Everything happens so much.

1. Health care workers and long-term care staff and residents
2. Anyone 65 years of age or older
3. Frontline essential workers (as defined by the state)
4. People with conditions that put them at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19
5. Education staff
6. Residents in other long-term care settings
7. People 65 years of age and older who meet specific conditions related to race and ethnicity

For a full list of who is eligible for the vaccine in North Carolina, visit the state's website at https://nc.gov/covid19vaccine.
The Daily Tar Heel is published by DTH Media Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, weekly on Wednesdays during the academic year. Copy is written by students, for students, under the guidance of professional editors. All reporting staff work on a voluntary basis. The Daily Tar Heel is not responsible for unsolicited letters, contributions or views, including those offered as advertisements, that appear in the newspaper.

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Arts & Culture

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Durham-based brass band releases album

Disney star's single has garnered attention from UNC students

D-Town Brass features 15 musicians and prides itself on its uniqueness

By Taylor Molina
arts@dailytarheel.com

Durham-based band D-Town Brass released its newest album "Demiurge" on Feb. 10. The album showcases the 15-person brass orchestra that plays all original compositions. The band is primarily instrumental and features no guitars.

"We do modern stuff that's influenced by jazz and rock 'n' roll and soundtrack music and whatever else avant-garde kinds of stuff," read player and composer Bob Pence said. "Composer and key player Andrew Edmonds said the band started as kind of an accident.

"We had a few songs that I made up that seemed to suggest that the sound of them will be good with horns, so I just made some phone calls to see who knew who and what horn players I could find," Magowan said.

The band began with 10 members. Magowan said the recording session was the easiest he had ever done, despite 10 people playing all at once. Magowan said the band would come together for some practices, record and then go their separate ways for months until they had something new to record. Their cycle worked, and they started to accumulate more members.

Magowan said he thinks the band stays together because of its uniqueness.

"I think everybody's that in realises there's not really anything else like this," Magowan said. "So that makes it more fun to be a part of, and I think maybe a feeling of like, 'Well, I should do something to try to keep this thing going too.'"

Reed player Ben Rieseling said this group is different from anything he has experienced before.

"In other words, a horn player, you often are a side person," Rieseling said. "But in this band, it's just really exciting to come into a band with intricately written parts already made for you and then there are other areas where you're allowed to improvise, and you're improving with other people and you're a main part of the actual song, and it's a composition." Magowan said they made "Demiurge" just because they knew there would be a next album, and this was it.

"For whatever reason, there would be no circumstance in my life that would make me want to play music," Magowan said. "But for the reasons the musicians enjoy playing with D-Town Brass is because the music can't be pigeonholed into any traditional sort of genre.

"You think you're going to be able to say something that can't be imitated and whether you come to be preached at or not, you saw something that is just unique," Magowan said.

Twitter: @taglynomolina

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TikTok revives centuries-old sea shanties

Disney star's single has garnered attention from UNC students

By Caroline Nihill
Staff/Writer
arts@dailytarheel.com

"Drivers license" breaks records and hearts

Seventeen-year-old Olivia Rodrigo's heartbreak anthem, "drivers license," was released on Jan. 8 and has over 100 million streams on Spotify and set the record for most streams for a non-holiday song on Spotify and set the record for the most streams for a non-holiday song.

Senior Taylor Edmonds said the song inspired many students to listen to it. "I'm in a long-term, happy, committed relationship and to it was just like, 'Wow, that hurt,'" Edmonds said. "I thought everybody's that in realises there's not really anything else like this," Magowan said. "So that makes it more fun to be a part of, and I think maybe a feeling of like, 'Well, I should do something to try to keep this thing going too.'"

"I kept hearing it, and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, that song is so good,'" Edmonds said. "I looked into it, and I started listening to it, and now I just play it like 20,000 times a day!"

While many are sharing the ways that they relate to Rodrigo's song, those who aren't heartbroken can still find ways to connect with the message.

