DeVos seeks to rescind Obama-era policies on sexual misconduct

The new policies will change how universities handle sexual misconduct cases

By Callyn Derickson

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos is proposing new policies that will change how universities handle sexual misconduct cases. The New York Times reported on Wednesday that the news left students, activists and university administrators unsure of the future of Title IX.

According to the Times, DeVos' proposed rules would tighten the definition of sexual harassment, making it more likely to represent broader communities of people and social movements, rather than specific figures.

"I think we have been thinking about, as a culture, the idea that a memorial often is something that is one perspective on history," Levine said. "And this is something that artists who are producing memorials today have grappled with — how do you memorialize something that happened in history when history is a complex thing and might mean different things to different people?"

Daniel Sherman, a professor of art history, said a major turning point in commemorating art occurred with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. When it was dedicated in 1982, Sherman said the memorial was "deliberately non-representational" and influenced later public art, including the Alumni Memorial in Memory of Those Lost in Military Service located on UNC.

"You’re less likely to see individuals and allegorical symbols, and more likely to see more abstract work or work that represents people but not specific," Sherman said. Timothy Marr, a professor of American studies, said the dedication of monuments and works of art, even ones that represent specific figures, has broadened over time to commemorate a wider scope of people. He said the Eve Carson Memorial Garden, dedicated in 2010 after her murder, is an example of this broader trend.

"The Eve Carson monument I think is interesting because yes, that monument is dedicated to her memory, but it also is universalized to include all students who have died while they were here," Marr said. "And I think that’s a trend in commemoration."

Marr said additional examples of universalized commemoration include the museum in Andersonville, Ga., which is now dedicated to all prisoners of war throughout American history, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, which is dedicated to the global cause of "unfreedom" and connects history to current enslavement issues.

Unlike Obama’s guidance, the Trump administration’s new rules can go into law without an act of Congress after a public comment period.

"This is all premature," Clark said. "We can speculate, but the concrete thing we do know is that there is something in the pipeline, and students will have an opportunity to comment and they should raise their voices when there is that opportunity."

Boyle said once the advised regulations are made public, there will be a time frame of 60 to 90 days to submit official comments to the DOE. KYIX has a guide on its website on how to write and submit comments.

"We’re dealing possibly with the revocation of our rights," she said. "We have to give up that right under students and tell them this is their moment to have their voices heard and make sure for them and students to come, school will be a safer place."

The Obama-era guidelines demanded colleges use the lowest standard of proof, “preponderance of the evidence,” when determining if a student is responsible for sexual assault. A preponderance of the evidence requires more than 50 percent of the evidence point to the accused’s alleged actions.

DeVos’ interim guidance allowed universities to abandon the standard and adopt the higher standard known as “clear and convincing evidence.” The new regulations would continue to allow schools to choose the evidentiary standard, according to the Times.

"The nature of sexual assault, I get it," Hadley Heath-Manning, director of policy for the Independent Women’s Forum and UNC grad, said. "It’s hard to prove what happened behind closed doors. It’s often the case that two parties involved in an encounter have two stories about what happened, and...

SEE PUBLIC ART, PAGE 7
Q&A with Carolina Performing Arts’ Amanda Graham

What does it mean to be a citizen?

Amanda Graham: I am the associate director of engagement at Carolina Performing Arts, which means that I am the person that sets up all of the events that are related to the Carolina Performing Arts season. The audience helps to create and is central to the performance. This whole idea of “You Are Everything” is related to co-creation, community and citizenship because in all of those things, there is an element of making choices and having agency so that you are choosing, as a citizen, how to invest in your community. You are choosing as a community member the type of net-work that you are involved with, and you are choosing as a creator how and when you want to create.

We were interested in working with community groups that really make up the fabric of what Chapel Hill is, to co-create with them so that they can express what citizenship means to them in terms of their mission, and then have them come together to do short performances that speak to the season’s themes but also express what community, citizenship, and co-create in their groups, respectively.

What types of stories will the event consist of?

Amanda Graham: The event will consist of short performances by five community groups, and the performances will be facilitated by four emcees that are UNC undergraduates, all of whom have a relationship with the Campus Y in some way. The Campus Y has been central to the creation of Stories on Citizenship and has informed it direction. These four students have long been invested in the Chapel Hill community. They see Chapel Hill without a separation between the campus and the community outside of campus. Rather, they see themselves as citizens of both UNC and Chapel Hill. Jointly, the community justice work that they have done with a variety of organizations is what they are going to be anecdotally speaking about while emceeing the event.

What is the relevance of these conversations at this point in history?

Amanda Graham: I’d like to think of this event as one that is created by community groups, and a lot of students have influenced its direction as well. This season at Carolina Performing Arts is called “You Are Everything.” Co-creation is a big part of the Carolina Performing Arts season. The audience helps to create and is central to the performance. This whole idea of “You Are Everything” is related to co-creation, community and citizenship because in all of those things, there is an element of making choices and having agency so that you are choosing, as a citizen, how to invest in your community. You are choosing as a community member the type of net-work that you are involved with, and you are choosing as a creator how and when you want to create.

