundial relatively clean.

“This just stood out as being neglected when the other things weren’t being neglected,” Wilson said.

Media Relations wrote in an email statement to The DTH that the monument is cleaned monthly, more frequently than similar campus structures.

“Facilities Services does not regularly maintain campus statues or monuments, with the exception of the Unsung Founders Memorial,” the statement said. “Grounds Services cleans the

Unsung Founders Memorial monthly and maintains the grounds surrounding the memorial, including mowing, mulching and seeding as necessary to maintain the area and to prevent erosion.”

The monument was commissioned by the class of 2002 and sculpted by Korean artist Do-Ho Suh. At the Unsung Founders Memorial Dedication on Nov. 5, 2005 Bernadette Gray-Little, who was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the time, called observers to reflect on what the monument means in the context of the University and its complex past.

“Consider for a moment the irony of this monument, the Unsung Founders Memorial. It tells us that long before persons of color were allowed to study or teach at this University, they contributed their labor and service to the campus,” she said in her speech.

Take The DTH’s external audit

At The Daily Tar Heel, we know how impactful our coverage is to the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities. As journalists, we report on many areas — but we still may fall short.

To ensure that we are representing and listening to the people who we cover, we are releasing an external audit. Through this 15-question, primarily multiple-choice survey, community members can make their

voices heard and anonymously inform our newsroom on how we are doing. The questions included cover topics like diversity, timeliness and consumption habits.

If you are interested in providing feedback, please fill out the survey by Nov. 25 at 11:59 p.m.

We would love to see how our audience views us!

— Sierra President, DEI Coordinator



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Full-ride scholarship may be ‘benefitting wealthier people’

Continued from Page 1
questioned the program’s equity, while others commended diversity and inclusivity among scholars.

Nomination process

Selected incoming first-year and sophomore students are awarded the scholarship, which covers the full cost of tuition at UNC and provides additional funding for outside experiences. Any high school senior from North Carolina can apply with a nomination from their school, affiliate program or by self-nomination. Not all schools have the power to nominate students. Out-of-state students from the United States and international students cannot self-nominate. In a process that began last year, the Morehead-Cain Foundation annually selects a group of 12 to

15 sophomore scholars, separate from the first-year class. To apply, UNC sophomores must be nominated for the scholarship by professors, department heads and teaching assistants, as well as staff of scholarship, service, extracurricular and cultural programs, Morehead-Cain Communications wrote in an email to The Daily Tar Heel. In 2023, the Morehead-Cain Foundation did not make an official announcement that an application would be open to sophomores. Only sophomore students with personal nominations were informed. This year, the private nature of the sophomore nomination process remained. Class of 2027 Morehead-Cain scholar Wade Guerra was admitted through this year’s Sophomore Selection. As an Honors Carolina student, he was nominated by his honors career coach.

Guerra said he felt those who requested nominations were already in the know about the process. When asked how Morehead-Cain promotes equity and inclusion in sophomore nominations, Communications wrote in its email to The DTH that they value the wisdom and input of those who work with and observe young people’s leadership and character every day.

Equity among scholars

Class of 2027 Morehead-Cain Scholar Macca Aiuto said as a student from a low-income background in a rural area, she did notice many scholars are from affluent families, areas or private schools. She also said that Morehead-Cain leadership and advisers tend to be less communicative when concerns about equity are brought to their attention.

“I think they don’t want to recognize that they are benefitting wealthier people more than they are benefitting people who probably could use the scholarship more, if that makes sense,” Aiuto said. Class of 2028 Morehead-Cain scholar Neha Jumani said the thoroughness of the first-year scholarship application ensures the program’s scholars are diverse in their experiences. The Morehead-Cain Foundation looks for leaders of high character and intellect who seek to leave a positive impact on Carolina and the world, according to their website. Aiuto said the Foundation does a good job of adhering to these criteria when choosing scholars. “However, having said that, it’s a lot easier to do something that positively impacts your community when you are in an area that gives you those resources to do so,” she said

Jumani also said coming from a larger school with more resources was part of why she could make an impact. But, she said many accepted scholars didn’t have those opportunities and took advantage of what they did have. “As long as you were impactful in the community in like, the best way that you possibly could have been, I think [Morehead-Cain] really value[s] that,” Jumani said. Aiuto said Morehead-Cain could increase its outreach to more rural areas and low-income communities. She also said the Foundation could give more schools and programs nominating status. Communications wrote in its email, “Each year, we seek to extend our affiliate nominator partnerships and expand our reach into communities across the state, nation and world.”

X: @reganxbutler

ACADEMICS

Students create own path with interdisciplinary studies major

There are currently 50 unique tracks in the 24-credit degree
By Jordan Andreasen
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

UNC offers more than 80 majors for students to pursue, however, students who don’t align with a preexisting program can also pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. According to the UNC academic catalog, the Interdisciplinary Studies major, abbreviated as IDST, provides an “innovative space and a flexible, individualized program structure for students who wish to develop a major different from those already offered.” Interim Director of Interdisciplinary Studies William Goldsmith wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that the students in the major currently pursue around 50 unique programs. Curriculum Director Nick Siedentop wrote in a separate statement that the major has been around for decades, dating back to 1997 in the UNC catalog archives. The 24-credit major allows for students to generate their own academic plan and create a unique course of study. In previous years, students pursuing IDST majors have studied topics ranging anywhere from entertainment management to cultural studies, the undergraduate curricula website states. Sophomore Suhan Asaigoli, an IDST major, said in an email statement to The DTH that he is studying “Neurohumanities, Cognitive Health and Experience.” He wrote that he applied to the IDST program because it allowed him to pursue “a unique academic path focused on exploring the narratives of illness and the human experience of disease.” Because IDST majors have the ability to design their own curriculum, students who desire to pursue this major must apply to it. Asaigoli wrote that completing the application was an insightful experience. “It compelled me to comprehensively reflect on my



DTH/SHIRLEY MEUNIER
Suhan Asaigoli and Amir Shaheen, students in UNC’s Interdisciplinary Studies program, pose for a portrait outside Wilson Library on Nov. 17.

interests as a student, ruminate on how I wanted to further explore those in my own course plan, and conduct research into the many departments and faculty that we have at UNC to shape my designed major,” he wrote. The application consists of a form requiring prospective students to explain their proposed major, outline the necessary courses and complete four short answer questions about their goals. After completion, the form is then sent to the IDST program director before being reviewed by an advisory board. Students interested in pursuing an IDST major for the spring semester must submit their applications by Feb. 1 and will be notified about their decision around four weeks after the application deadline, according to the undergraduate curricula website. Once decisions are released, students will need to follow a series of requirements in order to graduate as an IDST major, including taking eight core courses from at least three departments and complete at least eight substitute courses while maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, the undergraduate curricula website states that the IDST Advisory Board “strongly discourages” students pursuing IDST from double majoring. Some students pursue two minors in order to reach the number of credits required for graduation. To refine their proposals, the UNC Department of Undergraduate

Education provides faculty sponsors that help students develop their coursework and the subject of their programs. “The IDST department faculty were very helpful in helping me refine my proposal to be a rigorous course of study that addressed my interests,” Asaigoli wrote. Senior Amir Shaheen, an IDST major studying infectious diseases, wrote in an email statement to The DTH that the IDST program has enabled him to pursue his desired major through several different ways. One of those ways, he wrote, was through granting him access to classes that were restricted to certain majors. “I’ve been able to take epidemiology, microbial pathogenesis and immunology [courses],” he wrote. “These classes are technically within graduate departments, but my major enables me to enroll in them.” Asaigoli wrote that he came to UNC with an interest in medical education and research, writing that he discovered the cultural, social and emotional aspects of neurological illnesses are just as important to understand for his career goals. “Interdisciplinary studies offers me the flexibility to explore a wide range of topics — from narrative medicine and sociology to bioethics and research-intensive coursework,” he wrote.

X: @dailytarheel

MEDICAL

‘Fill the gaps around our health care needs’

Partnership helps veterans finish PA training

By Tulsi Asokan
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Established in 2015, the partnership between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and the UNC School of Medicine’s physician assistant program aims to continue addressing health care shortages and supporting veterans. Blue Cross N.C. Media Relations wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that North Carolina faces a critical shortage of health care providers, but does not recognize military medical credentials. Frontline health care experience does not meet the criteria for a career in civilian health. “There are so many people that are in the military, and when they come back, are short a few credits from actually getting to be able to practice,” Cheryl Parquet, director of community engagement at Blue Cross N.C., said. With a starting \$1.2 million grant from Blue Cross N.C. and guidance from Fort Liberty, the two-year curriculum of the physician assistant program offers these veterans scholarships and special admissions preference to finish their medical training. “I think it’s just been such a great partnership — to be able to fill the gaps around our health care needs, but also supply job opportunities for our veterans,” Parquet said. One of these veterans, Alyssa Espinoza, is currently a second-year student in the physician assistant program. She said she was inspired to further her medical education after being exposed to tactical combat care during her time as a medical officer. “I figured I would give it a shot, and I just fell in love with it,” Espinoza said. During her first year of school, Espinoza said she maintained monthly visits with military units across the state. “They were just really understanding with my service and my commitment that I was still doing at the time,” Espinoza said. “And I don’t think I would have gotten that at any other program.” In addition to financial support and scholarships, the partnership with

Blue Cross N.C. aims to help UNC connect with veterans across the state. Espinoza said that veteran faculty members have been a great resource during her time with the program. For assistant professor Nicholas Wiley, military experience equipped him with the independence and training to consider a career in health sciences. “It was a natural transition to go and work as a PA,” he said. Wiley served as an independent duty corpsman in the Navy and spent four years as an instructor with the Special Forces Medical Sergeant course. Although he was initially planning to study civil engineering, he said he heard about UNC’s physician assistant program through connections with the Joint Special Operations Command and decided to apply. “Because I was a nontraditional student, and the UNC PA program was looking toward that, it was actually a better fit for me,” he said. After becoming an assistant professor in 2022, Wiley said he hopes to bring his experience in the burn specialty to the field at UNC. As an alumnus, he said he continues to endorse the program’s goal of enrolling nontraditional students. Since the partnership’s inception, Blue Cross N.C. and UNC have certified 140 veterans through the physician assistant program. This December, Espinoza will graduate to join them. She said that she plans to return to active duty as a certified physician assistant after graduation. “I have such a soft spot in my heart for the military community,” she said.

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DTH/COLLIN GUENTHER
The sun sets behind Bondurant Hall on Monday, Nov. 18.

LECTURES | GUEST SPEAKERS

‘They really love what they do’: Youtubers present to English 105 classes

The Holderness Family visits UNC to talk content creation

By Alice Scott
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Raleigh-based Kim and Penn Holderness, known online as the Holderness Family, have over 8 million followers across social media platforms. They are authors of a New York Times bestseller. They won Season 33 of the reality show, “The Amazing Race.”

Last week, they gave a 90-minute talk to professor Marc Cohen’s English 105: English Composition and Rhetoric students.

After Cohen discovered the Holderness Family through his social media feed and “The Amazing Race,” he said he thought they could be excellent speakers, and decided to contact them through their website about a potential collaboration.

“We love higher education,” Penn said. “We have a daughter who loves education and loves UNC. And so we were all sitting around the dinner table talking about this email, and it was universally believed that we should do something.”

The couple are known to produce comedic sketches and music about their experiences as spouses and parents. Cohen said their presentation was the third of a series of talks organized for a class unit on the business of content creation.

“I personally love being on a college campus, and I love being around people who love to learn,” Kim said. “So for me, it was a way to give back in a very small way.”

Cohen’s students from his two English 105 sessions, as well as some professors and community members, met in Murphey Hall on Nov. 7 to hear from the couple and two members of their productions team, Chief Marketing Executive



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARYAH OZTANIR
Sam Allen, Ann Marie Taepke, Marc Cohen, Penn and Kim Holderness pose for a photo.

Ann Marie Taepke and Content Producer and Editor Sam Allen.

This was not the first time the Holderness Family had spoken at events, but Penn said to attendees that this was their first time giving a college lecture.

“I don’t know that the audience has ever been this smart,” he said to The Daily Tar Heel.

Together, the group discussed their creative process when it comes to content creation, shared stories behind projects that shaped their business’ direction and discussed how content has changed over the years.

UNC first-year Aashi Iyengar said her favorite part of the talk was when the Holderness Family team shared clips of their videos.

“Getting to actually see some of their content, it kind of brought to life everything that they were saying,” Iyengar said.

Ella Teegarden, a first-year at UNC, also said watching the content was her favorite aspect of the talk.

“You could just tell that they were so excited and they loved that they were able to come in to teach the Tar Heels what they do,” she

said. “And you could tell that they really love what they do.”

This is not the first time Cohen included unique experiences in his curriculum. In previous years, he has taught units in collaboration with the North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC Hospitals and an indie rock band called Hotel Fiction.

“I’m always looking for opportunities to make English 105 exciting and interesting and experiential,” Cohen said. “Education is my way of doing that.”

Cohen said the content from the Holderness Family lectures will be used in students’ unit projects: multimedia narrative websites.

The project will teach students how to create stories for the web, but it also allows them to learn from people at the top of their professions.

“Their time is precious, and they are giving us a substantial amount of that precious time,” Cohen said. “Why? Because they care about teaching.”

X: @dailytarheel

Alumna gives speech at Stone Center

N.C. Central’s dean of law discusses social justice, hope

By Dylan Skinner
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The 32nd annual Stone Memorial Lecture was held on Tuesday night at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center Auditorium. UNC alumna and dean of North Carolina Central University’s School of Law, Patricia Timmons-Goodson, was the keynote speaker at the event.

Each fall, the Sonja Hanes Stone Center for Black Culture and History hosts the lecture in honor of Sonja Haynes Stone, a former UNC faculty member and civil rights activist who died in 1991.

Stone Center Director Rhon Manigault-Bryant said the event is an opportunity for the Stone Center to showcase the work Black women are doing in the legacy of Stone.

