

The Daily Tar Heel

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131 YEARS OF SERVING UNC STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE ATHLETES

Tennis player sues NCAA over prize money rules

Reese Brantmeier
seeks an injunction to
prevent restriction

By Shelby Swanson
Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

RALEIGH — On Friday night, Reese Brantmeier stood several yards away from her former doubles partner Elizabeth Scotty as No. 6 UNC women's tennis battled No. 14 N.C. State.

Brantmeier, who is out for the season with a left meniscus injury, didn't play in the 4-3 defeat. Yet, the sophomore still received props from N.C. State head coach Simon Earnshaw following the match due to her recent action in a different kind of court.

A top-ranked tennis player at UNC, Brantmeier brought

a lawsuit against the NCAA in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina last week. She is seeking an injunction to prevent the NCAA from restricting individual sport athletes like herself from receiving prize money. Brantmeier asserts the NCAA rules kept her from retaining the majority of the \$49,000 in prize money she earned at the 2021 U.S. Open.

"Quite frankly, I like Reese's lawsuit," Earnshaw said. "The NCAA is so out of whack."

Brantmeier is not the first college tennis player to dabble in professional play.

UNC's Fiona Crawley confronted NCAA prize money regulations after competing in the 2023 U.S. Open. Last year, N.C. State's Diana Shnaider became the first woman ranked in the



UNC sophomore Reese Brantmeier (middle) attends the women's tennis match against N.C. State on Friday at the J.W. Isenhour Tennis Center.

DTH/LARA CROCHIK

top 100 in singles to also play college tennis in two decades. Shnaider turned pro last summer.

Brantmeier's lawsuit challenges NCAA bylaws that restrict college athletes

from receiving compensation "for monetary prizes earned through their athletic performance outside of NCAA competitions."

Brantmeier specifically alleged athletes like her

have been unfairly denied lucrative benefits, while male athletes in profit-generating sports receive millions.

"It's the same kind of way a

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TRANSPORTATION

Joe Biden backs Town rapid bus project in budget

Funding proposal
recommends \$138
million for plan

By Sarah Clements
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

On March 11, President Joe Biden recommended in his fiscal year 2025 budget that the federal government provide \$138.3 million to build the planned North-South Bus Rapid Transit route along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, connecting Eubanks Road to Southern Village.

Chapel Hill Transit Director Brian Litchfield said the project — which has been in the works for over a decade — will feature dedicated bus lanes, intersection improvements and a multi-use path and sidewalks along the corridor. The corridor, one of the busiest in Chapel Hill, is currently primarily serviced by Chapel Hill Transit's NS route.

The Town will not officially receive funding unless Congress approves and appropriates it, but being in the president's budget is a critical first step, Litchfield said. If the project is featured in the next congressional budget, construction could start as early as 2026 and be completed by 2029.

Sarah Threewits, a UNC student whose primary source of transportation to and from UNC's campus is the NS route, said that while the route is convenient for her specifically, it is not always the most reliable and it can be incredibly crowded.

In addition to serving a lot of customers, such a busy corridor is also heavily utilized for pedestrian transport, leaving a critical need for improved bicycle and pedestrian access, Litchfield said.

"It's going to remake and revitalize an existing transportation corridor that's important to the town and the University," he said. "And it's a corridor today that, again, while it sees a lot of transit use and a lot of driving in personal vehicles, it's not an incredibly safe corridor for folks that are biking, walking

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CARRBORO



DTH/ELIZA BENBOW

Musician Eliza McLamb performs at Cat's Cradle Main Room on Saturday.

Eliza McLamb returns for hometown performance

By Emi Maerz

Assistant Lifestyle Editor
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Indie singer-songwriter Eliza McLamb's childhood therapist was in the audience for her headlining show in the Cat's Cradle Main Room on Saturday night.

For McLamb, as she told the crowd, that spoke for itself.

There she was, performing a set of her deeply personal, introspective and nostalgic songs in the same venue where she

saw The 1975 when she was 13 and down the street from the mall where she worked in high school.

"I can't explain how local I am," she said near the beginning of her set.

Saturday's show was the sixth stop on The Anything You Want Tour, which kicked off at the beginning of March, almost two months since the release of her debut album "Going Through It."

The album's songs range from pop-rock kitschy angst in "Modern Woman"

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GAMBLING

'That much more sweet' Sports betting builds community, raises concerns

By Tess Alongi
Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

and Akash Bhowmik
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

With this year's March Madness season underway, some UNC students believe that online sports betting can bring people together. However, experts have voiced their concerns about betting and its implications on young people since its legalization in North Carolina on March 11.

House Bill 347, signed into law last June by Gov. Roy Cooper, allows individuals at least 21 years old to place bets online for professional, collegiate and amateur sports, as well as horse races.

Jonathan Abramowitz, a professor in the UNC Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, said gambling is an especially unique activity because it operates under a variable-ratio schedule, where participants are rewarded with a win after an unpredictable number of bets placed.

"It's really hard to get out of that because you think that the next win might be right around the corner," Abramowitz said. "We can very

SPORTS BETTING IN N.C.

- House Bill 347, which the N.C. General Assembly passed and Gov. Roy Cooper signed into law, legalizes placing sports bets online.

- Sports betting became legal on March 11. Individuals must be 21 years old to place bets.

easily have a hard time resisting the urge to continue to do that."

Abramowitz said that problematic gambling can affect individuals across all age groups, but that those between the ages of 18 and 22 are especially susceptible due to their developing brains and decision-making processes. He said he thinks sports betting will increase during events like March Madness and that feelings of depression, hopelessness and anxiety can result from extensive gambling.

Abramowitz also said students should be made more aware of gambling's negative effects.

Collegiate sports are important for many Tar Heel fans, like the family of first-year student Kennedy Turner. Turner said she has experienced the connective power

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ADRIAN TILLMAN
ONLINE MANAGING EDITOR
ONLINE.EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

LIV REILLY
MANAGING EDITOR
PRINT.EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

WALKER LIVINGSTON
ENTERPRISE MANAGING EDITOR
ENTERPRISE@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

CARSON ELM-PICARD
MULTIMEDIA MANAGING EDITOR
MULTIMEDIA@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

MAKAYLA KEY
DEI COORDINATOR
DIVERSITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

LAUREN RHODES
UNIVERSITY EDITOR
UNIVERSITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

ETHAN E. HORTON
CITY & STATE EDITOR
CITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

SHELBY SWANSON
SPORTS EDITOR
SPORTS@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

ELIZA BENBOW
LIFESTYLE EDITOR
LIFESTYLE@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

LANEY CRAWLEY
OPINION EDITOR
OPINION@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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DESIGN EDITOR
DESIGN@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

KENNEDY COX
PHOTO EDITOR
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COPY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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DEPUTY COPY CHIEF
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Mail and Office: 109 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Emmy Martin, editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
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N.C. sports betting fosters connections

Continued from Page 1

of sports, especially because several of relatives play and coach collegiate sports.

“I go out with friends to watch sports and I bring them to me,” Turner said. “My family every year has a UNC-Duke watch party at my grandma’s house, so I was growing up going to those. Wherever I can watch sports, I do it.”

Turner said she has friends who place bets on games. She said bets can impact more than just those that place them — they can also affect players, as their performance can be correlated with the outcome of placed sports bets.

“Gambling, to me, in that aspect, makes me really stressed out — because you’re betting on a person’s life, on whether or not they’re going to accomplish something,” Turner said.

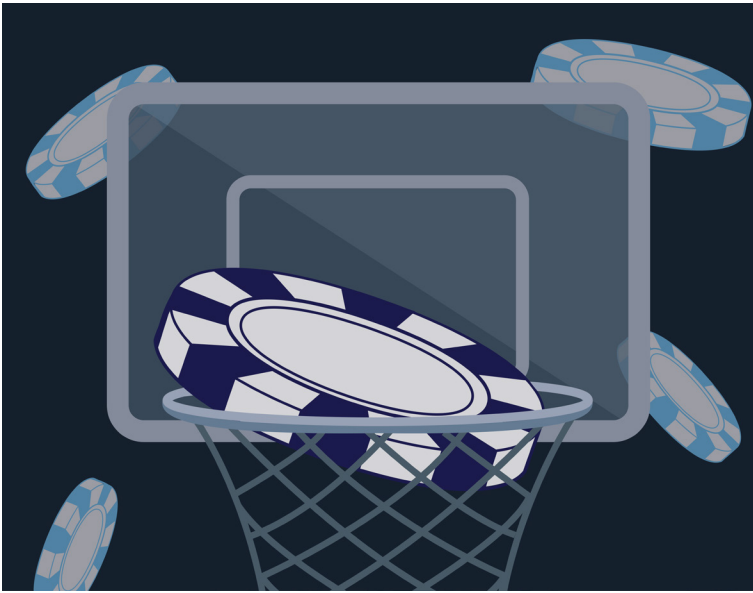
Many college athletes have voiced their concerns about the adverse effects of sports betting, Barstool Sports Old Row social media intern

and UNC junior Adam Kessel said. Some athletes have expressed that people are no longer cheering for them and only putting stakes on the game, which Kessel said can impact players negatively.

However, Kessel said the legalization of sports betting also has some positive aspects, including motivation for him and his friends to watch games they normally would not, especially during March Madness.

“It’s kind of a funny way that it pulls people together,” Kessel said. “Even in my house with a couple of guys sitting around watching the TV, joking about their different bets, you know, ‘can Oakland get past Kentucky?’ Then that actually happened, and we lost our minds.”

Kessel said sports betting often gets a bad reputation because people are often portrayed in the media as “going off the deep end,” leading to negative stereotypes about sports betting as a whole. Kessel said as long as people place bets in moderation, it has the opportunity to create a sense



DTH DESIGN/HAILEY PATTERSON

of community and is another way to put a stake in the game.

“They say, ‘Don’t bet for your teams because, you know, you’re betting with your heart,’” Kessel

said. “But betting on UNC to take down Duke in Cameron [Indoor Stadium] is that much more sweet.”

X: [@dailytarheel](https://twitter.com/dailytarheel)

BRIEFS

Town fire department adds two new engines

On March 21, the Chapel Hill Fire Department announced on social media that it has acquired two new fire trucks to add to its current fleet of four engines and two ladder trucks.

Fire chief Jay Mebane said the new trucks will serve Chapel Hill fire stations 2 and 3, and protect those areas of the community. He said the new trucks, 2021 and 2022 models, cost \$600,000 and \$710,000, respectively.

The new trucks have advanced camera systems, enhanced braking mechanisms and redesigned water tanks. Ergonomic and safety enhancements aim to mitigate risks and enhance accessibility, he said.

— Fiona Wong

UNC SJP hosts die-in

Last Friday, UNC’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine hosted a “die-in,” as a part of a statewide effort to raise awareness about the thousands of Palestinians killed in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

At the event, five long scrolls of paper sprawled down the steps of South Building listing names of the thousands of Palestinians killed in Gaza. In front of the building, 25 to 30 students lay on the ground holding posters that read “Free Palestine” and “Stop the Genocide.”

This was UNC SJP’s final event as a part of their Israeli Apartheid Week, an annual grassroots solidarity mechanism aiming to raise awareness and to encourage the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement. The event also called for UNC and other participating campuses to divest from their Israeli study abroad programs.

— Dania Al Hadeethia, Natalie Bradin

Davis named finalist for Naismith Trophy

Senior guard RJ Davis was named a finalist for the Naismith Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding player of college basketball, on Tuesday. Other finalists were Purdue’s Zach Edey, Tennessee’s Dalton Knecht and Houston’s Jamal Shead.

Davis was previously named the 2023-24 ACC Player of the Year and a consensus first-team All-American. With a win, he would become the fourth Tar Heel to earn the award, behind Tyler Hansbrough, Antawn Jamison and Michael Jordan.

The winner will be announced on Sunday, April 7, at the Naismith Awards Brunch during the Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona.

— Gwen Peace

The Daily Tar Heel

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Office and U.S. Mailing Address: 109 E. Franklin St. Suite 210 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Potential ban could restrict campus access to Yik Yak, other apps

Plan proposed to block anonymous social media platforms

By Josie Wissel
Staff Writer

and Caleb Herrera
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Editor’s note: Evan Ringel is a member of The Daily Tar Heel Board of Directors.

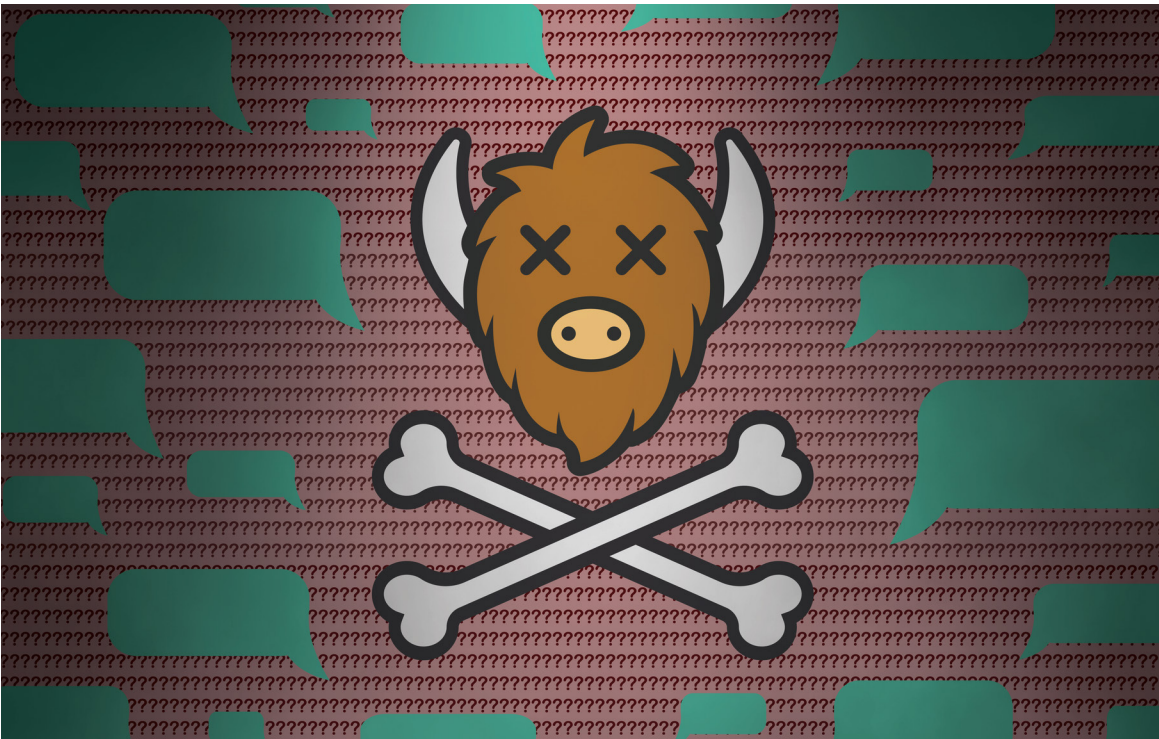
At a UNC System Board of Governors meeting last month, UNC System President Peter Hans introduced a plan to block anonymous social media apps on all UNC System campuses.

