Moseley elected Student Body President

The junior celebrated his blowout victory in a Carolina Square apartment.

By Ramishah Maruf
Senior Writer

Junior Reeves Moseley was elected student body president late Tuesday night in a landslide victory. Moseley waited for the results with his friends in a Carolina Square apartment past midnight.

Moseley beat his only opponent, Ryan Collins, by 2,025 votes. Moseley received about 70 percent of the vote. The total number of voters was 4,161 according to the chairperson for the Board of Elections, an increase of more than 644 from last year.

“I have to call my mom!” Moseley said when he found out.

Moseley, a political science and public policy major, ran on a campaign to support marginalized communities, which Moseley believes the administration has left behind. His campaign slogan, #BridgetheDivide, represented his goal of bringing together a divided student body.

“On the campaign, I started to outline and start these relationships with everyone, from marginalized communities to graduate students and undergraduates,” Moseley said.

I want to start out and establish these relationships with everyone, from marginalized communities to graduate students and undergraduates," Moseley said.

Moseley, a native of Argle, Texas, is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and the Institute of Politics. He has also served numerous positions in student government.

Collins, a second-year law student and Moseley’s opponent, would have been the first graduate student elected as student body president. Collins ran on a campaign that aimed to reconnect the undergraduate student government and GPSF, which he said faced overlapping issues.

Collins said he will run for GPSF president, whose election is next week. Collins is automatically on the ballot.

“Obviously I’m disappointed in the outcome, but at least it can start a conversation and encourage more future graduate and professional student government,” Collins said. “I hope that (Moseley) is committed to addressing the graduate-specific issues he promised on his platform, especially the second seat on the Board of Trustees.”

The student body voted in favor of a referendum petitioning for a new student activity fee. The additional fee, 817, which would apply to all full-time undergraduate, graduate and professional students, would have been on the ballot.

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Moseley’s tenure will be during the 2020 election, and a major component of his campaign was student voter mobilization and political engagement.

He also wants to open up communication between the Student Government and the student body, promoting transparency and protecting student activists.

“We can’t expect (the student body) to come to us,” Moseley said in Monday night’s debate.

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In the past, North Carolina held its primary election late in the season. But this year, voters will be heading to the polls on March 3, also known as Super Tuesday. For the presidential nomination processes, state primaries determine the allocation of delegates to vote for candidates at their parties’ conventions. These delegates decide who will or won’t be on the ballot for president in November.

This year is the first year we actually are on Super Tuesday,” said Emily Hagstrom, an organizer for NextGen America. “Around 75 percent of delegates will be allocated on Super Tuesday, so it’s important to be a part of deciding.

Out of the 14 states voting on Super Tuesday, North Carolina is the fourth largest in terms of delegate allocation. The dates for primary elections are decided by the states and the parties. Rules are in place that determine when states can hold their primary elections. Sarah Treul, an associate professor of political science at UNC, explained that such rules include Iowa holding the first caucus and New Hampshire holding the first primary election. In the past, certain states had followed these rules, leading to them being penalized.

“The best example of this was that Mitt Romney in 2012, and perhaps Florida too for the Democratic primary,” she said. “They both held primaries that the party did not approve of, which caused those states to lose delegates that were awarded in those states but did not actually count toward the final count of the convention.”

North Carolina began discussing the possibility of moving its presidential primary election date in 2016. During the 2017-2018 session, the General Assembly approved a bill mandating that primary elections will be held on the first Tuesday in March for all even-numbered election years, starting in 2020.

Treu said the political parties likely agreed to this change because North Carolina is a prominent swing state and has significant influence on the future of the country. Going past the 2020 election, Treul said the earlier primary date has the capacity to be very beneficial to North Carolina voters. “If you even also have that kind of candidates visiting the state, that happen during the primary, then issues that are relevant to the state start to more likely appear to on a presidential agenda or party platform, and that’s certainly helpful in North Carolina,” Treul said.

Not only does the primary election have significance for the presidential election, but many local elections will also be taking place.

“It does favor incumbents to have an election so early because, particularly in local elections, the filing period was in December, and that gives people in local elections a lot less time to decide to run and then get their names out there before the big elections.”

Natalie Murdock, the Durham County soil and water conservation district supervisor, is running for N.C. Senate and agrees the early election date poses challenges to local candidates. “It’s always a huge challenge to have so much time to be in the field, to canvass, to phone bank, to build up your volunteers,” she said. “You’re on a compressed schedule, so it rewards people that really come in having their act together.”

