**Carboro celebrates Black history in concerts**

By Mila Masicenik  
Staff Writer  
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North Carolina musicians are filling the Carboro Center to the brim with the sounds of jazz, gospel and soul for the Town of Carboro’s third annual Black History Month Sunday Concert Series this month.

The series is part of the Town’s Black History Month 2024 theme, “African Americans and the Arts,” which explores African Americans’ significant influence on art forms such as literature, film and music.

Recreation supervisor Michelle Blume said Carboro aims to bring in local performers of different genres to entertain the community each year.

“We want everyone to be able to enjoy the music and to be able to know some of the songs that they are singing, whether it’s new school or old school music,” she said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

**Town to honor 1898 lynching victim**

**Manly McCauley to be memorialized with marker of EJI’s Community Remembrance Project, which commissions groups across the country to research and memorialize victims of racial violence in their communities. The OCCRC is comprised of over a dozen Orange County organizations, including the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, the Chapel Hill Public Library and the Orange County Arts Commission.**

By Sarah Smiley  
Senior Writer  
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On Feb. 18, the Town of Carboro, the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition and the Equal Justice Initiative will unveil a historical marker honoring Manly McCauley, a victim of an 1898 lynching.

McCauley was an 18-year-old Black man accused of having a relationship with Maggie Lloyd Brewer, a married white woman in the Chapel Hill area. After being chased by a mob, McCauley was lynched on Oct. 30, 1898 near the present-day intersection of Old Greensboro Road and Hatch Road.

The marker’s unveiling will take place outside of Carboro’s Town Hall and will feature speakers including Carboro Mayor Barbara Foushee, former Hillsborough Mayor Jenn Weaver and N.C. Rep Renée Price (D-Carrboro-Orange).

Price, who is also the co-chair of the OCCRC, said the marker is part of EJI’s Community Remembrance Project, which commissions groups across the country to research and memorialize victims of racial violence in their communities.

Foushee said the Town of Carboro was asked to approve the location of the marker on Town Hall property, while the OCCRC and EJI were primarily involved in the planning and execution of the commemoration.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

**State sees decrease in emissions**

By Reyna Drake  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality released a statewide report Jan. 31 showing a significant decline in greenhouse gas emissions, which fell 38 percent from 2005 to 2020.

Shawn Taylor, the public information officer for the N.C. Division of Air Quality, said the division released a scheduled update to the state greenhouse gas inventory every two years. The current update includes estimates of all greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sinks, he said.

To some extent, coal-powered plants are being replaced by natural gas, as well as renewable electricity such as solar and wind power, Noah Kittner, an assistant professor of environmental sciences and engineering at UNC, said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

**1961 graduate David Dansby Jr. dies at 84**

UNC’s first Black undergrad degree recipient fought for desegregation

By Lena Miano  
Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

In 1961, at a time when Franklin St. businesses like the Varsity Theatre were only open to Black students with UNC IDs and not Black community members, David Dansby Jr. and his fellow classmates dedicated themselves to the fight for desegregation in Chapel Hill.

In May of that year, Dansby became the first known African American undergraduate to earn his degree from UNC and went on to attend the UNC School of Law. Dansby died on Jan. 22 at the age of 84. He is survived by his sister, Marian Dansby, and other relatives.

“He was a visionary,” class of 1966 graduate Edith Hibbard said. She met Dansby while protesting to integrate small businesses in Chapel Hill and Durham. “He saw the path to what needed to be done, and then he was part of that group that said, ‘This is the way to make it happen.’”

Class of 1965 graduate Lewis Burton met Dansby at a picket line protest during the fall of his first year. As Burton stood on Franklin Street holding his sign, he said 22-year-old Dansby approached him.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

**Read our student body president election coverage**

Voting ends at midnight on Wednesday

“One person plus one typewriter constitutes a movement.”  
PAULI MURRAY
The Daily Tar Heel

CHCCS receives $200,000 in new school safety grant

Happend Hill-Carrboro City Schools received $200,000 from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction’s Center for Safer Schools. Other nearby districts, like Orange County Schools, got over $100,000 more than CHCCS.