Timmons-Goodson, the first African-American woman to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court, titled her lecture “Law, Education, and the Arc of the Moral Universe.”

“I’m here today to tell you that my more than four decades of service in the law gives me optimism in the future of civil rights in this country and of our democracy,” she said.

Timmons-Goodson spoke about several social justice topics such as voting rights, excessive use of force by law enforcement and issues inside higher education as potential reasons one could lose hope.

To remind the audience that “defeat is not an option,” the lecture then turned to history to testify about progress made in the country.

“African Americans at the time of my birth lived a life with the daily realities of injustice,” Timmons-Goodson said. “Voting, that fundamental act of democracy, was still pretty much reserved for whites.”

Timmons-Goodson said the decision of Plessy v. Ferguson, which established the “separate but equal” doctrine, took two steps backward, but Brown v. Board of Education, which established segregated schools as unconstitutional, was a step in the right direction.

“Our progress has been slow, and it did not flow in a straight line, and yet it flowed; it did,” she said.

Relating the lecture to current events, Timmons-Goodson’s son Aaron Goodson said understanding history and context helps him appreciate what’s happening today.

In responsetoan audience member’s question following the lecture, Timmons-Goodson reemphasized a historical understanding as necessary to fully appreciate a step forward.

“You celebrate it so that you have something to sustain you when perhaps you step backwards,” she said.

Timmons-Goodson said that when aligned, education and law have the power to “walk the moral universe towards justice.”

Manigault-Bryant said the Stone Center wanted someone with a connection to UNC to speak at the event and said it was an honor to have Timmons-Goodson, who she said is accomplished and humble.

Approaching the end of her lecture, Timmons-Goodson used Martin Luther King Jr. as an example of courage and action.

“A storm is rocking the house of our democracy,” she said. “There is no denying, regardless of who you supported at the recent election, one cannot dispute that our country is divided in a way that we’ve not witnessed since perhaps the Civil War.”

Circling back to her optimism for the future, Timmons-Goodson closed the lecture with a call to action.

“Let’s bring these tools of law and education to bear on the arc of the moral universe so that it bends faster, better and more firmly toward justice,” she said.

X: @dailytarheel

FUNDING

Some student organizations affected by budget decreases

Undergraduate Student Government cut \$200,000

By Bella Pires
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

After the student organization budget decreased for the 2024-25 academic year, some student organizations have found it difficult to maintain operations.

Andrew Forbes, treasurer of the Undergraduate Student Government, wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that this year, the USG is distributing a budget of roughly \$1.2 million to registered student organizations.

“This is about \$200,000 lower than last year, which means RSOs are receiving less funding now than previously,” Forbes wrote.

He said that budgets fluctuate annually and depend on the funds transferred over from the previous year, but since the COVID-19 pandemic, Registered Student Organizations have been spending more money each cycle.

Danica Grant, a representative of UNC’s Asian American Students Association, said the organization has found challenges in holding events with a shrinking budget.

“This has been hard because every year, we try to put on big events, and we want people to come to our club

and get to know the community,” they said. “It’s hard to buy supplies for events that we’re expecting, like, 100 people to show up.”

Grant said that in order to fund events, AASA requests external funds from other sources, including UNC departments.

Anya Abhayakumar, one of three captains of Bhangra Elite, a UNC Indian folk dance team, said members have had to dip into their personal funds in order to pay for events and supplies. Bhangra Elite, she said, only receives funds from the USG.

“It’s definitely limiting when we think about going to competitions. Now, we also have to think about how far away it is and if it’s even feasible for us,” she said.

For Bhangra Elite, Abhayakumar said support from the USG helps provide costumes, travel and competition fees for events across the country.

“We’ve been trying to find other avenues to get funding, but it’s been so hard to do, because, honestly, what they give us is so insufficient for what we need,” Abhayakumar said.

In contrast to Bhangra Elite and AASA, Rebecca Stern, the treasurer of the Loreleis, a UNC a cappella group, has noted a budget increase since 2022.

“Our amazing treasurer at the time went through the effort of going to the Treasurer’s Test and giving the presentation,” Stern said.

The Treasurer’s Test is an online assessment that determines if a



DTH DESIGN/SHAMIL LUQMAN

student organization is qualified to receive funding from the USG. Students must pass with a score of 80 or higher to be eligible.

Additionally, at least one organization representative must attend a budget orientation meeting and submit a funding application before taking part in a hearing. At the hearing, treasurers are given 3-5 minutes to present their organization’s needs before answering questions.

If these requirements are not met, organizations will not be sponsored.

According to the USG, student organizations are funded in five cycles held throughout the academic year. In each cycle, the USG determines which clubs to prioritize through three criteria: representation of the student body, specialization of function and vitality to the organization’s purpose.

“These criteria are not applied individually or in a vacuum,”

Forbes’ statement read. “Each of them is considered simultaneously along with the rest of our rules and procedures to determine funding.”

Forbes wrote that through this criteria, the USG prioritizes funding programs and supplies that organizations need to function.

The budget is expected to flatten around 2030, Forbes stated.

X: @dailytarheel

PUBLIC FACILITY

Carrboro names library after former Mayor Robert Drakeford

New complex to serve as cultural center, opening in 2025

By Sheridan Barry
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners voted on Nov. 7 to name Carrboro’s new public library after Robert Drakeford, the Town’s mayor from 1977 to 1983.

The Drakeford Library Complex, previously known as the 203 Project, will serve as a cultural center and open in February 2025.

Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee said Drakeford was Carrboro’s first Black mayor, and is remembered for his progressive policies as well as his contributions to Carrboro’s bus systems and bikeways.

“Drakeford perceived another vision of how Carrboro could be mightier and punch above her weight, in terms of being engaged with Chapel Hill and engaged with the kind of vitality a more vibrant town would have,” Carrboro Town Council Member Randee Haven-O’Donnell said.

Foushee said that it’s important for Carrboro to move away from the racist history of its namesake Julian Carr, by honoring the Black figures central to the town’s history.

“I know I stand on Mayor Drakeford’s shoulders, as well as on my own husband’s, to be able to serve on the Carrboro Town Council and ultimately to serve as the first Black woman mayor,” she said.

Commissioner Sally Greene said the new name of the complex was suggested by members of the town via an online survey requesting suggestions of people influential to Orange County.

Then, she said a committee selected a name from the suggestions. The naming committee was comprised of Council Members Catherine Fray and Eliazar Posada; Commissioner Sally Greene and Commissioner Anna Richards; and Friends of the Southern Branch Library Board Members Alexandra Brown and Nerys Levy. On Oct. 15,



DTH/AMANDA KIRKPATRICK
Construction at the Drakeford Library Complex, located in Carrboro, N.C., is pictured on Monday, Nov. 11.

the Town Council approved the committee’s selection.

“All of our colleagues on both boards were enthusiastic about supporting the name,” Greene said.

She said of all of the people suggested, the naming committee decided to pick someone who had been in public office because the library is a public building.

“[Drakeford] was distinctive because he really was a great mayor in a kind of transitional

and there will be opportunities for education and connection.

When the complex is completed, Carrboro will officially have a free-standing public library, Haven-O’Donnell said.

“It didn’t make any sense to me that — with all of the folks who could access downtown Carrboro and who lived in Carrboro — we didn’t have a public library available to us,” she said.

Various task forces and members of the Town have been working very hard to complete the library, Greene said. Levy, specifically, has been advocating for the southern branch of the Orange County Library for over 30 years.

“It’s momentous that Carrboro and Orange County have built a library,” Haven-O’Donnell said. “It signifies commitment to freedom of thought, public access to information, history and diversity of perspectives that we need to stand firm and stand with and fortify.”

X: @sdanbarry

“Drakeford perceived another vision of how Carrboro could be mightier and punch above her weight.”

Randee Haven-O’Donnell
Carrboro Town Council Member

or pivotal time for Carrboro’s history,” Greene said.

According to the Town’s website, the Drakeford Library Complex will also be a home for Carrboro’s recreation, parks and cultural resources department, Orange County’s Skills Development/JobLink Center, the WCOM radio, a teen center, performance spaces and other multipurpose uses.

Foushee said the library will be a civic building open to everybody,

Supermajority loss upsets Republicans’ influence in state politics

Continued from Page 1

Having a supermajority has effectively allowed N.C. Republicans to execute their agenda, in spite of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper’s vetoes, and pass more than 20 bills, including measures limiting abortion access, parents’ rights in schools and adjustments to election law.

“Our governor is, by design, a fairly weak governor,” Western Carolina University political science professor Christopher Cooper said. “And so under supermajority times, you’re taking a very weak position — the North Carolina governor — and making it even weaker.”

N.C. Republicans retained a two-thirds majority in the state senate in the most recent election. However, without a two-thirds majority in both chambers, they can no longer override Democratic Gov.-elect Josh Stein’s

veto along partisan lines, giving him more leverage over policymaking.

Christopher Cooper said he expects Stein’s first term as governor to look similar to Roy Cooper’s when Republicans did not have a supermajority.

“I think it will be a lot of playing defense, but he’ll be much more successful in that defense than he would under Republican supermajority control,” Cooper said.

He said Republicans not having the ability to override Stein’s veto will likely lead to less legislation being passed. Democrats will still be unable to act on the offensive, he said, and Republicans will be more constrained.

N.C. Rep. Kelly Hastings (R-Gaston) said the lack of a supermajority could impact the party’s strategy. Still, he believes it is likely Republicans will be able to find enough bipartisan votes to override a veto, especially since they

are only one vote short of two-thirds.

Hastings said past school choice bills became law with bipartisan votes over the governor’s veto. He expects to see similar situations going forward.

“Since I first was sworn in in 2011, there have been a couple of times that we’ve not had a supermajority, and we were able to garner votes from the other side of the aisle to effectively govern and pass certain bills into law,” he said. “So I would expect that we’ll see some of the same in the upcoming session.”

Cooper said he believes it is less likely there will be a lot of bipartisan cooperation in an attempt to override a veto.

“It’s possible, but the General Assembly is not exactly known for cross-party collaboration,” he said. “So I think it’s unlikely that is what we’ll see. I think we’re more likely to see stalemate.”

HUNGER RELIEF

New PORCH community hub opens in Carrboro

Space allows families to select their food, aims to provide connections

By Sarah Lewisohn
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

On Nov. 13, Chapel Hill-Carrboro’s chapter of PORCH, a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting hunger relief, held a grand opening for its new community hub in Carrboro.

Sofia Edelman, PORCH Chapel Hill-Carrboro’s communications manager and volunteer, said PORCH has been feeding families for the last 14 years, and that the new community hub gives the organization a physical space to welcome them.

Before the hub’s opening, she said PORCH was distributing food in a parking lot using a drive-thru model. Staff and volunteers often worked from and stored food in places like the Chapel Hill Public Library and the Carrboro United Methodist Church, which was not feasible, she said.

PORCH was founded in 2010 by a group of moms who had children in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Edelman said. She said they noticed during the recession that some kids didn’t have lunches, so they started a food drive in their neighborhood.

“That kind of grew and spread to other neighborhoods and created what we call the ‘neighbors helping neighbors’ model,” Edelman said.

The new physical space gives participants the dignity of choosing certain foods and the form they want them in, Erin Riney, the executive director of PORCH Chapel Hill-Carrboro, said. Prior to this space, Edelman said families were getting prepacked nonperishables and produce.

“For example, some of our families that are from Central America mentioned [they] don’t really use canned foods in [their] cooking, but [they] would love dry beans,” Riney said. “We can easily communicate that to the over 130 neighborhoods that we’re tapped into.”

Edelman said moving to the hub has also allowed PORCH to become partners with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, giving it access to different programs for free food. About a third of the produce, meat and nonperishables in the hub are free for recipients, Edelman said.

The new hub will not only improve the services that PORCH provides, but will also serve as a place where the community can come together, Edelman said.

“We’ll be hosting events here — we’ll be way more in contact with participants than we were in the past so we can get real, live feedback from them about things that are working, things that they might want to see improved,” Edelman said.

The hub will have appointments for food shopping, and if a family arrives early, there is a waiting area in the hub with free books and snacks for children, Edelman said. She added that children can take the books home with them.

Riney said PORCH provides snacks to all 21 schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district, working with over 700 families in the district.

“The school social workers use [the snack program] as a way to get to know the families and who has repeated need,” she said.

Shartarka Carmon, a family engagement specialist at Families & Communities Rising, INC. — a nonprofit providing education and support services to families and organizations in the state — attended the grand opening. She said Families & Communities Rising is partnered with Hillsborough’s chapter of PORCH, and she is happy that they can continue to serve the surrounding communities.

“We’re just really excited — I think that it’s going to make a huge difference,” Edelman said. “It’s going to make us a lot more sustainable, and we’ll be here for a long time to come.”

X: @dthcitystate



DTH/HAYDON BODE
A plethora of fruits and vegetables fill PORCH’s new community center, which opened on Nov. 11.

X: @sarahhclements

AGRICULTURE JOBS

N.C. Farm Bureau challenges unionization rights

Lawsuit filed over labor protections for temporary workers

By Kristin Kharrat
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The North Carolina Farm Bureau and two North Carolina farmers recently filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Labor over regulation allowing temporary farm workers, H-2A workers, to unionize. In April, the DOL issued a rule strengthening labor protections for temporary farm workers by allowing them to unionize. The ruling took effect in late June. Nathan Leys, staff attorney from FarmSTAND, said the H-2A's history of exploitation incentivized the DOL's ruling. H-2A visas are a part of a program which allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the country to fill temporary agriculture jobs. Jake Parker, secretary and general counsel of the N.C. Farm Bureau, said temporary workers are meant to work in the United States during the growing season and are required to return to their home countries once harvest is complete. Leys said temporary workers are vulnerable to exploitation because of their limited English language proficiency and their dependency on employers for housing, transportation, food and medical care. The DOL implemented the union rule to prevent exploitation of temporary workers. The lawsuit targets the section of the regulation that grants temporary workers on H-2A visas unionization



Union Grove Farm pictured in Chapel Hill, N.C.

