

MUSIC

Carrboro celebrates Black history in concerts

By Mila Mascenik

Staff Writer

lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

North Carolina musicians are filling the Carrboro Century Center with the sounds of jazz, gospel and soul for the Town of Carrboro’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 Carrboro 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.

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Town to honor 1898 lynching victim

By Sarah Smiley

Senior Writer

city@dailytarheel.com

On Feb. 18, the Town of Carrboro, 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 Carrboro’s Town Hall and will feature speakers including Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee, former Hillsborough Mayor Jenn Weaver and N.C. Rep. Renée Price (D-Caswell, Orange).

Price, who is also the co-chair of the OCCRC, said the marker is part



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES WILLIAMS AND DUSTIN DUONG

DTH DESIGN/SARAH FENWICK

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.

Foushee said the Town of Carrboro 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.

“This marker pays homage to his life, and his life did matter,” Foushee said. “When he got lynched, he was 18 years old. He hadn’t even really started to live.”

According to OCCRC records, McCauley’s family was from the Chapel Hill area. At the time that he was murdered, McCauley had been working as a farmhand on the Brewer farm for about a year. The four men arrested for his murder were acquitted of all charges.

“We continue to work to show — through our values and also through some actions that we’re taking — that we are not that Carrboro now,” Foushee said.

Diane Robertson, the chair of the commemorative marker committee and former political action chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, said the intention of the historical marker is to bring a greater understanding of the true story of Carrboro.

“The intent in no way is to place blame on anyone,”

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IN MEMORY OF

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, Marion Dansby, and other relatives.

“He was a visionary,” class of 1966 graduate Edith Hubbard 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.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTIONS

David Dansby Jr.’s senior portrait appears in a 1961 edition of the Yackety Yak.

“You need to be in study hall and you need to be going to class,” Burton recalled Dansby said to him. In the weeks following their first encounter, Burton said he and Dansby would catch up in a local barber shop where Dansby would encourage him to continue on with his education.

“We were helping out each other on what to do, what not to do, where

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



CLIMATE

State sees decrease in emissions

By Reyna Drake

Staff Writer

city@dailytarheel.com

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality released a statewide report on 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 releases 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.

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Read our student body president election coverage  
Voting ends at midnight on Wednesday



“One person plus one typewriter constitutes a movement.”

PAULI MURRAY



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MULTIMEDIA@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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UNIVERSITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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CITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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Mail and Office: 109 E. Franklin St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Emmy Martin, editor, 962-4086  
Advertising & Business, 962-1163  
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FUNDING

CHCCS receives \$200,000 in new school safety grant

By Sierra President  
Staff Writer  
[city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com)

Last month, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools received a \$200,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction’s Center for Safer Schools for distribution to two different departments in the district to improve student safety.

The N.C. General Assembly allotted \$35 million to CFSS for school safety grants in its latest budget, and CHCCS was one of the 230 school districts and charter schools in the state that will receive funding.

Karen Fairley, the executive director for the Center for Safer Schools, said CFSS was created following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. She said the center works to support public school districts through training, technical assistance and resources that ensure safety.

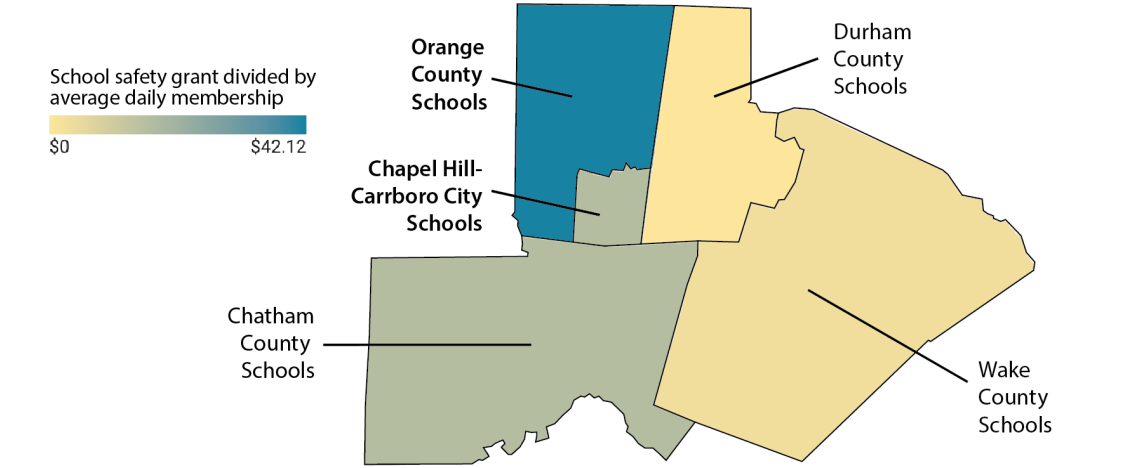
Fairley said the school safety grants are an annual grant that public school units apply for. Fairley said schools applying for the grant must include their request, as well as substantial data and numbers to confirm their need.

She said the grant money can be used for safety equipment, services for students in crisis or training to prevent school violence.

“I think that our districts do an amazing job of utilizing funding to address their own individual needs,” she said. “So, I am excited that the districts are happy.”

Fairley said, this year, there was \$139 million in requested funding, so many schools did not receive the amount they asked for — since there was only \$35 million available. Other nearby districts, like Orange

Chapel 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 OCS.