CHCCS has a 60 percent higher average daily membership than OC.
Black Pioneers reflect on race relations at UNC

The oral histories and transcripts, now published online, document the lived experiences many Black students faced during the early period of integration at the University. These are folks who have helped UNC achieve its stated mission and have not often been recognized for doing so. And because they struggled with roadblocks and impediments due to racism in different moments, they did so often as an uphill battle," Renee Alexander Craft, the interim director of program, said. “So the creativity needed to be committed to recognizing their contributions.”

"There is no hostility or animosity," GPS alumnus who attended UNC in the early 1970s, Foust, who attended UNC in the early 1970s, said. "Some of us, our alumni group, are amazed that they’re still having issues," he said in his oral history. "We’re like, ‘Folks, this has been forty years. There are some things that should have been figured out by now. This is ridiculous. The kids here are still going through some of the same stuff that we went through.’" Alexander Craft said she thinks that there are persisting issues for the University to address to dismantle systemic racism. She said the University Commission on Historical Dissent and the Way Forward, which educates and provides policy recommendations on systemic racism with the broadest public and other public institutions can benefit from," Alexander Craft said. "I think in the future we'll try to do to achieve that mission."
2024 marks 100 years of Rameses history

The 22nd version of the mascot will visit campus to celebrate

By Josie Wissel
Staff Writer

SCHOOL SPIRIT

For the past 100 years, a live Dorset Horn Sheep has stood on the sidelines of UNC football games at Kenan Memorial Stadium bearing the same Rameses — its horns painted UNC Blue.

The tradition began in 1924 when the University’s business manager, Ben White, Sr., heard about a ram shipped in from Texas. "It's a wild history," Graham said.

The first Dorset Horn Sheep to serve as Rameses I — between 1921 and 1924 was owned in his family's farm.

Henry Hogan, a former football player at UNC, said he grew up taking care of the family’s rams.

"We didn’t have a lot of entertainment when I was growing up," Hogan said. "But I always looked forward to seeing Rameses.

First Black undergraduate to earn degree from UNC leaves legacy of advocacy

Continued from Page 1

game days since her first semester as XXII’s student handler during Spring 2020.

The connection between students who are now leaders on campus has provided a bridge for Danby’s life.

"I think that equates to our football game for free," Basnight said. "And I think that equates to our University as a whole — that our University is rare. Plus, we have a really cool mascot.

Basnight said that as times have changed, so has Rameses’ role.

He said that years ago at football games, it was tradition for kids to touch Rameses to get into the football game for free.

Rameses XXII — or the 22nd version of the ram, according to Chapter 3, which also states the student government has the power to fix oversights in the student government.

"It never ceases to amaze me how people love him, or Tar Heelfans, just love him to death," Basnight said. "Somehow he’s been some rams that he didn’t like, though he remembers one specific ram he had as a child named Bam Bam who was so uncooperative, "that he never made it in.

However, he said the current mascot, Rameses XXII, is his favorite.

"I am the epitome of a Tar Heel when I’m with him," Basnight said.

Tj Edwards sues UNC Board of Elections for denying eligibility

Senior files lawsuit after GPSG president candidacy was denied

By Natalie McCormick
Senior Writer

and Aidan Lockhart
Staff Writer

With UNC’s spring elections rapidly approaching, second-year graduate student Tj Edwards has filed a complaint against the UNC BOE on Jan. 21, attempting to delay the election.

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The Center for Safer Schools recently presented its annual consolidated data report from the 2022-23 school year to the N.C. State Board of Education — including a decrease in dropout rates among high school aged students compared to the previous year.

The dropout rate, for 2022-23 academic year in North Carolina was 1.95 dropouts per 100 high school students, down from 2.25 dropouts per 100 students in the 2021-22 year. Dropout rates were lower in 2022-23 than in the six school years before the pandemic.

Gavv, Pat McCrory created the Center for Safer Schools in 2013 under Executive Order 25. The center partners with North Carolina public schools to promote safe learning environments.