DTH FILE/ASHLYN RHYNE

and collective bargaining rights, Parker said. He said unionization and collective bargaining grant employees the opportunity to advocate for themselves and take actions in their best interest. UNC School of Law professor Jeffrey Hirsch said the N.C. Farm Bureau might not like that they may not be able to fire workers who are advocating for better working conditions. Although the ruling grants temporary workers unionization rights, Parker said it will be difficult to exercise them because workers

cannot strike during harvest, as it directly affects their wages. Parker said the main concern regarding the ruling is its inconsistency with domestic farm workers' rights outlined in the National Labor Relations Act. The NLRA, a federal statute that formally protects private-sector employees' unionization rights, exempts domestic farm workers from its scope. Leys said there are four ongoing lawsuits in four states challenging this rule: North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi.

"The [N.C. Farm Bureau] and a couple of farmers basically allege that a very small portion of the final rule is unlawful, and that they want to strike down the entire rule, and there are a couple problems with that," Leys said. Leys said that one of the portions of the final rule that the bureau has deemed unlawful is legal. He added that the bureau does not provide a justifiable reason to hinder the entire rule rather than blocking only the provisions they deem unlawful. The NLRA exempts domestic farm workers because the legislation was enacted in the 1930s, and to

get it passed, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had to make compromises with Southern Democrats, who were still the party of the Confederacy at that point, Leys said. He said the Democrats did not want agricultural industries to extend unionization rights to Black farm workers. Hirsch said the rule challenges the DOL's power to grant privileges to temporary workers outside the bounds of the NLRA and outside the bounds of what Congress intended by excluding domestic farm workers from the NLRA. "In our view, the United States Department of Labor was, by regulation, giving farm workers self-organizing rights that Congress had said they aren't entitled to," Parker said. Parker said the lawsuit argues that Congress has the sole power to address the inclusion of domestic farm workers in the NLRA's regulation. He said the bureau is concerned with the DOL making decisions beyond its constitutional power, rather than acting as a regulatory agency. Hirsch also said states have the ability to provide protection to farm workers beyond the NLRA's jurisdiction. Parker said North Carolina has no provisions explicitly granting domestic farm workers the right to join and organize unions. FarmStand and North Carolina Justice Center filed a motion to intervene as defendants on behalf of multiple farm workers, Farmworker Justice and the UFW Foundation in the case. The motion is pending.

X: @kristinkharrat

TRANSPORTATION

Lighten Up event in Carrboro promotes bike safety

Town staff distributed maps and gear to pedestrians

By Lauren Zola
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

On Nov. 15, the Town of Carrboro hosted its annual Lighten Up event, which promotes the well-being of cyclists and pedestrians. At both ends of the Libba Cotten Bikeway, a trail that connects Carrboro to Chapel Hill, town staff sat at tables and distributed coupons for free bike inspections, bus route maps and safety gear including reflective lights. Tina Moon, the Town's planning and transportation administrator said that as the days shorten, the event reminds people of the importance of safety and the requirement of having lights on bicycles. According to the N.C. Department of Transportation, state law mandates that when biking at night, bikers must have

a lighted front lamp on their bike visible from 300 feet away, a rear red light or reflective clothing visible from 300 feet away and a red rear light reflector on their bike. Also, North Carolina's contributory negligence law states that if someone contributes any fault to a crash, they cannot receive compensation for their injuries. Tamara Sanders, the manager and co-owner of Back Alley Bikes, said the law means that even if a biker is following all other traffic laws, if they do not have the necessary lights on their bike, they are liable for themselves. "Unfortunately, car-bike interactions happen, crashes

"We have a lot of support in the community to improve our bicycle infrastructure, and that silver status — hopefully gold next time — is a testament to how strong of a biking community we are."

Becca Eversole
Town transportation planner

happen," she said. "I would say, most often, it's the person on the bike that is the most harmed. And I think this time of year, those interactions, just because of the time change, is going to be a lot." Jonathan Sanchez, a PhD student and Spanish instructor at

UNC, was biking through Carrboro when he passed the event table and stopped to get reflective gear. He said he has been needing to replace his bike light. "I think this is a good initiative because this gear is important to keep me safe in the street," he said. "I use the bike to go to work every day, to go to the University and come back." Shannon Benedetto, a biker who received gear from the event, said she has previously been hit by cars while biking. She said if she had bike lights, then the drivers might have been able to avoid hitting her. At the time, she said she did not know about the state's laws for biking at night. One goal of the event is to connect people with public transit resources, Duncan Dodson, a Town planner, said. He said the event is also meant to motivate pedestrians to use reflective gear to get home safely at night. Becca Eversole, Town transportation planner, said another goal of Lighten Up is to reduce air pollution from vehicles. "It is a priority of the Town of Carrboro to address climate



DTH FILE/ASHLYN RHYNE

A biker rides their bike on the Frances Shetley bikeway in Aug. 2021.

change, to use all the tools that we have available to address climate change," she said. "That especially means advocating [for] alternative forms of transportation, which includes cycling, which includes walking, which includes taking transit [and] carpooling." Carrboro was the first town in North Carolina to become a silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. "We have a lot of support in the community to improve our bicycle

infrastructure, and that silver status — hopefully gold next time — is a testament to how strong of a biking community we are," Eversole said.

X: @lauren_zola

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GLANCE

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COLUMN

I logged off from social media for a week and you should too

Less screen time
meant more time for
reading, socializing

By Adele Harris
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

I got my first phone when I was 12. Instagram and Snapchat at 13. Even younger than that, I was watching videos on YouTube and Vine (may she rest in peace). Needless to say, I can't imagine my life without having instant access to the internet and social media.

So, when I deleted all social media apps off my phone last week, I knew I was in for a rude awakening.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2023, 78% of adults age 18-29 use Instagram and 62% use TikTok, both far higher than any other age group. Before deleting those apps off my phone, I was spending four to six hours a day on social media.

So, what did I learn from being forced back into the dark ages with nothing to satisfy my shorter attention span?

First off, how much I like to read. I was an avid reader as a child who would leave the Chapel Hill

Public Library with enormous stacks of books, only to return a few days later because I had finished them. This past week, I went to the library to check out some thrillers and historical fiction novels, not really expecting much, as I rarely have time to read nowadays with how busy my schedule is.

Or at least, I thought I had no time. Without being on my phone 24/7, I was astounded at how much free time I had. I read three books this past week after not reading for fun for months. My favorite one was "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles, and now I totally understand why the book is so critically acclaimed.

Social media has stolen time from hobbies that I really care about, but also time meant for

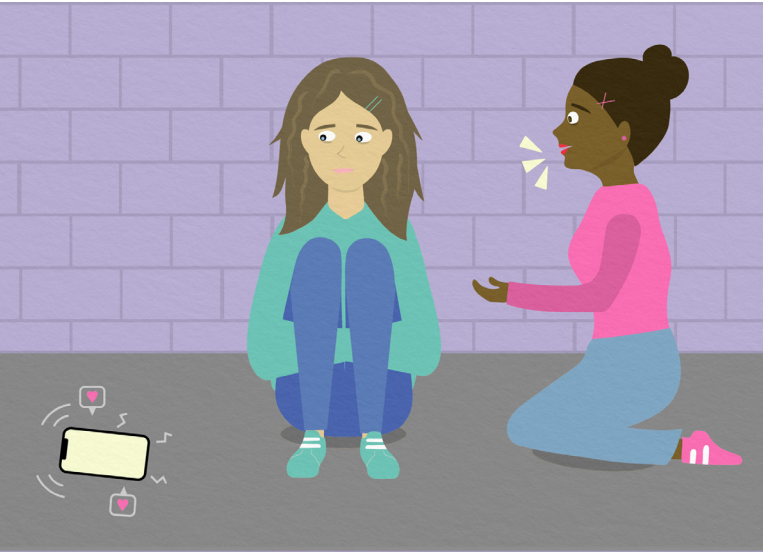
being tempted to go on social media, I have been more focused in my classes, and I am retaining information better than ever before.

One benefit tops all of these: feeling present.

I can't even think of how many times being on my phone has taken away from a dinner out or coffee date with friends. As the week went on and I was reaching for my phone less and less, it struck me how much time I have wasted scrolling through social media when what really matters can't be found online.

This past week I have had so many heartfelt conversations and belly laughs that I feel I have been missing since starting college. On Monday, I went to The Meantime Coffee Co. with one of my best friends, Maddie, and we did equal amounts of working and gabbing. It's not that moments like this did not happen when I was actively using social media, but I never got to sit in them intentionally and relish how special it is to have a loving, supportive circle of friends.

I am not saying social media is awful. So many of the meals I make are recipes from influencers I follow online. I have discovered movies



DTH DESIGN/KAITLIN STRATEMEIER

"It's one thing to hear that social media is bad for you, but it's another to see how good life is when you log off."

Adele Harris
Staff Writer

studying. I studied more this week than I have since coming to UNC (embarrassing but true). I will admit that in the past, there were times in class where I would scroll through X or Instagram and sort of pay attention. Without

I love to watch and music I love to listen to through scrolling on social media. Without Instagram I never would have listened to Chappell Roan in 2022, cementing her place in my most listened artists.

When I redownloaded Instagram, TikTok, X and YouTube on Sunday morning, I did not feel the instant dopamine rush that I used to get when I opened the apps.

Overall, this experience has been very enlightening. It's one thing to hear that social media is bad for you, but it's another to see how good life is when you log off.

So, I recommend taking just a week away from the constant usage of social media and see what happens. Maybe you'll hate it and immediately log back in, or maybe you won't.

Regardless, I hope you realize life is so much brighter when you're not living it through a screen.

X: @dthlifestyle

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

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REVIEW

Company Carolina’s ‘1984’ was so intense it was fearless

Play showcased
standout actors, props
and tech design

By Nadia Jefferson
Assistant Lifestyle Editor
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

If you missed Company Carolina’s production of “1984” this weekend, you missed a fantastic piece of student theater — perhaps one of the best I’ve seen during my time at UNC.

Prior to watching the show, all I knew was that “1984” is a classic book that I’d never read, so basically I didn’t know much about the show at all.

On Saturday, I walked into the Swain Hall Black Box Theater about five minutes late, saw that the lights in the audience were low and that there was already a character, Syme, played by Lucia Huang, on stage. Thinking the show had already started, I quickly sat down in a random seat but was redirected to my reserved seat in the front row.

About 10 minutes after the show’s scheduled start time, the disjointed, eerie music got louder, the audience lights lowered to black and Syme began to speak louder, allowing the

audience to fully hear what she was saying. The music sent chills down my spine — or maybe that was just because it was cold in Swain Hall.

Then, the screens in the black box theater turned on, projecting live images of the audience. I was surprised, to say the least. Suddenly, the waiver that all the audience members had to sign before watching the show made sense, as Skyler Clay, the projections designer, showed off their amazing technical skills.

The dystopian world of “1984” was scary — it was sick and it was twisted. Seeing phrases like “Thought police,” “Freedom is slavery” and “Hate Time” introduced the totalitarian society that the characters live in.

With limited free speech, citizens received a dictionary of allowed words that got smaller and smaller with every version (shout out to Mia Lu on props). The characters were odd. They were blunt as they tried to survive the world they were in. Winston represented the vulnerability that hope and the idea of freedom bring into the world of “1984.” Throughout the play, main characters Julia and Winston tried to break free from Big Brother’s grasp but ultimately failed.

You can’t trust anyone in that society, and I think that was the point of the play. There wasn’t a true conclusion to the play: no one wins, Big Brother prevails and the audience was left comparing the sick society depicted on stage to the society that they live in. It is a warning against totalitarianism and the dangers of conformity. No one can win in that society.

Everyone had their standout moments — from The Guard, played by Irene Denniston, staring directly into my soul at the beginning of the show to Syme. Yes, just Syme. There is no specific moment I’m referring to; Huang just killed it from the moment she was on stage choking to death to her final moments with Winston.

Oh, yeah, let’s get into Winston, played by Crawford Hope. I mean, WOW. I know, even from my very limited acting experience, that playing a character that is constantly making new discoveries is hard. But, in the monologue towards the end where Winston is locked up and starved, you would think that Hope was truly starved with the way he was eating the rotisserie chicken and milk. It’s hard to consistently translate that freshness of new experiences to the audience. But



DTH/EMMA MOON

Crawford Hope, who plays Winston, performs in Company Carolina’s production of “1984” at the Black Box Theater in Swain Hall on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Hope did just that, and you wouldn’t even know it was his first time acting.

Intense is the only word I can use to describe Company Carolina’s production. It was so intense it was fearless. From the props being real and messy to the performances by the actors. I didn’t have a second to breathe, and I’m glad for it.

Even though the smell of chewed-up rotisserie chicken

will remain in my nostrils for a while, I don’t care. This show was fantastic, and if you missed it, you missed a wonderful feat of theater — not only just student-run theater but theater, period.

X: @dthlifestyle

CREATIVES

Carolina Artists Coalition hosts fantasy runway show

Student-run fashion
display overcame
logistical roadblocks

By Cameron Hall
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Through outfits featuring cutlery, angel wings, newspapers and even a severed head used as a prop, models on the runway brought a vibrant energy to a somewhat impromptu show this Saturday night.

Hosted by the Carolina Artists Coalition, the Fantasy Fashion Speakeasy spotlighted UNC student-models as they gave a private fashion show.

Getting the show off the ground for Saturday came with plenty of challenges, as the group was forced to find a new venue just days before they were set to perform at the Student Union Auditorium. They decided on the Anne Queen Faculty Commons lounge in the Campus Y Building.

The lounge, while not as large of a setting, provided a more cozy, relaxed atmosphere for the show that could help serve as preparation for bigger ones in the future, Rin Singh, a UNC sophomore and co-coordinator of the show, said.