His decision is driven by concerns about the polarization of students due to cyberbullying that he said is prevalent on these platforms. According to a letter Hans wrote to the BOG, these apps overlook serious issues ranging from sexual harassment and racial insults to drug dealing.

Anonymous messaging apps act as “the modern equivalent of scrawling cruel rumors on the bathroom wall, except now with a much larger audience,” Hans wrote.

Hans said it is important to recognize creating a healthier relationship between students and technology by educating them to think critically and engage in respectful civil discourse.

Applications subject to the ban include Yik Yak, Fizz, Whisper and Sidechat. These apps act as hyper-local social platforms where students



DTH DESIGN/VIRGINIA VAN DE RIET

can comment, reply and send direct messages to other users anonymously.

Hans’ proposed plan to block student use of these apps expands across 17 schools in the UNC System, including UNC-Chapel Hill.

UNC Media Relations said in a statement that the University’s IT and legal teams have been tasked with drafting a plan to implement and regulate the ban. Hans has the power to implement the plan without needing approval from the BOG.

The blocking of these platforms would likely be done through device-based controls which make it so the

apps cannot be installed on University- or state-owned devices, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Michael Barker said in an email statement.

Barker said he expects that the constraints would only apply to research and education networks, like UNC’s campus Wi-Fi network eduroam, meaning that students would be able to access the blocked apps on “consumer networks,” such as within the residence halls and through cellular data.

“If we apply technical or other controls, it is important that we right-

size them to the risk and the behavior presented, and not ourselves disrupt the instructional, research and service missions of the University,” Barker said. “So the details matter; and when we get the guidance and requirements, we’ll do the best job we can of satisfying them.”

Although the ban would be limited to UNC System Wi-Fi and devices, there is a key legal consideration in the matter regarding the First Amendment, media law doctoral student Evan Ringel said in an email.

As a public university, UNC is required to comply with the First

Amendment protection for free speech, including anonymous speech, as long as it does not fall under an unprotected category, Ringel said.

“It’s definitely a legally uncertain area, and I wouldn’t be surprised to see a First Amendment challenge emerge if President Hans goes forward with his plan to limit access on campus Wi-Fi networks,” he said.

Student Body President Christopher Everett said he and Hans have been in conversation about anonymous apps since last fall. Everett said he believes Hans’ decision is in good faith.

“If this app is contributing to unhealthy discourse and then just being a tool used for hate, I can totally understand why that resource would need to be eliminated,” Everett said.

However, Everett also said because there are people who have had good experiences with these apps, there won’t be a solution that is “one size fits all.”

Gerald Akwuole, a UNC junior who said he is active on YikYak, said anonymous apps connect the student body by circulating information about clubs, events and university updates.

“The way it connects UNC’s campus, it’s like Twitter for college students,” Akwuole said. “You get to say whatever you love when you want, and I feel like 98 percent of the time, it’s really relatable because we’ve all been going through, more or less, the same college experience.”

Media Relations said that because the plan is in its early stages, there is not yet a timeline for implementation of the ban.

X: @dailytarheel

DRUG AWARENESS

UNC and Duke programs address overdose deaths

Organizations provide resources, information for students

By Natalie McCormick
Senior Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Last March, a UNC student died after taking fentanyl-laced cocaine on Duke University’s campus. A year later, students at both universities continue to spread awareness through organizations that provide resources and educate students if they find themselves in an emergency.

Later that month, Riley Sullivan, Caroline Clodfelter, Kathleen Ready and Callan Baruch founded the Carolina Harm Reduction Union.

The organization spreads awareness by manning a table on Polk Place once a week, alternating between Thursdays and Fridays, where they distribute free naloxone and explain how it should be administered. Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, including one induced by fentanyl. While naloxone is injectable, it can also be offered as a prepackaged nasal spray, commonly known by the brand name Narcan.

“Since [CHRU was founded], we’ve grown to become the largest distributor of naloxone to any single college campus,” Sullivan said. “So far for the 2023-24 school year, we’ve distributed about 1,500.”

Similarly, Eddie Scott, a junior at Duke University, founded Duke Overdose Prevention Efforts in the wake of the overdose death on Duke’s campus and overdose deaths in his hometown of Austin, Texas.

DOPE has partnered with Duke’s Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention & Education group to train every fraternity on Duke’s campus on how to use and access Narcan as well as ensure the medication is available at parties they may host. They plan to host trainings in the university’s quad to reach students and provide them with over-the-counter Narcan.

“How to recognize an overdose and how to use the Narcan is really what we’re trying to spread and make it more aware that overdoses can happen on campus, even with just weed and other drugs that are common in college life,” Scott said.

The UNC Student Health Action Coalition, a student-run organization that aims to provide free health services to those in the surrounding community, launched the Syringe Service Program in 2022 out of its HIV clinic.

The UNC SSP specializes in offering free, safe and legal sterile syringes as well as first aid and safer injection supplies, according to its Instagram. Additionally, they have naloxone kits, fentanyl and xylazine test strips to prevent overdoses and can provide referrals to local health services and UNC SHAC XYZ, which is a part of SHAC that specializes in counseling and STI and STD testing.

Nina Moiseiwitsch, a doctoral candidate in the UNC School of Medicine and the leader of the UNC SSP, said people who use an SSP are more likely to enter and remain in drug treatment to recover and less likely to get blood-borne illnesses, like HIV or hepatitis.

“Part of what we see as our role is rebuilding that connection, helping to



DTH FILE/AVA MOSS

A pharmacist hands Narcan nasal spray over the counter at Campus Health on March 29, 2023. The nasal spray is packaged with instructions on how to use it.

get people back into a medical system that is able to treat their overall health, not just health issues that may arise from drug use,” Moiseiwitsch said.

Within Caudill Laboratories, the UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab uses a gas chromatography machine to analyze drugs sent to them and report the purity or any cantonments found in the substance. People who submit the drugs for testing can do so anonymously either as a precaution before taking them, or after if they experienced symptoms they might not normally experience when taking the drug, Dr. Glenn Withrow, a family practice doctor and volunteer within the lab, said.

“[The lab] is not here to encourage people to use drugs, but folks are going to do it anyway,” Withrow said. “And if they’re going to do it, at least know what you’re doing.”

In February, Duke Wellness and Duke Housing and Residence Life installed ONEbox opioid/naloxone emergency boxes in every residence hall on Duke’s campus, including two doses of Narcan, step-by-step video instructions and protective gear — a CPR mask, gloves and wipes.

Scott said that each of these boxes are sealed and checked weekly to see if the seals are broken. Every month, people from Duke Wellness will break the seals on the ONEbox

to check on the Narcan inside.

According to UNC Student Affairs, Campus Health Pharmacy and the Student Stores Pharmacy have carried Food and Drug Administration-approved nasal Narcan since 2016, and on average, they distribute 80 to 90 Narcan kits a year. In 2023, they dispensed 167 kits.

Student Affairs said in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that Student Wellness employs various strategies to address the risks of substance use on campus, including awareness training, harm mitigation and support for treatment and recovery.

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RAISING AWARENESS

Student-run fashion show to fundraise for children's hospital

Pre-med organization to host Anatomy Fashion Show

By Emmy Benton

Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Instead of donning fashionable designs this spring, the models in UNC Phi Delta Epsilon's Anatomy Fashion Show will wear paint showcasing the human body systems in support of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

UNC's chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon, a national pre-medical fraternity, hosted its first anatomy-themed fashion show last year — the first North Carolina chapter to feature the national event. This year, the event will be held in the Great Hall of the Student Union on April 17 from 7-9 p.m.

All proceeds raised from the event, from ticket sales to donations, will go directly to Duke Children's hospital and health center and its patients.

Emi Bleau, development associate of partnerships and cause marketing for Duke Children's Hospital, said in an email statement that the money will help to provide vital resources for medical research, life-saving treatments, specialized equipment and compassionate care tailored to meet the health needs of children.

Hanna Salus, current president of Phi Delta Epsilon and UNC junior, said the money also goes toward ensuring a patient has the most comprehensive care beyond medical expenses.

"We're really caring for the whole patient by providing things like music and art therapy or people coming in to play guitar and do crafts with the kids that's going to take their care to the next level and

ensure all their needs are being met, not just physical," she said.

In the first 20 minutes of opening the donor portals on Feb. 21, Phi Delta Epsilon raised \$1,000 and has already hit its goal of \$5,000. The organization is now aiming to raise \$10,000.

Manasa Raghavan, vice president of programming for Phi Delta Epsilon and a sophomore at UNC, said the fraternity has also received donations from local businesses and that student organizations will be involved with entertainment at the event.

The event also aims to raise awareness of the illnesses Duke Children's Hospital treats. Raghavan said the organizers of the event hope to have at least one model for each body systems, including one that represents the illness of the chapter's Miracle Patient that it sponsors each year.

Last year, Salus was the model for the chapter's sponsored patient, Adeline. She said she was honored

to be able to increase awareness of Adeline's condition — Long QT Syndrome, a rare, potentially life-threatening heart rhythm disorder — through the fundraiser. Representing Adeline, Salus modeled a pacemaker alongside butterflies which were painted all over her.

"When I first met her, she was the sweetest girl," Salus said. "It was just incredible to know that she has a life-threatening condition and to see her still be so outgoing and so willing to talk to anyone about everything was really inspiring."

Gisella Frain, secretary and risk management officer for Phi Delta Epsilon, was an artist for the event last year. She said she appreciated a chance to be creative for a good cause. She said that because many in Phi Delta Epsilon are STEM majors, they don't get many opportunities to show creativity.

This year, they anticipate around

20 models walking the runway, as well as approximately 400 attendees.

Many children from Duke Children's Hospital attend the event and even choose to be models. Raghavan said she believes it is vital for the children to see that they're not alone in their sickness and feel empowered by the models. She added that it's very special for children to see others "beautifying" their conditions.

"We try to make it a fun evening for everyone to relax but also for a lot of the people from Duke Children's, for the community members there and for the children there to come and see that they do have a community that supports them," Raghavan said.

X: @dailytarheel

PHILANTHROPY

'A bigger, better cause': CFTK hosts 12-hour dance marathon

The event supported families at the UNC Children's Hospital

By Michael Singleton

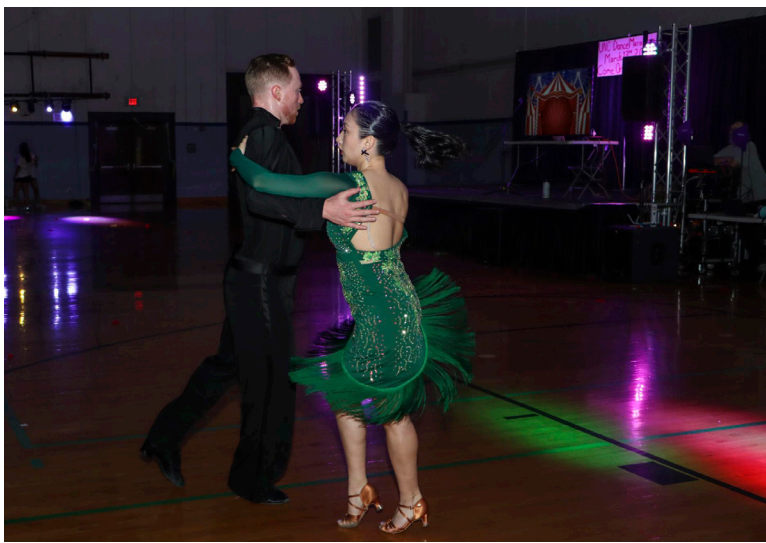
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The Carolina For The Kids Foundation hosted its 26th annual dance marathon on Saturday, the culmination of the organization's fundraising efforts from this past school year.

The 12-hour event featured vendors, performers and food trucks with the goal of supporting families at the UNC Children's Hospital. At the end of the dance marathon, CFTK announced that it had raised \$207,215.65 throughout the course of the year.

Meredith Braddy, executive director of CFTK, has participated in the event all four years that she has been at UNC. She said the organization aims to provide emotional and financial support to patients and families.

"It's just such a great community to be a part of; we're all working toward a cause that means a lot to



DTH/ZOE WERNER

UNC students Jack Flesch and Emily Le rehearse before the UNC Ballroom Team's performance at the Carolina For The Kids Dance Marathon on Saturday.

all of us," Braddy said.

At the first installment of the dance marathon in 1999, it was the only event held by the organization, originally called UNC Dance Marathon before later becoming CFTK.

The original event lasted 24 hours. Braddy said it the marathon

transitioned to a 12-hour event during the COVID-19 pandemic, to make it more accessible for the community to engage. This year's marathon began at noon and lasted until midnight.

Although the event has changed since its creation in 1999, Braddy said it has maintained a

commitment to its main purpose.