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How is the work you do related to the Stories on Citizenship event?

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Ask questions of authority

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By Beth Hatcher
Staff Writer
September 1998

Some UNC fraternity members will soon be trading in Miller Lite for Miller Lite with alcohol.

By the year 2000, five IFC fraternities will be alcohol-free: Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Nu and Phi Kappa Sigma, said Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder.

These fraternities are following the lead of Sigma Alpha Epsilon frater-
niety, which became alcohol-free this year.

“We need to get back to our roots of integrity and scholarship,” Binder said.

“Alcohol plays too large a part in a fraternity’s activities,” he said.

Binder said the alcohol-free policy was not a new idea. All USC secu-
sities and National Pan-Hellenic orga-
nizations are currently alcohol-free, he said.

The five IFC fraternities’ national organizations issued the alcohol-free policies.

Binder said he predicted that about half of UNC’s fraternities would eventually become alco-
hol-free.

Said Judge John Branch said there was much more to being in a fraternity than drinking.

“The importance of brotherhood is lost in the stereotypes,” he said.

He said there was nothing but benefits from the alcohol-free policy.

He said fraternities across the nation that had adopted alcohol-free policies were rising in GSA and a decrease of alco-
hol.

“Alcohol-free housing sends a clear message to who we want to join the fraternities,” Binder said.

He added that students often misinterpreted the alcohol-free policy.

“It does not mean an alcohol-free experience, just an alcohol-free house,” he said.

He said fraternity members that were of legal age could drink, just not at the house.

Binder was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity as an undergradu-
ate in the early 80s at the University of Toledo.

He said drinking was not a major problem at his fraternity until his junior year.

“I missed it when I first stopped drinking it peaked in the eighties,” he said.

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Cat Tales Cat Cafe set to open on Franklin Street this fall

The Daily Tar Heel

By David Saff
Assistant City, State & National Editor

The Triangle’s first cat coffee shop is coming to Chapel Hill.

Cat Tales Cat Cafe, coming to Franklin Street this fall, aims to make the adoption process easier and more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Kyla Speizer, daughter of one of the co-owners and a senior at East Chapel Hill High School, said the idea came to her mother seemingly out of the blue.

“My mom went for a walk with our dog one day and came home saying that she thought Chapel Hill needed a cat cafe and that she would love to be the one to do it,” Speizer said. “I wholeheartedly supported the idea, of course.”

The mother and daughter pair spent years volunteering for their local animal shelter before deciding to take their next steps in helping the local animal population.

“We’ve been volunteering at Orange County Animal Services for four years now,” she said. “We visited the Crooked Tail Cat Cafe a while back, and we realized that we could help the animals in a way that went beyond just volunteering at the shelter.”

Co-owner and manager Katy Poitras said she was excited about taking initiatives to help cats find a healthy, stable home.

“I have been following the progress of Pounce Cat Cafe, which opened a couple years ago,” Poitras said. “They have just been doing unbelievably amazing work adopting out cats, and so I just sat back and watched it happen.”

She said she always thought Chapel Hill would be a really good fit for the model.

Cat cafes tend to do well in university communities, she said. She also sees a lot of potential to work with the University’s hospital systems.

“It’s this area that seems to be full of animal lovers, and there’s always cats in need,” she said. Poitras spoke about the many emotional benefits for both humans and animals, of adopting from a cat cafe as opposed to a traditional adoption center.

“It takes the emotional part out of going to adopt a cat out of a shelter,” she said. “It’s a lot easier to get to know the cats’ true personalities when you’re not having to go pull them out of a cage and pick which one you want.”

She said the cafe makes it easier.

“The cats are roaming around, they’re relaxed, they’re happy, they’re used to the environment,” Poitras said. “You have a better chance of getting a good long-term match if you get to know the cats that way.”

By working with Goathouse Refuge, a nonprofit no-kill animal sanctuary based out of Pittsboro, Cat Tales will have many cats for clients to interact with and hopefully adopt.

“They choose the original cats that they think will do really well based on their personalities, and then they bring them in, and we give them time to settle in,” Poitras said. “As these cats are getting adopted, they are bringing us more cats, so we always have fresh cats.”

Poitras said she hopes to open the cafe in October.

On Wednesday, Sept. 5, Carolina Asia Center, the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities, the Phillips Ambassadors and Carolina Public Humanities are hosting a screening and post-film panel discussion of the movie “Crazy Rich Asians” at Silvertop Cinema.

Jennifer Ho, the associate director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities and a professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, said she organized this event in an effort to discuss the experience of Asian Americans both on UNC’s campus and in North Carolina because there are so few opportunities to do so.