Shaneeka Moore-Lawrence, the president of the N.C. Parent Teacher Association, said she believes the decrease in dropouts could be attributed to the more comprehensive support students are receiving since they have returned after the pandemic.

Abigail Paquin, a UNC student who interned in a sixth-grade classroom at Culbreth Middle School last semester, said one thing she believes could be contributing to the continued decrease in dropout rates is the positive relationships teachers make with their students in the classroom.

"Their relationships with their students are pivotal," Paquin said. "Having a positive relationship with a student highly impacts the student's desire to come to school."

In its report, the CFSS showed an increase in crime and violent acts in public schools, with the number of incidents across the state totaling 13,193. While the state did see an overall increase in incidents, the percentage of incidents involving a weapon decreased by 1.7 percent.

Fairley said the most common type of incident in this category was a student bringing a controlled substance, most often an electronic cigarette, onto school grounds.

According to the report, the frequency of incidents involving controlled substances increased last school year by 45.7 percent.

She said the increase may be due to public schools using CFSS funding to increase observance — not necessarily to an actual increase in incidents.

Moore-Lawrence said the increase in crime and violent acts calls for more advocacy surrounding ways to decrease that number.

"I think that increase continues to show that there is a need to continue to support our students in the area of mental health and wellness," Moore-Lawrence said. "And to ensure that they have access to school counselors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and all the wraparound supports that are so critical."

Paquin said that even though statistics like these can be intimidating to those who hope to teach in the classroom one day, like herself, she still believes conversations about improving these statistics should focus on supporting the students.

"I think that it’s important to remember that there are humans that care about us," she said. "They’re humans that are developing and they have their own identity and I just really want to pour into them and be a positive influence that can honestly help curb the negative statistics."

Continued from Page 1

Price said, "It’s to let the community know from whence we came and where we need to go."

McCaulley was the first lynching victim that EJI identified in Orange County, Robertson said. She said the former UNC professor Reginald Moore, the teacher who was dedicated to McCaulley while the back will honor other victims of lynching in Orange County.

Another component of McCaulley’s memorialization is a soil collection from the approximate location of the lynching, which will be displayed at the unveiling event, Robertson said. EJI, under the leadership of Bryan Stevenson, has conducted soil collections from more than 700 sites of racial terror lynching across the U.S. and will display them in the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Ala.

The event will also feature musical performances by Brown Sugar Strings, a spoken word performance by Chapel Hill poet laureate CJ Sjutt and former UNC professor Reginald Hildebrand as a distinguished guest speaker.

Roberson, who is also listed as speaker for the unveiling event, said soil collections for five other victims of lynching in the Hillsborough area have taken place, and there are plans to erect an additional historical marker in their honor.

"For the Black community, it gives us an opportunity to talk to our story, to control the narrative, and to take pride in who we are rather than trying to continue with this sort of pushing aside some of those stories that happen to us," Price said. "We know they happened. We still feel the pain, even generations later."

Continued from Page 1

He said the inventory shows the state made progress in making the electricity grid cleaner.

"It does happen that what we’re not emitting anything," he said. "It’s just the rate at which we’re emitting carbon has decreased."

House Bill 951, signed by Gov. Roy Cooper on Feb. 2, 2021, requires a 70 percent reduction rate of emissions by 2030 and aims for carbon neutrality by 2050.

The law proposed reduction through the retirement of coal-powered plants with the N.C. Utilities Commission’s Carbon Plan, prompting Duke Energy to retire 8,400 megawatts of its coal-powered plants by 2035 to meet the 70 percent goal. Duke Energy was also required to hold stakeholder meetings on offshore wind power production as a part of the state’s plan.

Despite these efforts, Kitter said the state is not on track to meet the goals included in H.B. 951, and that the state would need to reduce emissions much more to reach carbon neutrality.

According to the report, transportation emissions are now the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. The state has not seen emissions from transportation get cleaner because people are driving more due to a lack of low-cost public transportation, Kitter said.