"We bring families and patients that we've helped in the past and they come and speak. It's really a cause-centered event, but there's also a lot of fun things going on for members," she said.

The event has one big rule: no sitting the entire time to mimic a nurse or doctors shift. The dance also featured performances from student-led dance groups, a cappella groups and bands. Several carnival games were also set up for attendees in Fetzer Hall and on Hooker Fields.

The marathon also featured a family hour that spotlighted the stories of families with children at the hospital.

"There's a lot of food, there's a lot of events, a lot of games we play to keep us hyped up," Mika McQuiston, an event attendee and volunteer, said.

Anna Phan, a volunteer at the dance marathon, said it is important to have a community that supports the families at the UNC Children's Hospital.

"I just wanted to be able to give back to the community because there's a lot of parents who are unable to help out with their medical bills," Phan said.

Warren said that her favorite part of the event was hearing from families she remembered from previous years, and seeing firsthand the progress the children had made with their health and how relieved the families seemed.

"The main thing is at the end of the day it's for the kids and I think that's just really powerful," McQuiston said. "Even though the event can be super tiring and fundraising is a lot of work, it's really worth it because you're supporting a bigger, better cause."

While the dance marathon is the main event that CFTK organizes, it also hosts a five-kilometer run fundraiser called Kilometers For The Kids.

Warren said events like the dance marathon and Kilometer for the Kids are open to all UNC students, whether or not they are members of CFTK, and whether or not they are pursuing a future in the medical field.

"We all have our own reasons for being here," Braddy said. "And just being in that kind of environment motivates you to go further, to work more for the cause and it's just a great place to be."

X: @dailytarheel

NCAA BASKETBALL

UNC fans embrace March Madness bracketology

Students fill out brackets, place bets on national tournament

By Maeson Wagner

Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

and Charlie Bagwell

Staff Writers
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

March Madness, which follows the NCAA Men's and Women's Division I Basketball tournaments, began on March 17 — also known as Selection Sunday — and many students have made brackets predicting the paths of the 64 teams participating in the tournament.

Since the 1980s, "bracketology" and March Madness betting pools have been a low-commitment form of sports betting engaged in by millions of Americans across the country, including college students.

The recent legalization of online sports betting in North Carolina will allow those over 21 to place their bracket bets on a variety of online sportsbooks, including Fanatics

Sportsbook, DraftKings and ESPN Bet.

The process involves predicting the winners and losers of the tournament, game by game. Brackets are placed in competition against others, forming pools that have prizes or a pot of money for the members that get the closest result.

There are several ways to bet on March Madness brackets, whether it be in a small group of friends or a large pool like the ESPN Tournament Challenge.

UNC junior Neal Kapur said the legalization of sports betting will "up the ante" of March Madness betting, but others continue to participate in betting as a low-stakes activity.

"I don't know about other people, but we don't really take it that seriously," UNC junior Qaz Abbas said. "It's just something we do for fun."

Sophomore Robert Lewison said he has done a March Madness bracket every year since the beginning of high school, playing for small stakes with his family — this year Lewison has joined three different leagues — with family, friends and coworkers. Without making a bracket, Lewison said he wouldn't have a reason to watch teams that he doesn't typically care about.

"It's never going to be a perfect bracket, but you just try to do it based on your gut feel," he said.

Other students have a more tactical approach to making their brackets.

Sophomore Rachel High said she makes around ten brackets each year after researching each team and seeing how many points per game they get. She then chooses three or four of her brackets to divide among the different pools she is in.

"I always pick UNC to win in at least one of my brackets and this year, I think we have a really good chance," High said. "I'm really excited because it's the first year that I've been at UNC that we've been in the tournament and able to win it."

The UNC men's basketball team had an overall record of 27-7 before the tournament and landed top seed in the West Region. Senior Benjamin Cochran said these stats excite many people because they give UNC a competitive chance.

Sergio Parreiras, associate professor in the economics department specializing in game theory, said there is no "sure way" of predicting winners in March Madness and sports betting in



DTH DESIGN/HAILEY PATTERSON

general. He said if there was a method to ensure winning in sports betting, it would be noticed by many people.

Parreiras said people might also make changes to their brackets based on whether or not it is the same as someone else's in their league.

"They might choose a path that has a lower likelihood of winning, but then they wouldn't have to split the pot with other people," he said.

Lewison said betting a bracket

is like buying a lottery ticket. Last year, Lewison said his coworker had never watched a game and didn't know any of the teams but picked their bracket based on the colors and names they liked and ended up winning the pool.

"It's a way to put five dollars down and you might win 100 bucks," he said.

X: @dailytarheel

City & State

TRANSPORTATION

Biden budget recommends \$138 million for Rapid Transit project



DTH/NATE SKVORETZ

A bus drives by the Bell Tower on South Road on Dec. 13, 2023.

Continued from Page 1

or doing other things.”

Bus rapid transit systems exist across the country, from Charlotte to Jacksonville, Florida, to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Carrboro resident Melody Kramer said she heard about a bus rapid transit line being implemented in Richmond, Va., in the last decade, so she was glad Chapel Hill was looking to replicate its success.

“I also love the idea for my

kids,” she said. “You know, people don’t get their driver’s licenses until high school, and there’s a lot of one-car households in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and being able to say to your kids, ‘You have a little bit more freedom because you can hop on a rapid transit line and get to campus, and it’s free, and it’ll be well-lit and clean and safe,’ that’s really ideal.”

Chapel Hill Mayor Jess Anderson said this project would make Chapel Hill one of the

smallest places in the country with a bus rapid transit line, and would be important in tackling the Town’s equity, affordability, climate, housing and transit goals.

“As part of our Complete Community vision for the community, it’s a huge piece of making sure that people have easy access to bike, [pedestrian] and transit — getting people out of their cars is really so important as we grow and densify,” she said.

Litchfield said the corridor is a priority in looking at potential for development, and this project would give an opportunity to add more development in the future, supporting affordable housing.

Ensuring people can get out of their cars and onto bikes and buses will allow the town to densify and add the units needed to house those who are currently not able to be a part of the community, Anderson said.

“This is a really big deal for us,” she said. “It’s exciting to be such a small place and have this huge opportunity, but it’s also really, really important for our vision for how we grow and change into the future.”

X: @dthcitystate

Report shows economic growth from N.C. trains

The state’s 3,400-mile rail system supports 88,000 jobs

By Allie Sadoff
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

According to the Economic Contribution of Rail in North Carolina report released last month — conducted by the N.C. Department of Transportation and the Institute for Transportation Research and Education — NC By Train and Amtrak together carry over half a million passengers per year.

The report also showed North Carolina’s 3,400-mile rail system, which generates more than \$20 billion annual statewide economic input and supports 88,000 jobs. The state houses more than 100 rail industry businesses, and the state receives about 45 million tons of rail freight.

“Our goal of this study was to understand all the rail-related industries, companies, activities and operations in the state and what impact it has on supporting jobs and business revenue in the state’s economy,” Daniel Findley, associate director of the Institute for Transportation Research and Education, said.

According to the Association of American Railroads, rail can ship 471 tons of freight with one gallon of fuel — making it three to four times more fuel-efficient than trucks and reducing carbon emissions by 75 percent. Rail also reduces traffic on highways, both from passengers and large trucks carrying products, which

protects infrastructure and reduces the emissions from vehicles on the road.

Nathan Zelenz, a UNC student, said he saw mostly students when riding the train to Charlotte for a school break. He said there are several benefits to having this mode of transportation available.

“You don’t really have to worry about asking somebody for a ride with a car, and it takes about the same amount of time,” Zelenz said.

North Carolina and Virginia have received a \$1.09 billion grant to build the first and most complex segment of a new line from Raleigh to Richmond. The S-line, formally known as the Seaboard Air Line, is an underused existing rail corridor.

This portion of the project will connect Raleigh and Wake Forest and is estimated to be completed in 2030.

“We have successful service, but those services run on congested brake networks and they don’t provide a lot of opportunity to meet those requirements of fast, reliable and frequent service,” Jason Orthner, director of the NCDOT rail division, said.

This project aims to revitalize the S-line to become one of the most technologically advanced railroads in the Southeast. The line will feature 110 mph passenger rail speeds, roadway grade separations that separate rail from other transportation to improve safety and many more improvements.

The S-line would also provide transportation to many underserved regions and areas. Orthner said the NCDOT is working closely with communities across the state to bring stations, or mobility hubs, into the areas to ensure that the rail helps them grow economically.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NCDOT
A Piedmont line train arrives at the Raleigh Amtrak station.

There are some challenges to be addressed for this project to continue, such as the lack of space in heavily urbanized areas like Wake County. This results in a need for complicated construction and working around drainage systems and other infrastructure.

“It basically creates a backbone corridor between Virginia and North Carolina and connects the states south and north of there with a new route that allows trains not just to operate in Virginia or just North Carolina, but across the whole length of the system, serving rural and urban communities in between,” Orthner said.

X: @alliesadoff

The Daily Tar Heel

HISTORIC LOCATION



DTH/MAELINE CRUMPER

The UNC Naval Armory is pictured on Aug. 22, 2022.

Naval armory added to national register

UNC building has been site for cadet, ROTC training

By Lana Rae Maizel
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

and Kristin Kharrat
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

The Naval ROTC Armory at UNC, which has been a hub for cadets since 1942, was added to the National Register of Historic Places this month.

Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History Joseph Glatthaar said the addition of UNC’s naval armory to the National Register of Historic Places introduces new regulations for the building and its administration. The external structure of the building cannot be altered, but the interior can be renovated, he said.

Sandy Henkel, historian and associate member of the UNC NROTC Alumni Association, said in a statement that she hopes that the University and the state will find funding to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the armory.

“When you’ve let a building sit dormant for 30 years, it’s like your own house, right?” she said. “Things need to be taken care of.”

Glatthaar said the University was considering the demolition and relocation of the armory in 2007-08 to build a psychology building, but the nationwide recession prevented UNC from altering the site. A plan released in 2019 suggested the University would replace the building with a new Institute for Convergent Science building. The plan faced significant pushback.

Rob Rivers, a retired U.S. naval commander and board member of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, said in a statement that the decision to apply for

the registry was directly tied to the efforts of the Naval Armory Preservation Committee to oppose the 2019 plan to demolish the armory. He said recognition from the registry would make it more difficult for the University to demolish the building.

The armory played a large role in deployment efforts during World War II, according to the department chair of military science for UNC’s army ROTC program, Lt. Col. Dan Hurd. During World War II, around 25,000 students were trained for military and naval service at UNC, and the armory’s pre-flight school trained over 18,000 naval aviation cadets. Beyond World War II, many officers trained at UNC have also provided humanitarian aid to victims of natural disasters and global conflict.

The U.S. Navy has invested the equivalent of \$75 million into campus and community infrastructure, building and renovating numerous facilities. Today, the armory is home to faculty offices and student classrooms, and Hurd said the space engages ROTC students in labs and classes where they learn military tactics and leadership skills.

“Those who train in the Naval Armory today realize they are standing on the shoulders of thousands of former Tar Heels who served in the armory before them.”

Rob Rivers
Retired U.S. Naval Commander, N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources board member

He said that the ROTC also partners with several organizations, including the Orange County Veterans Memorial committee, to host joint events in the armory.

“This also serves as a hub for the local veterans community in a place where you can understand the heritage by just walking in and seeing some of the photos,” Hurd said. “Then you can understand that the armed forces are in really good hands with the young men and women that have chosen to serve and are putting in work to become better leaders here at Carolina.”

X: @dthcitystate

LOCAL EATS

Zayka Indian Cuisine replacing Basecamp

The newest Franklin Street restaurant is set to open in May

By Caroline Horne
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Zayka Indian Cuisine is set to open in early May at 105 E. Franklin St., where the Basecamp bar and restaurant was formerly located.

The owner of Zayka, Keshav Kalia, also owns Zayka Indian Cuisine in Raleigh and opened Chaat Mandi in Morrisville in 2022. He and his brother, Giteshwar Kalia, run the three businesses together and began their careers in the hospitality industry in India.

After completing his bachelor's and master's degrees in hotel management and catering, Kalia moved to the United States and began his restaurant career in 2003.

"We're doing this catering thing and the restaurant thing back from India," he said. "So it's like our family business."

Kalia said the brothers decided to open a second Zayka location in Chapel Hill because they received high demand in catering orders and weekend traffic from students and faculty at UNC and Duke University. They are excited to be close to campus, and are curating their menu toward student budgets as well as aiming to create an environment that encourages student employment.

Renovations for the restaurant are roughly halfway completed,



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

A sign for Zayka Indian Grill and Bar covers Basecamp's empty storefront on Franklin Street on Tuesday.

Kalia said. He said the main areas of remodeling are the kitchen and dining area. The restaurant is waiting on pending permits from the Town of Chapel Hill and will continue construction following their approval of dimensions and final inspections.

Some new additions to the restaurant will include a "live kitchen," meaning guests can see their food being prepared through glass, and a delivery system for takeout orders.

"The main purpose is to serve

people quality food with a nice presentation, and to make sure we're doing something different than any other restaurant, especially the Indian restaurants in the Triangle area," Kalia said.

Kalia said the Franklin Street location was the best one they saw in their search for space in Chapel Hill. After meeting with former Basecamp owner Ramesh Dahal, the brothers made an offer for the location.

Dahal, who also owns Nepali Himalayan restaurant MOMO's

Master on North Columbia Street, said he opened Basecamp in 2022 after not being able to keep up with high demand of seating capacity. He closed the restaurant in December to focus his attention back on MOMO's Master.

"Owning restaurants itself is very, very tough — we have a lot of responsibilities, so we didn't go to bed until midnight or the next morning," he said.

He also said, while there are many bars and restaurants along

OTHER CHANGES ON EAST FRANKLIN STREET

- Starbucks moving to 100 E. Franklin St., under Top of the Hill.
- Playa Bowls moving into 104 E. Franklin St. this summer.
- Tapas restaurant Próximo opening at 173 E. Franklin St., replacing Ye Olde Waffle Shop.