Average daily membership is the average number of students attending school per day, excluding students who attended for less than half of the instructional day • Source: N.C. Department of Public Instruction

DTH DATA/KENAN BAUER

County Schools and Wake County Schools, got over \$100,000 more in funding than CHCCS. OCS received more than \$20 more per student than CHCCS. Some districts, including Durham Public Schools, received no grant money.

Tracy Holloway, the safe schools director for CHCCS, said the funding will be split between the Safety Department and the Student Support and Wellness Department.

Holloway said the Safety Department at CHCCS will use the funds for a summer safety summit, which will include active scooter and incident management training, alongside emergency operation plan preparation. He said principals, schools crisis teams, law enforcement and other emergency management employees will attend.

Janet Cherry, the director of system

of care for CHCCS, said the Student Support and Wellness Department plans to use the funding to expand access for their mental health outpatient services.

She said this option allows students who are in need of therapy or medication management to receive help, especially if they are from families who may not be able to cover medical expenses.

“The hope is that we will be able to use the funds to really help those students who typically would not receive services unless there's an outlet or funding source for them,” she said.

Cherry said they also plan to use the grant for training staff to provide youth mental health first-aid training to high schoolers, alongside other staff members. She said she hopes students will develop strategies to address issues

with their peers and mental health.

Charlos Banks, the chief of school support and wellness for CHCCS, said mental and physical health are both a part of safety in schools. She said this grant allows there to be access to equitable resources for students.

Holloway said the district applied for the grant last year and received less than they did this year. He said they used the money to upgrade the security cameras in every school and to update the hardware on the doors to allow them to lock faster.

He said the grant allows the district to create a safe learning environment for students.

“It will just help us to create a culture of safety in our schools,” he said.

X: [@dthcitystate](https://www.dthcitystate.com)

The Daily Tar Heel

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INEQUALITY

Black Pioneers reflect on race relations at UNC

The Southern Oral History Program collects their stories

By Olivia Metelo  
Senior Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

For Jimmy Barnes, one of the first Black students to graduate from UNC, his time at the University could best be described as solely educational. Social life for Black students at UNC, he said, was nonexistent.

Barnes is part of a group of UNC alumni known as Black Pioneers — the first Black graduates who matriculated at UNC from 1952 to 1972.

When a court order in 1951 ordered the UNC School of Law to admit Black students, Harvey Beech, James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee, Floyd McKissick and James Robert Walker became the first of many pioneers. Four years later, the University began accepting Black undergraduate students because of a ruling from federal courts.

Beginning in 2015, the Southern Oral History Program interviewed some of the pioneers about their experiences as students 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,” Renée Alexander Craft, the interim director of program, said. “So the University needs to be committed to recognizing their contributions.”

Barnes, a 1968 UNC School of Pharmacy graduate and Greensboro native, said typical UNC social events, like football games, were not appealing due to racist songs that would be played.

“Every weekend I could, I would go to one of the historically Black universities back then, but that was my focus,” Barnes said in his oral history. “As far as during the week, the time to come study, I had to be here, and that’s where I was.”

Edith Hubbard started college in 1962 at Bennett College, a historically Black university in Greensboro, and later transferred to



DTH/ALISON GRAU

UNC first-year Ariyan Byrd poses outside the Center for the Study of the American South on Thursday. The center was founded by UNC in 1992 to honor and explore Southern history and culture.

UNC. She grew up in Durham and said in her oral history that racism was prevalent there, but she grew up sheltered and oblivious to it.

This wasn’t the case at UNC. Hubbard said in her oral history that at times when she would sit at a table in Lenoir Dining Hall, people at adjoining tables would move away from her because of her race.

She said in her oral history that she’s impressed by the current spaces for students of color on UNC’s campus.

“Now, you look at the campus, and it’s beautiful to see Black students, white students, Asian students, Indian students, everybody together,” Hubbard said. “There is no hostility or animosity.”

Other pioneers have expressed concerns about persisting racism on campus, like alumni Henry Foust, who attended UNC in the early 1970s.

“Some of us, our alumni group, are amazed that they’re still having issues at Carolina,” 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 History, Race, and a Way Forward, which educates and provides policy recommendations on UNC’s history with race, is an example of taking a step in the right direction.

“We have the unique opportunity to build better out loud in a way that the broader public and other public institutions can benefit from,” Alexander Craft said. “I think we still have work to do to achieve that mission.”

X: @dailytarheel

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Student-run restaurant celebrates second anniversary

Buckets at Chapel Hill has grown in size, community impact

By Olivia Metelo  
Senior Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

When CEO and founder Will Gerstein first opened Buckets at Chapel Hill as a UNC sophomore in 2022, he thought the late-night restaurant was nothing more than a 10-week experiment. Now a senior, Gerstein has run the business for two years and is contemplating its future after his graduation.

To celebrate its two-year anniversary, the restaurant is hosting a night of celebration on Friday, Feb. 16, with live music, discounts and free food giveaways.

“I think it’s going to be my favorite night of the semester,” Gerstein said. “I’m so excited.”

Gerstein said Buckets has grown both in size and community impact since its founding. The once-simple menu with only a handful of items has now expanded to include combo orders, desserts and sides.