"I think that everybody is so obsessed with it because, one, there's so much drama behind the song and everybody loves drama," Edmonds said. "And then two, it's a beautiful song. And three, people love hearing the sad, deep, emotional songs, especially if they can connect to it because of their own sad and emotional experiences that they've gone through."

Some listeners, like junior Kinsey Couch, felt the song's storyline helped people understand the message and connect.

"I thought that everyone is so obsessed with it because, one, there's so much drama behind the song and everybody loves drama," Edmonds said. "And then two, it's a beautiful song. And three, people love hearing the sad, deep, emotional songs, especially if they can connect to it because of their own sad and emotional experiences that they've gone through."

"I thought she was very brave to release it, because everybody's been talking about who it's about," Couch said.

Sophia Maria Andricopulos, a third-year doctoral student in musicology, said she was struck by the song's structure.

"It surprised me at some of the turns it takes where she's got this build-up, and it starts really thin, and her voice gets stronger and more passionate, and she's layering in sounds and textures Rodrigo displays throughout the song."

"She builds to something I guess I might call it — it's hard to call it rage because it never really gets there," Andricopulos said. "And then it pulls way back and I don't know what it is about. I was so compelled by it immediately and I was like wait a second — listen to it again."

Twitter: @dailytarheel

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UNC junior publishes her first novel

Jocelyn Quinn released her first novel, "Off The Record," in Dec. 2020, becoming a published author as a UNC junior.

"Off The Record" tells the story of young female protagonist Liza, an investigative journalist. The book is based on writing she did as a White House correspondent, her uncovering of a military spy network, and her realization she has a personal connection to the story.

"Not knowing much about life in D.C., Jocelyn thoughtfully intertwined important details about life in D.C. culture within the story to fully understand the experiences and emotions of the characters," junior Emily Warren said.

Twitter: @ttaylormmolina

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BRIEFS

CPA hosts Commons Festival for local artists

Over the next four weekends, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 19, CPA Commons, an arts festival will be live-streaming prerecorded performances from four local artists.

The first performance will be an original opera performed by Anthony "Jay-Jay" Nelson, The band wants to avoid being predictable and wants its audience to experience something new.

"If you call something that can't be imitated and whether you come to be preached at or not, you saw something that is just unique," Magowan said.

Twitter: @taglynomolina

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UNC alumna bases book at UNC campus

Tracy Deonn wrote "Out Of The Blue," a young adult fantasy novel that explores a mysterious but magical setting at UNC.

Her novel was an instant New York Times best-seller and she most recently received the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award at the Youth Media Awards hosted by the American Library Association.

"I think it was actually done really, really incredibly," Christine Schwarze, bookstore experience lead at Emerge Books said. "It handled a lot of the history of UNC without glossing over it, specifically Black history on campus."

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Maggie Dunn
UNC employee monitored student Facebook group

UNC Campus Health administrators have monitored the Facebook page Babes Who Blade, an archived popular Facebook page for UNC students in the past.

I have to say, I’m a little bit surprised

By Elizabeth Moore
Senior Writer
uncstudentdailytarheel.com

Private Facebook groups popular with thousands of UNC students may not be as private as they seem.

Emails obtained by The Daily Tar Heel show that a Campus Health Services employee joined at least one private Facebook group since September 2018 — and has shared some of the posts with health care administrators at UNC.

The group, Babes Who Blade, shut down in May 2020 over accusations of toxic posts by its members. The same employee is a member of a successor group, Babes Who Discuss, which has over 4,000 members who ask and receive recommendations in posts ranging in topic from UNC classes to romantic relationships.

Rachel Maguire, a first-year graduate student at UNC, is one of two administrators of Babes and a former member of BWB. She said she did not know the group posts were being monitored.

“I have to say I’m a little bit surprised,” she said.

The documents, which the DTH obtained through a public records request, reveal that Sara Stahlman, the Campus Health marketing and communications coordinator, joined BWB in September 2018, after someone alerted her and the Campus Health director about the nature of the group’s discussion.

A day after joining, Stahlman sent an email to her boss, executive director of Campus Health Services Ken Pittman, about things being said about campus health in the group.