Franklin Street, owners should familiarize themselves with the community by getting to know each business in downtown Chapel Hill. Dahal said he recommends businesses focus less on money or competition with other restaurants, and more on communities.

Sam Edge, a manager at Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews, another Franklin Street business two doors down from the new Zayka location, said Franklin Street is competitive for restaurants.

He has worked at Epilogue since August 2022 and has seen longstanding businesses struggling as a result of ongoing post-pandemic effects, and that even with rising rent costs it is hard to justify raising menu prices.

While he has not seen construction at Zayka so far, he is looking forward to seeing the new business when the boarded up windows and doors are open.

"I'm excited to get something different," he said.

X: @dthcitystate

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SEASONS

Community welcomes spring to Chapel Hill

Students and organizations celebrate equinox, cultures

By Phoebe Martel
Senior Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Last Wednesday, when temperatures peaked at 73 degrees Fahrenheit, friend groups flocked outside, setting up picnic blankets across the lawn in front of Wilson Library and lingering for hours. Many simply basked in the first full day of spring, which came after a few days of cloudy skies and brisk chills.

The vernal equinox, which astronomers consider to be the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, occurs every year between March 19 and March 21. During the equinox, the Earth's axis lines up so that most places receive more balanced amounts of sunlight and darkness.

In Chapel Hill, student and community organizations are celebrating the season change with a variety of cultural and religious events throughout the next few weeks.



DTH DESIGN/CARRIE-ANNE ROGERS

Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock.

Erin Harker, founder of Durham-based store for modern magick practitioners the Magick Makers LLC, hosted an equinox-themed social at the Graduate Chapel Hill. Many pagans attach spiritual significance to the spring equinox because of its connection to the natural world, Harker said.

She said the equinox coincides

with the astrological new year, which occurred when the sun entered the sign of Aries on March 19.

“The sun is out longer, and it has this kind of transformational quality to it as well,” she said. “Where we just have an opportunity to look at where we want to grow and what direction we want to take for the year, and

celebrate the Earth waking up again after a long winter.”

Another festival based on the spring equinox is Nowruz, also known as the Persian New Year. The holiday is the first day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian solar calendar.

For UNC junior Maeve Kimia, co-president of the UNC Persian Cultural Society, Nowruz is a time to gather with family and perform rituals related to the new year.

“Before the new year, everyone does this massive cleaning,” Kimia said. “To prepare, so you don’t bring your dirt from the past year into this new one.”

She said a tradition associated with Nowruz is the Haft-sin, in which participants arrange seven items such as apples, garlic, vinegar and sumac on a table. Each component symbolizes virtues the person wants to manifest into their life in the coming year.

UNC Holi Moli will also be welcoming the beginning of spring with their festival of colors on April 6. Based on the Indian harvest festival of the same name, UNC’s Holi celebration aims to spread awareness about South Asian cultures while encouraging the wider UNC community to enjoy the

festivities. Students throw powdered colors, known as gulal, at each other and watch performances by South Asian dance teams. Proceeds from this year’s event will go to the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and The Desai Foundation, a women’s health organization working to improve menstrual equity in India.

According to Holi Moli co-president and UNC senior Mansi Gupta, the appeal of the event extends beyond its Hindu religious origins, which honor the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring.

“A lot of students support this event, because the way that it’s presented is, here’s all these students throwing color in the air; laughing; smiling; music, and I don’t think there’s anything like this on campus,” Gupta said.

UNC junior Sriya Chalasani said warmer weather in Chapel Hill feels different than other points in the school year.

“I enjoy walking to classes in the sun, and I’m less sad,” Chalasani said. “There’s just more people out and about and it’s a lot more sociable.”

X: @phoebemartel1

PERFORMANCE

Student explores Korean American experience in one-man show

Ethan Kim touches on themes of generational trauma

By Preethika Ratnam
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Every December, Ivy League-hopeful high school seniors open their laptops, shakily type in their usernames and passwords and click a button that will determine the next four years of their lives.

Many will see a rejection, others a confetti-decorated screen — and some, like UNC senior Ethan Kim, are notified that their application will be held for further review.

Four years ago, Kim, a Charlottean, decided to respond to his deferral from Harvard University with a rap titled “Harvard Please Let Me In.” The video gained over 1.5 million views on YouTube.

It wasn’t the first time he used rap in an academic setting. In high school, he was one of the few underclassmen who helped make a diss track against a rival school to raise awareness for a canned food drive.

“I think he’s always been a performer at his heart, whether it’s social groups or when we met through speech and debate,” UNC senior Hunter Kouchi, Kim’s friend and roommate, said.

A second-generation Korean American, Kim said his parents encouraged him and his brother to pursue what they loved as they were growing up. He said he felt like he was able to escape some of the traditional immigrant pressure to be a doctor or a lawyer because of his parents’ support.

For his performance studies senior honors thesis, Kim will perform a one-man show titled “The Dishwasher: soap, sponge, scrub,” which explores the Asian American experience through his and his parents’ eyes.

Performance dates include March



DTH/JAY’LA EVANS

UNC senior Ethan Kim rehearses his one-man show based on his life on Friday in Swain Hall.

25, 26 and April 2 at Swain Hall Black Box Theater.

The play, a 37-page script written and produced by Kim, will touch on themes of generational trauma and what it means to do work with one’s own hands as an immigrant without generational wealth.

Joseph Megel, the director and faculty advisor for Kim’s honors thesis, described his performance style as likable, vulnerable and authentic.

“He has that gift that he can hold you in a way and then take you to places you don’t expect to go,” Megel said.

Kim said he has always felt the urge to be creative, which he does through stand-up and rap. But after being formally rejected by Harvard, he said that he internally connected his creative side with failure.

Spurred by encouragement from his peers in his performance class, Kim began writing a script for his upcoming show on a whim.

However, what truly pushed Kim to pursue the script as a performance was attending the celebration of life of his close friend Carson Philbin, who died earlier this year. Philbin

was the cinematographer for Kim’s Harvard deferral video.

Being reminded of Philbin’s passion for pursuing creativity inspired Kim to get back on his feet as a performer.

“I like doing stand-up and it’s really fun, but I want to show everyone that I’m an actor, a writer and more than just someone who can be humorous,” Kim said.

Kim said he likes material that makes audience members laugh and cry, and interwove both aspects into his show. His director, he said, reminds him that laughter after tears comes from the gut and feels more necessary in order to overcome sadness.

Now a college senior, Kim said the performance feels like “throwing up another Hail Mary” — just like his Harvard video as a high school senior.

But, four years since then, when asked if Kim would trade his UNC experience for Harvard, knowing what he knows now, he said:

“Oh, no, no, no, no, no.”

X: @preethikaratnam

ENVIRONMENT

Raccoon sculpture comes to Franklin

Town displays Rubbish the Raccoon before Earth Day

By Marisa Rosa
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

On March 15, 140 W. Franklin St. Plaza welcomed a new resident — a 7-foot-tall raccoon named Rubbish.

Rubbish the Raccoon was designed and created in honor of Earth Day on April 22 by artist Nyssa Collins.

The sculpture was commissioned by the Town of Chapel Hill last August, when Collins won the Town of Chapel Hill Commission Award for her entry in the Uproar Festival of Public Art — a woolly mammoth made of bamboo and twine.

The sculpture’s frame was built throughout this sem ester at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where Collins is a graduate student in studio art. It was then delivered to the site in Chapel Hill, where it was covered in trash and completed on-site.

The sculpture, which is made out of trash and recyclables and weighs nearly 200 pounds, is composed mostly of materials found on the campuses of UNC and UT Knoxville.

Aside from college campuses, the materials for Rubbish the Raccoon were pulled from the Haw River as part of a partnership with the Haw River Assembly, a nonprofit that works to protect the river and Jordan Lake.

Madison Haley, a plastics program assistant for the Assembly, said many of the bottles featured on the sculpture came from various trash traps and cleanups along the river. She said bringing all of the trash together was a community effort.

“A lot of the Haw River [Assembly] work is joyful, but it’s also kind of depressing to pick up trash month after month,” she said. “So to collaborate with Nyssa, to build something that’s beautiful and tragic, is really rewarding and fun.”



DTH/SARA JOHNSON

Rubbish the Raccoon stands on Franklin Street on Friday.

For Collins, the sculpture represents the large amount of disposable plastics people use every day. According to the Earth Day Network, close to 80 percent of all plastic is still in landfills or the natural environment.

Steve Wright, the public art coordinator for the Community Arts & Culture division of the Town of Chapel Hill, said the sculpture serves to highlight the importance of recycling properly.

“It’s a cool way to clean the water system and reuse [trash] in an artistic way,” he said. “and call attention to if you sit there and look at it, you’re like, ‘Woah, all of these bottles were in Bolin Creek, that’s a drag, we need to do better.’”

Rubbish the Raccoon will have a two-month residence on Franklin Street. Its removal will make way for the next temporary sculpture, which will be commissioned in honor of LGBTQ+ Pride month.

Ultimately, the sculpture will be retired, and the plastic bottles will go into recycling, but its immediate next steps remain unknown.

Haley said that the Assembly is currently working on collecting trash for another sculpture, which will debut at the Haw River Festival on May 4.

X: @marisarosaaa

VISUAL NARRATIVES

Studio art seniors display year of work in exhibitions

Theses used a variety of mediums like linocut prints and ceramics

By Charlene Wu
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Student exhibits around town made from linocut prints, ceramic sculptures and a variety of other mediums explore themes of disenchantment, sports culture and modern interpretations of history. Last summer, six students applied and obtained approval for their exhibition proposals to the Department of Art and Art History's Senior Thesis Honors Program in Studio Art. These exhibitions will be rotating on display for the public through April 6 both on campus and around Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

'Most Improved Player'

In her thesis "Most Improved Player," Isabel Schomburger drew from her identity as both an artist and club volleyball athlete to examine the culture of practice, repetition and labor in both art and sports.

The installation is a group of textile multimedia works, using reclaimed sporting equipment such as secondhand jerseys, knee pads and a volleyball net. "It is important to the exhibition," she said. "While it is personal work and it's born of my self reflection on my identity and doing both practices, it's about the greater experience of practice." "Most Improved Player" finished its display in the John and June Allcott Gallery last week.

'Another Way of Going On'

Marin Carr-Quimet's installation, "Another Way of Going On," is mainly composed of ceramic sculptures exploring the theme of disenchantment. The works use the style of surrealism, which often expresses the unconscious mind, to find a way to encompass the loss of magic, myths and ritual in the rational modern age, Carr-Quimet said. The exhibition's representational sculptures are derived from imagery of Carr-Quimet's dreams. The works dwell on a sense of hopelessness living in a modern world, they said, but were created in a somewhat playful way.

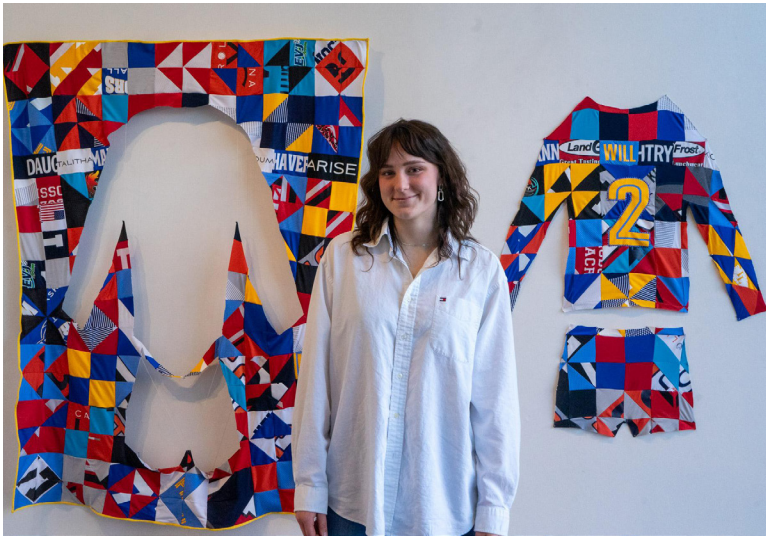
"Another Way of Going On" will be in the Allcott Gallery from March 24 to 29.

'Quantified Self'

"Quantified Self" is the thesis of Cora McNulty and looks into the social movement of individuals collecting data about themselves to optimize their life and self-discovery. McNulty's exhibition is a narrative introducing an imagined Quantified Self zealot that tracks every aspect of their life. The installation follows the character's obsession and descent into madness, grappling with insecurity and narcissism. For the project, McNulty collected data on herself to represent in her graph drawings, images that are also systems of data visualization. As a statistics and analytics major, McNulty said she recognizes the beauty of data, but wants her work to emphasize caution. "Quantified Self" will display in the John and June Allcott Undergraduate Gallery in Hanes Art Center from March 24 to April 6.

'Dances of Infection'

Isabella Gamez's installation



DTH/ABBEY MCKEE

UNC senior Isabel Schomburger poses for a portrait in front of her Honors Thesis Exhibition at Hanes Art Center on Wednesday, March 20.

"Dances of Infection" combines Gamez's two majors, studio art and biostatistics. The art takes historical research on infectious diseases, such as the Black Death, and contextualizes them in modern understandings of public health. Gamez utilized printmaking to represent the cyclical nature of disease, such as the flu's annual occurrence.

She reprinted designs on multiple layers of surfaces with recurring images of rats, fleas and bacteria to parallel multiplication in germ theory. "Dances of Infection" will display in 128 E. Franklin St. Suite 130 — near Cosmic Cantina — from March 24 to April 6.

