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FOOTBALL

'His presence is a game-changer'

By Daniel Wei
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Hands up straight, with his thumbs locked to form a "U," Tez Walker stood in the end zone. Mimicking Miami's iconic hand sign was something he had always thought about doing as a kid.

And, when the UNC junior receiver caught his third touchdown of the night, he finally got his chance. After scampering over the line and releasing the ball, Walker faced the Hurricane fans' section and pointed his joined hands to the ground, turning the "U" upside down.

"Growing up, you hear about Miami, you see teams playing them

SEE TEZ WALKER PAGE 11

CAMPUS SAFETY

UNC releases annual crime report

By Lauren Rhodes
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Content warning: This article contains mention of sexual assault and violence.

UNC's annual security and fire safety report shows increases in cases of rape, domestic violence, fondling and motor vehicle theft on campus and in residence halls from 2020 through 2022.

Other crimes, like stalking and drug-related arrests, were reported fewer times in 2022 than the year before. Liquor law disciplinary referrals had the highest number

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DOWNTOWN RALEIGH



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUEL LONG

Palestine supporters waved flags and protest signs during a protest in Raleigh on Sunday.

Protesters rally for Palestine

More than 1,300 gather in Moore Square, call for cease-fire

By Samuel Long
Contributor

A sea of protesters holding Palestinian flags and signs marched through downtown Raleigh on Sunday afternoon, calling for a cease-fire in the war between Israel and militant group Hamas.

Over 1,300 people convened in Moore Square in solidarity with Palestinians to "end Israel's racist siege" of Gaza. The attendees listened to a handful of speakers, holding signs with statements like "There's no both sides to a genocide" and "Land you have to kill for is not yours. Land you have to die for is."

Supporters took to East Hargett Street after the speeches concluded in Moore Square, chanting as they marched around the North Carolina State Capitol. Protesters standing in the bed of a pickup truck decorated with Palestinian flags led the march.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUEL LONG

Raïna Masri, co-director for organizing and policy at the N.C. Environmental Justice Network spoke at the protest in Raleigh on Sunday.

The Raleigh event was co-sponsored by organizations including Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, Voices for Justice in Palestine and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

"I have been terrified and I have been crying hearing news of my friends who have been killed in Lebanon or in Palestine, but despair is treason," Raïna Masri, co-director

for organizing and policy at the N.C. Environmental Justice Network, said to the crowd.

Nasser Shahin, a Palestinian who came to the United States in 1995, raised a large Palestinian flag at the protest.

He said he was born in a refugee camp and moved throughout the

SEE COMMUNITY PAGE 2

N.C. POLITICS

Governor, Democrats file two lawsuits



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

Cooper's vetoes of S.B. 512 and S.B. 747 were overridden by the NCGA

By Kathryn DeHart
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Gov. Roy Cooper and the N.C. Democratic Party have filed separate lawsuits against two bills passed by the N.C. General Assembly's Republican supermajority after Cooper vetoed them.

Cooper's lawsuit targets Senate Bill 512, a bill that allows legislators the power to appoint executive state board members. The N.C. Democratic Party's lawsuit concerns Senate Bill 747, which alters state election law.

Cooper vetoed both bills on Aug. 24, and the General Assembly overrode both vetoes on Oct. 10.

S.B. 512

The appointment of members to state boards and commissions has historically been reserved for the

SEE BILLS PAGE 6

PEOPLE & PLACES

Local home has haunted history

Past and present residents of Poplar Hill share experiences

By Morgan Brenner
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In September of 2014, Tom Maxwell and his family moved into their new Hillsborough home: Poplar Hill. An old country house on a sweeping property, the home is surrounded by trees and wildlife and is cheap relative to its expansiveness.

They moved in and called the home "Nannie" in reference to Nannie Carr — the wife of industrialist, former Confederate soldier and Town of Carrboro namesake Julian Carr — who purchased the property in 1891.

But nine months after moving in, Maxwell and his family broke their lease and fled "Nannie."

The home and its large property, he said, were filled with relentless paranormal presences that demanded to be seen.

These odd events ranged from sightings of figures on the property, severe drops in temperature in rooms and misty forms that seemed to rise from the floor, as Maxwell describes in his short story for the Bitter Southerner, "We Salted Nannie."

Maxwell and his family observed many other presences, such as a tentacled figure Maxwell's wife, Brooke Maxwell, observed in the woods, and a large figure that appeared to be a pinched-face, puritanical woman, Maxwell said.

After Maxwell and his family left in the summer of 2015, Poplar Hill was briefly occupied but primarily sat empty for two years before Laurel Kilgore and her husband purchased the home in 2020.

In the time since, neither Kilgore nor her husband have noticed any paranormal activity, she said.

When they moved in, the home was in a state of disrepair. Kilgore said 30-foot poison ivy vines clung to trees surrounding the home, every door and window needed to be repaired, and lights consistently flickered in the dining room — all things, she said, that made the home seem haunted.

Kilgore said her friend felt the presence of a sweet and light spirit that likes what she's done to the home — a spirit Kilgore believes is Nannie Carr.

Kilgore said she believes Poplar Hill truly was Nannie's home. The way the house was being treated, as abandoned and deteriorated as it was, was really upsetting Nannie, she said.

"I think the things that make it seem haunted, once you start fixing them, once the floor isn't creaking so much, once the windows are fixed and once you bring some light and air into it, those feelings disappear," Kilgore said. "And if there is a presence, they can go in peace."

Kilgore kept the original flooring and preserved all the brick fireplaces. She said that her renovations, such as adding a new paint color to the kitchen, are done with respect to the current structures and color scheme of Poplar Hill.

SEE HILLSBOROUGH PAGE 8

“October was always the least dependable of months... full of ghosts and shadows.”

JOY FIELDING

'It's the right thing to do'

Housekeeper Robin Lee wins Moral Courage award

By Olivia Metelo

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For UNC housekeeper Robin Lee, winning the Rebecca Clark Staff Award for Moral Courage is not the end of her fight for higher wages for UNC housekeepers. Instead, she hopes it will help continue her efforts.

The award, named after a former UNC staff member who pushed for fair wages and working conditions, is given annually on University Day to recognize a staff member who advocates for fellow University employees. Individuals are nominated each year, and the winner is selected by the Employee Forum.

"[Clark] was a person that didn't mind getting in, doing the work, saying what needs to be said, and just advocating for other people on campus as well as advocating for herself," Keith Hines, vice chair of the forum, said. "And that's not any different from Miss Robin Lee."

Lee said she felt proud to receive the award because of Clark's legacy.

Over the past two years, Lee has strongly advocated for higher wages for UNC housekeepers, rallying and speaking out in addition to meeting with N.C. lawmakers.

For Hines, Lee's dedication to advocating for higher wages is what made her stand out as the clear winner of the award this year.

"She does it because she cares about the people she works with, and she cares about their conditions, and simply because it's the right thing to do," Hines said. "So it was not really a hard decision in choosing her."

However, Lee said she would like to see more action from the University concerning housekeeper wages.

As employees under the State Human Resources Act, wages of UNC housekeepers are set by the yearly budget passed by the N.C. state legislature. Raises and bonuses are limited by the Office

of State Human Resources. The 2023-24 N.C. state budget allows for a 7 percent pay raise for state employees over the next two years. This raise will put housekeepers' hourly rate at around \$18 compared to their current \$16.81 rate.

However, this wage increase still does not meet housekeepers' demands of \$20 per hour.

She said she would like to have more support when asking for higher wages. Lee said that lately, her efforts don't have much support from her co-workers — something she hopes to see change in the future.

"The only thing they're doing is sitting around, complaining what the University need to do, but they're not doing anything about it," Lee said. "It just seems like I'm doing it by myself, I'm fighting this battle by myself."

Junior Stevie Levite lived in Kenan Residence Hall last year, where Lee currently works as a housekeeper. She spoke highly of Lee's caring nature.

"She always went out of her way to make sure that we felt comfortable," Levite said.

She also said she believes that Lee needs more support in her efforts. She expressed frustration with the lack of action from UNC Administration amid Lee receiving the award.

"I love that they appreciate our housekeepers, but it feels sometimes performative when they make these posts honoring them, but [housekeepers] are still struggling so much with their job to make ends meet," Levite said.

UNC Administration cannot directly increase wages. Still, Levite said she believes that efforts such as letter-writing campaigns or a speech from a high-profile UNC figure — such as Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz — to the N.C. General Assembly would have a positive influence.

"I think that would be really important and kind of a bare minimum, in my opinion, because if you really appreciate the housekeeping staff, then I think that it's the least that our school can try and do," Levite said.

X: @dailytarheel



PHOTO COURTESY OF JON GARDINER/UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Housekeeper Robin Lee received the Rebecca Clark Staff Award for Moral Courage during the 230th University Day celebration in Memorial Hall on Thursday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JON GARDINER/UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Dr. David Weber, an adviser to the World Health Organization, received the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award during the 230th University Day celebration in Memorial Hall on Thursday.

Faculty service award given

Dr. David Weber was honored on University Day on Thursday

By Aidan Lockhart

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Though Dr. David Weber is an adviser to the World Health Organization and serves on various national and statewide medical boards, he said his most rewarding work is mentoring students.