The company itself has grown too. Buckets now has a catering division, led by chief operating officer and executive vice president Bode Aucoin, a UNC junior. With its expansion, Buckets is able to partner with student organizations to donate to charities during benefit nights.

While Buckets’ catering is new, giving back to the community has been central to Buckets’ platform since its opening, Gerstein said.

When it first opened, the restaurant organized a give-back program, where people associated with UNC Athletics partnered with Buckets.

The restaurant has partnered with athletes and coaches at UNC, like men’s basketball coach Hubert Davis, and named different menu items

after them. Buckets then donated a portion of the profits to a charity of the featured person’s choosing.

“It’s really a great way to get out into the community because not everybody’s going out on the weekends,” Aucoin said. “We’re only open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but we want to be able to spread Buckets and provide some delicious food for a diverse variety of students.”

While Gerstein said the restaurant’s work to support the community has been more successful than Buckets itself, the restaurant has been a hit with students as well.

“It’s just a really fun spot, especially when you’re drunk, [to] just laugh, eat chicken and be outside together,” UNC senior Karley McNeill said.

What sets Buckets apart, Gerstein said, is the atmosphere and knowing that the business — from the back end, all the way to the person taking your order — is entirely student-run.

Jack Mullane, a UNC junior and a manager at Buckets, has been working at the restaurant since it opened. He said the work

experience of being promoted to manager and learning leadership skills has been invaluable for helping to build his future.

He said the team and staff at the restaurant are always willing to lend a helping hand when things go wrong.

“If they’re not there that night, then in a heartbeat, they’ll come help us or tell us what we need to do,” he said. “They’ve kind of taught me how to do some of that stuff as well.”

Gerstein said he has a job in private equity lined up after his graduation, and that he and Aucoin plan on spending the next few months preparing the business for success after his departure.

Until then, he said he is looking forward to celebrating everyone who has helped him over the past two years — and the impact Buckets has had in Chapel Hill.

“As much as it’s a celebration of us and Buckets, I think it’s celebrating what the community has built here,” Gerstein said.

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DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Buckets CEO Will Gerstein and COO Bode Aucoin pose in front of their store’s banner at 306 W. Franklin St. on Tuesday.

WORD ON THE STREET

Undergraduates want unity, communication from next SBP

By Cormac Baxter  
Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

*With early voting for the 2024 Student Body Election beginning today, students are getting ready to cast their ballot for the next student body president. From more dining hall space to composting, The Daily Tar Heel’s Cormac Baxter talked to UNC students about what issues they want to see the next SBP address.*

**Sampada Acharya, junior psychology and romance languages double major**

“I’ve been seeing a lot of things lately about increasing accessibility to food and meal swipes specifically because I know a lot of people who live on campus. They can have this problem where they run out of meal swipes, and then there are people who have an excess — there’s this weird imbalance of people who don’t need it versus people who need it. Maybe something like that where people can be ensured access to food, no matter how many meal swipes they have. I think that’d be really cool and [could] improve the physical and mental health of the student body.”

**Aliyah Carrion, junior media and journalism major**

“Currently, I’m actually a part of student government in the environmental affairs branch, and something I would really like to see us move forward with next year with a new student body president would be to redesign the current compost infrastructure on campus. Currently, most of our products are in the bottom of Lenoir and Chase, meantime, a lot of anything you get around campus is compostable materials. But, the only place you can find a compost bin is in the edible campus garden at the bottom of Lenoir — I haven’t been to Chase in a couple years, but I’m pretty sure in the foyer — which to me, makes absolutely

no sense. It also makes more work for the CDS employees who don’t get paid enough to have to compost all our food for us when we could do it ourselves.”

**Fahad Aldulaimi, junior management and society and economics double major**

“I think in a lot of cases after the voting period ends, a lot of the winners don’t end up communicating with students as much after. I think finding a way where we kind of keep them in check. Maybe [they can] communicate what they’ve done or they could update us on social media or in a monthly newsletter or some report — that is important because in that way we get to hold them accountable to what they’ve done.”

**Pascale Paul, junior chemistry and neuroscience double major**

“One thing that I think could be a good idea is, I know a lot of the student body presidents are outlining exactly what they want done. It’s kind of similar to [Aldulaimi’s] answer, but essentially just, over the course of their reign, they can show exactly what they’re making progress on as time goes on, keeping up with the students and showing, ‘This is what I had in my earlier campaign, and this is what I’m working on now’ essentially.”

**Suede Daniel, senior media and journalism major**

“I think that student government should really focus on trying to unify a lot of the student groups because there’s a lot of diverse groups, but everybody kind of stays within their own little bubble. I feel like it would just create a better campus environment if everybody kind of just understood everybody’s point of view.”

X: @cormacbaxter



SCHOOL SPIRIT

# 2024 marks 100 years of Rameses history

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

By Josie Wissel  
Staff Writer  
university@dailytarheel.com

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 name Rameses — its horns painted UNC blue.

The tradition began in 1924 when UNC cheerleader Vic Huggins suggested that the Tar Heels needed a live mascot to compete with other schools, like the University of Georgia's bulldog or University of Texas at Austin's longhorn, UNC archivist Nicholas Graham said.

The Tar Heels' nickname made it difficult to find an animal to represent the school, Graham said. However, Huggins was inspired by a fullback on the football team, Jack Merritt, who was nicknamed "the battering ram" by fellow students.