X: @dthlifestyle

COMMUNITY

'I still feel close to home'

First-year Muslim students navigate Ramadan at UNC

By Brooke Elliott
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

The UNC Muslim Students Association works year-round to support the social and religious life of Muslim students at the University. During Ramadan, which occurs from the evening of March 10 to April 9 this year, MSA focuses its efforts on a critical task — helping first-year students feel at home while observing the month of fasting, community and reflection away from home. "When I came here, Monday or Sunday, my mom was very worried," first-year computer science major Ahmad Akkila said. "She was like, make sure you get enough to eat, make sure you're around other Muslims so you can break your fast." Muslims around the world abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and focus on prayer and the study of the Quran. The observance of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts from one sighting of the new crescent moon to the next. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast. Suhur, a morning meal, occurs each day before the sun rises; iftar, the evening fast-breaking meal, occurs once the sun sets. Iftar is meant to be celebrated with one's family and friends, but many Muslim students at UNC — especially first-years who have to live on campus — are not able to observe every evening with their loved ones. To help these students in their community feel at home, MSA hosts nightly iftars open to any student who wants to break their fast in the company of like-minded classmates. "Anyone can break his fast on his own time, but it's not the same," MSA Outreach Chair Sultan Kiradoh said. "If anyone has ever experienced Ramadan alone, like going to college or moving somewhere where your family's not there, it's really depressing. It doesn't feel like



DTH/JENNIFER TRAN

Chef Sarah Jimenez serves salad to a student during Ramadan in Chapel Hill on April 3, 2023. UNC Muslim Students Association provides food for those breaking their fast after dusk.

Ramadan. I'm sure anyone would agree — definitely the big part of Ramadan is to come together." Kiradoh attended Durham Technical Community College in the past. He said he remembers being blown away by the vibrant Muslim community at UNC and the positive experience of Ramadan on campus. First-year health science engineering major Arwa Sattar said she misses her mother's home-cooked meals but enjoys attending campus iftars with her friends at UNC. "There's a lot of Muslim people that I haven't met before, and just seeing them and the community coming together has been really nice," Sattar said. Ali White, a first-year biology major, said because he can commute to see his family near UNC, he often visits them off campus to break his fast, so Ramadan feels almost the same as it did before he came to college. He still faces challenges during the month as a full-time college student — to observe suhur and iftar on a regular schedule, he has to start his day early and go to bed late. "I feel like I'm pretty busy throughout the day," White said. "I'm always doing something, so even though it's hard to manage everything

— I'm not sleeping as much — the days are going by pretty quickly." As many Muslim first-year students navigate their first Ramadan away from home, frequent community events aim to make the transition to life at the University easier and more social. MSA provides a full spreadsheet of its upcoming iftar meals on its website's Ramadan page, including events with food provided by the Tasty Halal food truck and the Carolina Union Activities Board. "I don't feel far away from my family, in a sense, because I built relationships over my year here, and I feel like people here are literally my family, you know what I mean?" Akkila said. "Obviously, I call my mom every day, but I still feel close to home even when I'm here." Students who need accommodations during Ramadan, such as a different exam date or an excused early absence for evening prayers, can request assistance from the University. The UNC Equal Opportunity and Compliance request form and the University Approved Absence form are available online for those whose academic work may conflict with their religious observance.

X: @dailytarheel

Ramadan

don't miss these events

Editor's note: UNC Muslim Students Association hosts iftar every day students are in class.

March 27 UNC Muslim Students Association Community Iftar
Student Union Room 3411

April 1 One Africa x Muslim Students Association Iftar
More information on www.uncmsa.org/ramadan

April 2 Bengali Student Association Iftar
More information at @uncbsa on Instagram

April 3 MSA Alumni & Current Students Iftar
RSVP online 7 p.m.

April 13 Grab & Go Iftar hosted by PAKSOC, MSA, BSA, ASO, TSA
Gift Plaza outside Student Union, 7 p.m.

April 13 Eid Fest
Islamic Association of Raleigh 2-8 p.m.

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

‘My cheeks hurt from smiling so much’

Continued from Page 1


to childhood unpacking set to simple and poignant synth in “16.”

But for members of the audience on Saturday, like Becky Gilland, a senior at Florida State University who traveled with her friends to be in the front row, McLamb’s emotional vulnerability was a strong through line.

“It has been really special to see the way that people individually are connected with [the album],” McLamb said in an interview before the tour. “And that’s obviously really nice for me as an artist to work on something for so long and then see people really respond positively to it.”

Gilland started listening to McLamb during the pandemic, when she released her first EP, “Memos,” in 2020.

“Lena Grove,” — a song from “Memos” which McLamb played near the end of the night — was a balm for Gilland when she struggled with a breakup and rocky relationships with friends. Now, she associates specific memories throughout the past four years with McLamb’s discography.



DTH/ELIZA BENBOW

Mini Trees opens for Eliza McLamb at Cat’s Cradle Main Room on Saturday.

Coming to the show with her friends, she said, is a nice way to end her college years.

“I feel like it marks how her music helped me grow through the period of college,” she said. “Which is what I feel like she writes about: young womanhood.”

During “Salt Circle,” in which McLamb details a spiritual connection with her best friend. A few young women in the audience held each other through tears as they sang along.

“She’s always been a really empathetic person,” her father and a Chapel Hill resident, Rodney McLamb, said. “And I feel like there’s lots of young women and girls who felt seen and understood by someone in the public for maybe one of the rare times in their lives.”

When McLamb started to ask the audience if they had ever felt the same way she did about — she was cut off before she could finish her thought.

“We do!” someone yelled from the back.

Rodney McLamb remembers his daughter writing songs as early as 8 years old and said she just had a knack for it. Making music is something that has always made sense to her — she said that her Voice Memos and Notes apps on her phone are clearing 10,000 entries.

Aside from music, McLamb has co-hosted the cultural commentary podcast “Binchtopia” with Julia Hava since 2020. The girls describe themselves as Plato and Aristotle if they had internet addictions and knew what “gaslighting” was. In free flowing conversations, they explore topics ranging from conservative conspiracy theories to the unsung heroes of rock and roll and the “ugly boyfriend apocalypse.” The podcast had also been recognized by The New York Times for feminist content creation.

In her Substack account, “words from eliza,” she weaves a similar brand of cultural commentary with personal introspections about relationships, nostalgia or body image.

“Ultimately, I’m just a very curious person,” she said. “I’m curious about things intellectually and culturally, but also about myself and my emotions and how other people are dealing with things in the world. So, to me, it makes sense to have multiple avenues to explore that.”



DTH/ELIZA BENBOW

Eliza McLamb performs at Cat’s Cradle Main Room on Saturday.

McLamb now lives in Los Angeles, but, she said spending time in major cities like L.A. and New York City made her identify with North Carolina more, even if — as she wrote on X after the show — the worst, most traumatic years of her life were lived in Carrboro.

Through it all, she even worked hard in high school during her junior and senior years. On any given weekday, she could be found doing her homework at Gray Squirrel Coffee Company from 5 a.m. until the school day started. She graduated early and headed to The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

“I definitely, as with anybody, have gone through a complicated relationship with my hometown,” she said. “But I think I’ve processed a lot, and it has allowed me to be really stoked about coming back to North Carolina.”

At Saturday’s show, she donned cowgirl boots. They’re a symbol of her Southern roots, she told the audience, after performing a spontaneous cover of pop-country song “Beer With My Buddies” by HIXTAPE during her encore with the night’s opener, indie-pop group Mini Trees.

During a visit to Carrboro over the holidays — with a familiar sense of hometown boredom, she said — McLamb and her boyfriend decided to go to a show in the Cat’s Cradle Back Room for a band neither of them had ever heard of.

She said she left remembering that Carrboro is a place that really respects and appreciates art. There were other people there who seemed as if they did not know the band and were just there to experience the music.

Her dad said he could not imagine how she felt while standing on stage Saturday, with all of her experiences since leaving — releasing albums, dropping out of college, living in L.A. or creating the podcast — under her belt, with a different perspective on the past.

And, on McLamb’s Instagram story on Saturday night, she wrote, “Holy fuck Carrboro, this was the best night of my life. My cheeks hurt from smiling so much. N.C. forever and ever and ever and ever.”

X: @emimaerz

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COLUMN

Standardize the 32-hour workweek

By Rebecca Savidge
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

The 40-hour workweek has been a standard for Americans for almost a century, with individuals working for eight hours a day, five days a week. However, Senator Bernie Sanders recently proposed legislation that would reduce the standard workweek in the United States to 32 hours, or to a four-day workweek, with no pay reduction.

This proposition could benefit all working Americans, but especially the new generation of individuals entering work, specifically future/recently graduated college students.

Sanders’ legislation is based on the fact that many other countries, especially those in Europe, currently have a four-day workweek. In the countries with this policy, studies have shown that revenues for companies remain steady, but employees come to work less stressed and more focused.

A major reason for this stress

reduction is the increased time away from work, which could be spent with friends and family, relaxing or participating in hobbies.

Because of many Americans’ rigorous work schedules, not many people have consistent hobbies. Just over 56% of Americans reported having hobbies as of 2023, compared to over 90% of individuals in European countries like Sweden and Denmark.

This percentage did grow during the COVID-19 pandemic because of increased time away from work, with 59 percent of Americans picking up a new hobby during the pandemic.

Having a consistent hobby to participate in is important because hobbies can relieve stress and provide a purpose for your free time. Many college students participate in niche hobbies or activities, including, at UNC specifically, chess, improv, dance and skating clubs. Often, these hobbies are lost as individuals enter full-time work post-grad because more time needs to be

spent transitioning into a new, professional lifestyle.

The work-life balance is something students begin to learn in college — many of us balance spending time with loved ones, jobs and our hobbies while also doing coursework — and this balance is often disrupted once they enter the job field because all of their time must be spent on their career and its growth.

A shortened workweek would increase the possibility for equity between an individual’s work life and their personal life. College-age students could also reap other benefits from this legislation on a more professional level.

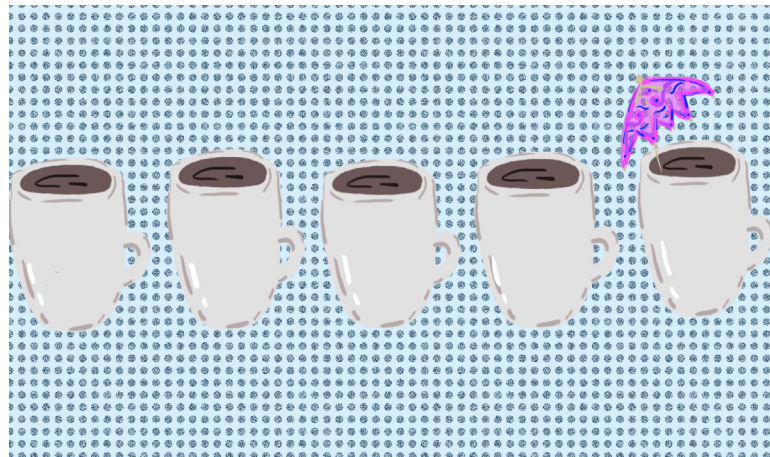
Some critics of Sanders’ bill argue that the 32-hour workweek would cause businesses to hire more employees, as a shortened workweek would likely require companies to hire more individuals, so the business could continue to run throughout the whole week.

While some see this as a negative, it would increase the market for jobs college students seek post-grad, opening up more opportunities. This is especially true for white-collar jobs that typically require a college degree, especially those in the arts, data science or pharmaceuticals.

For careers in journalism, there is an influx of individuals studying this field in college and not as many positions to fill as there are people, and this is true for many other career fields as well.

If anything, the shortened workweek is a positive piece of legislation for upcoming college graduates who will make up the future working class.

X: @dthopinion



DTH DESIGN/MAKARA MCBRIDE

The Daily Tar Heel

OFFICE DJ

This is not about Jimmy Buffett



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN RHODES
University Editor Lauren Rhodes smiles with a balloon parrot.

By Lauren Rhodes
University Editor
opinion@dailytarheel.com

I love Jimmy Buffett.

But when I asked Opinion Editor Laney Crawley if I could write my office DJ about one the most beloved artists of our parent’s generation, she repeatedly told me she would not publish the article.

“My first time hearing of him was when he died,” she texted me.

That is a travesty. So, I concocted a plan. I would make my Parrothead debut, but disguise it as a lovely playlist for sitting on the quad with your friends. Subtle, right?

As the weather gets warmer, vitamin D supplements return to their shelves and we approach the sweet spot between those last few midterms and finals, it’s getting harder and harder to pick going to class over sitting on the quad with friends.

It feels so college to throw a frisbee, recognize campus celebrities and procrastinate doing actual work by kicking back on Polk Place. To me, any stretch of time on the quad often means turning on my “Buffett Ballads” playlist.

That’s right, Buffett and I go so far back that, despite being a Spotify user, this playlist is one of a handful of playlists downloaded onto my Apple Music app because my dad imported them from his CDs.

Songs like “Come Monday” and “Margaritaville” have been the soundtrack to my family road trips, my dad’s naps and many a hand of

cards. I had a “Little Miss Magic” shirt growing up and have contemplated more than once investing in a pair of Margaritaville-themed Crocs.

I know, I know, capitalism. But for me, Buffet has always been the sound of relaxation, the feeling of sun and late-night laughter. Beyond the witty wordplay and tropical imagery, Buffet sings about the aches of growing up. He uses beaches and pirates and copious amounts of tequila to remind us that youth is a state of mind and that we should always make time for an adventure — on or off a beach.

I remember waking up to a text from my dad the morning of Sept. 2 that Buffett had died the night before at the age of 76. My mom responded with lyrics from one of his songs, “He Went to Paris.”

“Some of it’s magic, and some of it’s tragic, but I had a good life all the way,” she sent with heart emojis.

As a kiddo on the precipice of a lot of change over the next few years, I love that he embraces aging head-on and seemingly shrugs his shoulders at all the uncertainty adulthood brings. And he’s right, nothing is sure and none of the boring stuff matters.

Isn’t that great?

Life is hard, college is hard. But it’s an adventure, one I hope we get to enjoy. Whether through a student organization, time on the quad or a margarita, take a second to cast your troubles aside and have some freakin’ fun. So, I present to you this (very chaotic) playlist that was definitely created for sitting on the quad and is in no way just a vehicle to share some of my favorite Jimmy Buffett songs.