"Dr. Weber is one of the most amazing persons I've ever met," his colleague Evelyn Cook, associate director of the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology, said. "He's probably one of the smartest physicians I've ever had the pleasure to get to know."

On Thursday, Weber became the 13th recipient of the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award during UNC's 230th University Day. The award was presented by Beth Moracco, the University's chair of the faculty and recipient of the Graham Award in 2021.

The award is a mark of outstanding service on the part of a faculty member at UNC.

"It's clearly a great, great honor," Weber said. "It's always nice to receive acclaim from your colleagues."

The award memorializes former UNC President Edward Kidder Graham. It calls to mind Graham's goal of sharing discoveries from the University beyond the boundaries of the UNC campus.

As an associate chief medical officer at the UNC Medical Center, medical director for the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology and an adviser to the World Health Organization, Weber is doing just that, Cook said.

"He's kind of a powerhouse, I think," Amanda Brown Marusiak, a fourth-year doctoral student, said. "He has his hands in so many things."

Weber said his most important work is to share his knowledge.

He specializes in infectious disease research, specifically healthcare-associated infections, and said he is passionate about his work because he can actually cure most of his patients.

"Most other areas of medicine, you make people live longer and live healthier, but you don't really cure people," he said.

Weber has mentored more than 50 master's and Ph.D. students at UNC and gives lectures about infectious disease research across the country. He has also authored or co-authored more than one thousand publications, including over 450 scientific papers cited in PubMed, a database for biomedical literature.

Much of his work over the past few years has focused on COVID — 50 of his papers cover the disease.

"By teaching, you get that multiplier effect," Weber said. "If I can both help the world and train other people, and each of those people go out and train another 50 people, you have a much bigger impact."

Cook said one of Weber's best traits is his ability to communicate with others and make them feel respected.

"He is so personable with people. He responds to them in a way that makes them feel at ease," she said.

Despite a busy schedule, Weber makes himself available and responsive to his students, Brown Marusiak said.

"He's kind of always making sure that I am prioritized as a person," she said.

Weber said the ability to break down boundaries and communicate with others makes UNC a special place for research.

"Really, it's a collaborative world, and the most progress is being made when you collaborate across different disciplines," Weber said. "People should be synergistic and add to each other, and UNC is the best place I've ever seen for that."

X: @dailytarheel

BRIEFS

Faculty to see salary increase

A recent effort to mitigate salary concerns, which would increase the salary range for tenured and tenure-track professors in the College of Arts and Sciences, was approved during a Sept. 27 UNC Board of Trustees University Affairs Committee meeting.

"This body has received several of these requests over the course of the past year, as faculty salaries across the institution have not been adjusted for several years," Jennifer Halsey Evans, who introduced the motion, said at the meeting.

Under this new policy, the associate professor's minimum salary will be 20 percent more than the assistant professor's minimum. The full professor minimum salary will be 20 percent more than the associate professor minimum.

- Maeson Wagner

Women's soccer match ends in draw

The No. 3 North Carolina women's soccer team tied Wake Forest, 1-1, on Friday.

The Tar Heels took a 1-0 lead in the 59th minute on a cross from graduate midfielder Emily Moxley to senior forward Avery Patterson.

Wake Forest tied the game in 78th minute, when the Demon Deacons took a free kick near the halfway line. Redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Emmie Allen ran into sophomore defender Tessa Dellarose as they both attempted to defend the play. Former UNC player Emily Murphy took a shot, which was blocked by Allen. However, Murphy was able to control the rebound and score the tying goal on a second attempt.

The draw marks the Tar Heels' sixth of the season.

- Noah Monroe

Edible Campus hosts Harvest Festival

Since 2017, Edible Campus has been highlighting sustainability and celebrating the fall season through their annual Harvest Festival.

This year's festival took place on Oct. 12, in the Edible Campus garden behind Davis Library, featuring nine tables hosted by organizations like Carolina Dining Services, the Chapel Hill Alt. Protein Project, CompostMates and The Piedmont Wildlife Center.

The fall celebration was first conceptualized by students and the previous Edible Campus Coordinator, Laura Mindlin. Current coordinator Kyle Parker has continued to host the festival, but with more of an emphasis on entertainment and performance rather than just educational opportunities.

- Shreya Senthilkumar

Local business celebrates 100 years

Fitch Lumber & Hardware celebrated 100 years in Carrboro last week.

David Fitch, president of Fitch Lumber & Hardware, said his great-grandfather A.B. Fitch started the business in 1907 in Mebane and added another location in Carrboro in 1923. When a fire destroyed the location in Mebane in 1945, all operations moved to the store in Carrboro. David Fitch said the Carrboro location has prospered for the century it's been open.

"We've been in this town for 100 years, so we wanted to celebrate all the Carrboro town has to offer," David Fitch said.

The centennial event on Oct. 12 included food from Al's Burger Shack and the Latin Grill Food Truck, drinks from Craftboro Brewing and live music from the band Big Fat Gap.

- Lauren Zola

No 'simple, causal story to tell' in new data

Continued from Page 1

of offenses, with 151 on-campus instances. Arrests or referrals related to liquor laws made up more than 45 percent of all crimes reported on campus in 2022.

The report includes statistics from the past three years in accordance with the Clery Act, which was passed in 1990 to mandate universities that receive federal funding to publish an annual security report. The report must include campus crime statistics for the three preceding years, in addition to resources and details on how the campus is working to improve security.

Defining crime

Carissa Hessick, UNC law professor and director of the Prosecutors and Politics Project, said that when explaining what impacts crime rates, there is no "simple, causal story to tell."

While some crimes seem to be

affected by economic factors, she said others are circumstances of opportunity or culture.

According to UNC Media Relations, it's "difficult to pinpoint" a single reason crime rates may be increasing.

When considering fluctuating rates, Hessick said it is also important to discuss the definition of "crime," which varies by reporting systems.

Holly Lovern, a gender violence services coordinator in UNC's Violence Prevention, said people may have personal "working definitions" that may not line up with other specific interpretations.

For example, under the Clery Act, UNC defines sexual assault as any sexual act "directed against another person without the other person's consent." This definition includes rape, statutory rape, forcible fondling and incest.

For first-year Mil Laursen, sexual assault is "any unwanted sexual contact."

"I think the definitions are fluid and I think it's up to the individual

who went through it," Laursen said. "Anything that's not consensual should be considered assault."

Lovern said the use of varying definitions for offenses makes it difficult to get an accurate picture of how communities are being impacted.

Reporting crime

Violence impacts students across campus, Lovern said. However, statistically, she said LGBTQ+ and female-identifying students, as well as Black, Indigenous and other students of color, are more likely to be at risk.

Lovern said she has seen reporting increase in recent years, something to consider when looking at increasing rates of crime.

She said students may feel increasingly comfortable talking about their experiences or using resources provided by the University, like safe.unc.edu.

"Folks don't think necessarily the rates of violence are changing or increasing, but that the rate of reporting

and speaking out and disclosing experiences is increasing," she said.

Thirteen percent of both undergraduate and graduate students experience rape or sexual assault through "physical force, violence or incapacitation," according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network.

RAINN reports that one in five college-aged women impacted will receive assistance from a victim services agency and only 20 percent of female student victims will report the instance to law enforcement.

"I think it's going to be hard to get a truly accurate picture of what this looks like anywhere, not just our campus, but anywhere," Lovern said.

Campus response

Laursen said while they were aware UNC released statistics on campus crime, they wished the information was more widely advertised and accessible to students.

"I think it would help me address



DTH FILE/OLIVIA PAUL

A UNC police car sat outside of the Public Safety building on March 24.

the institution a bit more if they were actively trying to be more transparent about crime fear," they said.

To improve campus safety, UNC recently installed security cameras at the entrances of residence halls. UNC Police is also installing new license plate readers on campus following recent lockdowns.

X: @l_rhodsie

ADMINISTRATION

School of Civic Life and Leadership inaugural faculty announced

The group will develop curriculum, form dean search committee

By Ashley Quincin

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Eight months after the Board of Trustees introduced the controversial School of Civic Life and Leadership (SCiLL), the inaugural faculty and an interim dean of the school have been announced.

In a collegewide announcement sent last Friday, the College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jim White identified nine tenured faculty members, drawn from within the college, to create the school's faculty.

Faculty makeup

The nine professors White announced are Inger Brodey, associate professor of English and comparative literature; Kurt Gray, professor of psychology and neuroscience; Fabian Heitsch, professor of physics and astronomy; Mark Katz, distinguished professor of music; Matthew Kotzen, professor of philosophy; Christian Lundberg, associate professor of communication; Jason Roberts, professor of political science; and Molly Worthen, associate professor of history.

The professors will hold dual appointments in the SCiLL and their home departments, the announcement said. Sarah Treul Roberts, faculty director of the Program for Public Discourse and a political science professor, will serve as interim dean.

In his message, White said the Program for Public Discourse will become part of the SCiLL and housed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Curriculum context

After the announcement of the Program for Public Discourse's creation in 2019, the Faculty Council voted on a motion — which later failed — to delay its implementation.

According to the council's response, the group was concerned about the program's development occurring "behind closed doors in administrative offices."

"What little the faculty have been



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

told about it, however, is disturbing," the council's response said.

Since the SCiLL's announcement in January, the school has seen pushback from faculty for their lack of involvement in its conception.