When the General Assembly was discussing moving the primary up, they raised the idea of having two primaries — the presidential primary would be in March while all local elections would be decided in elections like Super Tuesday,” she said. “Many counties typically cover the costs for elections, and having to host two elections in two months would not make sense financially. With the primary election coming two months earlier than usual, there may be worries that voters are unprepared, Treul, however, is not worried about voter turnout.

“Though there might be some voters that miss it, I think it’s going to be made up for by the fact that having the big election coming up, for Democrats right now with an interesting presidential primary going on, will probably entice more people to turn out,” she said.

Murdock said that the primary date will give voters a greater sense of importance, which she hopes will take them to the polls. Especially for Democrats or unaffiliated voters, she said the opportunity to have more of a say in who the Democratic nominee for president is should drive people to vote.

In the Chapel Hill area, early voting begins on Feb. 13, and continues until Feb. 29. On March 3, on-campus residents can vote at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center, @jordanbarish city@dailytarheel.com

THE N.C. PRIMARY

North Carolina has the fourth-most delegates of Super Tuesday states.

• Having the election earlier this year gives North Carolina the opportunity to set the agenda priorities.

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### The Opinion Page

Contact Co-editor-in-Chief Marco Quiroz-Gutierrez: at managing-editor@dailytarheel.com with issues about this policy.

Editorial corrections will be printed on this page. Errors committed on the Opinion Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our digital newspaper.

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center, pictured on Feb. 9, is a voting location for the Democratic primary on March 3, 2020.
Christian Keeling finds his inner game as he leads Tar Heels in loss

By Matt Chilson
Assistant sports editor

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Christian Keeling, a diamond in the rough. It’s no secret that this is the worst season for the North Carolina team only returning on Tuesday, UNC (10-14, 3-10 ACC) as the media poured into the North Carolina team only returning.

"They’ve been a lot of them this year I can’t remember what kind of energy we had coming yesterday,” head coach Ryan Williams said. "Usually I can remember every game and everything I tell you all about it, but we haven’t come to enough this year to make those a small number.”

To put it simply, the team “suckied,” according to Andrews Plataek, on Tuesday night.

"We just try to bring energy and the offensive and defensive game we were trying to go one-on-one off yesterday,” head coach Roy Williams said.

I’m not going to give up on that.”

As North Carolina continues to figure out how to resurface from rock bottom, Keeling will be there, hitting his usual midrange jumper with consistency. "It’s had more effort and has been playing with more confidence,” Miller said. "His pull-up jump shot is his shot, and he’s been hitting those.”

Keeling led the Tar Heels by scoring 11 of his 31 points in the second half and hitting up jump shot despite what the scoreboard showed.

"We were down, so we had to be aggressive,” Keeling said. "We just try to bring energy and the main thing is we just tried to get stop on the defensive end. If I was open, shoot it.”

Coming into this month, fans wouldn’t have expected Keeling to be a standout during UNC’s last few games. "It’s hard when your shots aren’t falling,” graduate forward Justin Pierce said. “You start second guessing yourself, second guessing Am I good enough at this level? It’s really nice to see him back playing with his confidence and swagger out there.”

As North Carolina continues to figure out how to resurface from rock bottom, Keeling will be there, hitting his pull-up jump shot and finding ways to contribute to any potential turnaround in the rest of the regular season and the ACC Tournament.

"He’s had more effort and has been playing with more confidence,” Miller said. "His pull-up jump shot is his shot, and he’s been hitting those.”

"I expect to win national championships,” Keeling said, "and I’m not going to give up on that.”

‘We like expectations’: UNC basketball aims to contend

By Zach Crain
Staff Writer

AFTER suffering a post-season ending-14-7 loss against Auburn during last season’s NCAA Chapel Hill Super Regional that decided a spot in the College World Series, a young North Carolina basketball team is ready to compete once again in 2020.

With a No. 19 preseason ranking from Baseball America, UNC will be returning its two leading hitters — Andrew Vaughn and Smoke Bertetti — and a deep pitching staff with an added sense of motivation after coming one bad inning away from a possible trip to Omaha last June.

"I think in that game, I’m sure that’s in the back of their minds,” head coach Mike Fox said. "If you get that close, you don’t forget.”

The motivation to get back to the top ranks of college baseball was echoed by UNC’s returning players, who admitted to having an added push after last year’s results.