In the email, she said students share more positive than negative experiences about all the providers, except for two male physicians in particular.

“In the meantime, I’m monitoring the page overall,” Stahlman wrote. In an interview with the DTH, Stahlman said she thinks students deserve their own spaces to talk about whatever they want.

“I really value that, and I would never intentionally infiltrate a space where I wasn’t wanted or where my identity doesn’t fit the parameters of the group,” she said. “I also really value listening and supporting students when I can. But I also understand that in such a large group, it’s really hard for folks to know who all the members are.”

In response to an interview request, Pittman sent a statement.

“Campus Health Advisory Board recommended we review the Facebook group as part of our performance improvement efforts and as a supplement to our existing patient surveys and feedback mechanisms,” Pittman said in the statement.

As recently as February 2020, CHS employees were discussing what students posted on the page.

Stahlman joined Babes Who Blade about one year after the group was created when someone emailed her saying they “had seen some inflammatory comments on Facebook pages.”

In the statement, Pittman said negative feedback from students was incorporated into Campus Health’s performance improvement and assessment process, and sometimes shared with the specific provider.

Positive feedback was also passed along to the provider, but in neither case would they share identifiable information about the poster.

Stahlman got into the group the same way as every other member, by answering three intake questions: Why do you want to join, what is your gender identity and do you agree to follow the rules of the group.

Stahlman said she remembers answering that she wanted to join in order to help improve student experiences — while disclosing that she is a CHS employee.

Maguire said administrators only deny member requests if the person answers “no” to group rules or if they identify as a cisgender man.

In the past, Stahlman commented on posts giving advice about things not related to UNC or health care. Pittman said in a statement that Stahlman disclosed that she is a staff member when interacting in the group.

She said now that she’s being used the two groups for four years, she doesn’t use it in the same way as she had in the past.

“I think over time I’ve gotten comfortable, and I’ve started interacting with the group just as myself,” Stahlman said.

Babes who Blade origin

At its origin, Babes who Blade connected a group of friends at UNC interested in rollerblading. But it soon grew to include more than 7,000 users, most of them UNC students.

People in Babes Who Blade would ask and give advice on a wide range of topics—same as they do in its reincarnation, Babes Who Discuss. One requirement for entry into the group, same as Bagels, was that members’ gender identity was not cisgender male.

The group devolved into what some observed as a problematic landscape. People of color described demands for emotional labor by cisgender white women.

“One of the things that I know was really frustrating in Babes Who Blade was that a lot of marginalized people, such as people of color, queer people, having to re-explain their oppression to straight people and white people, about, like, Hey, here’s why it’s inappropiate for you to do this,” Maguire said.

Bagels Who Discuss set out to be more inclusive than Babes Who Blade.

In an email in May 2020, Pittman discussed the demise of Babes Who Blade and said: “Will likely materialize as another replacement group and we will monitor.”

Digital privacy

One rule for members in Babes Who Discuss is that if anyone wants to share posts outside the group, they must ask the original poster for permission.

“But at the same time, we know that this is the internet,” Maguire said. “It is a private Facebook group, so obviously people that aren’t in the group can’t see the posts, but that is to say that we can’t monitor all 4,000 people that are in the group from sharing content elsewhere.”

She added that if any administrators or moderators find out that anyone has shared content outside of the group and it’s been harmful to a member, it would be grounds for removal from the group. That has happened once since the group formed in May 2020.

Stahlman said she has not shared any screenshots, but would convene themes and an overall sense of CHS services.

“Any time I’m passing along information, it would be de-identified and aggregate with that goal to improve student experiences,” she said.

Anne Klinefelter is a law professor at UNC specializing in digital media and privacy. Considering the situation, she said CHS monitoring what students said about them could be considered best practice for a business.

“Businesses absolutely want to see what’s being said about them in all sorts of places online. Some would say it’s just responsible stewardship and actually responsive to those they serve,” she said.

Klinefelter said that privacy is not the norm online, even in a group that is termed “private.” More than just CHS could be monitoring the discussion.