Current funding

The N.C. General Assembly's budget also mandated that the provost name a permanent dean by the end of the year and that the school hire 10-20 tenured or tenure-track faculty members from outside of the University.

The budget allocated \$2 million in funding for each of the next two fiscal years. In addition to these funding provisions, the SCiLL has received a \$1 million pledge from the Orville Gordon Browne Foundation to establish an endowment for a professorship.

"In my experience, I haven't seen the development of curricula, a full program or what they're calling a school mandated by the legislature in this way and to this degree," Beth Moracco, chair of the UNC faculty, said.

Faculty response

At a Faculty Council meeting on Oct. 6, Kenan-Flagler Business School professor Allison Schlobohm said she had concerns about legislative "influence" over the

school, considering its initial conception and the General Assembly mandates.

When asked by faculty during the meeting why the school was being created, White responded, "We were told we were going to do this." The faculty laughed, and White looked to Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz for elaboration.

Trustee Perrin W. Jones, who wrote an op-ed in May defending the necessity of the SCiLL at UNC, said that faculty having questions about the school does not necessarily mean they are against the development of the program.

Moracco added that although some faculty remain skeptical about the SCiLL's purpose, others are enthusiastic about it.

Jason Roberts, one of the inaugural members of the faculty, said the SCiLL will further develop UNC students' ability to participate as citizens in a democracy, as well as practicing civil disagreements in society.

"The more transparency and communication and the more that these inaugural faculty and the interim director are allowed to proceed with the vision and mission of the school as laid out in the report," Moracco said. "I think that will do a lot to increase enthusiasm and support for the school."

X: @ashnqm

TECHNOLOGY

ConnectCarolina gets updates

The student service is making changes to course waitlists

By Natalie McCormick

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On Oct. 2, the UNC student body received an email from the Office of the University Registrar announcing new changes to ConnectCarolina.

With registration right around the corner, the email explained that students will now be able to join waitlists of up to 12 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and eight credit hours in the summer. When on the waitlist, these credits will no longer count toward ConnectCarolina's 18 credit hour open enrollment limit.

There will also be a "Swap to Waitlist" option and a new deadline for joining a class waitlist.

"It's a giant win for students because I believe it was counting against you, in terms of credits," Ketan Mayer-Patel, the director of undergraduate studies for the computer science department and an associate professor, said.

According to an email statement from the registrar's office, the University hopes these changes will make it easier for students to register for classes in the future, as well as help departments understand the demand for courses and plan accordingly.

Mayer-Patel said he feels as though these changes are long overdue.

"Over the last few registration cycles, the Office of the University Registrar has partnered with Operational Excellence and consulted with students, staff and faculty across campus to provide greater transparency, consistency and equity into the registration process," the office said.

The waitlist update is the third installment in a series of projects, including an enrollment appointment redesign and reserve capacity project, the office said. All waitlist changes and updates are being implemented for spring 2024 registration.

Additionally, the waitlist will have no seat limit, although class size will remain capped and ConnectCarolina will notify students when they have successfully enrolled in a class.

Rebecca Segal, a junior and vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government, said

that the changes being made to ConnectCarolina are the culmination of about a year's worth of work within the University.

"I personally really see this as sort of the culmination of admin and making a policy based on the experiences of students," Segal said.

These updates are the first of a few waves the University is working on to improve ConnectCarolina, Kunal Khaware, a sophomore Robertson Scholar and director of special projects within the Undergraduate Student Government, said.

"So now that they've integrated it into steps — this was step one, step two is now helping graduate students. I hope that step three, the registrar talked about potentially pairing a degree tracker with your Tar Heel Tracker," Khaware said.

UNC senior Adam Doyle works within the Information Technology Services department as a lead student assistant and said he is looking forward to the changes that are being made to ConnectCarolina for spring semester registration.

One of the features that Doyle said he is excited about is the informational tile that ConnectCarolina will now have, displaying the waitlisted courses a student is in, their spot on the waitlist and their enrollment outcomes.

He also said he feels these changes were made not only because they were necessary but in direct response to complaints that the registrar's office has received regarding registration in past semesters.

Mayer-Patel said these changes will not only benefit students but professors as well. In previous semesters, when students were unable to join the waitlist for certain classes, Mayer-Patel said he found that students would turn to emailing professors as an attempt to waitlist or enroll in the class.

With the new updates, he said he thinks that the ConnectCarolina changes will largely eliminate the need for students to be emailing professors, who he said are usually unable to help.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how things go. I'm hoping spring 2024 registration is smoother and improved because of the changes," Mayer-Patel said.

Editor's Note: Rebeca Segal serves on the Board of Directors for The Daily Tar Heel.

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City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

CHCCS

Blue Ribbon mentorship program expands

Initiatives provide academic, career opportunities

By Henry Thomas
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The Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate program, a mentorship program designed to close the racial achievement gap in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, has returned for the 2023-24 school year.

The program has provided CHCCS students with educational and career opportunities like mentoring, tutoring, advocacy and leadership development since its founding in 1995.

Camille Berry, a Chapel Hill Town Council member and a BRMA mentor, said each student or “scholar” maintains a relationship with a mentor throughout their primary schooling. Some start in elementary school and some get paired later, but they all stay in contact with their mentor until high school graduation.

“The hope is that a mentoring advocacy relationship with that

student can persist and endure until they graduate, and then perhaps beyond,” Berry said. “I have met some partners where they have done that — they have gone beyond that.”

Sarah Poulton, a senior project manager for the Town of Chapel Hill and a BRMA mentor, said mentors take on many roles. She said responsibilities include helping navigate the college application process, advocating for in-school accommodations and engaging in social activities.

Though much of her recent time with her mentee has been college-focused, Poulton said they spend time together informally too.

Lorie Clark, the coordinator of student leadership and engagement for CHCCS, said the program has also been holding mentor training for a new cohort of mentors to be matched with scholars in the next month.

“I think they’re excited about making a difference in the community and getting to know a scholar,” Clark said. “Our program is a strength-based program, and so we stress that the relationship is mutually beneficial.”

She said BRMA currently works with about 70 scholars — 60 of whom are currently matched.



Camille Berry posed for a portrait at Joe Van Gogh in Chapel Hill on Oct. 8, 2022. DTH FILE/LARA CROCHIK

Clark said the program aims to increase the number of scholars in BRMA in fourth through eighth grade, an age group that has less scholars because the program was less active from 2019-21.

BRMA releases a monthly schedule that includes college application nights, college tours and

Youth Leader Institute meetings at schools around the district.

Clark also said BRMA started two initiatives last year: Blueprint and LevelUp.

The Blueprint initiative provides middle school scholars with opportunities to engage in social justice, leadership and character-

building activities, she said.

LevelUp is a program specifically for young men of color in eighth through 12th grade, Clark said.

Sahmoi Stout, an alumnus of BRMA who is now a specialist with the program, said participants of LevelUp have the opportunity to participate in activities like basketball games and field trips — such as an upcoming one to Black Wall Street in Durham.

LevelUp also hosts varying guest speakers and panels.

“We have people who have specialized in this particular field, whether it’s like the police force or boxing, or even a local chapter of a fraternity,” Stout said. “We would have them come in and speak to the guys about what they’re part of — how it’s empowered them — and what they’ve learned from their experiences.”

Stout has been involved with the program since he was in the fourth grade, he said. After graduating high school, he said he witnessed some of the ups and downs of the program’s activity.

Stout said he believes the BRMA program is here to stay.

X: @dthcitystate

ELDERCARE

‘The residents’ faces light up’

Charles House provides structured day programming for people with dementia

By Annika Duneja
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At Charles House, an eldercare day program in Chapel Hill, volunteer Lily Root often works with people who have difficulty recognizing her or remembering her name.

But, every Monday morning, when she walks into Charles House for her shift, she is greeted by a resident named Doug, who always asks, “Hey Lily, want to see my comic strip for today?”

“Of course,” she always says.

She said it’s the best part of her day.

Charles House is one of two day program centers for elderly people in Orange County and differs from other senior care facilities because it offers more structured engagement, associate director Dean Fox said.

Up to 38 members follow a schedule throughout the day, taking part in activities such as flower arranging, news discussion groups, exercise and jeopardy games. They are also able to choose what they want to do.

The program specializes in working with people with dementia, meaning volunteers and full-time workers take special care in providing engaging activities to slow the progression of the disease.

“We’re very focused on treating folks as adults with adult lives and adult experiences and adult desires and abilities,” Fox said. “And

so we really are focused on the abilities and the experiences and the skills that folks bring with them and not on their function loss.”

According to its website, the original center was opened in 1990 by a family who was unable to find eldercare options they liked for their father in full-time care facilities or through at-home care. A secondary full-time care location was opened in Carrboro in 2014.

Root said the other facility she worked at often only had board games or bingo as forms of engagement, leaving residents to sit in silence by themselves when they weren’t doing an activity. At Charles House, there is a changing weekly schedule, allowing people who work there to come up with activities that are engaging to them as well.

“One time last week, it was old jingles, and you see the residents’ faces light up when they see that the Snickers jingle came on that they listened to in their childhood when the commercials would come on,” she said.