"We’re continuing to put a lot of focus on what we can put toward, for example, electric vehicles are cleaner emission standards for cars and trucks," Taylor said.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, greenhouse gas emissions not only impact climate change, but reduce air quality. Air pollution can pose health risks including heart and lung disease.

Ricardo Crespo-Ricaldo, a leader in USC’s Climate Leadership & Environmental Action Network, said the decrease of emissions can have many public and global health benefits, including benefits for marginalized communities and mental health benefits.

He said a lot pollution is produced in metropolitan areas where there are a lot of people of lower socioeconomic status who feel the brunt of the effects of air pollution.

"I think that reducing those emissions indefinitely will definitely help reduce those disparities and contribute to equity and health," he said.

He also said a mental health phenomenon called eco-anxiety, the fear that climate change is causing irreversible damage to the health of current and future generations, has increased.

"I think the best thing that people can do to start, in terms of starting to be conscious to promote environmental education and learn more, that’s become more educated on these kinds of things," Crespo-Ricaldo said. "Try to increase awareness, and that in itself does so much."
Ryan Horton named CHHS football head coach

The former offensive coordinator values team relationships

By Makenzie Mills
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and Shannen Horan
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Chapel Hill High School announced last week that Ryan Horton will be the new head coach of the CHHS football team following coach Issac Marsh’s retirement after 26 years.

Horton has already worked as a part of the team’s coaching staff for 12 years, nine of which he served as the team’s offensive coordinator. CHHS athletic director Lewis Newman was part of the search committee to find a new head coach. He said the committee interviewed many coaches, but Horton stood out.

“Ryan has been a big part of our success here for a long time,” Newman said. “With that being said, he’s been on our coaching staff, he went to school here, he’s an alumnus and he’s in our Hall of Fame.”

Horton has been around football for most of his life. He played at CHHS, and then in college at UNC Pembroke as a quarterback — where he was the most valuable player in 2009 and set multiple passing records.

Newman said Horton has a unique way of bonding with the students.

“I’m very relationship-oriented,” Horton said. “You got to form those bonds, form those relationships with students, same thing with athletes, so that you know and they know you’re genuine and want them to do well.”

CHHS senior quarterback Joshua Kelley said he had been coached by Horton since he was a freshman. Kelley said he watched Horton coach his older brothers, which made the transition to a large program less intimidating.

During Kelley’s first year, CHHS was playing against Orange High School for a playoff position. Kelley’s older brother, the quarterback at the time, completed a few long passes to put the team in field goal range to win the game — and, all the while, Horton kept his composure, Kelley said.

“Between him and my brother having a good relationship, between the whole offense, it was definitely something that was talked about years after,” Kelley said.

Kelley also said his relationship with Horton has turned into a friendship. He said they catch up about what happened over the weekend and the school week, and talk about future plans not related to football.

“Leaving the program, I definitely have somebody to talk to,” Kelley said.

Kelley said Horton’s promotion will be a good change of pace to see a young energy force come in, especially one that is familiar to the team.

He also said that while Horton is brutally honest, he gives younger players encouragement to stick with football for more than just a year.

Horton said he motivates his players and staff by assuring them that they all have the same goal — wanting to be successful on the field and win games. He also said he sets an example for the players on how to be well-rounded individuals.

When the team is in a rut, Horton said he falls back on those relationships and tries to teach the players to fall in love with the process and have a purpose.

Horton is reestablishing the coaching staff for the upcoming season and is in the early stages of building his plan and getting ready to start spring football. Newman said the long-term goal for the team is to continue to succeed and advance in the playoffs.

“We want to continue that winning tradition,” Newman said. “We’ve got a strength and conditioning coach on the board now, and we are really expecting not only football, but all of our athletes to continue to excel and Ryan is a big part of that.”

X: @dthcitystate
@dthsports
Divine Nine organizations provide lifelong community for Black students

By Madison Gagnon
senior writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

The Ackland Art Museum is pictured on Nov. 13.

Upcoming Ackland exhibit to display Native works
By Laney Curran
senior writer
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Hundreds of years’ worth of Indigenous art will soon be available for viewing at the Ackland Art Museum.