“I think Campus Y creates a more intimate sort of environment,” he said. “Also, this may be some of our models’ first time walking, first time modeling in such an environment, and I think this is a good preview for where things can go for a larger event next semester.”

Despite the last minute-changes, support was strong. The venue ended up packed with friends of the performers; they filled up nearly all the seats surrounding the makeshift runway.

Models walked both solo and in duos across the runway, often stopping at the edge of the catwalk to show off each other’s outfits. The show featured group-specific themed music during their walks — for example, when the group dressed as vampires walked out, spooky music played — as well as some improvised dance portions.

Selecting fantasy as the theme was a no-brainer during the creative



DTH/CAMERON HALL

Cameron Kwok walks the runway during the Fantasy Fashion Speakeasy hosted by the Carolina Artists Coalition on Saturday, Nov. 16.

brainstorming process, as it allowed for each group to have specific costumes while still building a cohesive show, UNC sophomore history major and co-coordinator Rafa Linhares said.

“As soon as I heard [‘fantasy’], I was like all right let’s do it,” he said. “Because it’s a broad term, people can still choose their own niches within it.”

Models came out in outfits inspired by popular fantasy archetypes, including gothic, elemental, vampire and dragon-themed outfits.

One of these gothic-themed outfits, worn by UNC sophomore pre-med student Gianna Lijoi, titled “Original Sin” featured an all black dress with a golden snake down the middle. Accompanying the dress was a cape with bloodied angel wings to make up a biblically inspired outfit, Lijoi said.

“It was based in a biblical context, so the golden snake that goes down the front of the black dress is representative of the snake in the Garden of Eden,” she said.

“And the feathers on the cape that I wore were supposed to be like angel wings, and they were a little bloody for a fallen angel type deal.”

The show highlighted talented creatives from models to designers, and aimed to excite people about the fashion scene in Chapel Hill, said Linhares.

“My main goal is kind of just to bring creative people together, and have them work on these larger projects,” he said. “Projects that excite people and get people back into the artistic community at Chapel Hill, either as an audience member or as someone who’s an active participant.”

While the night didn’t go as they originally planned, Saturday’s show served as an encouraging trial run for the coalition’s bigger show planned for the spring 2025 semester, Singh said.

“I’m very curious and excited to see where this could go from here because I know this will grow quite a bit,” they said.

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PERFORMANCE

EROT presents ‘The Haunting Hour’

UNC’s oldest spoken
word poetry group
held fall showcase

By Marisa Rosa
Senior Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

On Thursday, the Carolina Union Auditorium hosted Ebony Readers/ Onyx Theatre for their fall showcase. EROT is the oldest spoken word group on UNC’s campus, as well as the University’s only historically Black poetry organization.

President Mariah Snuggs said that the organization is open to Black and Brown students with interests in writing and performing their own original works.

“Our organization is kind of like a supportive collective of Black and Brown artists that we use to churn out ideas with each other, get support and talk about how to help the community,” she said.

The showcase, titled “The Haunting Hour,” featured two acts of spoken word poetry and a multi-genre, performance-filled intermission. The theme of haunting was left intentionally vague, allowing for each performer to explore what truly haunts them.

“We all got around the table and we decided we could write about past ghosts or things that haunt us as kind of an umbrella topic for processing trauma,” Snuggs said.

Poets chose to interpret the theme in a variety of ways. Some focused on childhood experiences — alcoholic parents or absent mother figures. Others were haunted by lost or struggling loved ones.

Snuggs said that, ultimately, she hopes EROT can help performers feel inspired and empowered to take up space unapologetically.

“That’s all I’m really hoping for people to get out of our show, is just like that feeling of getting some power back in them and realizing their individuality is important and necessary,” she said.

Taylor McGlashing, EROT’s social media manager and a performer, said that writing their piece for the showcase allowed them to better acknowledge and process their own experiences.

“Hopefully I can nod at that and say, ‘Yeah, that was something I went through,’ or ‘that’s something that I felt and didn’t enjoy’ or ‘that made me feel upset or alone, and that’s okay,’ like those feelings can resurface in like this safe way,” McGlashing said.

A key aspect of creating a safe space to process past experiences through poetry is EROT’s emphasis on community, which Snuggs, McGlashing and new member Ling Xiong all mentioned as part of the group’s appeal.

Xiong said that EROT has allowed her to meet and bond with people she otherwise would not have met. She also said that it gives her the opportunity to engage with the humanities as a STEM major.

McGlashing said that EROT’s status as a historically Black organization, specifically, has created a unique sense of community for them.

“We understand each other,” they said. “We haven’t lived all the same experiences, but there is always a space in EROT for just to hold someone and be like, ‘You know what? Yeah, I see you,’ and that has been the shining star for me.”

EROT not only works to create a sense of community within the group, but also between performance groups on campus.

Snuggs said that EROT especially focuses on forming connections with other organizations that historically connect communities of color, such as UNC Blue Lightning and Kamikazi Dance Team, both of whom performed during “The Haunting Hour’s” intermission.

“We love to collaborate with people and present a diverse scene of the arts throughout our show,” Snuggs said.

EROT’s next performance is scheduled in partnership with the LGBTQ Center at the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 19th. While following performances have yet to be announced, Xiong assured that the organization would continue to explore their passion for performing.

“I think you can expect more great poems, but with more shows that are bigger, better, more raw,” she said.

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SHOWCASE

Hanes Art Center displays installations related to Palestine

New photo and art exhibitions inspired by history, people

By Michael Melton
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

A picture can say a thousand words. This common adage is echoed in “Against Erasure”, a photo exhibit unveiled on Nov. 6 at the Hanes Art Center, which aims to depict the daily lives of Palestinian people in the early 20th century. The exhibit was unveiled as part of a grander exhibition of art projects related to Palestine. The collection includes a mural created during and shortly after UNC Students for Justice in Palestine’s Gaza Solidarity Encampment in April, a narrative painting “When Olive Trees Weep” created by UNC students and an installation of the People’s University, a project built in Polk Place to commemorate one year of the genocide and scholasticide in the Gaza Strip.

The wall installation on the ground floor of Hanes Art Center was created and installed by the students of Dr. Nadia Yaqub, a professor in the department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at UNC. The installation depicts the history and daily aspects of Palestinian life using photos taken from the book “Against Erasure: A Photographic Memory of Palestine Before the Nakba,” from which the installation receives its name. “Against Erasure” depicts life in Palestine mostly during Mandatory Palestine, a period of British colonial rule from the end of World War I until 1948. The British Colonial rule suppressed Palestinian and Arab national sentiments and encouraged the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. “The photos show some of the political consequences: British Occupation, the



“Against Erasure,” a photo exhibit about the daily lives of Palestinian people in the early 20th century, was installed in the Hanes Art Center on Nov. 6.

violence of that, the militarism, Arab revolt against the British and the British suppression of that,” Yaqub said. “But then most of what of it shows is actually daily life, and other economic aspects, cultural aspects and things like that.” Yaqub said that photographs are an excellent tool for focusing research and developing questions related to an image, which is what her students were tasked with doing for the exhibit. They chose photos that resonated with them, and did a deep dive into specific aspects of the photos, arranging them in the exhibit based on their content alongside write-ups about each photo’s history. The photos depict aspects of life from architecture to agriculture, and also pay attention to the idea of Orientalist

Photography, the photographic depiction of a group based on preconceived notions. “The Palestinian people have this long standing history of their history being ignored or being erased or pretending that it doesn’t exist beyond the violence that we have all heard about,” Ashley Smith, a junior physics major taking ARAB 255: Arab World Photography with Yaqub, said. “And so, if you look closely, and if you choose not to ignore it, like a lot of Western media does, then you will see that there’s a whole culture there that is beautiful and as rich and involved as your own is.” “When Olive Trees Weep,” a painting created by students of the narrative painting class instructed by associate professor Lien

Truong, was also unveiled alongside “Against Erasure.” It is an eye-catching and unique use of mixed media, designed as a call-to-action to end Palestinian mass killing and displacement, Truong said. It calls reference to specific artworks created by artists whose practices exposed genocide and includes symbols of the Palestinian experience such as the olive tree, the Palestinian sunbird and keffiyeh cloth. Professor Hong-Ân Truong, a studio art professor in the department of Art and Art History, was part of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at UNC this spring. At the encampment, Truong led lino print workshops, teaching people how to carve blocks for printing final cuts. Many who participated created designed related to Palestinian liberation. During the police raid of the encampment, much of the artwork created during the period was lost, either confiscated or thrown away. Soon after the raid, she and a group of students held open sessions to make more lino carvings and try and use the prints that had been saved. What came out of this was a mural of around 1,000 prints pasted together which was formally unveiled on Nov. 6 in conjunction with the opening of “Against Erasure.” On the mural, a June Jordan quote reads: “I told you I loved you and I wanted genocide to stop.” “Art has the power to instigate meaningful dialogue, because the starting point is outside of verbal language,” Truong said. “It begins with observation, which provides a way for people to slow down and take in complexities within what they’re seeing or experiencing or feeling.”

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Student writes poetry as a metaphor for her life

Continued from Page 1

owned. She dealt with the trauma and stress of her circumstances by writing poetry, and published her own book when she was 16, selling copies to friends, classmates and people all around the world. Dalili hand-pressed and printed each copy of her first book by herself, putting it under her bed each night to flatten it. “I feel like writing poetry for me was a way of like asking people not to forget about me,” Dalili said, “Or trying to put things into something that was permanent, so that people knew that what I went through was real.” One of Dalili’s suitemates, Sevilay Betül Coşkun, met Dalili through the NC Fellows program after being placed in the same suite by chance. “When you hear her laugh, you wanna laugh,” Coşkun said, “It makes you wanna smile more. And I think Melody is just a really kind person, you can really depend on her.”



DTH/HAYDON BODE

UNC sophomore Melody Dalili poses with her book of poetry, “Thank You For Staying,” on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

When Coşkun found out Dalili wrote poetry, she asked to read some of it, finding that Dalili had a copy on hand of her second book, “Thank You For Staying.” Reading Dalili’s writing, Coşkun said, was one of the few times she had ever cried while reading poetry. “I sent Mel a voice message. I was like, ‘This is so beautiful and so touching. And I can tell that you put a lot of work into this.’” Coşkun said. Dalili has also made an impact not only in her personal circles, but in her academic world as well. Robin Thady, Dalili’s biology academic coach, said she immediately had a huge impression of the poet. Thady started working with Dalili after they met at a BioCell Learning Group, starting one-on-one coaching shortly after. “Through knowing her as a person, you can see how much of the way that she operates is captured in that,” Thady said. “Because I’ve witnessed how much awe she displays for just what seems like everyday things.” While also majoring in biology at UNC, Dalili is double-minoring in creative writing and studio art, continuing her passion for art while still hosting events, workshops, and giving talks on writing all over Tennessee. In one of her most recent workshops at a school in Nashville, Dalili taught a group of students how to use blackout poetry by asking them to write about a horrific experience they’d had, and then using that paragraph to create a blackout poem about something positive. “You’re going to flip it and use it for good, you know, which I think is actually a metaphor for my entire life,” Dalili said, “Taking what I had been given and using it for something better.”

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Opinion

COLUMN

Crises end, but the communities formed after don't have to

By Cooper Hall

Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

There's no doubt that people in society know how to support each other. After any crisis — a natural disaster, a global pandemic, a school shooting — donation drives are set up, thoughts and prayers pour in on social media and people are generally kinder and more empathetic to those around them.

But this community only ever comes after a tragedy. And it never lasts more than a few weeks.

The post-crisis community is shortsighted. After a few volunteer activities, a post on Instagram, a warm meal hand-delivered or a protest, our attention span runs out, and we move on, leaving the victims of the crisis still reeling and the issue largely unsolved.

Take Hurricane Helene, for example. In the weeks following the disaster, everything from club meetings to concerts were focused on supporting those who had been affected. All of North Carolina was united and focused on support. By now, the unity

has died down, and attention has shifted away. However, much of western North Carolina is still in crisis mode.

Asheville and surrounding counties are still working to restore clean drinking water to homes, and it is unclear when this issue will be fixed. Houses and apartments are uninhabitable due to lack of electricity and water, as well as storm-related damages. Eviction rates are set to spike due to increased costs to fix damages, and people have nowhere to go as temporary shelter options are often located in other states.

It's not just natural disasters. Consistently after a shooting, there is a public outcry, both on social media and in the form of protests or memorials. We talk about the lives lost and the need for stricter gun laws, but move on after a few days and wait to care again until the next occurrence of gun violence.

The cycle of crisis, support and then disregard is never-ending. As a society, we are desensitized to the perpetual pattern of tragedies — not yet to the point of neglect, but to the point of only holding



DTH DESIGN/SARAH FENWICK

Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock.

our concentration and focusing our care for a few weeks at most.

It's disappointing that the only time we can truly come together as a society is when people are dying. We shouldn't wait for an occurrence of mass death to be inclined to support and care for each other.

I'm not saying that the unity and support we experience after a

tragedy is a bad thing. In fact, it's a model example of the unity we can and should have consistently. What I am saying is that this performative, temporary and impromptu community is disheartening when considering the future and the stakes of genuine problems facing our world.

The stark divide in our society is steadily growing. As large-

scale natural tragedies become increasingly common, we must find a way to bridge the gap. Developing real support, care and community will allow us to work toward solving the root of a problem instead of deepening the cycle.

The dream of genuine, continuous support may feel far-fetched and overwhelming, but it starts in small ways. Invite your neighbors over for dinner. Volunteer often, not just after a tragedy. Shop at small businesses. Help out friends who are struggling, even if the struggle doesn't seem drastic. Participate in local events. Find your community, foster it and learn how to support each other.

Cultivating community on a small scale through everyday life not only prepares you to better support those around you when a large-scale crisis comes, but also sets the stage for real change and problem-solving. Care about your neighbors, even when there's no tragedy.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

The Democrats lost the presidential election, but here's where we won in N.C.