By the way, have you seen my lost shaker of salt?



X: @L_rhodsie

EDITORIAL

CDS must do better to serve students with restrictions

By the Editorial Board
opinion@dailytarheel.com

UNC dining halls pride themselves on meal options, especially for those with specific dietary restrictions.

With two primary dining halls open to the campus community and a few restaurants located throughout campus, it certainly feels like students have the luxury of choice.

Sunday through Thursday, regular dining hall hours range from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., with Chase Dining Hall open for “late night” until 12 a.m.

But Friday and Saturday hours are more slim, and late night is not offered. The dining options aren’t as freeing as you would think.

In addition to this, we’ve found that UNC’s current dining hall system fails to provide satisfactory options for religious or voluntary diets. The limited hours leave decent options for those who do not follow a diet, but often meager and insufficient choices for those who do. For those who have severe allergies or follow religious based diets, access is incredibly important.

Both Chase and Lenoir dining halls have “Stress Less” corners: cabinets

and freezers that omit gluten, tree nuts and peanut ingredients.

Though this is a start, these cabinets only include individually wrapped items that students must microwave or eat at the temperature they are. Many gluten-free options, such as the gluten-free hoagie rolls at Lenoir’s deli section, are not stored, prepared or served separately from other food, increasing the risk of dangerous cross-contamination. For those with celiac disease, this is a life-threatening issue.

Perhaps the most concerning issue is that students of different faiths, like Judaism and Islam, can also face difficulties in finding food options on campus that fit their dietary restrictions and time frames.

Some Jewish students follow kosher dietary regulations, which include not eating food with pork and shellfish or anything that has been handled with utensils cross-contaminated between meat and dairy products.

Potential cross-contamination of meals or mislabeled food selections creates worry not just for students who keep kosher, but also Muslim students who eat halal.

Muslim students recently expressed their concerns regarding halal foods

in the dining halls. While CDS has offered halal proteins since 2022 and has a labeling system for these options, implementation of these efforts has seemed lackluster. The system is confusing at best and incorrect at worst. For example, students have recognized that pork sausages, a non-halal food, have been marked as halal in the past. Even if the foods were always correctly labeled, Muslim students could still run into trouble with cross-contamination between halal and non-halal foods if dining hall workers are not properly trained on how to handle them — a training which is not outlined in CDS safety policies. CDS does use color coordinated serving utensils to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

CDS has made some effort to make dining at UNC more accessible to students with dietary restrictions. After working with the UNC Muslim Students Association, CDS added halal-friendly options every day and to-go options during dinner and late night at Chase — as well as dates, a traditional food when breaking fast — during Ramadan.

However, we feel that there are still very limited dining options open after sundown for these students. The

CDS website mentions to-go options for Muslim students fasting during Ramadan, but this isn’t enough and still doesn’t target the underlying issue of limited dining hall hours.

When dining halls close their regular dinner hours at 8 p.m., it makes it difficult for students to find healthy and fulfilling options without paying out of pocket, especially during these religious holidays, and it calls into question if UNC and CDS are making enough effort to serve all of their community.

CDS also puts the onus of religious diets on students, instead of shouldering the burden themselves. On its website, CDS explains that students “may ask for a clean pan if [they] are worried about cross contact.”

People who are vegan or vegetarian face similar concerns about cross-contamination and lack of availability. There is one vegan station each at Chase and Lenoir which rotates for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but there isn’t a vegan station available at Chase’s late night. Even during regular hours, the options are often a pale imitation of the non-vegan options and lack flavor and cohesiveness. It is not enough for students to only be able to eat from one

station for a short time during the day.

Students with dietary restrictions deserve options, along with food that is enjoyable to eat, not just which meets the bare minimum nutritional requirements. While we understand at the end of the day that this is ultimately dining hall food, we are paying for it. CDS must provide appetizing options for a student body as diverse as UNC’s, and that looks like more than just ticking a box for whatever allergen is being avoided.

It could look like CDS extending dining hall hours and food availability during holidays like Ramadan, having at least two different meal options at the vegan stations every day and making sure CDS workers are being trained on how to handle halal and special diet food to prevent incidents of cross-contamination.

UNC must do better to make dining halls and other food options more accessible for all students of varying faiths and dietary restrictions. If the campus is to be “well fed, happy and feeling at home,” students — regardless of dietary restrictions — must have a variety of healthy, palatable options.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

The sale of TikTok ignores issue of cybersecurity

U.S. government focuses attention on social media

By Anna Cathryn Perry
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

On March 13, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, intending for the Beijing-based company ByteDance to sell TikTok within the next six months.

If this split does not happen, U.S. app stores will be forced to remove TikTok from their platforms. Lawmakers and Congress are worried about a national security risk from TikTok, as the app can spread disinformation and tap into confidential data of Americans. Notable political opponents agreed and passed 352 to 65 in the House of Representatives, one of few recent bipartisan decisions. President Biden also stated he would sign this bill into law if the Senate passed it.

Why is banning a popular app the only partisan thing our polarized Democratic and Republican parties seem to agree on, aside from passing funding so the country doesn't shut down? Ironically, these politicians, all over 25 years old, across

opposing parties see eye-to-eye on an app primarily used by people aged 30 and under. Hot topics of greater importance dominate the political landscape, such as Russia's war with Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, abortion and immigration. However, due to the extreme partisan nature of today's political climate, no wide-scale issue with a permanent solution seems to get passed.

Despite these more pressing issues, the House came together on a bill over TikTok.

These lawmakers' primary concerns are security and American citizens' data and information. The law would separate TikTok from its parent company, and if ByteDance does not sell, new users would not be able to download the app. However, current users would still be able to access it. The idea of restricting a vital part of modern communication mirrors American politicians' fears of the Chinese Communist Party's censorship.

During TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew's hearing with the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senator Tom Cotton grilled Chew with questions about his nationality. Cotton failed to understand that Chew was a Singaporean military veteran, not a Chinese citizen, or as Cotton probed for, a member of the CCP. Lawmakers repeatedly

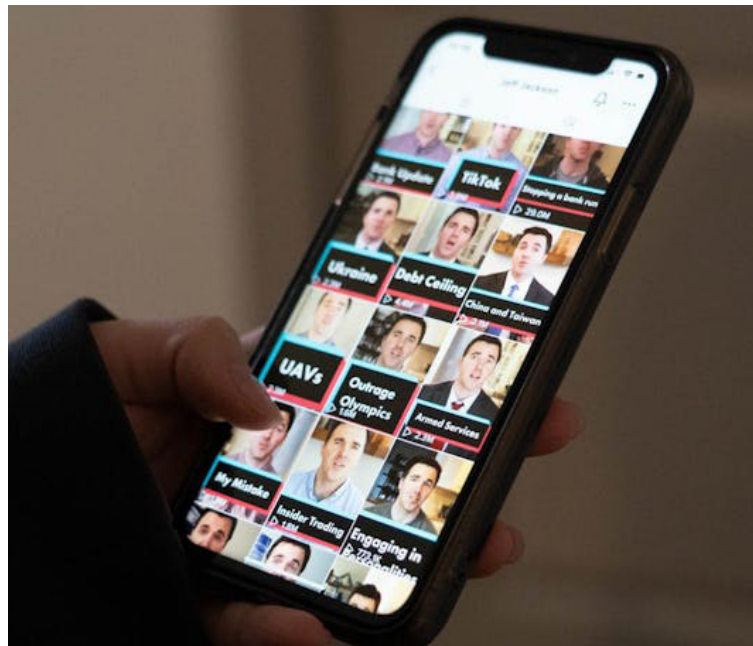
questioned Chew about his app and its software, but demonstrated a lack of understanding of the app and cybersecurity themselves, for instance information about filters and parental controls. If members of Congress cannot comprehend the most basic tenets of cybersecurity, how can they effectively make laws about it?

We are in an unprecedented time with national security. The Constitution did not include sections about the internet or any issues pertaining to it. While selling or banning TikTok would prevent ByteDance from having access, it would not make a substantial long-term change regarding all national security online. The new owner could still access all the same user data and illegally transfer that information. Social media is not going away. A new app, just like TikTok (remember Vine?), could come out to fill a gap in the market.

ByteDance could also even pursue a near-clone of TikTok itself. Musical.ly — a social media platform considered TikTok's predecessor — was bought by ByteDance and then absorbed by TikTok. Musical.ly accounts became TikTok accounts and a new, but similar app dominated the social media market yet again.

Selling TikTok to an American-based company would do little but prevent Congress' concerns about Chinese ownership, and could make things worse by leading to monopolistic behavior, as realistically, only mega firms like Meta or Google would have enough capital to purchase it. This could create antitrust opponents and hurt American businesses themselves.

Americans and politicians should attempt to look at the bigger picture of privacy and data in the digital world. Instead of attacking the surface issues of internet safety, lawmakers should regulate social media and the overall privacy of Americans online. If we want to prevent misinformation and uphold democracy, politicians should recognize our world how it is today and strive to compromise and grow with the times, instead of turning to strict bans and regulations.



DTH/RITA YOU

X: @acperry

SATIRE

How I made the best March Madness bracket



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

The most promising bracket every bro wishes they had

By Sydney Baker
Columnist
opinion@dailytarheel.com

The entirety of my sports knowledge is limited to soccer and football. For years, I have spat on basketball, wondering how people could possibly be entertained by 10 guys running up and down a sweaty, slippery indoor court.

However, once I was exposed to UNC basketball, the stubbornness I harbored slowly began to drain. I went to almost every home game this season. I caught a T-shirt, bought a \$13 hot dog and got free rally towels and posters. But somewhere deep inside the Dean E. Smith Center, I also garnered an appreciation for basketball.

When the regular season ended, I felt in my Dean Dome bones that I was ready for the madness in March. My bracket would be glorious.

Deciding who won each round was based on three main things: how aesthetically pleasing the uniforms are, the agility of each team's sweat-wiping towel boys, and whether or not I can correctly pronounce and spell the name of each team.

Normal bracket-makers consider statistics, season records and team dynamics. Not me. Those things are obvious. Everyone always glosses over the importance of uniform aesthetics, for example. How pretty the players' garb is determines how

many people will root for that team. It's rudimentary psychology. If a team's jerseys are uglier than the other teams', the lack of crowd support will surely influence the game. That means an immediate goodnight to Tennessee, Clemson, Kansas, Baylor, Illinois, Oregon and Duke.

Second, the towel boys are a reflection of each basketball program's work ethic and drive. How quickly and efficiently they soak up sweat streaks on the court is a direct indication of what the programs value; the better the towel boys, the better the basketball. So, more easy goodbyes to UConn, South Carolina, Houston, Kentucky, Yale, BYU and Arizona.

The last factor is crucial. If a team has a hard-to-spell or weirdly pronounced name, it will never have what it takes to win a natty. The NCAA will stress about carving their name into a glossy trophy and broadcast journalists will worry about correctly shouting their names into sports network shows. Sorry to Purrdew, Crayton, Gonzava, McNiece, Duquain, Markette, Awbern and, once again, Dook.

Based on this logic The Elite Eight should include UNC, Stetson, Colgate, Morehead State, Longwood, Western Kentucky, Samford and Akron. UNC, Stetson, Longwood and Akron will advance to the Final Four.

With my niche, underground understanding of this sport and my intense four-month immersion in the Dean Dome, I know I've created a winning bracket.

You just don't know basketball like I do.

X: @sydneyj_baker

COLUMN

Questioning the Leandro Plan is dangerous for rural N.C.

State schools seek support in educating underfunded areas

By Mary Thomas Watkins
Editorial Board Member
opinion@dailytarheel.com



DTH FILE/ANNA CONNORS

The N.C. Supreme Court sits in Raleigh on Aug. 26, 2022.

In 2022, the N.C. Supreme Court affirmed the "Leandro Plan," or the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan, which seeks to supplement under-supported public school districts with a \$5 billion boost in annual education spending.

That year, we had a state Supreme Court that had a Democrat majority, who affirmed the plan. Now, the partisan shift to a Republican majority on the N.C. Supreme Court has halted the plan and allowed for a revisit.

The N.C. Supreme Court is reconsidering the government's responsibility to educate every child. The threat to the Leandro Plan is a threat that risks further marginalizing rural and impoverished students across the state.

The Leandro case began 30 years ago, having been originally filed in 1994 by a group of concerned students, teachers and parents in low-income rural counties — specifically Halifax, Hole, Robeson, Vance and Cumberland counties. The suit sought proper financial

and institutional support for rural school districts, alleging that the students of these counties received an unjustly poor education compared to wealthier neighboring counties.

Twice, the N.C. Supreme Court affirmed the right of every student in North Carolina — not just in those five counties, but in every county impacted — to have a "sound, basic education." Now, the billions of dollars promised to go toward rural schools are threatened by the N.C. Supreme Court's partisan schism.

Those opposed to the expansive plan seek to limit the funding to only the five original complainants. According to the team representing Republican leaders N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Guilford, Rockingham) and N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland, Rutherford), there is no jurisdiction for such breadth of action by the courts.

The case for such wide jurisdiction, however, seems outlined in the North Carolina State Constitution, Section 15, which reads "The people have a

right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right."

Why are "the people" not all the people? Perhaps the better question is, why is public education so feared? So feared that supposed respectable political leaders find themselves opposed to a plan that would finally provide the rural students of North Carolina a comparable education to their urban and suburban peers.

Those overwhelmed with the fear of an educated, empowered, rural North Carolina don't just stop at threatening the Leandro Plan. Legislative targeting of public education through the censorship of classroom discourse and voucher programs that divide and drain all serve one purpose: to keep rural North Carolina down.

By strangling school districts, legislators strangle the future. We cannot stand by and watch our future wrenched from us. We cannot stand by while the Republican supermajority aims to turn off the lights on rural North Carolina.