When looking at the ethics of a situation such as this private group, Klinefelter said it looks like two stages. One is access — the group administrators admitted Stahlman. The other is what Stahlman or any other admitted member does with the information shared in the group.

“Particularly if you have groups that feel marginalized, they might feel fearful of taking concerns directly to a more powerful entity and just want to figure out a way to work the system without trying to confront the system,” she said. “If a service provider were really acting in an ethical way, they might want to try to know these concerns so that they can address them. There are some potentially good ways of doing this.”

Twitter: @dailytarheel

UNC System President Peter G. Halkias confidence that the spring semester would go better than the previous year. He emphasized the role that university research played in developing COVID-19 vaccines.

However, he confirmed the UNC System’s commitment to mask-wearing.

“T here’s a lot of skepticism about whether big institutions can be allies in the fight for a better and fairer world,” he said, “I promise you, this one can be and will be.”

Carolyn Coward, chairperson of the Committee of Academic Initiatives, said the pandemic is likely to lead to lower enrollment among young people.

The board is scheduled to vote on tuition and fee proposals for next year at its February meeting.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

dailytarheel.com

By Clay Morris
uncstudentdailytarheel.com

Eric Day, a doctoral candidate in UNC’s chemistry department, contacted UNC parking repeatedly this summer to request a permit for his disabled lot.

In between delayed attempts to acquire a permit, she parked in a small disabled lot near the lab where she was researching.

One day she came out to her car, on crutches, and noticed a $50 ticket that said she had parked to park in a disabled spot without a valid permit.

The day that she received her ticket, she had placed her North Carolina placard, and an expired UNC disabled parking permit, in her passenger seat instead of on the dashboard.

Immediately, Day appealed her ticket via Move UNC’s online portal — and was promised that the lot she received the ticket in had been empty all summer.

Her experiences with the UNC Parking Office, University Ombuds and the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office highlighted
Many are looking to make friends, connect with classmates and peers.

By Hannah Rosenberger
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

With the University’s announcement that the start of in-person instruction will be delayed until Feb. 1, some students are posting their class schedules on Facebook to connect with online classmates. Some first-years like K’Shayla Richardson — who experienced just a few weeks on campus in the fall — find it challenging to form connections with classmates who they have never seen beyond a computer screen.

“It’s kind of hard to talk to people, if you have never had the chance to face, by texting them or maybe even talking to them on the phone,” Richardson said.

Finding familiar faces in Zoom classes is just one of many ways students are coping with the isolation created by remote learning.

Richardson said she has connected with people on Snapchat and Instagram, and expects more concrete plans for study groups or Zoom calls will follow the first day of classes.

Junior Olivia Borknessel said she has talked to a few people in her classes for so far. She has never seen so many people sharing their schedules over social media, she said.

“Normally it’s not like, ‘OK, classes are out, everyone post your classes!’” Borknessel said. “Usually we will have friends in their classes or they’ll make friends through in-person because it’s so much easier. You don’t feel the need to post online to make friends.”

First-year biology major Riley Pingree also posted her schedule on Facebook the week before the first day of class. She said she received so far leave her optimistic about future opportunities to study and connect with her classmates. This is something that largely isn’t possible during the fall semester, Pingree said.

“Think everybody’s just craving human interaction,” Pingree said. “We’re not even looking if we have friends that have classes in common. I think we just looking for absolutely anyone.”

Many students who feel they’ve been missing out socially have turned to UNC’s Career and Psychological Services, psychologist Erin Scott said. She said the CAPS program saw increased student use last semester.

In this desperately noting lots and isolation of lots of students reporting feeling anxious, maybe for the first time, depression and just sort of this hopelessness of, ‘When is this going to end?’” Scott said.

Developing relationships with classmates can be highly important for academic development through discussion and feedback, she said.

“I think there’s something about the cohort effect, which is having kind of a group of your peers going through a similar experience at the same time, that’s just really special,” Scott said.

Students are finding something resembling a cohort by using social media trends and building class communities on platforms such as Facebook and GroupMe.