By Savannah Clay

Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

I thought the majority of this country wouldn't stand for another 4 years of bigotry and fear for the state of public education, human rights and racial justice among many other things. It hurts that we didn't win.

It's okay to process that hurt and acknowledge what the Harris campaign should've done differently. But, it's also important to recognize how hard we worked and celebrate what the Democratic Party did win, especially in North Carolina.

N.C. House of Representatives

Out of the state's 14 congressional districts, Democrats, including Don Davis and Valerie Foushee, won four.

As senator for six terms, Don Davis raised teacher pay, expanded access to quality healthcare, increased high-speed internet and more for rural North Carolina communities. Representing the 1st Congressional District, Davis will continue fighting for these issues as well as quality education and human rights, pushing for equity and justice and creating a cleaner environment for eastern North Carolinians.

Valerie Foushee served in the North Carolina General Assembly as a state representative and later as a senator. For nearly a decade, she advocated for women's rights, racial equality, voting rights, environmental protection, clean water initiatives and more. Since 2022, Foushee has represented the 4th Congressional District, which includes Orange County, with tremendous care. She will keep fighting for gun violence prevention, fixing health disparities, raising the minimum wage and creating a fair immigration system.

N.C. Governor

Democrat Josh Stein, former state senator and N.C. attorney general,



DTH/HANNAH ZINN

N.C. governor-elect Josh Stein speaks at the North Carolina Democratic Party Election Night Watch Party on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

won the gubernatorial race against Republican Mark Robinson.

Stein will prioritize improving the economy by raising the minimum wage, cutting taxes and lowering costs. He will push for quality education beginning with early childhood, lower tuition costs, increase pay for educators and distribute more funds to HBCUs. To give North Carolinians better access to health care, Stein will expand Medicaid and address high drug and hospital costs. A champion for human rights, Stein will protect women's reproductive healthcare and fight against discrimination.

N.C. Attorney General

The North Carolina attorney general went to Democratic candidate Jeff Jackson, beating Dan Bishop.

Jackson offered a transparent approach to public service with clear policies as a former prosecutor and congressional representative. As he continues to be an independent voice for North Carolinians, he will defend issues from constitutional rights to saving taxpayer money, making him more than equipped to protect North Carolina.

N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction

Democrat Maurice "Mo" Green won superintendent of public instruction against Michele Morrow.

Green has experience in the North Carolina school system working as a superintendent for Guilford County Schools. He knows firsthand what teachers, staff and students face daily and what needs should be met.

In his six-pillar strategic plan, Green aims to improve state standards, increase funding, create more access to mental health resources, implement support programs and increase teacher pay. His experience and concrete ideas give us hope for the future of public education in North Carolina.

Whether a canvasser, social media activist or passionate voter, we should all be proud of the good that came out of this election. The impact of local political decisions can be felt more abruptly in our everyday lives.

Therefore, it's encouraging to see so many positions filled by Democrats who stand behind us. There is always more work to be done, but there's still so much to look forward to.

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COLUMN

Participation can't end with electoral politics

By Hailie Davidson

Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

In the weeks leading up to Nov. 5, the energy surrounding the presidency was frenetic and urgent, as if this year's ballot held not just candidates but the very future of democracy. This attitude was held by democratic politicians, activists and everyday people that came to head in the immediate aftermath of the election. Donald Trump's win echoed throughout social media like a death knell, with thousands of people mourning the loss of a blue presidency and the security of their civil rights.

However, this kind of doomsday rhetoric and the huge emotive reaction it garners after a lost election is an unproductive use of everyone's time. It's an unsuccessful call to action when campaigning and a narrow, victimizing perspective to take toward your own or others' civic well-being. If this recent election has taught us anything, it is that the state of American politics cannot hinge on an every-four-years electoral tradition.

And yet, most Americans operate under the earnest belief that they're most needed and seemingly most empowered when they head to the polls; it's an impression that has been propped by a largely disengaged society that emphasizes the visibility, and somewhat exaggerated, power of the head of the state.

Even placing voting as the paramount act of civic engagement, most of us fail to do this in its entirety. State politics and policies, which arguably matter more for the day-to-day lives of individuals than national ones, are significantly undervalued. Knowing your attorney general and district attorney and being aware of their platforms toward crime and punishment is directly empowering, for example, especially for individuals invested in incarceration or criminal justice reform.

These roles don't get nearly as much attention across the political spectrum despite the immediate influence they have on the political ecosystem of a state. On the local scale, attending

town hall meetings and learning about small town politicians is another way of getting involved through voting that is far closer to home.

But if the only civil act we care about is voting, what's next? Waiting for the next election isn't feasible, but it's what most Americans will do, including those most afraid of what the next presidential term will bring.

This perspective is one of learned helplessness that has become a fixed social reality, so much so that many Americans are not aware of any possible alternatives. For young people especially, social media has made it clear that liberals are ignorant to their personal political agency, especially in their own neighborhoods.

Instead of waiting for the perfect presidential candidate, voters should become actively involved in their communities. Community organizing is an accessible way to exert individual social and political power in shared, connected spaces. Unlike voting, community organizing requires far more from its participants and can actually mediate the harmful effects of a president's rhetoric or federal policies. Talking to people, getting to know your neighbors and spending time with them builds necessary care and support networks that are essential to the healthy communities liberals romanticize and fear for.

Community organizing drives change on a much faster timeline as well. Organizing and disseminating mutual aid resources for community members facing impoverishment or homelessness, rallying communities around local and national causes, feeding people and more are all forms of community work that make things better for all of us, regardless of what's happening on the national stage.

And it can all be done with varying degrees of dedication so long as participants show up and contribute their voice and presence. If this is too much of a commitment, even showing your face in your community can do so much more than merely posting about election results.

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COLUMN

We shouldn't have ignored the 'tradwife' trend that predicted Trump's win

By Victoria Kirova
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

Every morning, I wake up as the sun illuminates my silk sheets, put on my cashmere Ralph Lauren “daytime” dress and cook up a homemade breakfast for my husband and two children — from scratch. This signifies the ideal traditional 1950s American woman. This ideal has not only been re-emerging but trending, yet somehow people are still shocked that Donald Trump won the presidential election.

It's worth noting, whether our culture wants to admit it or not, that these trends seem to primarily target white women. And who voted for Trump? The majority of white women. It's an unmistakable trend blurring the line between culture and politics. Conservatism gave this population community: a principle that is desperately searched for in the alienating reality of life in a century categorized by status and its respective differences.

Fashion and lifestyle trends are not simply superficial shifts in culture; they



DTH DESIGN/MILA HORSLEY

signify a deeper societal perspective. It is a mirror into the standards of a nation, so while people argue the election couldn't have been predicted, the media's return to conservatism questions this statement.

Why does being a “tradwife” increase your social media views nowadays — why are women reverting back to the cult of domesticity?

In its current state, it's what the nation wants. It wants traditionalism, it wants conservatism, it wants Trump.

It's common for older generations to reminisce on the past and comment on the fact that modern fashion reflects their own childhoods. So it's not crazy to say that former modest values, and hemlines, are making a return and therefore categorizing modern times.

Women being portrayed as pie-making, smile-wearing, maternal yet picturesque symbols of femininity isn't a new concept. The real question is, why are we surprised it's back? The way we live our lives is passionately intertwined with the political stressors plaguing our nation, and fashion serves as nothing less but an aesthetic response — a representation of our deeper grievances. A nation encompassed by uncertainty grips onto the perceived stability of the past, “the good old days.”

As represented throughout history, fashion is a silent protest. Eras of our nation such as the Civil Rights Movement and women's liberation efforts aimed to morph personal expression with a call for change — a demand for justice. Therefore, these lifestyles reflected a more “radical” approach to identity.

With women refusing traditional constraints of femininity and experimenting with bolder patterns and prints as the years progressed, the eyes of society opened. The way people presented and dressed themselves only intensified this cultural shift in the nation.

Yet in its present tense, the nation values conformity. An intense focus on aligning with one political party showcases a desire for like-mindedness without progress — division overpowering unity.

Aesthetics reflect beliefs and these values have clearly transformed. Incorporating hyper-feminine ideals regarding a “clean” aesthetic in which women are expected to re-embrace a 1900s life of countryside peace and solitude, represents the very principles of conservatism:

“A commitment to traditional values and ideas with opposition to change or innovation.”

This argument isn't simply about Trump or any election, it's primarily about recognizing predictors to avoid surprises. Fashion isn't the sole reason our political economy turned out the way it did, it's just essential to look at this industry holistically as trends can go deeper than what meets the eye.

Everything is political, and fashion parallels politics.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

BOT resignations signal dangerous partisanship

By Delaney Broderick
Editorial Board Member
opinion@dailytarheel.com

“Professional Experience not Partisan Politics” is the mantra flashing on former Board of Trustees member Brad Briner's website. Yet as he and other former BOT member Dave Boliek leave an unsavory legacy in their resignation from the board to begin working for the state, the partisan strategy is as clear as day. The rising issue of centralized power between our universities and government doesn't dissipate when they resign, nor do the conflicts of interest and experience issues fade.

When you choose to transition from the BOT to state office, the blueprint to de-liberalize and defund the “wokeness” that was drawn on the BOT becomes built-in state positions. More importantly, the impartiality crucial to financial operations becomes tainted when campaigns for office are based on partisanship.

“No member of the General Assembly or officer or employee of the State or any constituent institution of

The University of North Carolina or spouse of any such member, officer or employee shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees.”

In simpler terms, individuals are unable to simultaneously hold state office and serve on the BOT. The diction used in the bylaw is important here. A role in state government is held to the same restriction that a role in a “constituent institution” would provoke. It equates the intimacy of working within the UNC System to state government and the abuse of authority as considerable across both systems.

You cannot work on the BOT and facilitate educational governance policies and practices while simultaneously controlling state legislation. There is a separation of powers, but it's dysfunctional.

Dual influence over both systems creates credibility concerns for Boliek's auditor agenda that he affirmed in the large majority of his campaigning. A cornerstone of his strategy is targeting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Defunding DEI, a motion made by Boliek during a May 2024 BOT meeting, was sold to students as an effort for “more unity and togetherness, more dialogue, more diversity of thought.” The only unity they seek is their own. We are diminishing local institutional autonomy and witnessing supermajority.

The BOT is intended to advise and promote the sound development of UNC, yet in recent years it has become the frontline of political policy execution. The issue of centralizing power or conflict of interest doesn't subside when Briner or Boliek step down and assemble into state office — it becomes more apparent.

Boliek and Briner attempt to combat Republican supermajority by disaffiliation with partisanship. Boliek said he was prepared to leave the label behind if elected into office, yet boasted endorsements from conservative sheriffs, lawmakers and other groups in addition to denouncing compromising his Republican belief system “to curry voters.” It's his attempt to secure



DTH DESIGN/MARIA CHETTOOR

conservative votes without directly affirming that he will be operating a nonpartisan role with partisan bias.

It's a facade. The issue isn't the red smeared across their plans to mutilate the “notorious” liberal makeup of UNC that Boliek leveraged in his campaign, it's the ethics behind those plans. This isn't

about the rhetoric of political parties, it's their itinerary. Hyper-political educational governors in state-level positions rooted in objective truth is wrong. We should be able to read the mantra on Briner's website and believe it.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

For Black Americans, prioritizing Black candidates is historically sound

By Davina Boison
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

For the mass of the electorate, Kamala Harris is a tough-on-crime career woman with a record of appealing to bipartisan political bigwigs, but to Black voters, she's all of these and, endearingly, Big Sister General.

For Black voters, Black candidates are symbolic, revolutionary markers of societal progress — proof of the Black face's integration into the visible fabric of American identity. Through them, we see ourselves, and in their lived experiences, we find pockets of similarity that remind us of the shared, bittersweet nature of Black identity. When reduced to an identity forged by America's historical inequities, Blackness becomes a landscape of barriers and exclusions, fenced in by widespread misunderstandings of intention, experience and motivation.

Politically, Black identity is shaped by the collective experience of being misunderstood, misrepresented and marginalized by politicians. This

shared experience transforms Black identity into a political common ground among Black Americans, making the prioritization of Black candidates a natural response to America's political climate.

The party assumed to have invested the most in the institutional liberation of African Americans, the Democratic Party, relies heavily on Black voters as a core part of its electorate. The loyalty of Black voters to the Democratic Party, however, is logical, stemming from a generational investment to the party that has historically best served the interest of Black identity. Still, both parties use the Black vote to their advantage when needed, often compromising or failing to fulfill on policy and stances that defend and protect Black Americans.

The system itself often treats Black people as a single, monolithic group, imposing laws and ensuring outcomes that operate along racial lines. Every day, Black Americans face invisible limitations, barriers to achievement and carefully embedded obstacles. When Black voters choose Black individuals to



DTH DESIGN/CARRIE-ANNE ROGERS

serve, they contribute to a culture of identifying and dismantling hidden structural roadblocks, slowly balancing the scales for not only themselves, but other minorities.

The late Representative Sheila Jackson Lee was one of the only fervent supporters of H.R. 40, a bill that proposes a commission to analyze systemic inequities from slavery and their impacts on the health and well-being of African

Americans today in an effort to establish a program of reparations. Since its introduction in 1989, it has never received enough bipartisan support to pass. For Black candidates, pushing for policies that address and recognize the deep complexity of the Black American is an isolating experience.

When Stacey Abrams lost the race for Georgia governor, she recognized how voter suppression

disproportionately affected Black voters. Black candidates like Abrams understand that their work begins and extends past a ballot, rooted in a call to challenge the structures that inhibit Black capabilities and power.

Unlike Abrams or Harris, politicians, politicians like Mark Robinson — whose apparent detachment from his Blackness works against the best interests of his community — struggle to address the tangible ways in which systemic inequalities impact the daily lives, histories and futures of Black Americans. Their ideologies go further than their party affiliation to push away Black voters.

Black voters are not race-blind, however. We want leaders who are excited and ready to serve our communities. We want candidates who, having faced similar challenges, recognize the potential within their communities and are committed to nurturing it. We want candidates who see in us, the same potential for greatness, that they see in themselves.