"My 2018 team that went to the College World Series, they had the Davidson loss the year before going up, we weren’t using each other, we were trying to go one-in-one-off the dripble. We just weren’t playing like we did against Duke,” Williams said that he was disappointed in everyone except for Garrison Brooks, who fought through an eye injury. That includes Anthony, the man that was supposed to save the season when he returned from injury. He had another poor shooting night, going 5-10 from the field and 0-3 from deep.

When asked to describe how his starting point guard performed, Williams simply responded: “Not very well.”

But Anthony’s performance is just one in an entire program that is just off right now. UNC used to a top five ranking in the AP poll at the end of the season, but is now hoping to get invited to the NIT. North Carolina isn’t used to losing seasons. North Carolina isn’t used to getting blown out by the last-place team in the ACC. But that’s where this team is.

"Someone isn’t hitting the Demon Deacons by almost 20 points going into the halftime,” head coach Ryan Williams said. "I think it’s kind of sense I had freaking almost 20 points going into the halftime.

"I expect to win national championships,” Keeling said, “and I’m not going to give up on that.”

North Carolina’s pitching staff is also filled with talent young and experienced, and will look to be an anchor for the team as the batting lineup gains more reps in the regular season.

"We should be much better defensively,” Fox said. "What I’m most excited about is how good we can be defensively. You still win with pitching and defense, so we’re going to try and start with that.”

With plenty of new faces in the lineup this season, Fox, who is entering his 22nd season at the helm for North Carolina, has faith that his roster has the tools necessary to overcome any early obstacles that come with a lack of experience.

"We like expectations, it’s where we want to be. I like our team a lot,” Fox said. “I just like their attitude, their demeanor — they work very hard and have good chemistry — so I like what we have."
Students gather for “The Bachelor” viewing parties

By Allie Kelly
Staff Writer

Taylor Loyd arranges a charcuterie board every Monday night. It’s a ritual, an obligation. She’s invested in Madison P. — a brunette from Tuscaloosa, Alabama — and her journey toward Peter’s heart.

Loyd’s friends join her in her room each week for cheese, crackers and their weekly episode of “The Bachelor.” The group makes it a point to read tabloids throughout the week to be sure they’re caught up on all the gossip. An ABC reality show now on its 24th season, “The Bachelor” casts 30 women to compete against one another with the incentive of a cash prize and a diamond ring. This season, the show centers around an airline pilot, Peter Weber.

The show has become a cultural phenomenon for UNC students. Friends, security sisters, roommates and bars regularly gather around the television on Monday evenings to see which contestant will get the coveted rose and which will be asked to pack their bikinis and leave the cocktail-furnished mansion.

“At the end of the day,” Loyd said, “they are supposed to be there to fall in love with Peter or have a moment of self discovery.”

The show offers an exaggerated version of reality, Loyd said, which is what she and her friends like about it. Some are long-term fans and others — like Loyd — became hooked after earlier seasons were aired.

Loyd said the popularity of the show is due in part to the way it parallels the choices and behavior of young people. Still, she said, viewers mostly come for the drama.

Local Chapel Hill businesses have begun to use the popularity of “The Bachelor” as a money-making opportunity. Two weeks ago, the Carolina Coffee Shop staff asked themselves what would happen if they played reality TV on restaurant screens instead of sports games.

Carolina Coffee Shop’s now-official “Bachelor Mondays” offers customers 50 percent off bottles of wine and multi-screen viewing of Pilot Pete’s dating life.

Lizzy Campbell, a sophomore who was featured in the video, said he and some of his brothers regularly watch “The Bachelor” with members of the Kappa Delta sorority.

Despite the popularity, some students have concerns about the way “The Bachelor” treats women. “This show is purposely pitting women against each other for entertainment,” Campbell said.

Kelley is her favorite contestant. Campbell said. She said she appreciates Kelley for calling out the ridiculous process of the show on camera.

“It feels almost dystopian that we all watch this guy date, like, 17 women and we can’t get enough of it,” Campbell said. “It feels so strange that we watch the show and thoroughly enjoy it.”

Alice said that even though some students won’t admit to liking the drama, theatres are the key reason people watch the show.

Loyd and her friends, for one, are already speculating on the finale episode.

“It’s going to be pretty crazy,” Loyd said.

Black Student Movement event celebrates Black women in politics

By Emily Orland
Staff Writer

The Black Student Movement hosted the Black Women Lead event on Monday night in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History to celebrate the way Black women are leading and changing politics in North Carolina. State Sen. Erica Smith, D-District 3, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, gave the keynote, which was followed by a panel discussion with other Black female politicians from the state.