So what can we do? We can call our representatives, we can stand by our public school districts and — most of all — we can vote. Cut the rot at its root, so rural North Carolina can grow.

North Carolina is home to one of the largest populations of rural students in the nation, second only to Texas. Rurality should be empowered and celebrated, not ignored as demographic divides deepens and widens in this state. Public education for rural North Carolina is well worth saving.

The Leandro Plan is a necessary step towards a brighter future for people in North Carolina. If those in power threaten it, we can't help but question who they are serving.

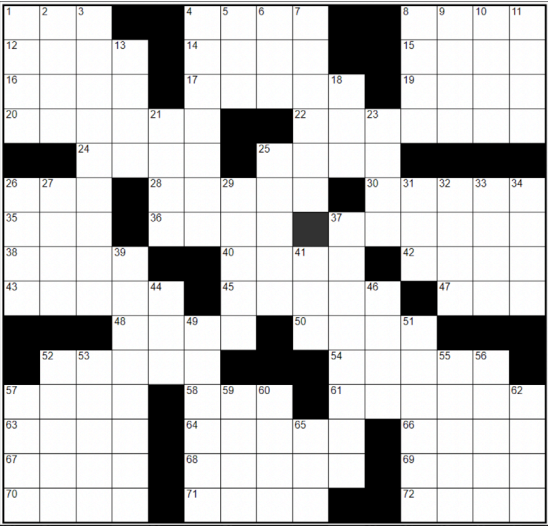
I dare representatives to remember those they represent. Do not hack away at the precious delicacy of public education with your partisan clobbering. Do not leave rural North Carolina in the dark.

X: @dthopinion

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This week’s crossword was created by Miles Wilkin. Miles is a UNC senior majoring in business administration and information science. He is from Bemus Point, New York.

Title: “TV Taglines”

HERE TO SOLVE THE CROSSWORD?
Puzzle solvers make great accountants.



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ACROSS:

- 1. A statistic where the US actually is #1
- 4. PC document
- 8. A quitter’s word
- 12. Furniture wood
- 14. Train track
- 15. Home to the Zion and Arches national parks
- 16. Bambi, at first
- 17. Where the most people live, as of 2023
- 19. Start from scratch
- 20. Worth mentioning
- 22. * “YES CHEF!”
- 24. Spider-Man creator Lee
- 25. Paraphernalia
- 26. URL: punctuation
- 28. Brainstorm products
- 30. * “You just got Litt up”
- 35. Muckraker Tarbell
- 36. Pre-law student’s focus before senior year
- 37. Shakespearean verse
- 38. Royal address
- 40. It can make your TV smarter
- 42. Unconscious state
- 43. Chavez or Millan
- 45. Winter Palace residents
- 47. Media org. funded by donations
- 48. Especially
- 50. The most “terrible” of 45-across
- 52. Zoo heavyweight
- 54. PR concern
- 57. Harness strap
- 58. * “Clear eyes, full hearts, can’t lose!”, abbr.
- 61. Capulet territory
- 63. My treat!
- 64. Takis adjective

Last week’s solution:

Last week’s crossword had a discrepancy between the clues and box numbers. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for this error. As a result, we have not included an answer key for last week. Thank you to our dedicated crossword puzzlers who brought this to our attention.

- 66. Kid ____ (“Day ‘n’ Nite” artist)
- 67. Calendar squares
- 68. Tribal leaders
- 69. Aroma
- 70. Shade trees
- 71. Otherwise
- 72. Carpenter’s tools

DOWN:

- 1. “Leave right now!”, over text
- 2. A hearing disability
- 3. * “Let me call in an expert”
- 4. * “We were on a break!!!”
- 5. 007 creator Fleming
- 6. Cover
- 7. A-listers
- 8. *Prett-ay, Prett-ay, Prett-ay Good”, slangily
- 9. To _ ____ (exactly)
- 10. Zilch
- 11. Hammered Avenger?
- 13. Masseur’s target
- 18. Cry of discovery
- 21. Follow
- 23. Jyn ____ (“Rogue One” heroine)
- 25. Catalanian felines
- 26. Frisbee, e.g.
- 27. Garfield’s canine companion
- 29. Astronaut’s final destination
- 31. First public university in the US?
- 32. Privy to
- 33. Office fill-in
- 34. Headliner
- 37. * “The tribe has spoken”
- 39. Simplicity
- 41. Winding or Cenat
- 44. Operate
- 46. Identical
- 49. Meantime merchandise
- 51. * “¿Plata o plomo?”
- 52. Kidney-related
- 53. * “Legen-wait for it-dary”, abbr
- 55. Fondue cheese
- 56. Fund, as a scholarship
- 57. Was a passenger
- 59. Invalid
- 60. They’re likely to be found on a dorm ceiling in Ehaus
- 62. Broadcasts
- 65. Shucks



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HOROSCOPES



Today’s Birthday: 3/27/24

Fortune follows initiative this year. Nurture yourself with regular time for private reflection, dreaming and planning. Collaborative breakthroughs illuminate the spring, inspiring summer’s personal growth and development. Autumn organization prepares dreamy results, helping to resolve winter collaborative complications. Windfall fruit fills your basket.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Today is an 8 — Attend to shared finances. Plan for an upcoming job. Let your partner take the lead. Prepare well so you can move quickly later.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Today is an 8 — Tend your garden with love. Nurture growth and harmony. A domestic dream is within reach. Get family on board. Many hands make light work.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Today is a 6 — Slow to reconsider. Sidestep a controversy. Hide out in your private cocoon. Peace feeds your spirit. So does connection with nature, art and music.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

Today is a 7 — Collaborate on practical projects with your partner. Share ideas and resources. Have patience with temporary confusion. Strengthen foundational matters. Celebrate the results together.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Today is a 9 — You’re especially brilliant. Study, write and research about a fascination. Present your argument tactfully. Anticipate some resistance or controversy. Get creative with a challenge.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Today is an 8 — Confer with friends and allies. Conversation provides insight. Monitor a situation in real time to navigate changes. Teamwork makes a complex job easy.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Today is a 9 — Physical action gets results. Keep objectives in mind. Listen to your intuition. Prioritize your own health and wellness. Sometimes the best move is none.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Today is a 9 — A surprising opportunity could be worth pursuing. Focus on profitable actions and practical priorities. Check orders for changes. Compute expenses and adjust budgets.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Today is a 9 — Consider a professional opportunity. Stick to practical objectives. Face a challenge or test. Figure out what you need to advance. Persistence pays off.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Today is a 9 — Follow your heart where it leads. Advance a romantic or creative dream. Share your passions. You can make things happen. Make a lovely connection.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

Today is a 9 — Imagine what you want. You can find what you need. Things may not go as planned. A personal dream lies within reach. Go for it.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

Today is an 8 — An adventure takes shape. Study maps and charts. Imagine your route and destination. Explore off the beaten path to discover hidden treasure. Investigate.



Last week’s solution

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

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

Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA TOURNAMENT

North Carolina to face high-flying Alabama offense in Sweet 16

Here are two things to watch for as UNC looks to advance

By Daniel Wei
Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

There's fast, there's faster, and then there's Alabama.

The No. 4-seeded Crimson Tide will face No. 1-seeded North Carolina at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on Thursday night for a Sweet 16 showdown. Led by senior guard Mark Sears, Alabama boasts the country's highest scoring offense, pouring in 90.7 points per game.

We're about to find out, in basketball terms, what happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object. UNC's adjusted defensive efficiency ranks sixth nationally, per KenPom. The Crimson Tide plays at a lightning-quick pace, ranked eighth in KenPom's adjusted tempo.

Here are two things to watch for as UNC looks to advance to the Elite Eight for the second time in three years:

Live and die by the three

Alabama prides itself on its NBA-style, efficiency-favoring philosophy: threes, layups and no defense.

Head coach Nate Oats' crew has given up 85 or more points 11 times this season. Nearly half of the Crimson Tide's field goal attempts have been 3-pointers and four of Alabama's five starters have attempted at least 140 triples. The Tide rank top-5 in Division I in 3-point attempts and makes per game.

Adhering to offensive analytics isn't perfect, though. In five of its nine ranked matchups this season, the Crimson Tide shot 25 percent or worse from distance.



DTH/SAURYA ACHARYA

First-year guard Elliot Cadeau (2) dribbles the ball during the NCAA tournament first round game against Wagner on Thursday at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C.

Meanwhile, North Carolina has capable shooters, but usually prefers to work inside out.

However, that might not be an option if Alabama gets hot from distance. Junior forward Harrison Ingram and graduate guard Cormac Ryan are UNC's X-factors here: when both are hitting shots, the Tar Heels are nearly impossible to beat. But when neither are connecting on triples, senior guard RJ Davis can only do so much while often being face-guarded.

There have been eight games this season in which both Ingram and Ryan shot 37 percent or better from three. UNC won seven of those. Conversely, Ingram and Ryan combined to shoot 30 percent or less from downtown in four of North Carolina's seven losses.

Can Elliot Cadeau get going?

The rookie guard had more turnovers (four) than points (zero) in UNC's NCAA tournament opener against Wagner. He

followed it up with six points and four assists against Michigan State, but shot 0-for-4 from three while Tom Izzo's Spartans sagged off Cadeau, daring him to take wide open looks.

Cadeau is a pass-first point guard, but he is now 8-for-48 from downtown on the season. If the ACC All-Freshman Team selectee continues to be a liability on the perimeter, Oats will undoubtedly elect to double-team graduate center Armando Bacot in the post and clog UNC's driving lanes.

Though Cadeau has started 30 games this year, head coach Hubert Davis isn't opposed to trading offense for defense by giving sixth man sophomore guard Seth Trimble more minutes in the first-year's place.

But if Thursday comes down to a shootout, the Crimson Tide's permeable defense — ranked worst of all the Sweet 16 teams at 101st in KenPom — might just be the thing Cadeau needs for a breakout game.

X: [@danielhwei](#)

Women's basketball falls in second round

No. 8-seeded UNC suffers 47-point loss to No. 1 South Carolina

By Caroline Wills
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — UNC couldn't find its rhythm.

Down three points in the opening minutes, senior guard Deja Kelly attempted to create space off junior center Maria Gakdeng's screen. Instead, she fumbled the ball, and South Carolina's Raven Johnson took off with it in transition.

A minute later, sophomore guard Indya Nivar attempted to drive through the lane for a fast-break layup — only to be blocked by USC's MiLaysia Fulwiley.

South Carolina was on its way to ending the quarter on an 15-0 run. When you combine the fast-paced tempo and lights-out shooting of the Gamecocks with the Tar Heels' lack of offensive rhythm, it was a perfect storm, in head coach Courtney Banghart's words.

"They shot way above their average, and we shot below our average," she said. "Mathematically, it's never going to go so well for you."

Haunted by offensive inefficiency and early turnovers, No. 8-seeded North Carolina fell to No. 1-seeded South Carolina on Sunday 88-41 in the second round of the NCAA tournament. UNC struggled against USC's disruptive defense in the first half, creating an early 37-point trench too deep to climb out of.

Graduate guard Lexi Donarski said it simply took the Tar Heels too long to settle in. North Carolina was not getting the looks it wanted, and players were not getting to the right spots. USC also started utilizing its full-court press on UNC's first possession, immediately stunting the Tar Heels' offensive execution.

By the end of the first quarter, North Carolina was shooting 24 percent from the field. For

Graduate guard Lexi Donarski (20) jumps for the ball during the game against South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. on Sunday.

every missed basket or ill-timed turnover, South Carolina took advantage. The Gamecocks ended the first 10 minutes of regulation shooting 59 percent and knocking down three triples.

Ustby was the lone Tar Heel in double-digit scoring, while the Gamecocks had five such players. But missing shots was not the only issue for UNC — South Carolina also implemented a defensive scheme that smothered North Carolina's go-to actions.

Nail-biting, hard-fought and close are words likely associated with recent North Carolina versus South Carolina games. The past two matchups have been determined by eight points or less. Yet on Sunday, that staple characteristic was seemingly absent. Look no further than the seven points the Tar Heels scored in the final quarter compared to South Carolina's 18.

"It's tough," Kelly said. "They're number one for a reason, and I think we let that get to us early. We didn't really show any fight back until the second half, which by then it was obviously too late."

X: [@carolinewills03](#)

All talk, no action: Michigan State's mouths can't keep up with the Tar Heels

UNC men's basketball dominated after a rough start

By Harry Crowther
Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

CHARLOTTE — The Spartans were talking.

They were talking yesterday. They were talking before the game. They were talking during the game.

"I was lit," UNC junior forward Harrison Ingram said. "I was ready for this game. This is the one I wanted. When teams talk, that's what we do 'cause we talk back. It doesn't really matter to us. We don't care who you are, what you say, what you claim to be."

But early in Saturday's second-round NCAA tournament game, Ingram and the Tar Heels got punched in the mouth. North Carolina trailed Michigan State 26-14 with 9:37 to go in the first half.

From there, the Tar Heels went on a 26-5 run to take a 40-31 lead into halftime — a stretch that proved to be the turning point in UNC's 85-69 victory at the Spectrum

Center. Part of it was a 17-0 kill shot, UNC's largest unanswered spurt in an NCAA tournament game since a 19-0 run against Marquette in 2011. The win also marks the Tar Heels' largest comeback in an NCAA tournament game since they trailed Southern California by 16 in the 2007 Sweet 16.

Before North Carolina took control, Michigan State dominated the game inside with its physicality. Head coach Hubert Davis said his Tar Heels were overwhelmed.

The Spartans were backing up their talk. Ingram and his teammates took it personally.

In the under-eight timeout, UNC discussed its toughness.

"They were just playing better than us," Davis said. "We came into the huddle and said, 'Look, we can't talk about any basketball stuff until we join the fight.' Once that started, the level of play in terms of the energy and effort, the attention to detail, rose. Then that's when things started to change."