After borrowing \$25 from Charles T. Woollen, the University's business manager at the time, Huggins bought and shipped a ram in from Texas.

"It's a wild history," Graham said.

The first Dorset Horn Sheep to serve as Rameses — Rameses I — made his first appearance at a pep rally before a home game against the Virginia Military Institute



DTH/KENNEDY COX

UNC mascot Rameses XXII poses for a portrait during the football game against UVA in Kenan Stadium on Oct. 21.

in November 1924. Since then, Rameses has represented the University as its official mascot.

Graham said Rameses I only lived for one year after his first appearance, and Rameses II also died after a year.

The first two rams are rumored to have lived on campus under the supervision of students in Caldwell Hall, he said.

In 1936, the caretaking of Rameses was delegated off-campus to a local farm owned by the Hogan family, now called Hogan's Magnolia View Farm. Henry Hogan, a former football player at UNC, offered to keep the ram at his family's farm.

Don Basnight, the grandson of Henry Hogan, is the third generation of Hogans to hold the

role of Rameses' caretaker and grew up taking care of the rams.

"We've got something that's pretty rare," 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 — began representing the University in 2020.

"It never ceases to amaze me how people, or Tar Heel fans, just love him to death," Basnight said.

Basnight said there have not been any rams that he did not like, though he remembers one specific ram he had as a child named Bam Bam who was so uncooperative, "that he never made it to mascot status."

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

He said the Hogan family will celebrate 100 years of the live Rameses with an event in the Pit on Feb. 19 that will include athletic coaches, faculty, the Hogan family and Rameses XXII himself.

Olivia Biddix, a sophomore biology major, has been Rameses XXII's student handler during game days since her first semester at the University. Biddix said that Rameses XXII is a sweetheart, and that his favorite thing is to get kisses on his nose.

They said being with Rameses on campus has provided a connection between students who adore both the animal and the school spirit he embodies.

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

X: @dailytarheel

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

Continued from Page 1

not to go, and that was David," Burton said. "He was the mentor, and he was a trailblazer — he had already done it."

Dansby's perseverance, guidance and support served as an inspiration for Otto White Jr., a graduate from the class of 1965.

White, Dansby and other Black classmates spent most of their time in barber shops and churches and attended social activities near where the community-based nonprofit organization Inter-Faith Council for Social Service opened in Carrboro in 1963, White said.

There were no Black instructors, counselors or mentors at UNC for the pioneering students to look up to and no Black athletes to cheer on, White said. He said he and Dansby often traveled to historically Black universities such as N.C. Central University and N.C. A&T for sporting events. "Our hats are always off to him for being the lone pioneer," White said.

In 2014, Dansby received an Unsung Hero Award from the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. This award seeks to recognize activists who are educated about civil rights history and support and advise fellow advocates, class of 1967 graduate and former Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency Melvin Watt said.

"He wasn't ever looking for the limelight," Watt said. "He was there always as an advisor, as a supporter, as a cheerleader, as a friend and that's the way I would characterize him."

After graduating from law school, Dansby moved back to

his home city of Greensboro to practice law. Watt said he came to know Dansby in 1971 after moving to Charlotte to work alongside civil rights lawyer Julius Chambers.

Dansby had a network of friends inside and outside of the state, worked with civil rights attorneys to strategize, participated in activist meetings, offered advice and ideas and conducted research, Hubbard said.

Former chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz recognized Dansby in 2021 for his dedication and courage as a University pioneer. Interim Chancellor Lee Roberts said in an email statement that Dansby was a role model for many on campus and that the University and the state of North Carolina are better for his contributions and service.

"UNC-Chapel Hill would not be the school it is today without David Dansby, Jr.," he said.

William Wicker, a 1972 graduate of the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, said Dansby advised students after on which courses to enroll in, the best professors to have and which clubs were safe for Black students to join.

Wicker also said Dansby dedicated his career to serving and educating himself on global affairs impacting the Black community.

"I never heard him say anything negative about anybody — always positive, always a smile, always trying to help," Wicker said. "That's the kind of person he was."

X: @lena-miano

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## 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  
university@dailytarheel.com

With UNC's spring elections rapidly approaching, senior Tj Edwards is awaiting the decision of their lawsuit against the UNC Board of Elections. The UNC Student Supreme Court's decision could determine whether Edwards can appear on the 2024 graduate and professional student body president ballot.

Edwards, chair of the Carolina Union Board of Directors, filed a complaint against the UNC BOE on Jan. 20 after Sophie van Duin, the board's acting chair, informed Edwards on Jan. 18 that he would not be able to run for the position of graduate and professional student body president.

Edwards is currently enrolled in UNC's dual-degree accelerated Master of Public Policy program. Because they are not paying graduate student fees, Edwards is not eligible to run for the GPSG presidency, according to Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 1.2 of the Student Constitution. The GPSG president must be enrolled as a fee-paying graduate or professional student as of their inauguration on the first Tuesday of April, the policy states.

"They want to run for graduate student body president in this coming election. We do not believe that they have standing to do so, as they are currently an undergraduate student," van Duin said.

Although they will not pay graduate fees until the fall, Edwards said they believe they



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

UNC senior Tj Edwards poses for a portrait on Polk Place on Feb. 14, 2023.

should be able to run for GPSG president on Feb. 20 for the 2024-25 academic year because they are already getting the graduate experience at the University.