This is just such a significant event for us to have here at UNC, to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and the work of Black women all across our state, to really lead and change the face of politics in North Carolina,” said Chris Suggs, the president of BSM.

Smith opened the event with a discussion of her platform and the historical under-representation of Black women in politics. Smith said that if she is elected on March 3, she will be the third Black woman in North Carolina history and the third Black woman in the nation’s history to serve in the Senate.

“If you want somebody who can stand on two feet and deliver for you, well then the best man to do that is a woman, and that’s me,” Smith said. After Smith’s introduction, she was joined onstage by three other panelists who continued to discuss the importance of having Black women in politics.

Natalie Murdock, the Durham County soil and water conservation district supervisor and candidate for the N.C. Senate, said Black women need a seat at the table. She said they can lead from the perspective of life they have lived and bring issues to the table that otherwise might not receive the attention they deserve.

“It took getting Lauren Underwood in Congress and Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Alma Adams to lead the forefront on issues like HBCUs and saying, ‘Why don’t we have a committee dealing with the fact that Black women are dying from childbirth at higher rates?’” Murdock said. “And if you don’t have that representation, you won’t have individuals that even bring those issues to the forefront.”

Smith echoed Murdock’s sentiment that Black women are consistently underrepresented. “When you have lived certain experiences, it makes you a more passionate advocate to make sure that you confront systemic bases on all fronts,” Smith said.

The panel also discussed how they are able to compromise in their roles as politicians without sacrificing their values and how they combat polarization in their work.

Murdock said women are natural consensus builders and do such a good job of reaching compromises. “Particularly when you’re a woman of color, because what else are you going to do? If you don’t compromise you may not even make it in that room,” Murdock said.

North Carolina Rep. Yvonne Holley, a candidate for North Carolina’s lieutenant governor, said that in order to reach compromises in her work, she avoids vilifying people who have different views than her own.

Smith said building coalitions with people of all colors over the last 30 years has allowed her to be successful and to get things done.

“Be the type of legislator, you
Dismantling the ‘Pitch Perfect’ ideal of a cappella


By Sarah Campbell
Staff Writer

From working with the Orange County Rape Crisis Center (OCRCC) to performing songs by artists like Beyoncé and Kesha, Cadence hopes to empower women with UNC and the larger Chapel Hill community.

Cadence is an a cappella group created in 2003 on UNC’s campus. It is open to female and identifying students to serve primarily as a creative outlet, but also as a safe haven, said member Yolanda Simpson.

“I think the main thing is that we all came here because we fell in love with singing, but we stayed because we fell in love with everyone there,” Simpson said. “It’s very empowering. Every time you go to one of the rehearsals you feel like you’re in a safe space.”

Many current and former members of the group joined because they were eager to find a home on campus where they could also do what they love — sing, said business manager Roslyn Reynoso Marmolejos.

“I really like to express myself artistically,” Reynoso Marmolejos said. Along with being an a cappella group, Cadence is a social justice group that works with many local nonprofits. For the past few years, Cadence has been working closely with the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, Reynoso Marmolejos said.

“Since we are a group of all women, I feel like, not that we have an advantage, but we can place ourselves in the OCRCC’s vision,” Reynoso Marmolejos said. “One of our members, Molly, wrote a song called ‘Stand as One’ specifically for the OCRCC and we performed it for them — it was very moving. So, we’re definitely been advocating against sexual violence.”

Many of Cadence’s gigs surround female empowerment and uplifting women within the community. A favorite of the group was Take Back the Night, Reynoso Marmolejos said.

“It was just a dinner where we sang ‘Praying’ by Kesha, and it was one of the most empowering gigs I’ve ever been to,” Reynoso Marmolejos said. “I was almost in tears by the end of it, because you could just feel how moved everyone was in the room, and we were personally moved too.”

Simpson said she hopes by performing at these events with Cadence and spreading its core message that other women are inspired to use their voices.

“You don’t always feel comfortable sharing your voice with others, let alone your opinions, so I think being able to have a platform and a group of people that all identify with you, have shared backgrounds and similar struggles is very important, especially in college,” Simpson said.

“Cadence is a staple for my college experience right now, and it’s definitely what’s gotten me through.”

By encouraging female voices and the empowerment of women across campus, ideals are challenged and dismantled, Page said.

“We feel that it’s important to have a space for people who identify as women, because the whole world is made up of spaces intended for men,” Page said. “To have a place where you feel really welcome and supported and empowered is incredibly important.”