Scott described this latest effort by students as a sign of resilience.

Here’s what you need to know about contract tracing

By Heidi Pérez-Moreno
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

UNC students who test positive for COVID-19 or are close contacts will be contacted by Campus Health for contact tracing and further instructions.

Flannery Fitch rarely leaves her Chapel Hill apartment.

Fitch has shielded herself from the outside world in an effort to protect herself during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 33-year-old suffers from fibromyalgia, a chronic illness as the fall semester begins.

With the University’s announcement that the start of in-person instruction will be delayed until Feb. 1, some students are posting their class schedules on Facebook to connect with online classmates. Some first-years like K’Shayla Richardson — who experienced just a few weeks on campus in the fall — find it challenging to form connections with classmates who they have never seen beyond a computer screen.

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Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

UNC students who test positive for COVID-19 or are close contacts will be contacted by Campus Health for contact tracing and further instructions.

Positive COVID-19 tests will prompt contact tracers to start working.

By Charlotte Geier
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

With students back on campus, Campus Health and the Orange County Health Department are working together to trace COVID-19 cases among members of the Chapel Hill community through contact tracing.

Here’s what you need to know about the system:

Is the system anonymous?

This contact tracing process will be anonymous both for positive individuals and their close contacts. Those contacting the individuals who have undergone HIPAA protection and PEPFRA training, and collected data is kept in confidence to ensure confidentiality, Amy Sauls, director of pharmacy and professional services at Campus Health, said.

Who counts as a close contact?

Students who have been within 6 feet of an infected individual for 15 minutes cumulatively can expect a phone call from Campus Health or the Orange County Health Department identifying them as a close contact. Qualification as a close contact also includes exposure to an infected person beginning two days before the onset of symptoms and up to 10 days after symptom onset.

Exposed students living on-campus will be contacted by Campus Health through a phone call. Those living off-campus are called by the Orange County Health Department.

What comes next?

Students will receive a daily digital confirmation of their overall well-being throughout the quarantine period.

“The close contact will then be on call on Jan. 19, 2021, to confirm the contact tracer, who will provide further details about the quarantine period and what quarantine is,” Margaret Campbell, Orange County contact tracer team lead, said in an email to The Daily Tar Heel.

“The student will receive daily digital assessments until the end of the quarantine period, and the contact tracer will periodically connect with the student during the quarantine period and to confirm the end of the quarantine period.

How long will I quarantine?

On-campus students will be sent to quarantine for 14 days in the quarantine and isolation dorms. Students off-campus will be asked to quarantine in their place of residence for 14 days. Those without those resources off-campus will be given the opportunity to quarantine at the University’s Resource Center.

Students speak out about testing safety concerns

By Heidi Pérez-Moreno
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

A student puts her COVID-19 test in a tube at the Rams Head Recreation testing center on Jan. 19, 2021.

One initiative is a reasonable way of ensuring students stay safe while living in the area.

Dean of Students Desiree Rineckers said screenings are granted on a limited status based on the student's individual circumstances. She expects most cases to be resolved by finding resources and alternative solutions to help students get tested.

Ashlyn Trottler, an incoming first-year student living with six roommates, said UNC’s testing initiative is a reasonable way of ensuring students stay safe while living in the area.

One of her roommates, Anikita Shenoy said she is fearful of how contracts will end.

“I’m just scared that it won’t be as organized as they say it is,” Shenoy said. “Because, as much as they like to say they have this plan, they were supposed to have a plan for the fall.”

Senior writer Rachel Crampler contributed reporting.

Twitter: @Heidi_perez02

More at dailytarheel.com
**COVID-19**

**VACCINE DISTRIBUTION | ORANGE COUNTY**

North Carolina has administered 699,722 COVID-19 vaccine doses as of 01/26/2021.

- North Carolina is one of 13 states that have administered 500,000+ doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 1,250,900 doses have been distributed to North Carolina.
- Nationally, 44,394,075 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been distributed, with nearly 23,000,000 administered.