Bryan Godfrey, a social worker in the UNC School of Medicine’s Division of Geriatric Medicine, said he often refers patients with dementia to Charles House. He said some of the Charles House’s methods, including reminiscence therapy and using music and dancing in their programs, are very effective in slowing dementia’s progress.

“Many [participants] are people who would look a lot different if not for their connection to Charles House, and many of them would appear lower functioning if not for their time at Charles House, and many would be in institutional care settings,” Fox said. “I really connect to the impact that we have on their lives and also on the lives of their caregivers, and it is so meaningful to me.”

Godfrey also said one of the most important aspects of day program options is that they give a break for family members and caregivers, especially when the work gets tiring or frustrating.

When used in conjunction with at-home care — which can be very expensive — Godfrey said a day program can also be more cost effective. Charles House specifically receives funding from the Orange County Department on Aging and other programs to help subsidize the cost for those who cannot afford it, Fox said.

“I think a lot of what senior care is, is piecing together the right stuff,” he said.



DTH/DYLAN THIESSEN

The sun set in front of the Charles House on Oct 17.

X: @dthcitystate

SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Nonprofit to host Pride event

Carolina Aging Alliance creates community, provides services for LGBTQ+ seniors

By William Becker
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The Carolina Aging Alliance — a Raleigh-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was originally founded as the Gay & Gray Initiative in 2011 — provides resources, holds events and creates a community for LGBTQ+ adults over 50.

Sharon Kilpatrick, the Triangle interim director for the organization, said it began as a social group, and was connected to the LGBT Center of Raleigh. She said it was a safe place for older adults to socialize and interact.

The program became affiliated with Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders (SAGE) USA and was renamed as SAGE Raleigh in 2014, which later became the Carolina Aging Alliance in 2022.

Kilpatrick said the organization works to make sure the older members of the LGBTQ+ community are supported, acknowledged and receiving appropriate services.

“Because while we have all the same needs and problems that any older adult has, our community has some unique situations that we need to have addressed,” she said.

Older members of the LGBTQ+ community face a unique set of challenges that can include discrimination, generational divides, a lack of legal protections and social isolation, according to the American Psychological Association.

Karen Stegman, Chapel Hill mayor pro tem, said that because same-sex marriage was legalized relatively recently, many aging adults never married their partners, so they do not have the legal or inheritance protections that other couples and families have.

“So there’s really very specific challenges and needs based on the discrimination that exists in our country, in our state,” she said.

Kilpatrick said the organization is volunteer-based and includes a board of directors, as well as regional planning teams located in the Triangle and Triad areas. She said statewide, Carolina Aging Alliance serves between 2,500 and 3,000 people.

Kilpatrick said the organization hosts training programs, travel events, picnics, socials, Pride events and voter education support. Celebrating Out and Proud, an event celebrating National Coming Out Day, will be held on Oct. 24 from



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON KILPATRICK

Sharon Kilpatrick is the Carolina Aging Alliance’s Regional Director for the Triangle Area.

6-8 p.m. at the Seymour Center, and co-hosted by the Orange County Department on Aging.

Shenae McPherson, administrator for the Orange County Department on Aging’s Volunteer Connect 55+ division said the Carolina Aging Alliance has made a concentrated effort to ensure that it is supporting the older LGBTQ+ adults in Orange County.

McPherson said the focus of Coming Out and Proud is to recognize that coming out is not a one-day process.

“It’s not a one-time event, but we want to make sure and we feel it’s vital to provide a time and a safe space where we can acknowledge the journeys of our LGBTQ+ community members, and we want to bring together all members of the community, all ages, and celebrate and have a good time,” she said.

Local performers are also invited to share their talents during the evening to celebrate the community and the process of coming out, McPherson said.

She said some community members share their stories through song, dance or standing up and speaking to the audience.

“So we give people every opportunity to do that, because we want to make sure that the more that we speak about it, the more empowered people can become,” McPherson said.

Stegman said social isolation is a very real issue, especially for aging LGBTQ+ community members. She said it is an important part of healthy aging to have spaces where people are welcome, celebrated and can find community.

X: @dthcitystate

NCDHHS

Grant will connect families to mental health resources

The \$14.8 million will support the System of Care network

By Caroline Horne
and Gabrielle Rothstein
Staff Writers
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The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services received a \$14.8 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on Oct. 5 to support the mental health of children and families in North Carolina.

The grant is intended to enhance the N.C. System of Care – a community-based network that connects people to various health resources, including mental health care, across the state.

Sharon Bell, manager of behavioral health for the Division of Child and Family Well-Being, said N.C. System of Care is made up of all the players in a community that serve children and families, such as behavioral health providers and schools.

“They all come together, really to support the children and try to improve access to care within a local community, keeping kids from going into out-of-home placements or higher levels of care and keeping them engaged in services with their families,” she said.

Bell also said that a large portion of the funding will be going toward providing High-



Students studied at the Undergraduate Library on April 18. Students are not immune to mental health struggles. A 2021 survey found that 43 percent of North Carolina high school students said they felt sad or hopeless almost daily for at least two consecutive weeks.

DTH FILE/ASHLEY SANTILLAN

Fidelity Wraparound services to every county in North Carolina. The High-Fidelity Wraparound process seeks to help families when youth experience mental health or behavioral challenges.

High-Fidelity Wraparound services provide care in the least restrictive way possible, reducing out-of-home placements and keeping services affordable, said Bell.

Tara Ward, the project manager

of the High-Fidelity Wraparound Training Program for NCDHHS, said that the grant will help to expand access to High-Fidelity Wraparound services to all 100 counties in North Carolina.

“This will support with increasing the number of counties that receive High-Fidelity Wraparound, as well as support existing teams with stabilization and just boosting those teams

with their utilization,” Ward said.

She said the Wraparound provides a team for each family, including a coach supervisor who oversees the process and a facilitator who ensures that the right people are brought in for the specific needs of the families for meetings.

The team also includes family support partners, who are individuals with lived experience

as caregivers helping their own children through navigating mental health systems, she said.

Ward said that the grant application was vigorous and that other states applied for the grant as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey, rates of self-reported suicide attempts among high schoolers and reports of high schoolers seriously considering suicide in North Carolina are similar to the rest of the country.

In the 2021 YRBS Survey, 43 percent of high school students in North Carolina indicated that they felt sad or hopeless almost daily for at least two consecutive weeks during the previous year, having stopped some usual activities. This rate increased from 29 percent in 2017.

Marisa Marraccini, an associate professor at the UNC School of Education, said that North Carolina has a variety of mental healthcare needs. She said some urban areas in the state have obstructions to care and some rural areas have less access to mental health resources.

“I could imagine that a grant like this that focuses heavily on increasing capacity for systems care of mental health would be great in a state like ours because we have so much heterogeneity,” she said.

X: @dthcitystate

Bills shift power away from Board of Election, voters

Continued from Page 1

governor. S.B. 512 moved this power to the General Assembly.

Cooper filed an injunction in Wake County Superior Court, challenging provisions in the law that he called a “blatantly unconstitutional legislative power grab” in a press release.

The lawsuit cites previous state supreme court decisions, including *McCrorry v. Berger*, and argues that “the Supreme Court of North Carolina reaffirmed the separation of powers as a foundational principle of our state government.” *McCrorry v. Berger*, decided in 2016, determined legislators overstepped the separation of powers under the state constitution by exerting power over executive boards.

The boards affected by this change are policymaking bodies that work under the governor to decide what laws look like in practice for state agencies, N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said.

“They’re really taking away the governor’s authority to manage policy,” Meyer said. “And in North Carolina, the legislature already has a lot more power than the governor.”

In a statement regarding Cooper’s veto of the bill in August, N.C. Sen. Warren Daniel (R-Buncombe, Burke, McDowell), a primary sponsor of S.B. 512, said the purpose of the bill was to bring “better representation” to boards and commissions in North Carolina.

“The legislature is the elected body closest to the people of North Carolina and has the ability to recruit a qualified, diverse roster of appointees,” he said.

S.B. 747

The lawsuit, filed by the N.C. Democratic Party in a federal district court against N.C. State Board of Elections, claims that S.B. 747 is a “direct assault” on the right to vote.

S.B. 747 makes changes to election laws, eliminating the three-day grace

period after Election Day to accept mail-in ballots. It requires all mail-in votes to be received by the county boards of elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

Furthermore, if those who do same-day registration do not have their information verified on time, the ballot can be withdrawn.

The plaintiffs are challenging provisions in the law on same-day registration, which require additional photo identification and address verification requirements.

Paige Anderholm, a staff writer at Democracy Docket, said that because of the elimination of the three-day grace period, mail-in ballots received after the new deadline will not be counted.

“As a few state representatives have pointed out in their debates for that change of the provision, over 13,000 North Carolinians would have been disenfranchised in 2020 if that deadline had been in place,” Anderholm said.

N.C. Rep. Renée Price (D-Caswell, Orange) said the bill gives observers the power to move throughout the voting space, as well as the freedom to take pictures of voters. She said that to her, this is a form of intimidation.

“We have had enough over the years of voter intimidation — particularly if you’re African American or a person of color — and trying to go and vote and have people hovering over you, listening to your conversations and seeing what you’re trying to do — that may hinder some people from actually coming out to vote,” she said.

N.C. Republican Party chair Michael Whatley congratulated the General Assembly for overriding Cooper’s vetoes of what he called “common-sense legislation” in a statement last week.