Edwards said the language of Section 1.2, which also states the fee-paying graduate or professional student will serve a one-year term beginning with an inauguration in April, is unclear. After filing the lawsuit, they began collecting the required signatures — equal to 10 percent of the graduate student body — for an initiative petition to submit a referendum that would change the language to specify a student's constituency on the first day of the fall semester following the spring election.

However, Edwards did not collect enough signatures in time for their referendum to appear on the undergraduate student body president ballot.

Andrew Gary, speaker of the undergraduate senate and general counsel to the UNC BOE, said election regulations also stipulates that student body president candidates may not file for graduation. Edwards has, which

means they cannot be a candidate for the undergraduate student body presidency either.

Edwards filed a motion for a temporary restraining order on Jan. 21, attempting to delay the spring elections until the court made a decision.

Gary filed a response to the TRO on Jan. 26 which referred to Edwards' complaint as overly broad and legally baseless. The court denied the TRO on Feb. 1, asserting that delaying the elections would be substantially disruptive to little end.

The court said that it is working as quickly as possible to come to a decision. Edwards said they must win this case against the BOE to appear as an official candidate on the ballot.

"I've kept going because this is not really about me, it's about the fact that the student government has the power to fix oversights that we see in the same way that the actual government does," Edwards said.

X: @nataliemcc212  
@aidan\_\_lockhart



EDUCATION

N.C. high schools see decrease in dropouts

Incidents involving controlled substances increased last year

By Grace Whittemore  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

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.

Gov. 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 in K-12 schools. Karen Fairley, the executive director of CFSS, said she attributes the state's success in this category to policies put in place by N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt and her leadership team.

Shaneeka Moore-Lawrence, the president of the N.C. Parent Teacher Association, said she believes the decrease in dropouts



Students walk out of East Chapel Hill High School after classes were dismissed on Sept. 12, 2022.

DTH FILE/IRA WILDER

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 3.7 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 35.7 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.

"It can be intimidating, but I think it's [important to remember] that these students are people," she said. "They're humans that are developing and they have their own identities. And I just really want to pour into them and be a positive influence that can honestly help curb the negative statistics."

X: @dthcitystate

Carrboro remembers 18-year-old lynching victim

Continued from Page 1

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

McCauley was the first lynching victim that EJI identified in Orange County, Robertson said. She said the front of the marker will be dedicated to McCauley while the back will honor other victims of

lynching in Orange County.

Another component of McCauley'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

lynchings, which are displayed at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Ala.

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

Robertson, 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 an opportunity to tell 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 the atrocities that happened to us," Price said. "We know they happened. We still feel the pain, even generations later."

X: @ssmiley2027

State carbon emissions down, but not on track to meet goals

Continued from Page 1

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

"It doesn't mean that 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 in October 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, Kittner 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, Kittner said.

"We're continuing to put a lot of focus on what we can do 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 diseases.

Ricardo Crespo-Regalado, a leader in UNC'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 become more environmentally conscious to promote environmental advocacy, is just become more educated on these kinds of things," Crespo-Regalado said. "Try to increase awareness, and that in itself does so much."



DTH/SOPHIA GRAY

X: @dthcitystate

McCorkle Place is pictured on Feb. 7.



ATHLETICS

# Ryan Horton named CHHS football head coach

The former offensive coordinator values team relationships

By Makenzie Mills  
Staff Writer  
city@dailytarheel.com

and Shannen Horan  
Staff Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

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 alum 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



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Ryan Horton is the new head coach of the Chapel Hill High School football team. In high school, Horton played as a quarterback for the Tigers.



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Ryan Horton sits in his office, located in the gym at CHHS, on Tuesday.

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  
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GREEK LIFE

Divine Nine organizations provide lifelong community for Black students

Fraternities and sororities help members socially, professionally

By Madison Gagnon  
Senior Writer  
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

When UNC senior Hala Ballard joined her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she said she made a lifetime commitment.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is one of the ‘Divine Nine’ sororities and fraternities — historically Black Greek life organizations in the National Pan-Hellenic Council. There are seven chapters represented on UNC’s campus, with six of them currently active.

Ballard, the treasurer of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Theta Pi chapter at UNC, said she was inspired to join in spring 2022 by her aunts who were active in their sorority community — even after graduating.

“I realized that we had a chapter on campus, so I thought it’d be the perfect opportunity to create my own legacy and also follow in the footsteps of some of my aunts as well,” Ballard said.

Each organization on campus has their own initiatives, but they come



DTH/KENNEDY COX

Zack Hawkins, the director of development for UNC Student Affairs, speaks at the NPHC Legacy Plaza’s opening on Nov. 4, 2022.

together to work collectively toward common goals, such as a recent voter registration drive, Evan Andrews, the vice president of UNC NPHC, said.

“As long as UNC has had a relatively stable Black population, we’ve had these organizations,” Andrews said. “They served a critical role in our communities, of being heralds and stewards of

how we conduct business and how we operate. Historically, that’s been our value.”

Andrews is currently the liaison for a film project by N.C. Central University student Cameron Elyse that will highlight the importance of the Divine Nine in North Carolina to the collegiate and professional community, he said over text.

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

UNC’s equivalent is the Legacy Plaza, located in the Student and Academic Services Building courtyard on south campus. Ballard said the plaza is an amazing and unexpected sight at a predominantly white institution.

“It really is just space 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 play a critical role in how the organizations operate by providing networking opportunities, guidance and advice.