Chapel Hill resident Donald Lentz receives the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 21, 2021 in the Friday Center. The Friday Center can vaccinate upwards of 850 people per day.

Chapel Hill resident Julia Grumbles smiles while receiving the first of two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 in the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

Pharmacist and UNC alumna Sue Patel prepares a syringe with a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 in the Friday Center. Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are administered to patients.

An employee displays two vials of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine that will soon be prepped and administered at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.
VACCINE DISTRIBUTION | WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The updated COVID-19 vaccine plan

By Jacob Meredith-Andrews

North Carolina updated its vaccination plan on Jan. 14, allowing people 65 and older to register for the vaccine, but distribution has been complicated by logistical hurdles and limited supplies.

Here’s how this update means for the statewide vaccine rollout:

How is the vaccine distributed?

The federal government delivers vaccines to each state, and each state distributes the vaccine to health care providers, like hospitals and county health departments. In North Carolina, that distribution is approved for frontline essential workers and faculty teaching lower-risk courses.

According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, that prioritization is as follows:

1. Frontline essential workers
2. People 75 years and older
3. People 65 to 74 years old
4. People 16 to 64 years old with high-risk conditions

The federal government has not decided on a plan for K-12 school staff, although some school districts have already started vaccinating teachers.

Vaccinations are also assigned differently to various population groups. For example, younger people are more likely to be eligible for vaccines in rural areas, while older adults are more likely to be eligible for vaccines in urban areas.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which has been vaccinating students and faculty since December, plans to vaccinate all students and faculty by the end of May. UNC plans to vaccinate all students and faculty by the end of May.

How is the vaccine distributed?

Currently, groups 1 and 2 are being vaccinated. Although student vaccinations will be prioritized in group 3, students will not get vaccinated at the same time as faculty. Students will have to register for the vaccine through their campus health center.

The University is also considering vaccinating students who live in dorms. However, students will have to register for the vaccine through their campus health center.

UNC plans for student vaccinations

By Kelly Kendall

As people across the nation have begun receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, many UNC students have been left wondering when they will be able to get it themselves.

UNC student vaccinations are not yet finalized, the University hopes to see much of the UNC student and faculty population get vaccinated.

What happens when I come for my vaccination?

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What happens when I come for my vaccination?
Watts ends backslide, shows out in win against Notre Dame

Graduate guard found herself in the box score after six-game slump

By PJ Morales
Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

Slowly in the third quarter of UNC women’s basketball’s 78-73 win over Notre Dame on Sunday, graduate guard Stephanie Watts went down near midcourt, rolling her ankle before limping into the locker room.

A few minutes later, Watts checked back into the game. And the Tar Heels were thrilled that she did, because Watts had what can only be described as a career game — scoring a season-high 25 points on 8-15 shooting as well as 10 rebounds and making six 3-pointers, tying a season-high and her 4-9 3-point shooting marking the end of Watts’ backslide coincides with the end of a poor run of play for the Tar Heels as a whole after losing their last three ACC games by 10 points or more. Of course, Watts didn’t end the losing streak single-handedly.

 Graduate guard Petra Holešinská went 6-11 from deep on route to a 24-point performance. Senior center Janelle Bailey and first-year guard Alyssa Ustby scored 12 points apiece, while sophomore forward Mahi Thiriong gobbled up six offensive rebounds.

Though the team has had issues with passing and general cohesion, Banghart said this kind of complete performance represents a coming-together point between the veterans, newer recruits and graduate additions.

“IT takes a while to build a team and their habits and understand how to play with each other,” Watts said.

“Around that, Watt’s mind, it stays focused and looking to hold onto things that are going to go your way.”

Banghart said one that thing is Watts’ newfound heat, said one...
Tar Heels in the Pros

Tar Heels show off in NFL playoffs

By PJ Morales
Assistant Sports Editor
sports@dailytarheel.com

Super Bowl LV between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Kansas City Chiefs has the potential to be an exciting game filled of big plays, some extracurricular sideline violence and a few torch-passing quarterback moments from NFL GOAT Tom Brady to his heir apparent, Patrick Mahomes.