The Ackland is teaming up with Oklahoma’s Gilcrease Museum and the American Federation of Art to present “Past Forward: Native American Art from Gilcrease Museum” from Feb. 16 to April 28.

The AFA works with museums worldwide, and when the Ackland’s Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs Peter Nisbet heard that the Past Forward exhibition was available, he said he jumped at the opportunity to display it in Chapel Hill.

The Ackland has recently started concentrating more on Native American art, Nisbet said. “We’re thinking about presenting to our public the full spectrum of Indigenous arts if we can, and certainly this exhibition offered us a chance to present a very interesting take on Native American art from a really interesting and premier institution, one of the best collections of Native American art in the country.”

The exhibition consists of four sections with transhistorical themes: Center, many, sovereign, visual abstraction and identity.

Katharine Knight, a curator with the AFA, said the exhibition begins with a brief introduction and flows into the visual abstraction section with an array of works such as beadwork, pottery and paintings.

There will also be works of non-Indigenous artists that exemplify the influence of Native American art as a whole. Then, the exhibit transitions to ceremony, where the works portray Native American ceremony rituals.

“There’s another section called self identity and it is thinking about the way Native peoples in America in particular have tried to advocate for self rule and the struggles and also the pride that so many artists take in their tribal affiliations and tribal culture,” she said.

The Ackland is presenting various collaborative discussions, artist conversations, guided tours, film screenings and art classes inspired by the exhibit throughout its duration, beginning on Feb. 16 with a guided tour from Nisbet.

On Feb. 25, Ryan Dial, the American Indian health project manager at UNC’s American Indian Center and member of the Lumbee Tribe will lead the “F.M. Fun in the Galleries: Exploring ‘Past Forward’” event.

Dial, who has partnered with the Ackland before, said he has spent most of his life practicing Native American art by dancing and playing the flute.

“I think there is a way for museums, like the Ackland and others, to kind of use their platform to break the stereotypes,” he said.

Dial said he hopes to promote the exhibit in a family friendly way and encourage people to think about the way Native American art is through showing its full spectrum, including contemporary works by Native American artists. He said that the arts are very important to Native American culture overall and in an individual and a tribal level.

“I think one of our focuses for programming for Past Forward has been to make sure that we’re including community voices, and there’s so many great folks on campus, in the area, and other departments who have expertise in Native American art and culture,” Allison Portnow Latroph, the Ackland’s head of public programming, said.

These events are meant to allow onlookers a moment to slow down and absorb the exhibit. Portnow Latroph said they encourage audiences to ask questions about the pieces’ meanings and find connections between themselves and the art.

Nisbet said he believes the blend of art, discussions and events will give people a better understanding of the broad variety of Native American art over hundreds of years.

“I’m hoping that people’s responses will range from enthusiasm and engagement with individual works to a much better sense of the variety and complexity and a much greater sensitivity to Native American creativity as it relates to North Carolina,” Nisbet said.

At historically Black colleges and universities, the Divine Nine have created lands on campus that honors each chapter, as a place to celebrate big occasions.

UNC’s equivalent is the Legacy Plaza, located in the Student Services Building courtyard on south campus. Ball said that the plaza is a “wonder and an unexpected sight at a predominantly white institution.”

The Ackland Committee for us to cement our place and purpose on this campus. It’s a place that we value,” Andrews said. “Oftentimes, when you’re brought fresh to your organization, that is the place you can get a picture and a place to cement your legacy as you’ve chosen to continue with a new chapter during your time here at UNC.”

Andrews said alumni often play a critical role in how the organizations operate by providing networking opportunities, guidance and advice.

As an alumna of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bernard Bell, the executive director of UNC’s Student Program in Entrepreneurship, said the organizations are key for providing opportunities for Divine Nine students.

“When you graduate from college, you have a place to go, and you have to be super bold and try the things that are new for you. Past Forward has been to make sure that we’ve included community voices, and there’s so many great folks on campus, in the area, and other departments who have expertise in Native American art and culture,” Allison Portnow Latroph, the Ackland’s head of public programming, said.