X: @dthcitystate

ADVISORY GROUPS

Cooper announces new appointees to Hispanic, Latino council

Local leaders Eliazar Posada, Erik Valera among council members

By Sophie Baglioni
Staff Writer
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Gov. Roy Cooper announced appointments to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs on Oct. 6. He appointed 27 individuals to serve two-year terms on the board starting Oct. 1.

The council was established in 2017 under Executive Order No. 23. Its duties, outlined in the order, include providing policy recommendations and advising the governor on issues specific to the Latino community in North Carolina.

Each appointed member is a leader of the Hispanic or Latino community who has worked with the community in N.C. in different sectors — such as language access, immigration and health equity.

Cristina España, the N.C. Department of Administration deputy director of diversity, equity and inclusion, said she envisions the council acting as a back-and-forth conversation between the governor and the Latino community. She said she is looking forward to having more active interaction.

España also said the council includes representation from many communities, including Afro-Latino and Latin American Indigenous communities. She added the council also has different levels of leadership.

El Centro Hispano is an organization that represents and advocates for the Latino community in Durham, Wake, Orange and neighboring counties.

In an email, the organization said they expect the new members will accurately advise the governor so he



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS LONG/THE NEWS & OBSERVER/TNS

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper delivered his State of the State address to a joint session of the North Carolina General Assembly on March 6.

and his team can better address the needs of the community and push toward equal opportunity for its members regardless of their status.

Chief operating officer for El Centro Hispano and Chapel Hill Town Council candidate Erik Valera was reappointed to the council. He said in an email that, as the state grows, inclusive representation becomes more vital to drive progress forward.

Yesenia Pedro Vicente, the assistant director of student access, success and engagement of UNC’s Office for Diversity and Inclusion, was also appointed to the council. As the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, she said she wants to focus on making documents accessible in Spanish.

“It’s a skill. I mean, it is a blessing to be bilingual. It also brings responsibility. I think about that, how can I make sure that I use this gift to help others?” she said.

Pedro Vicente converted La Familia, previously an affinity group for Latino students, into the Latine Graduate and

Professional Student Association, a student-run organization that provides a community for UNC students who identify as Hispanic and Latino.

Carrboro Town Council member Eliazar Posada, the first openly LGBTQ+ Latino elected official in North Carolina, was also appointed to the governor’s council. He is one of the individuals who founded Orgullo Latinx Pride, a pride festival in Carrboro for the Latino community.

Another appointee, Tiffany Oliva, the City of Winston-Salem’s director of intergovernmental affairs and strategic initiatives, said being appointed is not about the accolades each individual holds.

Rather, she said it is about improving the well-being and advancing the interests of the Latino community.

“And it is about the Hispanic/Latino community, but it’s about the greater community as a whole,” she said.

X: @dthcitystate

EDUCATION

Night School Bar opens Durham location, offers pay-what-you-can courses

The virtual program for adults got its first physical space

By Margaret Hungate

Staff Writer
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On Thursday, Lindsey Andrews and her team opened a physical Durham location of Night School Bar, a bar that also offers pay-what-you-can courses in the arts and humanities.

Andrews started Night School Bar in 2020 as a virtual program for adults. Night School Bar offers courses that relate to current subjects and provides the tools for students to analyze and understand their own experiences, according to its website.

Now, adults of all ages have the opportunity to connect with others in a physical, social and academic atmosphere.

The new location has an open layout with two designated spaces. The first is a classroom area, and large sliding doors connect it to the bar, which is the second space.

"I'm really excited about getting to breathe into the energy of a classroom or the energy of a space where people can feel the contagion of excitement for ideas," Nicole Berland, an instructor at the Night School Bar, said.

The bar has offered dozens of courses that explore unique and specific topics, such as queer ecology,



DTH/LANDIS MANGUM

People gathered at the Night School Bar in Durham on Oct. 9. The Night School Bar provides evening classes in the arts and humanities taught by professionals.

speculative fiction and anti-capitalism.

Phillip Stillman, another instructor, said the mission of the bar is to make graduate-level education readily accessible for everyone, including people who don't have financial or cultural privilege.

Stillman, a psychotherapist, teaches courses on topics including ecology, literature and queer theory.

"I draw on all these different aspects of my education to teach courses on queer theory and [transgender] studies, and then also I teach courses on radical ecology," they said.

Berland, who is an assistant teaching professor at UNC, said

she finds freedom in her Night School Bar classes because they are all learning together.

The opening of the brick-and-mortar site will provide space for creativity, new community and friendship to spring up, she said.

"I think this is going to provide an accessible space for people to learn about topics, to come with their curiosity to learn about things that they don't really have a way into learning about, so this will provide it," Andrews said.

A large aspect of opening the physical location was engagement with additional art and programming.

"Part of the goal is to be able to have social, meaningful interactions in person that can feel really collective and creative," Andrews said.

As part of the early stages of opening, the Night School Bar hosted an intimate performance and discussion by local artists Chessa Rich and Skylar Gudasz on Oct. 8.

Rich, an indie rock musician, has taken courses with the Night School Bar and said it was a "no-brainer" to play in a space with a high concentration of creative people.

"In a place like Durham that has such a concentration of creative people — musicians, artists,

scholars — it's kind of a crucial part of connecting those people, not even just artists and creatives, but people that are interested in building a different kind of functional world," Rich said.

She said it's important to have a space for eliminating barriers and accessing communities where other types of thinking are encouraged.

The physical location is open to any adult interested in focusing on niche but important topics, regardless of prior learning or interests.

Jasmina Nogo, a student at the Night School Bar, has a journalism degree from UNC and, after spending some time in law work, went to N.C. State University for a master of fine arts in creative writing.

After feeling stifled and suffering from a lack of inspiration and productivity during the pandemic, she began taking writing courses at the Night School Bar, which adjusted the trajectory of her passions, she said.

"It changed my life in the sense that I quit my job because this is what I was hungry for," Nogo said.

She said she has found that the content of her courses motivate enriching learning with continued exploration.

With a physical space, the Night School Bar community will continue to grow, and conversations and impactful learning will be continuous, Nogo said.

X: @dthlifestyle



ELIZABETH SHARP

CREATING. THOUGHTFUL. PROGRESS.

Dear Fellow Chamber of Commerce Members and Chapel Hill Business Owners,

The Chamber of Commerce Candidate Survey - which is to be published in this newspaper - posed several questions that I could not accurately answer with the available options:

"Yes," "No," or "Unsure." My answer to those questions is therefore shown by the Chamber as "did not conform with instructions," which is true enough.

The questions concerned pace of growth and housing in Chapel Hill and whether or not increasing housing supply is key to affordability, and to balancing the number of jobs in Chapel Hill with the number of employees who live here.

The market influences that affect the affordability of housing are far more complicated than simple supply and demand. I support increasing housing supply, but ultimately, unless affordable housing options are untethered to the open market, we cannot ensure that they will be affordable, which is why I am a proponent of non-profit, limited-profit, and public housing.

I would like you, as my peers in the Chapel Hill business community, to know that I am pro-growth. Chapel Hill is not growing too quickly, but it has been growing poorly. However, if we can grow a town that is attractive, dynamic and diverse, we will no doubt be a place where businesses thrive and local employees want to, and can, live.

**Respectfully,
Elizabeth Sharp
Candidate for Chapel Hill Town Council
Co-Owner, Hawthorne & Wood and Bluebird**

Paid For by the Committee to Elect Elizabeth Sharp

ARTS & CULTURE

Local musicians perform in unlikely venues, change up music scene

Triangle-based artists connect with songs and their community

By Preethika Ratnam
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Surrounded by the whispers of cafe patrons, the gentle yet uplifting sounds of a harp guitar accompanied the relaxed atmosphere at Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews last Friday.

Andrew Kasab, a musician based in the Triangle, worked with the ambiance, matching the swell of his music to the conversation around him.

Kasab has performed locally and nationally for over 30 years.

"I have a really great standing with the community in Chapel Hill and Carrboro," Kasab said.

He said he enjoys playing at non-traditional venues, and that as a musician, he works to adapt his music to each setting.

In college, Kasab said he studied a little marketing and developed an understanding of how to cater to different audiences, which is why he tries to make his playing complement his performance environment.

"And to me, that's kind of like playing to the wonderment of the world around you," he said. "Where the audience may not really recognize all of those elements that are happening, but that's my job."

Kasab is just one of many local musicians who perform in spaces such as cafes, bars and farmers markets.

Robert Gelblum, another musician,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT GELBLUM

Chapel Hill musician Robert Gelblum performs inside of Lanza's Cafe.

first joined the Chapel Hill music scene in the mid-1970s. Throughout his musical life, he has performed at several public spaces, such as the Carrboro Farmers' Market.

Gelblum said he was first drawn to music during his childhood in Philadelphia, where he was introduced to rhythm and blues and soul music. This later influenced his musical style, which was also inspired by folk.

"It's hard to think of moments when I'm happier than when I'm playing music," he said.

Gelblum immediately noticed the Triangle's love for music after moving to N.C. in 1968, he said.

"The musical scene, as you know, around here is vibrant and full of great musicians and different types of music," Gelblum said.