X: @dthopinion

Trump’s victory is a special delivery from the Democratic Party

In the early hours of Nov. 6, Trump’s victory was clear. With the popular vote, all contested swing states and Congress, the Republican Party won in a landslide. Trump’s victory sent a shock wave around the country. The fear of deportations, increased attacks on LGBTQ+ people and on the rights of women, Black people and the working class are all being felt in different ways this week.

As of writing this article, the numbers point us to the fact that this was a deep loss for the Democrats. They hemorrhaged support, losing roughly 8 million votes from 2020, while Trump gained approximately 1.5 million votes. This tells a story, less of a mandate for Trump and the Republicans, and more of a rejection of the Biden/Harris administration and the Democrats.

Why? The Democrats have presented themselves as the responsible managers of this society. As a choice between order versus chaos. The problem is, they are managers of a system in collapse. And they are managing a system in decline for the majority of people. Of course people will turn away from them. This can look like voting third party, voting for the Republicans or staying home.

Is the American population irredeemably bigoted? No doubt, the racism that is at the foundation of this country is alive and well today. The sexism that is fundamental to this system and normalized in our daily lives played a role.

However, this cannot explain everything.

In exit polls, people of all different racial lines claimed that one of their main concerns was the economy. Trump’s gains among women, Latinos and Black men cannot be explained simply by calling all of those voters sexist and racist. The Harris campaign did little to distinguish itself from an economy that is unaffordable and insufferable to most people.

At the same time, many measures that run against the Republican agenda passed. Voters in Missouri and Alaska passed a minimum wage of \$15 an hour with paid sick time and voted for Trump. Abortion protection referendums passed in seven out of 10 states.

On top of all of this, Harris maintained the Biden administration’s firm support of Israel and did nothing to stop enabling the genocide in Gaza beyond hollow words and meaningless talk of red lines.

The overall response of the election was to reject the status quo. Working class people — all of us: immigrants, Black and brown people, women, LGBTQ+ people — are under attack from both parties. The Republicans are in a position to escalate the class war waged against us. The Democrats’ cries that “we’re not them” will never be enough to defend our rights that are at stake.

Now, more than ever, the only people that are capable of standing up for our interests are ourselves. An injury to one is an injury to all. If they can attack some of us, they can come for the rest of us. In the next months, how will we prepare our forces to defend ourselves from these attacks?

— Jason Wins, *Speak Out Socialists*

A climate change refuter will be president — which side are you on?

Just over a month ago, Hurricane Helene struck western North Carolina, an area once named a climate haven. Millions lost power, hundreds of thousands lost their homes and over 100 North Carolinians died.

Helene is but a harbinger for the devastation to come. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns we have six years remaining to at least halve greenhouse gas emissions to prevent catastrophic global warming. Now, a climate change denier will be at the helm of the country, most responsible and best-equipped to fight the climate crisis.

Donald Trump has ties to Project 2025, which threatens to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act and disband the Environmental Protection Agency. He will allow the fossil fuel industry free rein to pollute our air, poison our water and murder our loved ones. Joe Biden himself failed to pass the comprehensive legislation to decarbonize at the speed and scale science and justice demand.

With a fascist in office, this far-reaching federal action is now impossible. It is abundantly clear that this government won’t fight for us. Therefore, we must fight for ourselves.

As the first public university in the country, UNC has a responsibility to model expansive climate action for other institutions and the world as a whole. Instead, Chancellor Lee Roberts and the Board of Trustees espouse phony climate commitments while actively propagating fossil fuels.

It is no wonder that the same board members who

propagate fossil fuels are the ones deciding climate policy at Carolina. Beyond on-site emissions, UNC administration grants the fossil fuel industry a social license to operate, enabling disasters like Hurricane Helene and then allowing the industry to cover up what caused them. They prioritize the interests of Big Oil over the lives of their students and all of the state. They are complicit in climate catastrophe.

Trump, Roberts and their billionaire friends want us to submit to their regressive world order. We refuse to give up. Instead we paint a vision for a better world, one free of fossil fuels and oil barons — one where our government works for working people, not billionaires and corporations.

We choose to believe that this world is possible and we will fight to make it a reality, starting at UNC. This goes beyond decarbonization and disassociation from fossil fuels. It compels our University to become an active instrument in liberation by investing in comprehensive climate education and affordable housing, paying workers a livable wage, supporting public transportation and paying reparations for past harms.

This is the vision for a Green New Deal for UNC. This is the only way toward a just and livable future. As Americans in this era of political upheaval, we each must pick a side: surrender to fascism and climate chaos, or join the resistance and take up the fight for a better world.

— Talia Wilson and Hannah Hayes, *Sunrise UNC*

My first to-do after the election: get out of bed

I am one of many people who keeps a to-do list each day. But Nov. 6 when I woke up and saw the news of the election results, the composition of the list drastically changed. Number one on my list became getting out of bed. A simple task I could not accomplish for hours as I was plagued by panic attacks and crying spells.

I laid there inconsolable, mourning the loss of what could have been. Feeling the weight of all I had to lose as every fear I’ve ever had rushed through my mind. I cried out of fear for my peer’s ability to be openly queer. I mourned my access to reproductive health care. I wept at the thought of the many lockdowns I had endured, and the many more I might experience. I silently screamed for our Earth. When I did manage to get out of bed, the tears did not stop.

Number two: eat breakfast. Another failed task as the sickening feeling of watching my future slip away fell over me. So I left for class with an empty stomach and the taste of vomit lingering right below the lump in my throat.

Number three: class. As a political science major I was plagued by discussions of the night’s events. Talking about polling margins and the rhetoric surrounding the campaigns, all said casually as if it didn’t affect them. Not a single woman’s voice cut through the swirl of conversation — silence that was much more telling than words could be.

Number four on my to-do list was to call the doctor. I

began researching gynecologist after gynecologist, looking for one taking new patients. I was in a scramble to find a doctor who could insert an IUD before it is no longer available, a mad dash that me and several of my friends all participated in out of fear of contraceptive bans.

Number five involved reaching out to loved ones. As I called each one we cried together, sharing how we were feeling. Relishing that we had people who would always accept us — a luxury many do not have. The privilege to call a friend rather than a crisis hotline. Hotlines that had a 700 percent rise in call volume the day after the election.

That was all I could manage. Five tasks that left me emotionally drained, more exhausted than I had been in months. But tomorrow, the number one on my to-do list will be to fight, to peacefully protest. Spend the rest of my life working to reverse the systematic oppression and hateful rhetoric the next four years may bring.

And to all my fellow voters who spent today saying that this is better for America, I hope you all never have a to-do list like mine today. Because it will suddenly become clear to you why forgiveness was not number six. I refuse to alleviate your guilt with my forgiveness. If you want redemption, reflect on your actions and join in fighting for the future of America.

— Erin Cozzie, *UNC ’28*

Trump’s election is a blow for domestic violence survivors

My father was a successful corporate executive. He projected an outward image of being the perfect Christian husband and father. He was a domestic violence abuser.

When my mother kicked him out my freshman year, I hoped he would turn things around and admit himself to rehab. The abuse worsened. The next four years were a nightmare.

He hacked into our home security system and watched us for months. He listened to our private conversations and used snippets of the information to harass us. We thought we were losing our minds. He installed tracking devices in our vehicles. He knew our whereabouts. He showed up at restaurants to threaten us, sent dozens of frightening messages each day promising retribution.

My father never used fists, but he made my family fear for our lives. My mother abhorred guns, but she purchased one to protect us. Our yard was stocked with CPI security signs alerting trespassers that we had cameras. We discussed what would happen if she went missing. She made me the executor of her will.

In February, I followed in her footsteps and obtained a restraining order. Why did it take me so long? One word: Fear.

I feared no one would believe me. I feared my abuser would not be held accountable.

How could I not? Donald Trump has 26 sexual abuse allegations to date. The country elected him president, again. Some argue that character bears no significance on policy. They are dead wrong. Character informs policy.

In one term, Donald Trump eliminated dozens of legal protections for victims of gender-based violence. Trump’s Justice Department changed the definition of domestic violence and sexual assault to include only physical harm that constitutes a felony or misdemeanor. This change meant that other forms of domestic violence such as psychological abuse, coercive control and manipulation no longer fell under the Department’s jurisdiction.

Trump also imposed strict limits on asylum claims for victims of domestic and gang violence, a policy that was later reversed under the Biden Administration.

Now that he is the President-elect, it is plausible he will reinstate these laws, leaving millions unprotected. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 43.5 million women have experienced psychological aggression from an intimate partner in the U.S. About 35 percent of the women murdered each year in the U.S. are killed by an intimate partner, according to a 2022 report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Trump-era domestic violence policies put these populations at further risk.

In February, I return to court to renew my protective order for another year. I will, once again, recount every single detail of the last four years to another judge and a courtroom of new strangers. I hope that my request isn’t denied because in their eyes, what my father did no longer constitutes domestic violence.

I can only hope that the judge I plead my case to believes women. My future depends on it.

— Georgia Roda-Moorhead, *UNC ’25*

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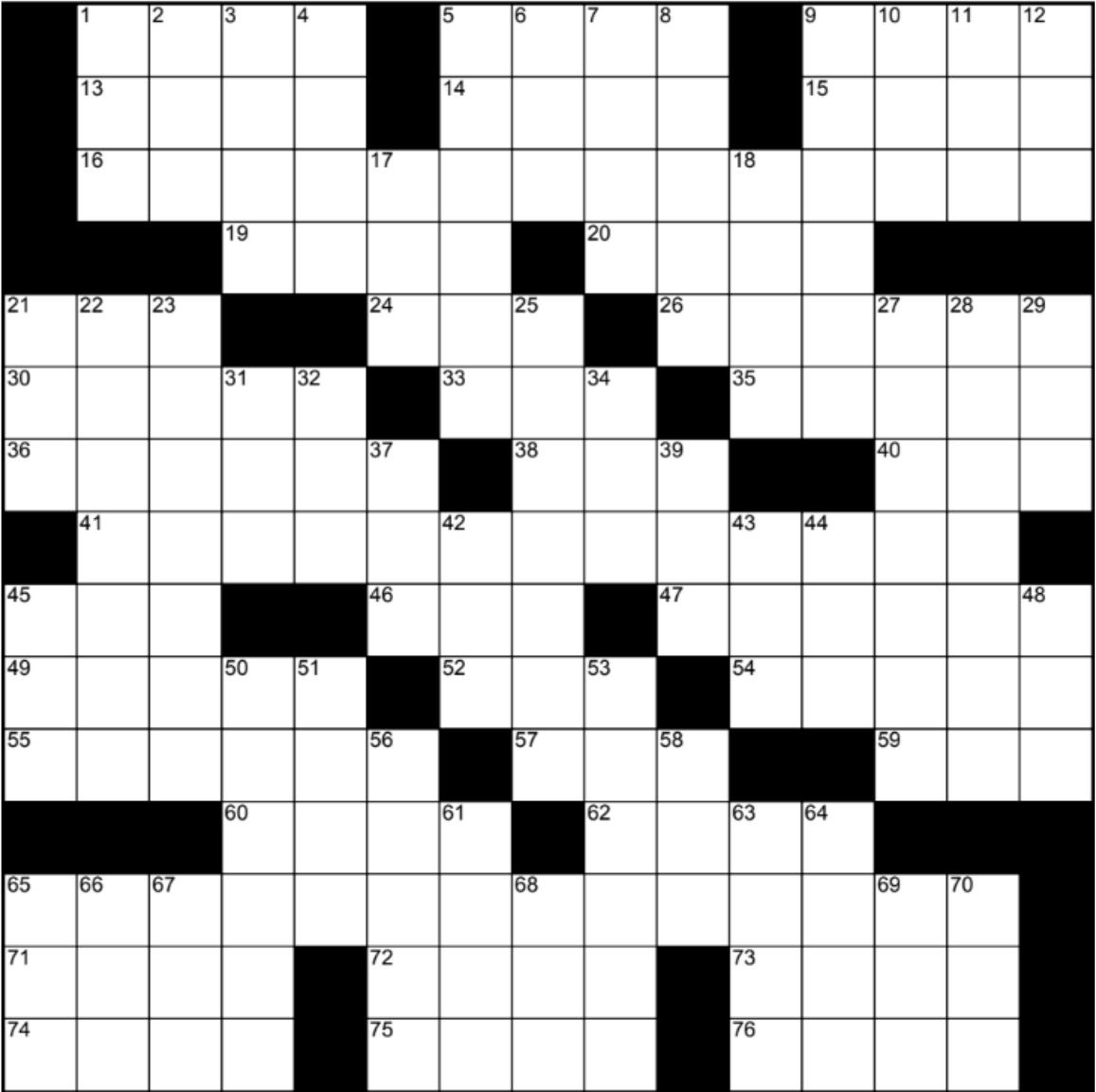
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“Thanksgiving Sides”

This week’s crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC senior studying literature and Hispanic cultures. He is from Wilmington, Del.

- Across
- 1 Performs in a biblical play?