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The Ackland Committee for us to cement our place and purpose on this campus. It’s a place that we value,” Andrews said. “Oftentimes, when you’re brought fresh to your organization, that is the place you can get a picture and a place to cement your legacy as you’ve chosen to continue with a new chapter during your time here at UNC.”

Andrews said alumni often play a critical role in how the organizations operate by providing networking opportunities, guidance and advice.

As an alumna of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bernard Bell, the executive director of UNC’s Student Program in Entrepreneurship, said the organizations are key for providing opportunities for Divine Nine students.

“When you graduate from college, you have a place to go, and you have to be super bold and try the things that are new for you. Past Forward has been to make sure that we’ve included community voices, and there’s so many great folks on campus, in the area, and other departments who have expertise in Native American art and culture,” Allison Portnow Latroph, the Ackland’s head of public programming, said.

These events are meant to allow onlookers a moment to slow down and absorb the exhibit. Portnow Latroph said they encourage audiences to ask questions about the pieces’ meanings and find connections between themselves and the art.

Nisbet said he believes the blend of art, discussions and events will give people a better understanding of the broad variety of Native American art over hundreds of years.

“I’m hoping that people’s responses will range from enthusiasm and engagement with individual works to a much better sense of the variety and complexity and a much greater sensitivity to Native American creativity as it relates to North Carolina,” Nisbet said.

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YOU ARE LOVED.

IN THE WAITING. IN THE HURTING. IN THE JOY. YOU ARE LOVED.
IN THE MORNING. IN THE AFTERNOON. IN THE EVENING. YOU ARE LOVED. ON YOUR BEST DAY ON YOUR WORST NIGHT. YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU’RE LONELY. WHEN YOU’RE SURROUNDED. YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU’RE SCARED. YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU FEEL CLOSE TO GOD. WHEN YOU FEEL FAR FROM GOD. YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU FEEL UNWORTHY. WHEN YOU FEEL INSECURE. WHEN YOU FEEL SECURE. YOU ARE LOVED. NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL, YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU FEEL IGNORED. WHEN YOU FEEL CHosen. YOU ARE LOVED. WHEN YOU’RE SCARED. WHEN YOU’RE BRAVE.

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YOU ARE LOVED.

@lovechapelhill
Black artists’ struggle for award recognition continues

By Malea Mull

COLUMN

Song of the Year and Record of the Year. She won home with four Grammys, the only win broadcasted on TV being Best R&B song.

In 2016, Beyoncé wrote her monumental sixth studio album “Lemonade.” This album embodies Queen Bey’s journey with her husband’s infidelity and her journey with her racial identity. Associated Press even named it their album of the decade. Yet she was not given MOTY for this work.

When singer/songwriter Adele went up to accept her Album of the Year award for “25,” she immediately praised “Lemonade,” shocked that Beyoncé did not (finally) receive the esteemed prize.

“The Lemonade album was just so monumental, Beyoncé, it was so monumental,” said Adele. “The way you make me and my friends feel the way you make my Black friends feel is so monumental, Beyoncé, it was so monumental,” said Adele. “The way you make me and my friends feel the way you make my Black friends feel is so monumental, Beyoncé, it was so monumental.”

Beyoncé, unfortunately, is not the only Black artist to go unrecognized by the Grammys. According to Business Insider, of the 66 total Grammy award ceremonies, only 11 Black artists received the award for Album of the Year. Even more shockingly, only three of those winners have been Black women.

Another Academy Awards show, the Oscars, also lacks representation of Black women and women in general for their powerful director roles. Even though the Oscars have been operating for 95 years, in 2002, Halle Berry became the first (and so far only) Black woman to win an Oscar for Best Actress.

These celebrities represent all talented Black creators who are pushed and shoved into categories like Best Rap Album, Best Supporting Actor/Actress or Best R&B Song, while white artists are allowed larger awards and are recognized in the spotlight.