Rabbi Sandra Lawson, the director of racial diversity, equity and inclusion at Reconstructing Judaism, performs at locations like Lanza's Cafe in Carrboro. She began playing music and writing songs while studying to become a rabbi.

After moving to N.C. in 2018, Lawson said she decided to start playing at local venues such as barber shops and farmers markets.

For Lawson, music is a way for people to disconnect from reality and connect with their community. She said music can help people share stories and understand others through a different lens.

"It goes to your heart and not your head," Lawson said.

X: @dthlifestyle

Hillsborough home open to the public

Continued from Page 1

While Maxwell and his family referred to the home as 'Nannie,' they did not tie any one spirit to the namesake, rather, the house was a myriad of presences from different time periods.

Poplar Hill was originally built in 1794 by James Hogg, a Scottish immigrant. The Hogg family owned the home until Julian Carr purchased the home nearly a century later.

In 1980, James Freeland moved to Hillsborough and started restoring and moving several historic properties, including Poplar Hill, to the other side of the Eno River, where the home currently resides.

The Eno River, the land the house was moved onto and the house itself all contain diverse spiritual entities from different time periods, Barney Caton, who runs Haunted Hillsborough ghost tours, said.

Much to Kilgore's dismay, Poplar Hill is a stop on Caton's tour.

He said the reason why the house may no longer be 'haunted,' as Kilgore and her husband claim, is because of Kilgore's interest in Scotland. As a result, the house has come full circle back to its original Scottish immigrant owners — the Hogg family.

While Caton said he enjoys the storytelling aspect of ghost stories, they also tell the history of a place and stick around for generations — suggesting some fragment of truth.

"What I always say is, whether or not I believe in ghosts, that I definitely believe in the power of these stories," he said.

Maxwell said understanding the

history of the home has helped with his understanding of the paranormal activity. To him, the house and its spiritual presence represent the complicated history of the American South and white Southerners' historic exploitation of other bodies.

"And that is the grotesque legacy upon which this country was founded, and it leaves a mark generationally; it leaves a mark in the very land, I believe," he said.

Kilgore said she is working to get the home officially recognized as a historic property.

Kilgore currently runs a Scottish art gallery, Saltire Gallerie, out of the home, and for the first time in its history, the home is open to the public every Thursday from 3-6 p.m.

"This is just — this is my last house," she said. "Last, big house. And you know, I don't want to leave this house. This is it. So, for me, this is home."

X: @dthlifestyle



DTH/MORGAN BRENNER

Laurel Kilgore posed in front of Poplar Hill on Oct. 5.

PHILANTHROPY

Festival raises money for medical debts

Jubilee Baptist Church organized music performances, catering

By Delphine Liu
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Anne-Claire Cleaver, a local singer-songwriter, was once one of more than 100 million Americans struggling with medical debt.

This Saturday, she gave back to the community at the RIP Medical Debt Festival, organized by Jubilee Baptist Church to raise money to relieve medical debt in Orange and Durham counties.

The church collected donations for the organization RIP Medical Debt. The nonprofit is based on debt buyers, who purchase medical debt in bulk for a lower cost and are reimbursed for that debt at full price by patients.

"The founders of the organization realized in 2014 that, if instead you took a philanthropic lens, and you didn't want to make a profit, but instead used donated dollars to purchase this debt, you can in fact, sort of flip the script and purchase debts very inexpensively," Daniel Lempert, the vice president of communications at RIP Medical Debt, said.

Each dollar donated to the organization relieves about \$100 of debt for someone in the medical system, according to their website.

The organization targets their efforts toward people who are least able to pay, Lempert said.

The church raised around \$6,000 at the event and hopes to raise \$45,000 by the end of the year to benefit people in local hospitals.

The church had provided medical debt grants in the past but never hosted an event this large, co-pastor Heather Folliard said.

"We wanted to celebrate that we know we're going to be paying off a good chunk of debt," Kevin Georgas, one of the co-pastors of the church, said. "That's a really joyful thing that's worth celebrating."

Folliard said there are a number of Jubilee congregation members who are struggling to pay medical bills themselves.

"This is just in line with where we want to be as far as paying off debt and also being a very warm, open, welcoming place for people to gather," Folliard said.

Face painting and a bouncy house were present, along with live performances of original music by Cleaver and Randy Bickford.

The festival was important to Cleaver because of how she suffered from medical debt when she was younger. She said that the medical system seemed to care more about profits than her individual needs.

She said that it's important for community members to help each other if they are not helped by larger institutions.

"If we're able to do it in a way that like, I'm able to entertain people, lift their spirits or just have a community event where people are actually gathering in person and looking each other in the eye," Cleaver said. "That's a wonderful way, I think, to create change in your own community."

Bickford, a singer-songwriter, performed at the festival under the name Scivic Rivers.

He said that some of his friends and musical influences have suffered from medical debt.

Lempert said that although RIP Debt provides immediate relief, the healthcare financing system still has systemic issues.

"I think our country is just completely anti-human and insane when it comes to health care, lack of health care," Bickford said. "We just kind of have to help each other through mutual aid in the absence of a system that should provide that for people."



DTH DESIGN/GIULI HOFFMANN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Was Morehead-Cain's expansion to sophomores only for those in the know?



DTH FILE/ANDREW LAM

The Morehead Planetarium Science Center Building, which houses the Morehead-Cain Foundation, photographed on Sept. 26, 2022.

The Morehead-Cain Foundation, the first merit-based scholarship program in the nation, recently opened its doors to UNC sophomores. The move is unprecedented for the program, which historically has only admitted incoming first-year students.

Many sophomores filled out the application to vie for the 12 to 15 coveted spots. Students had to be nominated by UNC faculty or staff before submitting an application, which opened on Sept. 15 and closed on Oct. 1.

The application was not the same as the one high school seniors filled out, according to Chris Bradford, the president of the program. It was shorter and focused on the applicants' achievements since coming to UNC.

But how did the sophomores who applied know that the application was open?

There was no official announcement to UNC students about the scholarship opening to the current class of 2026, and the only public news found online came from The Daily Tar Heel's Sept. 19 article.

The lack of a public announcement to students from the foundation, combined with the short turnaround time to submit applications, could lead one to believe that it was perhaps not a move made with accessibility and equity in mind. Rather, it appears access to information about applying depended on existing connections to those in the Morehead-Cain community.

Limiting information to a certain group of students, whether intentional or not, begs the question: Is there a select applicant pool that the Morehead-Cain Foundation already has its eyes on?

In an interview with The DTH, Bradford said the Morehead-Cain Foundation's selection process reflects the challenges associated with "elite college admissions."

Opening up the scholarship to students already enrolled at UNC should be an opportunity to level the playing field for applicants and challenge the elitism Bradford is talking about — especially for applicants who didn't have access to the Morehead-Cain application in high school.

Instead, the indirect approach the foundation took to communicate the expansion thwarted efforts to improve the scholarship's accessibility.

The decision to extend its community and resources to more students is, on paper, an initial step in the right direction for the Morehead-Cain scholarship program. It gives more students support and a chance to broaden their network and experience — but only for the accepted pool of applicants.

As the first merit scholarship in the nation, this sets a poor example for other programs that look to model themselves after the Morehead-Cain.

If the foundation wants to meaningfully change its elitist reputation, it should use the sophomore intake as an opportunity to engage with more students across the University, beyond already existing circles.

The foundation will announce the accepted sophomores in November, Bradford said. In the meantime, we can only wonder if widening the gates of the Morehead-Cain Foundation will lead to a more diverse class or only extend the program's exclusivity.

X: @dthopinion

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COLUMN

Wake County has an innovative solution to affordable housing crisis

By Maddie Whitaker
Columnist

Anyone driving through Chapel Hill these past few months has surely seen more than a few "Tell the Town Council 'NO REZONING!' Protect Our Neighborhoods" signs.

These signs were posted in response to a text amendment proposal to the Town's Land Use Management Ordinance, which would allow for duplexes to be built alongside single-family homes.

To many wealthy Chapel Hill homeowners, I'm certain the word "duplex" is akin to "Voldemort." You must not utter it and if you do, pray it doesn't come to haunt you and decrease the value of your home. It seems to them that affordable and multi-family housing has no place in their historic neighborhoods.

In the midst of their affordable housing crisis, Wake County

experienced a significant loss of housing that is affordable to individuals and families earning less than 50 percent of the area's median income.

The county has sought partners since 2018 to help develop permanent supportive housing, specifically for its most vulnerable populations. With the help of California-based nonprofit Step Up, Wake County may have found a way to avoid similar citizen pushback when trying to solve the local housing crisis.

As of 2021, Step Up is responsible for housing 1,850 people, utilizing a unique model of creating more housing through the conversion of blighted motels, under-utilized office buildings, or malls into permanent supportive housing. After researching Step Up, Wake County's director of affordable housing and community revitalization, Lorena McDowell, and her team endeavored to bring it to Wake County.

Throughout their service, they've found that this approach tends to be a win-win for communities. By eliminating motels that Step Up describes as "a nuisance," while simultaneously chipping away at the homeless population, Step Up and Wake County are creating a solution to the affordable housing crisis that sidesteps political objection.