5 EMTs, for example

9 Mailman’s org.

13 Quite positive

14 Computer graphic

15 American lunch meat

16 Gives the secret away

19 Court statement

20 A bare necessity

21 Mez up da spelng, perhaps?

24 Spherical treasure

26 Baby’s first instrument

30 Zadie Smith novel “White _____”

33 Zadie Smith’s post-marital title

35 New Jersey university

36 Alternative route

38 A charged bit of Plato?

40 W2 org.

41 Stock trading “strategy”

45 Prickly seed

46 The Caspian or Arabian
- 47 Like a phone requiring a passcode

49 Shades

52 Cookie receptacle

54 Word before ‘flop’ and ‘dance’

55 Ultimate outcome

57 Fisherman’s tool

59 Where beauty is for each beholder

60 Violent uprising

62 Engage in class warfare?

65 Original protagonist of the “Popeye” comics

71 Code needed for calling

72 “Wayne’s World” actor Carvey

73 Largest continent

74 Message quotes by Barthes?

75 Speak via gestures

76 “Rolling in the _____” (Adele classic)
- 2 Souvenir at He’s Not Here

3 Fall into acid?

4 Trader’s objective

5 Set at ease

6 Month X

7 Professor Cohen, not rated for everyone?

8 Ugly expression

9 Did in the past

10 Place to get a massage

11 Skillet or wok

12 74-across type

17 “Little Einsteins” leader

18 “The _____” (trending restaurant drama)

21 Take off time, abbr.

22 Gear up again

23 Comes back home, say

25 Setting of great baking show

27 Shine like a little star

28 For the most part

29 USN rank

31 Additionally

32 Quarterback’s cry

34 Former French coin

37 High _____ (crisp definition)

39 Jalen Hurts’ org.

42 “Game, _____, and match!”

43 Digital key

44 Rap’s Mr. T.

45 AC unit

48 Red 40, for one

50 Hot tar needs shifting? Clear it up!

51 Ruin some trousers

53 Jerry Seinfeld’s on-screen adversary

56 Helton and Howard, together

58 “You’re it!”

61 East Asian connection?

63 Diploma holder, for short

64 Calmness

65 It might deserve a tip

66 “_____ you listening?”

67 Common dog and dino name

68 “Hulk” director Lee

69 “La _____ Boheme” (iconic “Rent” number)

70 Chat about Gen Alpha, say

Answers to “Bob Dylan, Meteorologist”

ASSES

LITRE

IDIOT

SECS

TSK

ANGEL

BEGINS

OVER

BEN

NEW

ABLE

ALAS

NATAL

NIOBE

ADMIT

PRO

RAD

TWIND

INK

INC

LOFRA

ONLY

TOE

EARS

BLUE

LE

ARE

HURRICANE

ERA

SAY

STARK

PERON

ARISE

EASE

ANTS

RAIN

RAY

COME

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Horoscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Clean messes at home for workability and beauty. Resist impulsive purchases or actions. Conserve resources and treasures. Cook up something tasty. Enjoy domestic pleasures.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Complete one job to make space for the next. Archive and file documents. Consider where you’ve been and what’s ahead. Process recent changes. Rest.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Costs may be higher than expected. Heed recommendations and warnings. Avoid financial arguments by maintaining positive cash flow. Action gets results. Share support.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

Communication breakdowns cause delays. Keep moderation as a rule. Guard against oversharing, overeating or overspending. There’s no need to tell everything. Maintain some mystery.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Harmony requires effort. Show your philosophical side in public. The opposition holds out and it could get tense. Speak the truth or keep your peace.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Collaborate for practical objectives. Sparks could fly between you and a partner, kindling romance or ire. Stoke your shared passion. Prioritize action over words.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Get advice, but make your own financial decisions. Abandon preconceived notions and suppositions. Keep an open mind. A dream lies within reach. Disciplined action wins.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Don’t get intimidated. A professional opportunity is worth pursuing. You’re strong enough. Do the homework. Get support from someone you love and trust.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Don’t go hard on yourself. Keep a positive attitude and show up for practice. Provide steady, dependable service. Strengthen your heart with regular moves.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

Get outside and explore. Cook up an interesting investigation. Despite misunderstandings or delays, dreamy destinations beckon. Simplify to essential elements. Study options and possibilities.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

Romance and passion could spark if you keep your sense of humor. Find creative solutions. Relax with someone fun. Reduce stress with a walk outside. Monitor closely.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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

Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA | TOURNAMENT

Ryleigh Heck sends field hockey to the Final Four

Team heads to the semifinals for third straight year

By Caroline Wills
Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

Junior forward Ryleigh Heck hasn't scored more than one goal in a game since September. It's been 13 games. 797 minutes of game time. 58 shots. 33 on goal.

She scored three against Liberty and two against Penn. That was two months ago. Since then, she's had seven one-off goals. Before Sunday, the ACC Offensive Player of the Year only scored once in the postseason. She was eager.

"Someone like that is wired to want goals, to want to score," head coach Erin Matson said.

In the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament against No. 9 Duke, Heck got her chance. The reigning National Player of the Year scored the first two goals of No. 1-seeded North Carolina's 3-0 win at Karen Shelton Stadium, sending the Tar Heels to the Final Four for the third consecutive year. UNC advanced to 15 of the last 16 NCAA semifinals.

Matson attributes Heck's low-scoring spell to opposing goalies making great saves or the junior forward's touch being slightly off. Her words of advice to Heck were simple: stay present, take it one step at a time and be consistent. The head coach repeated that the shots would soon find the back of the cage.

Heck's practice routine didn't change. According to her roommate, senior forward Kennedy Cliggett, Heck wakes up at 7 a.m. for individual workouts on the field. She keeps shooting. She's strict about recovery and treatment.

It took almost 15 minutes to record her first goal against the second-best defense in the ACC.



DTH/CASSIDY TOY REYNOLDS
UNC junior and forward Ryleigh Heck (12) defends the ball against Duke at Karen Shelton Stadium for the NCAA Field Hockey Tournament Round 2 game on Nov. 17.

In the first quarter, deadlocked at 0-0, the seconds were dwindling off the clock. UNC broke into the Duke circle.

Sophomore forward Charly Bruder attempted a shot from the right side. Too wide. Senior forward Lisa Slinkert got the rebound on the left. Deflected. But there was Heck, standing right in front of the goal, stick at the ready.

With three seconds on the clock, she swatted it right into the backboards of the cage.

"I was like, 'Heck, yes,'" Cliggett said.

Down went the first one. But she wasn't done.

Two minutes into the second quarter, senior midfielder Jasmina Smolenaars flicked the ball. It ricocheted off a Duke defender's stick high into the air.

Heck collected the wild ball, put her back to her defender and created some space. Then, almost as if she had eyes on the back of her head, she fired over her left shoulder. The ball darted right between the legs of the goalkeeper. UNC 2-0.

"It's a lot of practice, and I just keep doing it and go with my gut," Heck said. "Luckily, they go in."

The behind-the-back is a Heck signature. She practices it on her own. She tries it with the team. She's always working on it.

Matson, the ACC's all-time scoring leader, has learned in her two years at the helm of North Carolina field hockey that she cannot teach players the innate instinct of knowing how to put the ball away.

Heck has always had it. She gets to the ball first. She knows how to use her body to receive and to get off a great shot. She's always hungry. She's aware.

It just took a little time to leave a greater mark on a game's stat sheet.

"There are definitely moments during practice or during games or at night watching film where we're watching it back and just like, 'That's Ryleigh Heck,'" Matson said. "That's just how you explain it."

X: @carolinewills03

North Carolina women's soccer defeats USC Upstate

Tar Heels rebound after ACC Championship loss

By Harry Crowther
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

'Twas the night before the NCAA tournament.

The UNC women's soccer team held a players-only meeting in the locker room. It's a long-standing tradition in the historic program.

Part of the tradition is each player lights a candle. The Tar Heels talked about how much the team means to them. They looked back on the season that has been and what could be in the tournament.

"We know that we only have the maximum of six games left and three games at home," midfielder Bella Sember said. "That means a lot to me as a senior also because every game could be my last. So just fighting for one more week together, one more game together, one more training session together and not taking anything for granted because everything in the tournament means everything."

UNC emerged from the candlelit gathering on Friday night. The No. 2-seeded Tar Heels defeated USC Upstate, 8-0, in round one of the NCAA tournament at Dorrance Field. Junior forward Kate Faasse and first-year forward Linda Ullmark both scored a brace. The margin matches the largest in program history in the opening round of the tournament — when the Tar Heels defeated High Point, 8-0, in 2003.

North Carolina is now 25-1 in the first round, outscoring opponents 110-6.

After a 3-2 defeat in last Sunday's ACC championship against FSU, interim head coach Damon Nahas gave his players space to heal.

"They knew that we took a big step forward in that championship game," Nahas said. "It was in our

grasp, but it wasn't meant to be. So their attitudes have been wonderful."

Seven Tar Heels including Sember and Faasse had been in the exact same position before. In 2022, UNC beat Duke in the ACC semifinals and then lost to FSU in the championship, just like this year.

North Carolina had its revenge on Florida State in the same season during the College Cup and made it all the way to the national championship game.

The Tar Heels watched the Selection Show together on Monday and heard their name called as a No. 2 seed. They saw the Seminoles as the one seed in their quadrant of the bracket.

North Carolina ranked second in the NCAA RPI. The first, third, fourth and fifth ranked teams all received one seeds.

"The Selection Show just put a chip on our shoulder," Faasse said.

The week leading up to the first round of the NCAA tournament was no different than any other. The Tar Heels went over some basics as a reminder of their identity.

"Having appropriate habits at this time of year to give ourselves the best chance to compete and win so we have no regrets" Nahas said. "If it ends up being our day, we'll feel really proud of it. If it's not, we'll have no regrets."

Then came the meeting on Thursday night. It served as a reminder of what they are playing for. A 23rd national title and the first since 2012.

But Faasse said it's bigger than that. It's also who they are playing for. Each other.

"Laying everything on the line, putting our bodies on the line, whatever it takes to win that game," Faasse said with an ice pack taped to her left arm.

"Because it could be our last."

X: @dthsports

UConn

UNC women's basketball unable to handle Paige Bueckers

The redshirt senior guard scored a game-high 29 points

By Megan Smith
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

GREENSBORO — Following the opening tip, junior center Maria Gakdeng hit a floater to put North Carolina on the board first.

On the next possession, UConn forward Sarah Strong found Paige Bueckers on the wing for a 3-pointer. With textbook form and no hesitation, the redshirt senior guard found the bottom of the net to push the Huskies ahead, 3-2 — a lead UConn never relinquished.

This was the first taste of what UNC's entire night looked like: Bueckers one-upping the Tar Heels.

The 2021 Naismith Player of the Year continued her tear for the Huskies, scoring 16 points in the first quarter alone. Bueckers' season and game-high 29 points led No. 2 UConn to a decisive 69-58 victory over No. 14 North Carolina at First Horizon Coliseum. UNC's inability

to contain Bueckers was an issue for North Carolina the entire game.

The UNC coaching staff was aware of the level of difficulty they'd encounter with Bueckers. And head coach Courtney Banghart — who considers the 6-foot guard to be the consensus No. 1 pick in the 2025 WNBA draft — had to adjust North Carolina's defense in an attempt to throw Bueckers off her game.

In the first half, North Carolina stuck to man-to-man defense. As two of the fastest Tar Heels, graduate guards Lexi Donarski and Grace Townsend shared the majority of the assignment on Bueckers.

It was Townsend guarding the sharpshooter on the final possession of the first quarter.

With less than six seconds left, Bueckers received the inbound pass and sprinted to the wing of the 3-point line on the opposite end of the court. From well beyond the perimeter and with all 10 of Townsend's fingers in her face, Bueckers paused before canning an unbalanced 3-pointer. She skipped away in front of the UNC bench.

Something had to change.

In the second half, North



DTH/AVA SHARON
UNC graduate guard/forward Alyssa Ustby (1) guards UConn guard Paige Bueckers (5) during the game against UConn on Nov. 15 at First Horizon Coliseum.

Carolina shifted to a 3-2 zone to throw a different defensive look at the Huskies.

And with that, UNC showcased half-court pressure.

"We went over some more coverages. We went into our kind of secondary coverages, zone and things like that," Banghart said. "We crowded the middle of the floor.

You do what you can to manage [Bueckers], quite honestly, and throughout the game, you're making these adjustments."

As a result, even though North Carolina still couldn't match the offensive proficiency of UConn, the Huskies shot 41 percent from the field in the second half, down five percent from the first. Bueckers took

fewer shots, only connecting on 2-of-5 from the field in the final quarter.

"It definitely switched things up for us offensively and how we were trying to attack," Bueckers said.

The 3-2 zone defense sparked UNC's 11-3 run, bringing the Tar Heels — who once faced a 21-point deficit at the end of the third quarter — within single digits.

Even then, the Huskies were too shifty and too selfless to be stifled by the defense.

"Get the ball in the middle and then pick them apart from there," Bueckers said.

A simple answer to what could have been a game-altering defensive move by North Carolina.

"It's easy to get flustered when things change, they go on a run, they switch up the defense," Bueckers said. "But just trying to remain calm and have a calming presence can help us get into our offensive flow regardless of what the other team is doing."

Bueckers finished the game with zero turnovers. There was no answer that could subdue her for long enough.

"Paige is good," Banghart said. "Paige is really good."

X: @meganosmithh

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jalen Washington scores 18 points in 18 minutes

Junior forward records career-high against America in 107-55 win

By Emma Moon

Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

Jalen Washington watched a video early on Friday.

It was a voiceover by Minnesota Timberwolves star Anthony Edwards. The junior forward doesn't remember the title, but he thought about the video's message come game time against American later that night. It's simple in theory, but Washington repeated it to himself before tipoff.

Have confidence. Put thought into action. He thought about it over and over again.

Washington didn't want to be quiet anymore.

"I did see it coming," first-year guard Drake Powell said. "He told me he was going to do something crazy coming out of the locker room."

The junior forward scored a career-high 18 points in 18 minutes against American in No. 10 UNC's 107-55 win over the Eagles on Friday night at the Dean E. Smith Center. Following two under-the-radar performances against Elon and No. 1 Kansas, in which he scored a combined 15 points, Washington tallied double figures for the first time this season, going 6-6 from the field and 6-7 from the line.

It's a breakthrough that's been brewing, but it's not a surprising one. Sophomore guard Elliot Cadeau believes Washington could have put up the same numbers last year, given the chance. The forward is simply "the guy" now.

"It kind of inspires me to see how he stayed down and just kept working until he got his chance,"



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC junior forward Jalen Washington (13) celebrates after scoring a basket during the game against American Friday, Nov. 15.

Cadeau said. "This year, he got his chance and he's taking advantage of it."