Looking at the lists of nominations and winners of the Academy Awards was a tough pill to swallow. With 66 Grammy ceremonies to date, and the 96th Academy Awards right around the corner, there seems to be a persistent cycle of white supremacy. What makes these artists being cast aside sting all the more is the fact that these award shows often happen in February, which is Black History Month. This reminds us that recognition, respect and representation is not a given. Black creators, actors and artists have contributed too much to society to continually be snubbed.

X: @dthopinion

Galentine’s Day is more than a replacement for Valentine’s

By Jordyn Balam

COLUMN

This month, storefronts dripping in various hues of red and pink grapple for the attention of those who eagerly anticipate, or possibly dread, Valentine’s Day. Amid the hype of the holiday of love, another celebration has gained momentum in the last decade: Galentine’s Day.

Coined in 2010 by an episode of the sitcom “Parks and Recreation,” Galentine’s Day falls on Feb. 13 and is all about “ladies celebrating ladies,” according to Leslie Knope, the show’s main protagonist.

I’ve noticed Galentine’s Day is sometimes treated as a replacement for Valentine’s—if you’re single, something needs to fill the void of a relationship. But I’d argue the unofficial holiday is not just a stand-in for Valentine’s Day. It is a holiday unto itself, a celebration of Galentine’s Day.

Both days celebrate important bonds with the people who mean the most in your life, and they do not need to compete with one another. Valentine’s Day has evolved significantly since my elementary school days of snapping notes and candles with classmates. Back then, everyone felt valued and appreciated, for they were guaranteed not just one, but 20 or more small gifts. However, as we transitioned into adolescence and adulthood, the dynamics surrounding Valentine’s Day have significantly changed. The emphasis on communal exchange has shifted to private gestures, leaving those without partners feeling overlooked.

I’ve heard supporters of Galentine’s Day say, “Who needs a man when I have my friends?” — as though you must choose between the two. Their words point the holidays as opponents when that shouldn’t be the case. If we associate Galentine’s Day with the idea that an individual needs to compensate for their singlehood, then we also fall prey to the commercialization that has infiltrated many holidays. Galentine’s Day, much like its romantic counterpart, has shifted focus from genuine celebration to consumerism and superficial gestures. In this context, Galentine’s Day risks becoming another opportunity for businesses to capitalize on new societal expectations.

The commodification of Galentine’s Day is almost inevitable, especially considering that the holiday originated from a sitcom, so it is especially important to keep its original spirit of celebrating friendship.

The truth is, you can be single, happy and looking for a partner all at the same time. You don’t need Galentine’s Day or any other external validation to serve as some sort of distraction from your relationship status.

Instead of seeking this validation, focus on nurturing your happiness and building meaningful connections with family, friends and yourself. When you prioritize your own well-being, you become more confident and open to the possibilities of other connections that may be out there, including the chance of romantic love.

Friendship can and should be celebrated all year round. Rather than succumbing to the pressures of Galentine’s Day, let’s instead remember that appreciation for your genuine connections stem from everyday moments, and are not simply a replacement for a romantic partner.

X: @dthopinion
FOOTBALL | TRANSFERS

Max Johnson looking forward to camaraderie

Max Johnson, a graduate quarterback and UNC transfer, has a clear idea of what he wants from his collegiate football experience after playing at LSU and Texas A&M. He said he values support and encouragement more than quarterback competition. "Being able to experience two schools, I think I saw what I learned from both of them, what I liked, what I didn’t like and being able to kind of discern that," Max Johnson said.

Max Johnson is also excited for the opportunity to play alongside his brother Jake Johnson, a tight end who transferred to North Carolina. "I’m excited to kind of grow with him," Max Johnson said. "He’s my best friend so I’m looking forward to it."

Max Johnson said he aims to make an immediate impact to the Tar Heel offense as Jake looks to contribute as a downfield option.

Offensive line beefs up, tight end brings talent

By Grace Nugent
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

Aside from Max Johnson, UNC football has bolstered its offense with several other incoming transfers, who will look to fill gaps left by departing players. Among the additions is defensive lineman Austin Blaske, a versatile player with leadership qualities akin to former Tar Heel center Corey Gaynor. UNC general manager Patrick Suddles has called Blaske a "plug-and-play guy" for the Tar Heels, and his experience and work ethic have already made him a valuable asset.