As an alumni of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bernard Bell, the executive director of UNC’s Shuford Program in Entrepreneurship, said he always tries to provide job opportunities for Divine Nine students.

When he graduated from college, Bell said that he got his first job at

IBM because one of the employees was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. He said he gained many opportunities throughout his life by meeting other Divine Nine members.

“You never know how much impact one person can have,” Bernard said. “If one person can impact 10 other young brothers coming behind them, and each one of them impacts 10 and so forth and so on, I think that’s how change occurs. And it’s something I take very, very seriously.”

Bell said that when he attended UNC in the ‘80s, Black fraternity and sorority life was the glue that kept Black students together.

“It was the civic piece, it was the social piece, it was the area where we could come together and feel like we had an oasis within this predominantly white institution,” he said.

Ballard said being a part of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority allowed her to build a community of other Black women with similar cultural backgrounds. She said it has been difficult to pursue leadership positions at a predominantly white institution, but Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority gave her the confidence and opportunity to do so.

X: @madisongagnon9

CULTURE

‘The full spectrum of Indigenous arts’



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

The Ackland Art Museum is pictured on Nov. 13.

Upcoming Ackland exhibit to display Native works

By Laney Currin  
Staff Writer  
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

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 are 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,” he said.

The exhibition consists of four sections with trans-historical themes of ceremony, sovereignty, visual abstraction and identity.

Katharine Wright, a curator with the AFA, said that the exhibit 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 art on American art as a whole. Then, the exhibit transitions to ceremony, where the works portray Native American ceremony rituals.

“Then 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.A.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 break preconceived ideas about what Indigenous 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 on both 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 Lathrop, 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 Lathrop 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.

X: @dthlifestyle



DTH DESIGN/OLIVIA GOODSON

Concert series explores art with local Black musicians

Continued from Page 1

Collective Groove Band, a Durham-based group, is next to perform at the center with a show on Feb. 18. The band started in 2011 and specializes in R&B, jazz, pop and gospel.

Band leader and drummer Kensby Blount said the band’s experience with different genres and work in theater makes them stand out.

“Sometimes you can hit the stage and just feel it and just improv and have a good time,” he said. “But theater is one genre in which you cannot do that — you’d have to know exactly where to go, and you have to be super disciplined and in tune, and having that background has helped us.”

Over the years, the band has had members of varying ages, which has influenced their sound. The name Collective Groove is derived from the experiences that come with age, making the group a collective effort.

The Triangle’s ever-evolving music scene inspires the band, Blount said.

“That is inspirational, to see so many talented musicians work from ground level to achieve their goals,” he said.

The band has two singles, “Definition of Funk” (2021) and “Can’t Live Without” (2022) and plans to release another this year.

At her performance last Sunday, Greensboro-based soul artist Erin Blue mixed some of her original singles — “Ring” and “Happy Thoughts” — with covers of songs like “Killing Me Softly with His Song” by Roberta Flack.

Blue’s singing career began in

the church choir.

“I feel like music pretty much saved my life,” she said.

She intentionally includes imperfections, like a mumble in the background or an incorrect word, to reflect human flaws, she said.

In 2016 her first single, “Navigation,” was released, and several followed before her first album, “Out of Stock,” in 2022. The title references Blue’s individuality, which she compares to a cloth no longer in stock.

Her new project, “84,” named after the address of the house she grew up in, is expected to be released in May. It will have an indie and neo-soul vibe.

Raleigh-based gospel singer Mary D. Williams will wrap up the concert series with her performance on Feb. 25.

Williams has performed across the country and world — including for the U.S. Congress, in the N.C. Capitol and for incarcerated men and women in state and county penitentiaries.

She said she feels connected to gospel music and spirituals because of her African American heritage. Her voice was featured in the soundtrack for the 2010 film “Blood Done Sign My Name,” which is set in North Carolina during the 1970s.

Williams said she believes the heritage and influence of Black musicians should be honored every month.

“I’m so fortunate that I sing somewhere all year long, doing this work, sharing this history,” she said.

X: @milaaamascenik



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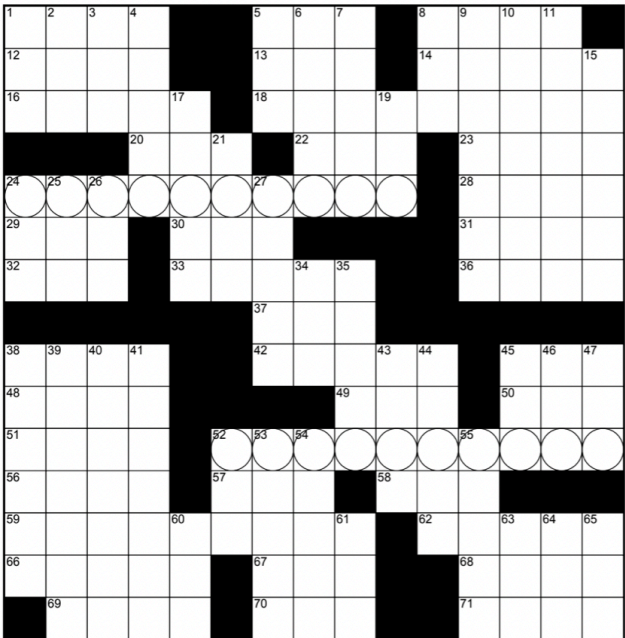