But to UNC fans across the country, one thing will be missing from this marquee matchup: Tar Heels. Though no former UNC players will feature in the big game this year (T.J. Logan will settle for a spot on the Bucs’ injured reserve list), some were able to strut their stuff in the playoffs. Let’s take a look at how they did.

Eric Ebron

Pittsburgh Steelers tight end Eric Ebron, who entered the league in 2014 after three years in Chapel Hill, has a lot to be pleased about off the heels of this season. Though it doesn’t compare to his Pro Bowl season in 2018, his first season began and recorded the fewest combined and solo tackles of his career after Cleveland picked him up.

Still one of his best, registering 56 receptions for 558 yards and five touchdowns — tied of his best, registering 56 receptions for 558 yards and five touchdowns — tied for second-highest of his career.

He was on a star-studded Steelers team that started the season hot but fizzled down the stretch, losing four of its last five games to finish the season at 12-4. That poor form continued to haunt them in their wild-card matchup: Tar Heels.

Mitch Trubisky

What kind of player is Kenan Stadium legend and Chicago Bears quarterback Mitch Trubisky? Is he the same player who made the Pro Bowl in just his second season, or does he deserve to have his name changed to “Tru-Bad-sky,” as some have already proposed?

Well, his performance in the Bears’ wild-card game against the New Orleans Saints didn’t help his case. After a season that saw him get benched and then returned the starter more than halfway through the season, he looked every bit as uninspired and mediocre as his detractors claimed that day, completing 19 of his 29 passing attempts for 109 yards and a touchdown in a 21-9 loss.

Maybe the jury is still out on whether Trubisky can ever be a truly great NFL quarterback.

Supporters will point to him leading the Bears to wins in three of their last four games of the season to qualify for the playoffs for the first time, while doubters will point to how he did once he got there. For now, UNC and Bears fans will likely be waiting in suspense to see if Chicago brings Trubisky back for the 2021 season.

TAR HEELS SHOW OFF IN NFL PLAYOFFS

Eric Ebron

When it comes to Teammates celebrated.

Meanwhile, as Ebron and company saluted on the sidelines after their defeat, tight end M.J. Stewart and his Browns teammates celebrated.

Stewart, a second-round pick out of UNC in 2018, led the defensive effort with 10 solo tackles and made a crucial one-handed interception in the first quarter around midfield and jumpstarting the drive that gave the Browns a rush-4-9 lead.

The Browns fell in the next round to the Super Bowl-bound Bucs, with Stewart managing just four tackles. But he’s only in his third season, and he’s shown that he’s capable of making big plays in the postseason. If he can carry that performance into the Browns’ regular-season schedule, he could become an important piece in Cleveland’s secondary.

Student reactions to fanless games are mixed

Continued from Page 1

A junior from Ohio, said, “I use the word ‘excited’ loosely, though, because I’m more concerned about navigating my classes and responsibilities in this pandemic and there’s almost a zero-percent chance I’ll be attending in person.”

While being a UNC fan this semester won’t look the same for students, there are some upsides. Several teams that usually only play in the fall have extended their schedules to the spring. Teams like volleyball and field hockey will hope to continue their fall success as they complete their seasons over the next few months, with the latter of the two aiming for its third consecutive national championship.

Eric Owens, a junior from Charlotte who is co-president of Carolina Fever, UNC’s official student fan organization, emphasized that, despite all the changes, Tar Heel fans can still look forward to an exciting spring season.

“Our athletes still have a chance to compete and beat our rivals, which is always great,” Owens said. “Both the games of the traditional spring sports and the temporary spring sports are far from guaranteed, though. Teams across the country have seen many competitions canceled because of COVID-19 outbreaks and exposures. UNC’s men’s basketball team is no exception, with its Jan. 9 game vs. Clemson being postponed due to a positive case within the Tigers’ program.

Eventually, things will slowly return to normal, and UNC students and fans will be able to once again cheer on their teams in person. But for now, first-year Alex Colven of Huntersville, North Carolina, said that watching them from afar will suffice.