Cadence not only hopes to encourage women in the community to speak up and be strong, but the group also wants to challenge the stereotypes of a cappella, which can be seen as prestigious and exclusive, Simpson said.

“Sometimes there’s this prestige with a cappella groups that may come because ‘Pitch Perfect’ was not really good, so people may have this really weird idea about it,” Simpson said. “We’re here to bring happiness, positivity and our music to the community and hopefully touch others with that energy and raise them up in the same way that we strive to raise each other up.”

arts@dailytarheel.com

Thief in skeleton costume breaks into Jackson Hall

The suspect stole a UNC garden gnome and a Roy Williams bobblehead.

By Patrick Weeks
Staff Writer

UNC Police are investigating a break-in that occurred early Saturday morning at Jackson Hall, which houses the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, just hours before the highly anticipated UNC-Duke basketball game.

According to a UNC Police report, the suspect stole $175 worth of property. Police will let us know if there’s any information which might aid in the investigation.

FACTS BEHIND THE THEFT

• The theft occurred on Saturday morning at 8 a.m.
• The suspect, who was wearing a skeleton costume believed to have been stolen from PlayMakers production of “Everybody,” stole $175 worth of property.

Some of the skeletons of the costume were left behind on the floor. They have been retrieved by the police as evidence.

An official statement from UNC Police Chief David Perry said the investigation is ongoing.

“The suspect was investigated the report received today of a break-in to Jackson Hall on Saturday, Feb. 8,” he said. “The campus community is encouraged to contact UNC Police at (919) 962-9100 if they have seen suspicious activity in this area over the weekend or have noticed that three of them were stolen. We’re trying to make sure they all got back. When we came back on Saturday, we noticed that three of them were missing. We couldn’t find them, so they had to be either moved or taken.”

She said nothing else had been taken or disturbed from the backstage area.

Also, it’s really difficult to find the area that the costumes were in,” Walker said. “So it had to be someone who knows the space well, because it’s really hard to aimlessly wander through the six different doorways to get to that specific space where the costumes were backstage.”

She said a friend of hers, who works in Jackson Hall with the admissions office, had watched the surveillance footage from the morning of the incident — and witnessed the suspect, in costume, disrupting the space and stealing various items.

“Since we are a group of all women, we feel that it’s important to have a space where you feel really welcome and supported and empowered is incredibly important.”

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FACTS BEHIND THE THEFT

• The theft occurred on Saturday morning at 8 a.m.
• The suspect, who was wearing a skeleton costume believed to have been stolen from PlayMakers production of “Everybody,” stole $175 worth of property.

Some of the skeletons of the costume were left behind on the floor. They have been retrieved by the police as evidence.

An official statement from UNC Police Chief David Perry said the investigation is ongoing.

“The suspect was investigated the report received today of a break-in to Jackson Hall on Saturday, Feb. 8,” he said. “The campus community is encouraged to contact UNC Police at (919) 962-9100 if they have seen suspicious activity in this area over the weekend or have noticed that three of them were stolen. We’re trying to make sure they all got back. When we came back on Saturday, we noticed that three of them were missing. We couldn’t find them, so they had to be either moved or taken.”

She said nothing else had been taken or disturbed from the backstage area.

Also, it’s really difficult to find the area that the costumes were in,” Walker said. “So it had to be someone who knows the space well, because it’s really hard to aimlessly wander through the six different doorways to get to that specific space where the costumes were backstage.”

She said a friend of hers, who works in Jackson Hall with the admissions office, had watched the surveillance footage from the morning of the incident — and witnessed the suspect, in costume, disrupting the space and stealing various items.

“Since we are a group of all women, we feel that it’s important to have a space where you feel really welcome and supported and empowered is incredibly important.”

Cadence not only hopes to encourage women in the community to speak up and be strong, but the group also wants to challenge the stereotypes of a cappella, which can be seen as prestigious and exclusive, Simpson said.

“We’re here to bring happiness, positivity and our music to the community and hopefully touch others with that energy and raise them up in the same way that we strive to raise each other up.”

arts@dailytarheel.com
Do you need an ID to vote? Photo ID is not required for the March 3 primary. However, Raper said if you did not bring a ballot by the end of early voting, you will have to vote on the party's ballot. If you do not make it during early voting, you can vote on Election Day.

Candidate signs stand outside the Orange County Board of Elections building in Hillsborough ahead of the March 3, 2020 primary on Feb. 6, 2020.