“This is a much larger issue than just having a conversation on campus. We see it as an opportunity for outreach with both the UNC community and local community,” Ho said.

Max Owre, the executive director of Carolina Public Humanities, said he believes the same thing.

“These topics of challenges of multiculturalism and identity in a multiculturalist society and topics of racism are challenging, but need to be discussed,” Owre said.

The groups involved with the screening and panel discussion all share a similar mission: they care about the humanities, and they care about having these discussions. Ho said that because there are so few opportunities to discuss the Asian American experience, the post-film panel discussion has additional importance.

“There have been so many expectations placed on this film,” Ho said.

By Betsy Scarisbrick
Staff Writer

UNC groups host ‘Crazy Rich Asians’ screening

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY POITRAS

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Solar energy in Environment North Carolina report

By Michael Meeks
Senior Writer

Solar energy production growth in North Carolina is among the fastest in the country, according to an Environment North Carolina report, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

The report ranked North Carolina as third in the nation for new solar electric production growth between 2008 and 2017, behind Arizona and California. In 2008, North Carolina’s solar electricity production was 7 GW, or 5,700 MW. By 2017, the state produced 16.2 GW, or 9,950 MW. Although once a small market in the state, countless solar energy companies have come in and made North Carolina one of the biggest solar energy leaders in nation.

The report found a combination of the expansion of companies like Triangle-based Solar, a variety of government factors and mandates, let all these sources help spur solar energy growth in North Carolina. Mitch Kokai, senior political analyst at the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, said the source of solar energy’s rise can be traced back to the market forces that led to a state-wide explosion of solar production.

“The worst part is that my staff doesn’t get tips, that they don’t get the money that they need to sustain themselves when those things happen,” Carni said. “The parking situation becomes much worse. The people can’t get to the doors to walk in. And then there are just a few people who are willing to support the tour because many people wish to avoid the situation entirely.”

Elena O’Hara, interim executive director for Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, said the business community should be cognizant of the potential safety consequences should the statue be replaced. Landiss said it was also important to note the impact these demonstrations had on our local downtown businesses.

Franklin Street shops lose business during Silent Sam protests

By Michael Taffe
Staff Writer

Linda’s Bar and Grill is a well-known staple of Franklin Street. It is a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Courthouse, Morehead Plaisantry and, of course, the Silent Sam statue.

But all of the activity happening across the street has detracted from an otherwise popular and lively town bar.

“Last night we had 12 percent less business,” said Chris Carni, the owner of Linda’s Bar and Grill. “On the previous demonstration, the 23rd, compared to the 18th (of August), we had 26 percent less. Just to give you an idea of how terrible it is.”

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Franklin Street businesses have lost an estimated $189,000 in total sales and $10,000 in wages for each Silent Sam demonstration. Kate Lovis, vice president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said the business community should have a role in the conversation about Silent Sam.

The Chamber and the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership represent an important perspective that should be considered in Chancellor Gillillan’s plan, and we thank her for her consideration,” Lovis said.

Get 50 words to 75 words: Volunteering

Profit through connection and expression this year.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Don’t sit back this summer, grab something from outside your comfort zone. Live life to the fullest.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Share delicious treats with family.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

Love. Flirt and banter with someone attractive.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Enjoy yourself more this summer.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Enjoy life to the fullest. 

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Pisces (Mar. 21-April 19)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Enjoy life to the fullest.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

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Education report classifies North Carolina’s math standards as weak

The state received an overall rating of “good” in English and language arts.

The report stated North Carolina’s standards were overall focused and coherent, but there were problems with rigor, including limitations on arithmetic and reviewing fourth-grade math courses in Math I through III. The report also recommends that the state clarify the explanation of standards for teachers and administrators.

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Volleyball splits Saturday twin bill in Carolina Classic

Volleyball

MICHIGAN STATE  3
NORTH CAROLINA  1

By Torre Netkovic

The North Carolina volleyball team notched its first win of the season against Maryland Eastern Shore on Friday, sweeping the first and final match of the North Carolina Classic inside Carmichael Arena.

"I think we can learn from this game and have a chance to work on them throughout the season," said coach Joe Sagula. "Last week we won most of those, but they improve. And that's just really important to us and what we do."

The Tar Heels outscored the Golden Bears 17-2 in the second half and showed plenty of fight after coming out flat to start the game. But UNC will need to play much better in the opening half moving forward to give itself a chance to win games.

Staff Writer

The North Carolina volleyball team notched its first win of the season against Maryland Eastern Shore on Friday, sweeping the first and final match of the North Carolina Classic inside Carmichael Arena.

"I'd rather find our weaknesses now and have a chance to work on them throughout the season. I just think we can learn from this game and have a chance to improve."

North Carolina will have a chance to correct its weaknesses next weekend with three games at the Buffs Invitational in Boulder, Co.

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