Another addition to the offensive line is sophomore Howard Sampson, who brings size and determination to create opportunities for the Tar Heel running backs. Darwins Barlow, a veteran running back from UNC and TCU, will likely support Omaorn Hampton with his speed and versatility.

Lastly, Jake Johnson, Max Johnson’s younger brother, adds talent to the tight end position, focusing more on camaraderie than quarterback competition.

Jakeen Harris leaves rival school N.C. State for UNC

By Harry Crowther
Senior Writer
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Jakeen Harris, a transfer from N.C. State, has joined UNC’s football team for his final year of eligibility in 2024. "Obviously that’s an interesting transfer, going from an in-state rival to here," UNC football general manager Patrick Suddles said. "But that’s the nature of the portal now. Everybody’s just looking for an opportunity to go and compete and play.

With experience as a defensive back, Harris will bring valuable skills to the Tar Heels’ secondary, which needs leadership following key departures.

His transition to UNC has been smooth, and he has quickly bonded with his new teammates, especially fellow defensive backs Aliljuz Hureje and Antavious “Stick” Lane.

"For me, I want to win an ACC Championship," Harris said. "So that’s the goal — to win an ACC Championship and hopefully be in the playoffs."

FOUR-GAME SKID

Women’s basketball loses to Duke, 68-60, in overtime

By Caroline Wills
Senior Writer
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DURHAM — After Sunday’s 68-60 overtime loss to Duke, Deja Kelly said her team was pissed off.

By Emma Moon
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DURHAM — After Sunday’s 68-60 overtime loss to Duke, Deja Kelly said her team was pissed off.

"We're taking too many contested shots late in the game," Banghart said. "We've really just have a guy that can get shots for other people, to be honest, at a high enough rate."

Kelly has a long list of things the Tar Heels need to improve on. First, she pointed to the shooting troubles plaguing North Carolina. Specifically, she said UNC needs to finish around the rim, run more transition offense and find open shots. After putting up 20 points in the third quarter, UNC shot 2 of 14 in the fourth and 3 of 10 in extra time.

Once again, this isn’t unfamiliar territory for the Tar Heels. Against then-No. 17 Virginia Tech, a lack of offensive cohesion stunted North Carolina’s efforts in its first ACC overtime battle as they shot 13 percent from the field in crunch time. Currently, UNC ranks 11th in the conference in field goal percentage, shooting 42 percent from the field.

"The team’s losing a little bit of rhythm and allowed Duke to execute a 15-4 run in extra time to hand UNC its second straight overtime defeat.

"We weren’t good enough," Banghart said. "Obviously, had a chance to win it there. And then, in overtime, they made more plays than us.

These issues aren’t new. After falling to Virginia in January, Kelly said the Tar Heels maintained some positivity. Then came the late-game breakdown in the N.C. State loss. With the Virginia Tech overtime heartbreaker in which graduate guard Lexi Donarski said she wished the team could have made a couple more shots at the end. And then, the team’s losing a little bit of rhythm and allowed Duke to execute a 15-4 run in extra time to hand UNC its second straight overtime defeat.

"We’re taking too many contested shots late in the game," Banghart said. "We’ve really just have a guy that can get shots for other people, to be honest, at a high enough rate."

Kelly said there also needs to be a focus on UNC’s defense and rebounding efforts because Duke was stripping the ball right off of North Carolina’s hands and collecting so many offensive boards in the final minutes of regulation, she said it slowed down the little momentum her team gathered in the beginning of the first half.

"More than that, though, she said the Tar Heels need more players to adopt a “killer mentality” — to do whatever is necessary to get the win. One or two people cannot carry the effort on their own.

Simply put, someone else has to step up.

"The thing is, we’re not gonna get better at doing the same things," Banghart said. "We’ve got to be able to play a little bit differently late."

If we do, I think these results can change. It matters because we want to win every game we play — every single one, let’s be clear."
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