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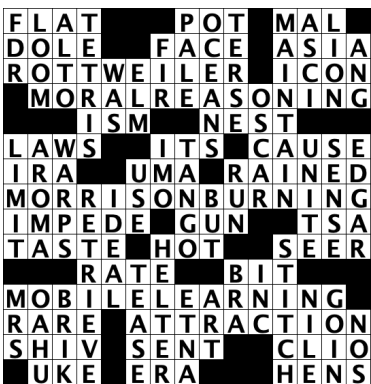
This week's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC junior majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

Title: "Jeremiah Farrell at the Super Bowl"

Across

- 1. Soonest ETA
- 5 Chats via AOL
- 8 Ancient Syrian city
- 12 "To Sir, with Love" singer
- 13 "I'm good, thanks"
- 14 Fragrance
- 16 Allegiant Stadium, for one
- 18 Sublime, Madness, and The Specials
- 20 "This American Life" host Glass
- 22 Phase of Taylor Swift's career
- 23 Former Navajo foes
- 24 Super Bowl Sunday's outcome(!), with 52-across
- 28 Place in Caracas I telephoned?
- 29 Roman three
- 30 "The Hobbit" actor McKellen
- 31 Proctologist's subject
- 32 Map-making language, abbr.
- 33 One-point Scrabble draw
- 36 Sale price, compared to full value
- 37 Grp. that extends from Canada to Chile
- 38 Laundry quantity
- 42 Southern African antelope
- 45 Washington Commanders quarterback Howell
- 48 The Hundred \_\_\_\_ Wood
- 49 '\_, ' \_\_\_\_ in kangaroo
- 50 In favor of
- 51 They're part of "Jailhouse Rock?"
- 52 24-across, like each one of his teammates
- 56 Greek goddess of love? No? O, of strife...
- 57 Character's development
- 58 Fish spawn
- 59 Penny Lane locale
- 62 Test type to take with your buds?
- 66 It's a trap!

Last week's solution



- 67 Fibonacci Sequence's only repeating digit
- 68 Counting Crows hit " \_\_\_\_ King"
- 69 Cher or Sade, vocally
- 70 CO time zone
- 71 Like violet hair

Down

- 1 Apple pie \_\_\_\_ mode
- 2 California's Big \_\_\_\_
- 3 Angry Orchard brew
- 4 A face in the crowd
- 5 \_\_\_\_ and outs
- 6 Creator, perhaps of Irish folk music
- 7 Bit of the whole pot
- 8 Blemish
- 9 Sexual excitement
- 10 Comic's set was the same old thing?
- 11 Motivation
- 15 Evaluate
- 17 A Punjabi agricultural community
- 19 Two Hes bonded
- 21 \_ \_\_\_\_ on the head
- 24 Insult for over-eaters
- 25 Target, for basketball players
- 26 Middle English food word
- 27 With 'The,' online American newspaper
- 34 Do brickwork
- 35 Diode-inventing Japanese Nobelist
- 38 Adhesive tags
- 39 "The Legend of Zelda: \_\_\_\_\_ of Time"
- 40 Incoming train or plane
- 41 Oft a meal's final course
- 43 Villain's hideout
- 44 Old-timey neck wear
- 45 Relaxation station
- 46 Vaccine spot, often
- 47 Custodian's tool
- 52 Word before 'dog' and 'dance'
- 53 Engine's sound
- 54 Computer graphics
- 55 Listened to the cattle calling?
- 60 Speedwagon letters
- 61 Allow
- 63 Word before 'the magic word'
- 64 44-down, for one
- 65 The final clue of a crossword puzzle



Deadlines

**Line Ads:** 11a.m., the day prior to publication  
**Display Classified Ads:** 3p.m., two days prior to publication

To place a Line Classified Ad, go to [www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds](http://www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds) or call 919-962-1163

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HOROSCOPES



**Today's Birthday (02/14/24):** This year encourages and benefits family harmony. Persistence and determination win lucrative rewards. Making domestic repairs this winter prepares you for exciting springtime creative triumphs. Summer career twists reorient you toward fascinating educational adventures next autumn. Fun with family centers you to grow.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Today is a 9 — Grab a lucrative opportunity and run with it. Patiently sidestep roadblocks. Develop the foundational structures for growing profits. You can get what you need.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

Today is a 9 — Advance a personal passion project for lasting benefits. Dream up a perfect scenario and set pieces in place. Don't push closed doors. Find alternatives.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Today is a 7 — Relax in your sanctuary. Recharge with beauty, nature, exercise and rest. Consider the big picture. Brilliant ideas spark in mundane moments. Contemplate possibilities.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Today is an 8 — Have fun with friends. Share crazy dreams and wild ideas. Reinforce bonds grown over time. Social connection strengthens communities for resilience through shared support.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Today is an 8 — Develop professional possibilities. Consider how best to adapt around recent changes. Put your heart into your work and it shows. It's your gift.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Today is an 8 — Research subjects of passion and dreamy possibilities. Study barriers and obstacles to discover solutions. Put your heart into your work. Explore the potential.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Today is a 7 — Share financial support with your partner. Patience is golden. Don't get pushy. Simplify objectives. Reduce waste or overconsumption. Compassion and love can open doors.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

Today is a 7 — Slow the tempo. Take a spontaneous moment with your partner. Adapt around unexpected roadblocks to discover hidden possibilities together. Patience and humor pay well.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Today is an 8 — Monitor conditions carefully. Changes could deviate your plans. Prioritize your health and work. Can you attend virtually? Expect traffic. Slow for tricky sections.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Today is an 8 — Abandon romantic agendas or preconceptions. Have fun with your family. You get more with honey than with vinegar. Keep an open mind and heart.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Today is a 7 — Wait to see what develops with a domestic situation. Don't forget to do an important job. Make a decision you can live with.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

Today is an 8 — Monitor the news for changes. Keep confidences and secrets. Avoid oversharing. Take notes for later. Misunderstandings can spark easily. Practice diplomacy and tact.