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Professor goes beyond PowerPoint to teach history

By Anthony Howard
Staff Writer

Though most students are presented information in classes through PowerPoint slides or detailed handouts, one particular history class is innovating the traditional learning experience.

La Serna is a professor in the Department of History who specializes in Latin American history. This semester, he teaches HIST 248: "Latin America influences student perspectives on the global world and its people. With his theater background, he is pursuing a master's degree in fine arts, Bettz said he plans to do more than just visualize events.

"I'm always looking for stories that tell different stories that reinforce the value of a particular community and allow for that community to feel empowered when they read about themselves," Bettz said.

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His job is to bring the content of life to the classroom. We'll never be able to bring the students to that historical period, in that particular place, into that historical actor's mind. What were trying to do, to an extent possible, is bring the history to the students.

For Betts, showing students actual footage of high-profile speeches or revolutions taking place in parts of Latin America influences student perspectives on the global world and its people. With his theater background, he is pursuing a master's degree in fine arts, Butts said he plans to do more than just visualize events.

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The BOG’s Silent Sam settlement is bogus

As you assume your new and permanent post as the head of this University, it is critical that you make climate action one of your top priorities. With each passing year, the threat of climate catastrophe increases. It is crucial that UNC, as an institution of higher education and supposed leader of people and change-makers; enact a comprehensive action plan to mitigate our direct contributions to the climate crisis, and invest in research aimed at finding new sustainable solutions. It is not enough to make statements and report for sustainability initiatives. UNC must be a leader of climate action, and is thus indistinguishable from a greenwashing campaign.

Now is the time to reverse this University’s failure to take meaningful action on climate and sustainability issues; refusal to do so undermines UNC’s promise to be a source of enlightenment and support for future generations.

We call on you to take immediate and comprehensive action to combat the climate crisis.

We cannot afford to wait.

For our future, we must demand a comprehensive Three Zeros Plan, and have not moved forward. It has been about three years since the Three Zeros Initiative was announced, yet no public policies, incremental steps or timelines have been released. As long as the Three Zeros Environmental Initiative continues without a clear plan that outlines actionable steps and financing, it will continue to fail. UNC cannot be held accountable for not taking meaningful action on climate and sustainability issues.

I will drink until next morning, thank you!

As UNC is a racist school founded and run by white supremacist, it is clear why UNC loses every game forever.

Truett Joe, commenting on UNC’s 98-96 loss to Duke in overtime

UNC needs to create actionable solutions to environmental justice issues.

To the editor,

UNC’s usage of coal in its current facilities is a decision that has multiple negative impacts on the environment and the community. As you assume your new and permanent post as the head of this University, we must work to create a sustainable alternative, the University coal usage falls in an even worse light. There are the obvious negative effects of a coal plant in the middle of Chapel Hill — the risk of pollution for nearby residents, the environmental impact and the financial costs that come with the goal of zero carbon initiatives. UNC cannot continue to use too much coal, risking increased asthma attacks in the community. There are significant health concerns as well as a social justice issue. In a 2016 community-led plan, the historically Black Rogers Road neighborhood made it clear that they wanted local, affordable housing to build affordable housing on the nearby Greene Tract, with a road connection to Weaver Darry to improve neighborhood access to services and shopping. However, the existing railroad track stands in the way as a major impediment to a new road. The only user of that track is UNC’s coal plant.

The fact that the University turned down Ives’ plan and fired him deepens their failure to stop using coal by 2020. While natural gas has its own myriad of problems, making the suggested transition would have benefited the University and the town. Abandoning coal could reduce the health impacts to nearby residents, make affordable housing easier to build and open up a new bike and pedestrian path across town — as envisioned in Chapel Hill’s Greenways Plan — further reducing transportation emissions and increasing recreation space.

Instead, the actions of UNC’s administration have strengthened the environmental justice issues Chapel Hill faces, and I am deeply disappointed.

Chancellor Guskiewicz, as you assume your new and permanent post as the head of this University, it is critical that you make climate action one of your top priorities. With each passing year, the threat of climate catastrophe increases. It is crucial that UNC, as an institution of higher education and supposed leader of people and change-makers; enact a comprehensive action plan to mitigate our direct contributions to the climate crisis, and invest in research aimed at finding new sustainable solutions. It is not enough to make statements and report for sustainability initiatives. UNC must be a leader of climate action, and is thus indistinguishable from a greenwashing campaign.

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