Things went differently for the Tar Heels in the rest of the first half. Ingram knocked down a couple of threes. Graduate center Armando Bacot started to take it

to the Spartans inside, drawing fouls and getting to the line three times. On the other end, UNC started to amp up the intensity. Jae'Lyn Withers got a steal. Elliot Cadeau drew an offensive foul. Bacot swatted two shots.

"I like when people are doubting you," graduate guard Cormac Ryan said. "When you're down 10 [or] 12, and [it's] looking like things aren't going well, that's a tough position to be in but also a great position to be in to get really hungry. And that's something that, me personally, I like. I think you'd ask these guys, [and] they like it too. We've always responded to those challenges, and that's just the kind of team we are."

The highlight of UNC's run came with 3:19 left in the half. The Tar Heels played a great defensive possession and forced MSU's Tyson Walker to take a deep three as the shot clock expired. Graduate guard Paxson Wojcik grabbed the rebound and sprinted into the open floor. He drove to the basket, drawing Spartan defenders, and then kicked it to RJ Davis, who was wide open in the corner.

Wojcik knew it was in. He was running back on defense with his

hand in the air as the ball was afloat. Splash. Dagger. Timeout Spartans.

At that point, the Tar Heels were enjoying the talk.

To be clear, they do not bring the talk. Hubert Davis doesn't like that. But they will respond to it.

"[Davis] does love it whenever

the other team brings it," Ingram said. "He's OK with us talking. He's OK with us being ourselves. [Michigan State] brought it from the beginning. We knew it was going to be that type of game."

X: [@dthsports](#)



DTH/SAURYA ACHARYA

UNC senior guard RJ Davis (4) celebrates a successful 3-pointer during the game against Michigan State on Saturday at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C.

NIL DEAL

‘Very handsome’: Paxson Wojcik models for Skims campaign

Player teases future collaboration with teammate Seth Trimble

By Gwen Peace
Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

CHARLOTTE — If you were scrolling through Instagram on the morning of March 18, you may have noticed a rather unusual post from UNC’s Paxson Wojcik.

Instead of the graduate guard’s typical basketball-related content, he was meticulously

posed in front of a clean, white wall, sporting a matching black sweatsuit. Scroll down a little bit, and you discover the post is actually a Skims sponsorship — as evidenced by Wojcik’s caption: “@kimkardashian (red heart emoji).”

Dig a little deeper, like any good investigator would, and you end up on the Skims Instagram page, or maybe even that of Kim Kardashian herself. Once there, the plot thickens. Wojcik is pictured on the cover of SLAM Magazine (in his Skims gear, of course) alongside several basketball standouts: Duke’s

Jared McCain, Arizona’s Caleb Love, Kansas’ Hunter Dickinson, Kentucky’s Rob Dillingham and Connecticut’s Donovan Clingan.

So how did Wojcik, who averages just over eight minutes per game, end up in such an all-star lineup? Well, apparently they just liked his look.

It all started when TJ Beisner, the NIL lead at UNC, approached Wojcik with the Skims pitch. Wojcik said he was aware of the brand, but had no idea that it made men’s clothes, so he was confused at first. But after learning more about the NIL deal, he was all-in.

“[It was] definitely an opportunity that I was excited about once it was presented, and I’m not going to turn it down,” he said, “but it was the first time I had done any sort of fashion industry photoshoot.”

The same cannot be said for every member on the team. Seth Trimble was a fairly prolific child model, starring in campaigns for Nike, Foot Locker, Kohl’s and John Cena’s merchandise line, among others.

Wojcik joked when he was selected over Trimble, despite his breadth of experience, the sophomore guard was a little jealous. Eventually, Trimble overcame his disappointment and gave Wojcik some tips for how to ace the shoot, which he said came in handy.

“When he first told us [about the cover], we were all very surprised, it was a huge laugh,” Trimble said. “We were happy for him, but we were shocked.”

Nevertheless, Wojcik was determined to follow through on



DTH/LARA CROCHIK

Paxson Wojcik talks to reporters at UNC men’s basketball’s media day on Oct. 6, 2023.

the deal. So about three months ago, he boarded a plane to New York City. The shoot lasted around four hours (something Trimble claims is quite standard), and then the deal was done.

Even with Trimble’s expert advice, it was a totally new experience for Wojcik.

“Basketball has been my thing my whole life, but to see other people working in different lighting and poses and angles and stuff, it was pretty cool,” Wojcik said.

And when the photos finally came out, Trimble and the rest of Wojcik’s teammates changed their minds about the whole thing. It went from laughable to cool.

“He was very handsome in those pictures, so I’m glad,” Trimble said. “I’m happy for him.”

The sentiment was echoed in the comment section of Wojcik’s Instagram.

“This is now a national holiday,”

wrote graduate guard Cormac Ryan.

“Ok wit the smolder (fire emoji),” added sophomore forward Jalen Washington.

Now that Wojcik’s modeling chops were — at least in the eyes of his teammates — proven, there was only one question that really remained. Who is the better model: Wojcik or Trimble?

“I think it’s equally balanced between the both,” senior guard RJ Davis said. “They both have great potential, I know Seth has some experience, so I think both.”

Thankfully, Wojcik said the two decided to join forces and are going to be collaborating on their next modeling endeavor, which will hit Instagram soon.

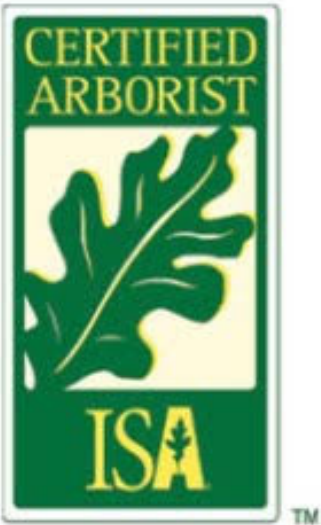
“We can’t speak on it too much,” Trimble said, “but we got something in the works.”

X: @peacegwen



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

UNC graduate guard Paxson Wojcik (8) defends the basket at the men’s basketball scrimmage against St. Augustine on Oct. 27, 2023, in the Dean E. Smith Center. UNC won 117-53.



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PRESEASON

‘Run the damn ball’: UNC football begins spring practice

By Cade Shoemaker
Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

The first of 15 spring practices for the North Carolina football team began last Tuesday morning.

The practice was open to the media and displayed several adjustments made since the Tar Heels’ 30-10 loss to West Virginia in the 2023 Duke’s Mayo Bowl. As a result, here are a few observations from the practice concerning the upcoming quarterback battle, the impact of new defensive coordinator Geoff Collins and North Carolina’s ground game ahead of the annual spring game on April 20.

It’s notebook time.

QB battle

With the departure of Drake Maye for the NFL draft, the UNC quarterback room has created a two-man race for the starting job between sophomore Conner Harrell and graduate transfer Max Johnson.

Harrell appeared in five games for the Tar Heels’ last season before starting in UNC’s bowl game at the end of the year. Johnson played in eight games and started five last season for Texas A&M, finishing with 1,452 passing yards and nine touchdowns.

“[Connor] and Max are going to have a great battle to see who is going to be QB1,” senior offensive lineman Willie Lampkin said. “I’m happy for both of them. I feel like

they’re both great quarterbacks and both have great potential.”

During the intra-squad scrimmages, Harrell was the one to receive first-team reps with the offense. He displayed his deep-ball accuracy on one occasion and made plays with his legs like he did during his lone start in UNC’s bowl game. However, much like that game, Harrell’s poor pocket awareness led to a handful of simulated sacks within the scrimmage.

In regards to Johnson, the veteran received praise from his coaches for his footwork and pocket presence. However, the Georgia native had a handful of overthrows and out-of-reach passes that eventually led to an interception by senior defensive back Alijah Huzzie. Despite these troubles, Johnson appeared to make good reads across the field for a quarterback new to the playbook.

Whoever the starter may be by the regular season, one thing is for sure: the competition is infectious.

“I feel like [the battle] is going to bring the best out of everybody,” Lampkin said.

Minister of Mayhem

It is easy to pick out the latest coaching hire for the Tar Heels.

Sporting his Bill Belichick-style cutoff sweatshirt, Collins is an energy machine. Ask any of the Tar Heels on the defensive side of the ball, and they will tell you the countless ways their new defensive coordinator is intense.

“He brings a ton of energy to the table, and you have no choice but to match his energy,” Huzzie said. “He pumps up everybody and brings a light to the defense.”

On one occasion during the simulated scrimmage, a defensive lineman broke through the trenches for a would-be tackle for loss. Before the player got a chance to celebrate on his own, Collins was there banging on his pads with infectious joy.

As for the X’s and O’s, Huzzie said the defensive coordinator added more blitz packages and pressures to align with his disruptive mindset.

This was evident to Lampkin. At times, him and the other offensive linemen had trouble keeping the tenacious pass rushers at bay.

“They brought the intensity on the first day,” Lampkin said. “I felt like that’s what we need, especially in the trenches. Who is going to bring the energy, who is going to bring the best out of each other and that’s what we need.”

‘Run the damn ball’

With the return of junior running back Omarion Hampton, the Tar Heels may look to increase the star’s workload without Maye in the offense. On Tuesday, Hampton was able to find holes for strong carries in both the scrimmages and drills.

“We do a lot of similar things, just reading the holes is going to be the same,” Hampton said. “But I feel like



DTH/AVA SHARON

Members of the UNC football team run a drill during the spring practice on March 19 in the Bill Koman Practice Complex.

they are opening up the holes a little bit better this year.”

Of course, the desire to establish a better run game is fully embraced by the offensive line. Lampkin said the motto for this upcoming season is “run the damn ball.” That starts with a group of guards who are on the same page.

To get there, Lampkin is providing the leadership. Offensive line coach Randy Clements used Lampkin to

show correct technique in drills and be the example for the younger players on Tuesday.

“They didn’t have opportunities to play last year, because we had all the older guys playing,” Lampkin said. “So just off of today, I feel like we are going to make a big step to get ready for the season.”

X: @cadeshoemaker23

UNC women’s tennis player sues NCAA over prize money rules

Continued from Page 1

student does a summer job,” Brantmeier said. “You’re earning money directly for your work and your talent. Athletics is no different.”

Sam Ehrlich, an assistant professor at Boise State University and sports law expert, said the sophomore’s class-action lawsuit has the potential to throw another wrench in the NCAA’s notion of amateurism.

“The NCAA still bars making money specifically off of your athletic pursuits and specifically because you’re an athlete,” Ehrlich

said, interpreting the lawsuit’s argument. “But with NIL now — the way NIL has evolved, the way NIL has really taken off over the past several years with collectives and all these different things — the NCAA effectively doesn’t bar pay-for-play anymore.”

‘I felt like I was being put on trial’

This isn’t Brantmeier’s first battle with the NCAA.

Currently, the NCAA allows individual athletes to accept prize money, so long as it does

not exceed “actual and necessary expenses.” This is outlined in NCAA bylaw 12.1, which also provides exceptions specifically for tennis players: They can claim up to \$10,000 per calendar year in prize money before enrolling in college.

When Brantmeier competed in the 2021 U.S. Open, she knew there was little room for error in tracking her expenses.

“I wasn’t super familiar with [the] NCAA’s rules, so I was kind of learning as I was at the tournament,” Brantmeier said. “In between matches, my mom and I would go call the NCAA customer service hotline and be like, ‘Can somebody please help us?’ Because, you know, the rules are really confusing and convoluted.”

Brantmeier said there was a lack of tennis-specific information and she received lots of conflicting answers.

“We were asking, every expense that we provided, if it was allowed for [the] NCAA,” Brantmeier said. “So anything we did end up expensing, we got direct confirmation.”

Still, Brantmeier’s lawsuit alleges the NCAA took issue with several of the expenses she submitted for the 2021 U.S. Open.

Brantmeier and her mother purchased a portable scanner to keep track of receipts using competition-related expenses — a purchase the NCAA deemed unnecessary. The NCAA also disputed Brantmeier’s claim for racket restringing (it

took place outside of a 14-day pre-competition window) and denied her mother’s portion of lodging expenses in New York City, arguing that it was not an essential expense. Brantmeier was 16 at the time.

As a result, the NCAA refused to certify Brantmeier as an amateur for the fall 2022 season, the lawsuit claims. If she had played and was later declared ineligible by the NCAA, the Tar Heels may have been forced to forfeit matches.

“Feeling like I wasn’t even on the team was so challenging,” Brantmeier said. “And just the way the NCAA went about the whole process made it even harder.”

By January 2023, the NCAA confirmed her eligibility following a \$5,100 mandated donation to charity, according to the lawsuit.

“I felt like I was being put on trial,” Brantmeier said. “I had done everything in my power to make sure I was following all of these rules, so to be accused of seemingly trying to scam this system was so frustrating.”

‘If it’s not me, it’ll be someone else’

Crawley, the 2023 Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Player of the Year, made headlines in September when she was forced to return most of the \$81,500 she was awarded in the U.S. Open to maintain her college eligibility.

Brantmeier said she and Crawley

were approached by attorneys from law firms Milberg and Miller Monroe & Plyler in the fall, who encouraged the two players to bring their case to court.

While Crawley declined to get involved, she emphasized she completely supports Brantmeier, who is being represented by attorneys from the two firms.

Brantmeier’s lawsuit does not seek damages. She knows her prize money is long gone. Instead, she is pursuing legal action to advocate for a change in the rule, to benefit other collegiate players who may find themselves in her or Crawley’s shoes in the future.

“It was definitely intimidating to take on an institution that’s so respected and long-standing,” Brantmeier said. “But I truly believe that if it’s not me, it’ll be someone else later. And hopefully, if I do this now, then less people will be negatively affected by these rules, sooner than later.”

The NCAA did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel’s requests for comment before the time for publication. The UNC athletic department, UNC women’s tennis head coach Brian Kalbas and Nate Wood, the University’s associate athletic director for NCAA compliance, declined to comment on the case.

X: @shelbymswanson



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UNC sophomore Reese Brantmeier watches the women’s tennis match against N.C. State on Friday at the J.W. Isenhour Tennis Center.

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