SUDOKU

Last week's solution

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

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



COLUMN

Black artists’ struggle for award recognition continues

By Malea Mull  
Columnist  
opinion@dailytarheel.com

For as long as I can remember, I have sat in front of the TV to see if my favorite artists would win in their categories during awards season. While some artists rightfully get their flowers each year, it seems like Black and other minority artists are constantly snubbed of these coveted awards.

At this year’s 66th annual Grammy Awards, rapper Jay-Z accepted his Dr. Dre Global Impact Award and had a lot to say about his feelings toward the award show. “I don’t want to embarrass this young lady, but she has more Grammys than everyone and has never won Album of the Year,” said Jay-Z when talking about his superstar wife, Beyoncé.

While this comment shocked a lot of people, it was eye-opening. Beyoncé — who is by far the most decorated artist of our generation with 32 Grammy awards — never has received the Recording Academy’s most prestigious award.

In 2023, Beyonce was nominated for nine awards, including AOTY,

Song of the Year and Record of the Year. She went 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 AOTY for this prized 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 empowering, and you make them stand up for themselves, and I love you.”

Adele’s decision to stand up for Beyoncé and Black artists while accepting her major award took a lot of courage and received applause from many. But nothing changed since.

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.



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COLUMN

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

By Jordyn Balam  
Columnist  
opinion@dailytarheel.com

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 complement to Valentine’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 swapping notes and candies 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 posit the holidays as opponents when that shouldn’t be the case.

If we associate Galentine’s Day with the idea that an individual

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.





FOOTBALL | TRANSFERS

Max Johnson looking forward to camaraderie



DTH/JAY'LA EVANS

UNC quarterback Max Johnson answers questions during Wednesday's press conference at the Kenan Football Center.

By Emma Moon  
Senior Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

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 from coaches and was particularly impressed by Mack Brown's backing of sophomore quarterback Drake Maye. "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 with his pro-style play and understanding of defenses. He is looking forward to enjoying his time at UNC and building relationships with teammates and coaches, focusing more on camaraderie than quarterback competition.

X: @\_emmahmoon

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 are graduate offensive lineman Austin Blaske, a versatile player with leadership qualities akin to former Tar Heel center Corey Gaynor. UNC general manager Patrick Suddes 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. Darwin Barlow, a veteran running back from USC and TCU, will likely support Omarion Hampton with his speed and versatility.

Lastly, Jake Johnson, Max Johnson's younger brother, adds talent to the tight end position, bringing SEC experience and athleticism to the team. The Johnson-to-Johnson connection promises to be an exciting addition to the Tar Heel offense as Jake looks to contribute as a downfield option.

X: @gracegnugent



DTH/JAY'LA EVANS

UNC offensive lineman Austin Blaske answers questions during a press conference on Wednesday at the Kenan Football Center.

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



DTH/JAY'LA EVANS

UNC safety Jakeen Harris answers questions during a press conference on Wednesday at the Kenan Football Center.

By Harry Crowther  
Senior Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

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 Suddes 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 Alijah Huzzie and Antavious "Stick" Lane.

Known for his tackling ability and instinctive play — which he said he learned by competing in the Oklahoma drill when he was little — Harris aims to finish his college career strong after overcoming injuries and setbacks.

"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."

X: @dthsports

FOUR-GAME SKID

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

Offensive troubles hindered the Tar Heels at the game's end

By Caroline Wills  
Senior Writer  
sports@dailytarheel.com

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



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Senior guard Deja Kelly (25) looks to pass the ball during the women's basketball game against Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

While head coach Courtney Banghart fielded questions during the post-game press conference, the senior guard and team captain kept her eyes fixed on the back wall, while first-year guard Reniya Kelly stared blankly at her hands in her lap. There was no hiding the palpable disappointment and frustration among North Carolina's leading scorers.

"The mentality has to be you're pissed off," Deja Kelly said. "We're not good right now. We can be, but we're not right now."

UNC's loss at Cameron Indoor Stadium marks the fourth straight loss for the Tar Heels. Offensive inconsistencies and foul trouble for key players took North Carolina out 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. Next, 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 now? Another overtime loss to deepen the team's losing skid.

Close, but again, not good enough. "We got to get better late," Banghart said. "Or else this is a feeling we'll continue to feel."

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.

"We're taking too many contested shots late in the game," Banghart said. "[We don't really 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 out 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



DTH/LARA CROCHIK

UNC women's basketball head coach Courtney Banghart talks to her team during a timeout at the game against Duke on Sunday at Cameron Indoor Stadium. UNC fell to Duke, 68-60, in overtime.

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."

X: @carolinewills03



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