Chapel Hill needs affordable housing desperately, but Town efforts to enact policy to make that possible are repeatedly fought by residents of wealthy Chapel Hill neighborhoods. If Chapel Hill were to adopt Step Up's model, those residents wouldn't have to be as concerned about their homes devaluing upon the construction of affordable duplexes because that wouldn't be the only option for affordable housing.

Transforming "nuisance" motels or even vacant office space into fairly priced studio apartments tackles key

issues that prevent the construction of more housing in Chapel Hill: a lack of available land and primarily single-family zoning.

By steering clear of zoning policies and political red tape, Step Up offers a solution to homelessness that doesn't pose as a threat to the value of some residents' homes.

Step Up plans to provide residents with services such as therapy, medical care and transportation, as well as opportunities for social connection and job training. Wake County has also agreed to supply residents with vouchers to subsidize rent.

Nevertheless, this is a partial solution, particularly one that still doesn't fully address the gap in middle housing. However, by giving individuals the resources to keep a job and provide for themselves, Step Up is preparing them for a life where upward mobility is possible.

No one loses. Step Up is privately

funded and the only expense Wake County assumes is the monthly rent checks. Homeless individuals get an apartment to themselves and the support necessary to get back on their feet. Concerned citizens reap the benefits of the restoration of old hotels and a decrease in the disturbances often associated with widespread housing insecurity.

While this program may be a brilliant way of evading pushback from wealthy communities, I wonder if this should even be an obstacle that has to be considered when trying to help those without access to affordable housing. To covet your neighborhood as something that is unattainable and proudly so is to reject the beauty and progress that grows out of diverse communities.

Besides, how great can a town be if no one can afford to live in it?

X: @dthopinion

CAMPUS QUANDARIES

Navigating toilet paper and roommate conflicts

By Satchel Walton
Staff Writer

In "Campus Quandaries," Satchel Walton explores the practical ethics of life at UNC through reader-submitted scenarios. This week, he takes on the social politics of changing housemates and the morality of taking toilet paper from public restrooms.

Changing housemates: What to say, when to say it?

A reader asked the following: What is the best way to tell my current roommates I am not living with them again next year? I still want to be close with my current roommates, but I've found an arrangement next year with different people that's cheaper and in a better location.

When you don't tell current roommates or housemates that you have made housing plans without them next year, there is a tacit expectation that you will be living with them again.

That tacit expectation represents a compact, not a contract, so you are not in the wrong if you have found a marginally better situation. You should not feel like you are abandoning them.

A crucial part of college is learning to be a reasonable adult. You have to trust your friends' 'reasonable-adult-skills' enough to know that if you tell them in a tactful way, making your intention to remain close clear, they should accept it and not resent you.

The important thing to do is to tell them sooner rather than later. If you wait until the moment it is time to re-sign on your current place, they might have to scramble to find someone to take your spot. What if your current roommates find a new person who has to then jump ship from their current arrangement last-minute, causing a cascade of awkward conversations and hurt feelings close to housing deadlines?

Tragedy of the toilet paper commons

My friend's suitemate made the following moral argument: Toilet paper is free in the common bathroom on the first floor of Koury Residence Hall. But we still have

to buy it for our suite, which has a bathroom you'd have to go through our room to get to. Given that we could have just gone downstairs every time to use the bathroom and the free toilet paper, why not just take toilet paper from the downstairs bathroom when we're out?

An intriguing thought.

However, the argument that stealing the downstairs toilet paper for your own use would be morally equivalent to going to the bathroom downstairs every time doesn't hold up.

By way of analogy, imagine your parents call and make the following argument: Any time I wanted some water at home, I could have walked to the park and used the public drinking fountain for free. Therefore, I shouldn't have to pay my water bill.

This would obviously be absurd. Your parents should pay their part for the convenience of having water piped straight to their kitchen, and you should pay for the convenience of having a bathroom right by your room, accessible only to you and your three suitemates.

Stealing said toilet paper could cause the downstairs bathroom to run out, creating an unfortunate situation for anyone who uses it. The housekeeping staff I spoke to in Spencer Residence Hall said they have to replace toilet paper in the lobby bathroom every day and they wouldn't approve of it being taken.

"He slightly has a point, but also, is it morally right? Maybe not," housekeeper Katelyn Sharpe said of the scenario.

"He should be supplying his own," housekeeper Kimberly Sharpe said, and coworker Carlos Roque agreed.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A QUESTION OR SCENARIO, FILL OUT THIS FORM



X: @dthopinion

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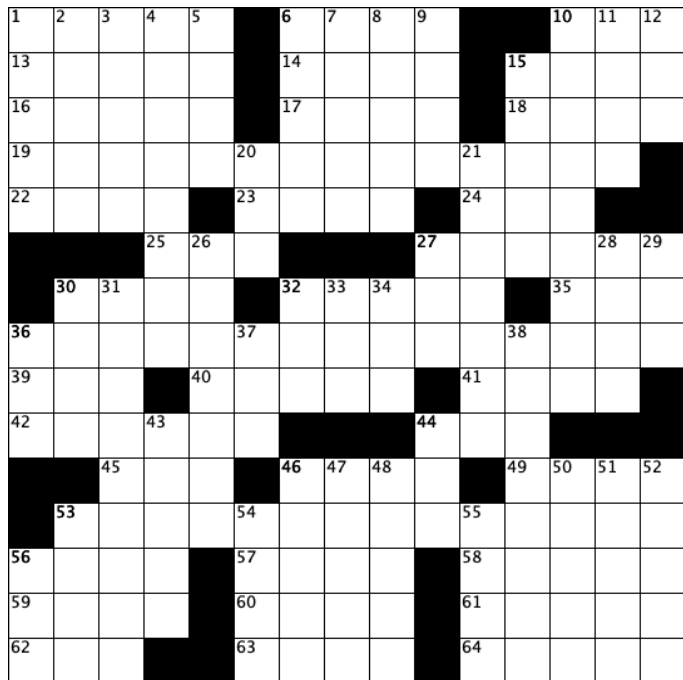
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This week's crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC junior majoring in comparative literature and education. He is from Wilmington, Delaware.

Title: "Gone Long Again"

Across

- 1) Fun time with dynamite?
- 6) The fifth-longest-running Broadway show
- 10) Jesuit school in L.A.
- 13) "...& Juliet?"
- 14) Home state of the Jazz and the Mormons
- 15) Mowry and Carrere, collectively
- 16) Three English rivers
- 17) Meeting points, in geometry
- 18) "_____ boy, way to hit the ball!"
- 19) Bukowski short story collection with many emotional ups and downs
- 22) Traditional Indian dress
- 23) Puts into practice
- 24) Rank below B.G. in the military
- 25) The Crunkleton, _____. 2008
- 27) Go to, like a CLE event
- 30) Skin irritation
- 32) Granville's dining center
- 35) "Where ___ _ sign?"
- 36) "Go ahead, say what you see!"
- 39) Word before 'art' and 'icon'
- 40) When couples part, said the priest
- 41) Ambulance personnel, abbr.
- 42) Globe-trotting aeronaut Earhart
- 44) Psychic's gift, abbr.
- 45) Fight on behalf of
- 46) Helen of _____ (beauty featured in "The Odyssey")
- 49) The peak of supermarket shopping?
- 53) Famed fruits grown near Atlanta
- 56) Like well-used coats
- 57) Homophone and antonym of 'raise'
- 58) Single library shelf, say
- 59) Puts the kibosh on, say
- 60) Word before 'curtain' and 'chef'
- 61) "Considering the aforementioned"
- 62) Golfer's peg
- 63) Numbers on a golf scorecard
- 64) Poe of "The Raven" and "The Bells"

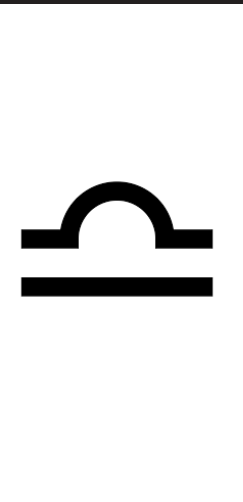
Down

- 1) Horn section, in most orchestras
- 2) Genus of African trees
- 3) Illicit love affair
- 4) Conscious, fully alive
- 5) Comedy Central's "____.0"
- 6) Physically restrains the bad guys
- 7) Make up for one's sins
- 8) Old El Paso snacks
- 9) Guarded area on the soccer pitch?
- 10) 'Dotty' classic comic book girl?
- 11) Nice addition in any school?
- 12) "Go American team!"
- 15) Card type of the future
- 20) Frequent call at the plate
- 21) From Cs to shining Cs?
- 26) More shady looking
- 27) Wall St. worker
- 28) The French Royal, We
- 29) Slangy insult
- 30) Smallest unit of matter
- 31) Africa's westernmost point
- 32) "Take on Me" group
- 33) Acquire
- 34) Often accompanies 'aah'
- 36) Massage station location
- 37) Gossip to be spilled, say
- 38) Affected strongly
- 43) Like Simba and Scar
- 44) ____ of the storm
- 46) Princess's crown jewel?
- 47) Scooter brand that cuts just as deep as the shaving tool
- 48) Holds the door
- 50) Ken Jeong's "Community" role
- 51) Islamic holy destination
- 52) Glacier's sandy deposit
- 53) No longer here
- 54) "Get a _____" (stop whining)
- 55) One of Connors' main rivals on the tennis court
- 56) Needing toweling



HOROSCOPES

If October 18th is Your Birthday...