After former center Armando Bacot graduated last season, the role has been left to Washington for the first time in his career. He's coming out of the shadow of UNC's all-time rebounding and double-double leader.

Washington averaged 8.4 minutes of playing time and 3.9 points per game last year. He never started before this season.

To come into view, he couldn't continue being indifferent.

"Instead of being a passive guy, just kind of goes through the flow, [I am] forcing the issue on a lot of things [and] looking to have a bigger impact," Washington said. "That's what I feel like I had to

"I did see it coming. He told me he was going to do something crazy coming out of the locker room."

Drake Powell

UNC men's basketball first-year guard

do this year to help the team be successful."

Washington is naturally a subdued person. In the words of head coach Hubert Davis, he's a "really sweet, quiet giant."

But in a starting role under the

coach, a player cannot be reserved. They have to be emotional. They have to be loud. Davis used to play with tears in his eyes at North Carolina, and he wants to see that same emotion from his roster.

"Whatever your personality is off the court, that's awesome," Davis said. "That's the way that Jesus made you, and we celebrate that every day. But if you're a quiet person off the court, you cannot be a quiet person on the court. If you're a laid back, casual guy off the court, you cannot be a laid back, casual guy on the court. Your personality is gonna have to change."

With Edwards' voice echoing through his head, Washington opened the 64-point second half for the Tar Heels. After recovering the rebound, the junior pivoted, hitting a jumper from the left corner. Just over a minute later, fifth-year guard RJ Davis found Washington for an easy layup.

12 points in, Washington started to feel it.

With nine minutes left, Cadeau saw Washington inside. Surrounded by two defenders, he battled to put up a shot in the post, drawing a foul in the process. And-one.

Washington stomped to the North Carolina bench. Eyes wide. Mouth open.

A little over a minute later, Cadeau found Washington again, but this time it was for a two-handed slam. Cadeau jumped up with him. Washington started beating his chest. He hit himself on the head.

Inspired by former pro Kevin Garnett — one of Washington's favorite players — the celebration has become natural.

"Honestly, I don't know what else to do," Washington said. "I'm not like a guard or anything. They get to do all the cool stuff, so I just do something crazy. It makes my teammates laugh and it gets them hype too."

According to junior guard Seth Trimble, the forward has become confident and decisive in all his moves. Washington knows what he wants. He's demanding the ball.

"On the court, I want the one that's hitting himself in the head," Davis said. "I want that all the time."

And although Washington isn't playing with tears in his eyes yet, he's stepping out of the shadows for the first time at North Carolina.

X: @_emmahmoon

DEFENSE

Three Wake Forest turnovers steer UNC football to bowl eligibility

The Tar Heels won, 31-24, in Kenan Stadium on Saturday

By Matthew Maynard

Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

Midway through the third quarter, the North Carolina defense rushed four. Senior linebacker Power Echols stalked the quarterback.

Wake Forest quarterback Michael Kern fired the ball, looking for his tight end, Cameron Hite.

But lurking just four yards in front of Hite was Echols. He snatched the ball out of the air. Echols dashed up the sideline, outrunning everyone.

"I was watching the iPad we have and I was looking at our recent plays on offense," graduate quarterback Jacoby Criswell said. "And I just saw everyone erupt and I'm looking, and they're like, 'It's a pick, get up, get up, get up.' And next thing I know he's in the end zone and they're like, 'Sit down.'"

Pick six. North Carolina 23, Wake Forest 10.

On Saturday night at Kenan Stadium, the North Carolina defense forced three crucial turnovers, including two in the third quarter, in a 31-24 win over Wake Forest. In a game where the offense struggled to find a rhythm, the UNC defense used its momentum to become bowl eligible for the sixth straight season.

After losing four straight games earlier this year, a path to a bowl game looked complicated. But the

Tar Heels have turned it around, winning three consecutive games.

"We won the turnover game tonight," head coach Mack Brown said. "And when you do that, the large majority of the time, you're going to win a game."

After only forcing three turnovers during its losing streak, North Carolina's defense has had seven takeaways in the last three.

In the first half, the defensive unit held Wake Forest to 117 yards and three points. But it looked like it might change early in the second.

Wake Forest starting quarterback Hank Bachmeier hit the ground hard off a tackle. Bachmeier held his shoulder.

Enter Kern.

The Demon Deacons started moving the ball. Seven plays and 72 yards later, running back Demond Claiborne found the end zone. Just like that, the game was tied at 10.

It's a scene that's happened before: a backup quarterback torching the UNC defense. It happened against N.C. State in 2022. It happened just weeks later against Clemson in the ACC Championship game.

But on Saturday night, it didn't.

On the next drive, Echols made his mark with the 42-yard house call.

In practice, players receive a candy bar for forcing a turnover and get to watch defensive coordinator Geoff Collins do 10 pushups. The reward for taking the ball away in a game?

Seeing Collins pump out 10 pushups on the sideline. Oh, and a cookie cake.

Later in the third quarter, it was junior defensive back Marcus Allen's



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC senior linebacker Power Echols (23) scores a touchdown during the football game against Wake Forest on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Kenan Stadium. UNC won 31-24.

turn. Kern rolled out right, slinging the ball to wide receiver Horatio Fields. The ball hit off of Fields' chest and found its way into the hands of a falling Allen.

With just over five minutes left in the fourth and UNC up by seven, Joshua Harris Sr. forced a strip sack deep in Wake Forest's territory. Junior defensive lineman Travis Shaw pounced on it.

"I feel like they've been doing

great all year," Echols said. "But especially in the second half of the season, just creating unreal pressure on the quarterback and defeating their one-on-ones."

Shaw walked to the sideline, the ball in his right hand and North Carolina's turnover belt draped over his left shoulder.

"Our defense has never had confidence," Brown said. "They've been up and down, they've talked

about it, they've never done it. For three weeks they've done it. And right now it's a very confident bunch."

As the defense continues to figure out Collins' scheme, the incentives have helped turn this unit around. And because of it, Echols, Allen, Harris Sr. and Shaw can all expect a sizable cookie cake at some point this week.

X: @mdmaynard74

Special Projects *The Daily Tar Heel*

Undergraduate Senate redistricted seats, consolidating power

Continued from Page 1

Undergraduate Executive Council, Officers, and The Senate” until the winners of the spring election took office.

“The Transitional Council, for lack of a better word, is a shadow government set up between the general election and the spring general election,” Van Duin said.

Christopher McClanahan, who was a part of the Transitional Council, said that though the group was powerful, its influence remained limited. McClanahan, who now serves as the chair of the senate’s rules and judiciary committee, said the Council was meant to help transition to a new constitution and consider changes to the student code.

Hendrix said he was surprised when the Council was formed, because of his role as the then-vice chair of the oversight and advocacy committee.

“Opinions of the student body were not a part of the Transitional Council,” he said. “The reason I can say this confidently is because the Transitional Council consisted of a lot of people, and the one group in the Senate that works on advocacy for the student body was not included on it.”

Like this message to be ‘magically elected’

The Transitional Council passed their first order on Jan. 20, just short of four weeks before the Spring general elections.

According to the order, 22 seats of the undergraduate senate would no longer be in the major-based districts, and instead be elected according to a system of proportional



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

with no effort or campaigning whatsoever.”

In a different group chat, in which Forbes’ screen name was “Gerry Mandering,” he sent a message saying he could “write down the names of 6 people and send it to the BOE at which point they just become senators.”

not exercise before I relinquished control of the committee around September,” he said.

Forbes also said that his screen name was an innocuous nickname.

“Those are frequently given for various comedic reasons,” he said. “And I acquired that one because I frequent the website www.davesredistricting.org, where I redistrict various state Congressional maps in my free time.”

Currently, the Progressive Possibilities committee holds 17 seats in the senate, including McClanahan.

Gerrymandering senate districts

The Transitional Council allocated the remaining 45 seats to five new consolidated districts, drawn according to “a lot of policy making” Gary said.

Districts are organized by major, with the number seats allocated based on how many students are enrolled in that program. Last year, there were nine districts,

“If you couple biology with political science in the same district, biology is such a large body of students, so much larger than political science, but all of them are so busy they don’t really participate in student government, and then you just ended up having an overrepresentation of political science majors,” Ryan Kalo, senior who served as the co-director for the state and external affairs committee of the executive branch, said.

One of the effects of this change was a significant decrease in the number of votes needed to win a seat in the senate. In the last year, there was only one student elected to senate with fewer than 10 votes. This year, there were 11, with some candidates receiving as few as two or three votes to secure a seat in district one.

Gary did not refute the claims that the changes in districting led to overrepresentation of certain majors and groups. He said the priority of the Transitional Council was to fill seats, but that there was “a trade-off.”

“I wouldn’t say that it’s as much gerrymandering as in the sense of reinforcing the institutional power of a certain in-group,” he said. “So much the Senate has an institutional interest in making sure its seats are filled and it chose a policy that filled those seats. If that’s the best policy to fill those seats, I think that’s unclear and time will tell.”

Cutting out student voices

Neither Hendrix, Kalo nor Van Duin serve in student government anymore.

Kalo and Van Duin both stepped down in the fall, both for personal reasons and because of their disagreements with the changes in student government. Van Duin was technically impeached, although she sent the senate a letter of resignation months prior.

Kalo left after the senate passed a resolution prohibiting anyone in their position from speaking on “foreign affairs or foreign policy,” which she said felt like a personal attack because she labels the conflict in Gaza a genocide.

“By passing things like this, they make it so they claim full right to be the voice of students on those issues, and they’re just not,” Kalo said.

Hendrix was formally removed from the senate in February because of an error he made in submitting financial receipts from his campaign. Van Duin, who was serving as the BOE chair at the time of his removal, said she personally disagreed with the decision to remove him, because every member of that election was granted an extension to submit their records.

“You’re either with them or against them, and since they realized I was against them they’ve been trying to get me out,” he said.

By consolidating power and ousting people who disagree with them, Hendrix said student government is getting further and further from their mission of representing the interests of all students.

“Nobody ever cared about students,” he said. “It’s never something that’s ever talked about — half the bills the Senate ever passed were just about giving more power to the Senate.”

Van Duin said student government’s recent actions are especially concerning in regard to social movements on campus. Because senators barely need to collect votes to achieve positions of power, she said they have no incentive to listen to students who disagree with them, even when they represent the majority of campus beliefs. She also said student government’s proximity to the administration is a significant source of power that students are being denied.

As a senior, Van Duin said she’s grown to know the campus community quite well.

“What has really stuck out to me about UNC students is that they care about the way this University is run,” she said. “They care about their fellow students facing food insecurity. They care about the fact that we have a coal plant on campus. They care about the fact that we have an inaccessible campus that is constantly getting ADA violations. They care about all these things, and rightfully so. But in order to be able to affect change students need a voice in how UNC is run, and student government is supposed to be that.”

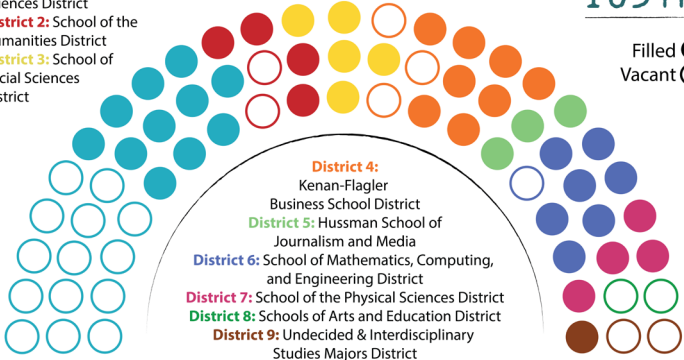
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THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

District 1: School of Life and Health Sciences District
District 2: School of the Humanities District
District 3: School of Social Sciences District

105TH

Filled ●
Vacant ○



representation with “electoral committees” acting as parties.

The issue, Van Duin said, is that the change happened too close to elections for anyone who wasn’t aware of it to participate. The order required anyone who wanted to form an “electoral committee” to collect at least 100 signatures, compile a list of candidates and have a point-person complete a training mechanism, all by 14 days before the election.

These changes were put into place 25 days before the general election, leaving interested students 11 days to complete all the steps.

Only one committee registered for the Spring Elections, Progressive Possibilities, which was granted all 22 seats. The committee was headed by Andrew Forbes, who was on the Transitional Council and now serves as the Undergraduate Student Treasurer.

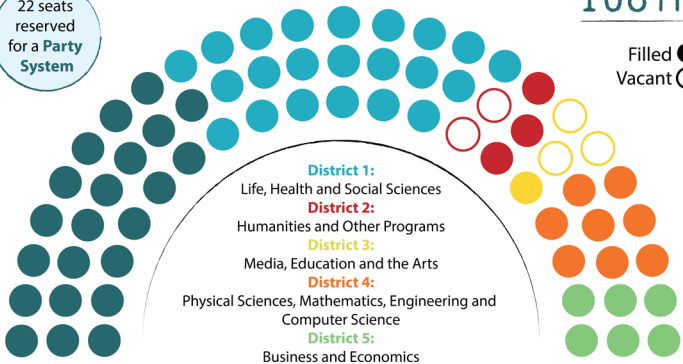
The Daily Tar Heel obtained a screenshot from a student organization group chat, where Forbes asks members of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies to like a message if they want to be “magically elected” to the undergraduate senate

THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

22 seats reserved for a Party System

106TH

Filled ●
Vacant ○



DTH DESIGN/CARRIE-ANNE ROGERS

In an email statement, Forbes said the first text was a “humorous plea” to encourage participation in student government. The second text, he said, referred to the six empty senate seats that the Progressive Possibilities party won.

“Legally, I was able to submit six names to the Board of Elections to enter the Senate through the campaign committee, a power I did

the largest being District 1, titled the “School for Health and Life Sciences.” That year, 11 senators were elected from that district, and 14 seats remained vacant.

In the new system, the largest district is called the “Health, Life, and Social Sciences” district, which combines many of the stem majors with political science, public policy and PWAD.