Today's Birthday (10/18/23). Win lucrative rewards in partnership this year. Grow strength with steady practice. Earn personal triumphs this autumn, and then support a joint venture around winter challenges. Redirecting your course toward joy next spring inspires love, romance and family fun next summer. Collaborate for common gain.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Today is an 8 — Confirm reservations and monitor conditions. Avoid risk. Study the background information. Do the homework before it's due. Find a scenic spot to recharge.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Today is an 8 — Patience is golden. Watch what you say. Protect a sensitive soul. Collaborate to maintain positive account balances. Don't fund a fantasy. Prioritize the basics.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Today is an 8 — Keep your side of a bargain with your partner or risk the blowback. Do your chores. Handle what you said you would. Collaborate.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Today is a 9 — Slow down to finish faster. There's plenty of work to keep you busy. Avoid accidents or mistakes by stepping carefully. Practice the basics.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Today is a 7 — Relax and have fun with the situation. Avoid stepping on any toes. Take it easy. Romance is possible if you abandon preconceptions. Lighten up.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Today is a 6 — Domestic projects provide satisfying results. Clean a mess or resolve a breakdown. Reinforce basic household structures. Savor home cooked treats in your renewed spaces.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

Today is a 7 — Communication breakdowns could slow the action. Keep channels open with regular monitoring. You can see what's not working. Share ideas. Discuss potential solutions.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Today is a 9 — Do the work for reliable professional results. Strengthen basic structures. Resolve a problem or challenge. Go for practical objectives. Keep your customers satisfied.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Today is a 9 — Personal matters have your attention. Something you try doesn't work. Upgrade your style, brand or presentation. Pamper yourself with hot water and relaxation.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Today is a 6 — Lay low and review. Avoid controversy, jealousies or scandal. Be patient with a thoughtless person. Clean, sort and organize. Focus on practical priorities.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Today is a 7 — You can see what's not working with a team project. Social barriers become apparent. Abandon assumptions, illusions or fantasies. Listen for what's needed.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Today is a 7 — Relax. Take care of business. Accomplish big things by taking one small step at a time. Stay practical. Clean messes. Reinforce foundational elements. resources.

SUDOKU

9	2	1	7	5	4	6	3	8
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Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

WRESTLING

Rob Koll's recent comments about women raise concerns

Female athletes in the sport criticize new head coach's statements

By Aisha Baiocchi

Enterprise Managing Editor
enterprise@dailytarheel.com

A week after Rob Koll was named the new head coach of the North Carolina wrestling team in August, the UNC alumnus and acclaimed coach was a guest on a podcast where the host asked him an open-ended question about what made Chapel Hill "so great."

"Well, first of all, it's 60 percent women for God's sakes," Koll said on an episode of The Bader Show, a podcast on FloWrestling.

"And 95 percent of them are attractive," he continued. "It's just a really neat little campus for young 18- to 22-year-old men. I mean, good Lord, why would you not want to go there?"

Koll went on to tell a story about visiting Chapel Hill a week prior, coincidentally during what he called a "sorority weekend." He said it was "95 percent girls" and said he wondered why UNC wasn't holding athletic recruiting events that weekend.

Host Mark Bader did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel's requests for comment by the time of publication.

In the weeks since appearing on the podcast, as Koll made the



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPENCER HERLONG

A UNC wrestling match takes place in Carmichael Arena on Feb. 1.

move to North Carolina from his previous appointment as head coach at Stanford University, multiple members of the wrestling community across the country have expressed concerns to The Daily Tar Heel about the implications of Koll's comments.

Jasmine Gong, a Duke student and founder of a women's wrestling club on her campus last year, called Koll's comment "predatory."

"He's establishing a culture in UNC wrestling that normalizes that kind of behavior," Gong said. "And so I think that has potential concerns of how the male wrestlers on the team would treat women in their lives or even just women on campus."

In response to The DTH's request for an interview, Koll issued an apology. "I did not mean to offend anyone

in the Carolina community with my statements, and I apologize if I did," he said in the statement. "I am thrilled to be back at my alma mater, and I have nothing but respect for our students, faculty and staff."

'You see a lot of that'

The NCAA currently recognizes women's wrestling as an "emerging sport," while the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics recognizes it as its own sport.

In 2021, UNC made history by listing six-time All-American Marisol Nugent as the first-ever woman on an ACC varsity wrestling roster. In the past, numerous successful female wrestlers have trained at UNC facilities alongside the program.

Hannah Ricioli was a nationally ranked wrestler in high school before she came to Stanford in 2021, the same year Koll was appointed as their head coach.

She said she did not find Koll's comments to be uncommon, saying "You see a lot of that" in wrestling.

A wrestler at Cornell, who asked to stay anonymous, said they felt similar to Ricioli when they heard Koll's comments on The Bader Show. Koll coached at Cornell from 1989 to 2021.

"In my opinion, it is people like Rob who hindered the growth of the sport," they said. "Women are here to stay and we're not going to put up with this. The world is changing. This sport is changing and you either change with it, or you will be drowned out by the good that is happening and you will go down as the bad guy in the industry."

'It's hard to listen to'

Koll has coached 74 All-Americans since he won the 1988 wrestling national championship as a Tar Heel.

Wrestling coaches and assistants who worked with Koll declined to comment about his statement on The Bader Show.

Stanford assistant coach Grant Leeth and associate head coach Enock Francois, who worked with Koll for several years, provided comments to The DTH highlighting Koll's positive qualities. Neither said they were familiar with the statement Koll made in the FloWrestling interview.

"I am sure the quote was taken out of context or came across in a way that wasn't intended," Leeth wrote in an email.

One coach, who requested that all identifying details remain anonymous, said they worked with and under Koll for a number of years.

"It's very nerve-racking, especially where women's wrestling is right now," they said about the comments on The Bader Show. "For growing young adults, females who want to maybe get into this coaching space, to see a revered member in the space say something so blatantly wrong, I mean, it's almost comical. It's hard to listen to."

The coach said that Koll not publicly acknowledging the comments he made on the podcast is deeply disappointing, especially considering his position of power in the wrestling community.

Gong said Koll's comments affect more than just women in wrestling spaces.

"You can both acknowledge that he may be a very successful coach and fundraiser and have a lot of experience," Gong said. "But he's also creating an environment that is unsafe for women on campus, and also fostering a misogynistic culture in his team as well."

UNC Athletic Communications declined to provide statements from athletics director Bubba Cunningham and wrestler Marisol Nugent.

X: @_aishabee_

Tez Walker scores three touchdowns against Miami



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

UNC junior wide receiver Devontez 'Tez' Walker (9) ran down the field during the football game against Miami on Saturday in Kenan Stadium.

Continued from Page 1

all over and throwing the 'U' down," he said. "I saw the orange in front of my face, might as well."

In his second appearance as a Tar Heel, Walker torched the Hurricanes for 132 yards and three touchdowns on just six catches in then-No. 12 UNC's 41-31 win over Miami. In the Tar Heels' first ranked matchup of the year, Walker's breakout performance all but confirmed that he's finally doing what he was brought to UNC to do: excel as a primary receiver.

Given that sophomore wide receiver Kobe Paysour — who led the team with three touchdown receptions heading into Saturday — is out indefinitely with a lower-body injury, the timing of Walker's synergy with the offense couldn't have been better for the Tar Heels.

"We were 4-0 without him," head coach Mack Brown said. "Obviously we have a chance to be much better with him. Now that people have seen him, it's going to change the way people play defense against us. His presence is a game-changer."

Walker made his UNC debut last week

against Syracuse, but Brown made it clear that the wideout was slowly easing into the rotation, after not practicing with the offense for the previous three weeks. The Charlotte native also admitted that he felt "jittery" that game, in which he caught six passes for 43 yards.

Throughout the week, Walker made sure to learn every play in UNC's book. On Thursday, he gathered his fellow receivers and sophomore quarterback Drake Maye for additional preparation.

"[Walker] was the one asking to go in there and watch some extra film," Maye said. "It's a testament to the guy he is and how much he wants to win."

Against Miami, any signs of uncertainty on Walker's part had vanished.

The Kent State transfer showed his lethality in UNC's air-raid offense and ability to make explosive plays — all of his touchdown passes were of 18-yards or more.

But Walker's impact on opposing defenses doesn't stop there.

According to Brown, Walker's impact put less pressure on the Tar Heels' ground game against Miami, who entered the contest boasting the country's best rush defense. Walker's abilities

helped open up lanes for sophomore running back Omarion Hampton, who finished with 197 yards on 24 carries along with a pair of touchdowns — one rushing, one receiving.

"It's gonna be hard to play [Walker] with one guy," Brown said. "And if you put two out there, that means you're gonna have to have fewer inside for the run."

Brown also joked that Walker "doesn't say very much," which was reinforced by the receiver's muted postgame press conference.

Contrary to what his 'U-down' antics in the end zone may imply, Walker is rather soft-spoken.

But, on a night when the star wideout finally got to display his full form, there evidently wasn't much left to say at the podium.

"He's so humble," Brown said. "I said, 'Are you excited about tonight?' And he'll go, 'Mhm.' I mean, that's about all you get."

That, and maybe a little bit more on the field.

X: @danielhwei

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