“I’ve been a Tar Heel fan for as long as I can remember, so I am just grateful to at least be able to watch them on TV,” Colven said.
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Cleaning Basics: 5 things you can do every week to keep your space tidy

Do you ever wake up in the morning feeling like you want to throw up your hands and think to yourself, “Wow, I’m super excited to learn about cleaning basics today!” Yeah, we don’t either. Cleaning isn’t fun for most people. It’s a bit of a drag, but it’s something you have to do in order to make sure your living space is usable and ultimately, habitable. Luckily, you don’t have to spend your entire weekend cleaning if you take a few minutes every day of the week to do a little bit. There are easy steps you can take to prevent disorganization, filthiness and having to clean for hours at a time. Check out these simple cleaning basics tips that will keep your space looking tidy week-in and week-out.

**Cleaning Basics #1: Put Things Away After Using Them**

This tip may seem obvious, but it’s so easy for people to lose track of it when you move out or if you can responsibly get rid of it when you move out or if you can take it with you throughout the rest of your college years. It is very likely that you will have a lot of stuff to throw out at the end of the school year, so start thinking sustainably at the start to reduce your waste.

**Secondhand items are key:**
At the end of the school year, most people are trying to resell furniture and appliances that they already have or don’t really need. Doing so will cause clutter and extra cleaning instead of paper towels. You can even make your own rags with old t-shirts or bath towels. You can even make your own rags with old t-shirts or bath towels. You can also bring reusable storage totes that you can keep for many years to pack.

**Cleaning Basics #2: Wipe Things Down After Using Them**

A simple box of disinfectant wipes will do wonders for your house. After using common surfaces that might collect dirt, crumbs and other particles, wipe them down. This goes for almost any surface in the house, including counter-tops, showers, sinks, toilets and even windows. Not only will this clean those places, but it will also prevent mold and bacteria from building up.

**Cleaning Basics #3: Think Before You Buy**

When you’re out for your weekly shopping trip or grocery run, you’re in a prime position to ensure that your house stays tidy before you do any cleaning. Try not to buy things you already have or don’t really need. Doing so will cause clutter and extra cleaning down the road. Before you buy, think about these questions:

- Do I already have this item/a similar item?
- Do I really need this item?
- Do I have a place to put away this item?

**Cleaning Basics #4: Stick to a Daily Schedule**

Schedules are a great way to help you stay on top of cleaning without taking much time to do so. Start by making a punch list of small things you can do every day to keep your space clean, and spread them out. For example, when you get out of bed in the morning, go ahead and take 30 seconds to make it back. This could be the first thing you do each day, and it’s a simple way to keep things orderly.

**Cleaning Basics #5: Stick to a Weekly Schedule**

That’s why doing easy, small things each week will keep your house clean and tidy without you having to do the whole house at once. For example, see the start of a weekly schedule below.

- Monday: laundry and dusting
- Tuesday: bathrooms and vacuuming
- Wednesday: living room and mopping
- Thursday: cooking and eating
- Friday: library and studying
- Saturday: cleaning and organization
- Sunday: relaxation and planning

Cleaning is not fun. And most of the time, it’s hard to. That’s why doing easy, small things each week will help you stay on top of cleaning while not baring you to death. Follow these simple cleaning basics tips so that your house can be clean and tidy without too much hassle.

Cleaning Basics: 5 things you can do every week to keep your space tidy

- Do a 10-minute power cleanup before you go to bed.
- Stick to a Weekly Schedule.
- On top of tackling small things on a daily list, creating and sticking to a weekly plan is a great idea too.
- Assign one or two rooms or a couple of tasks to each day of the week. When you have free time during the day, conduct a thorough clean of the assigned space. This will ensure that the space gets a good clean at least once per week, so you don’t have to do the whole house at once. For example, see the start of a weekly schedule below.

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Residents in southeastern North Carolina who have been exposed to these chemicals in public drinking water are experiencing compounding effects from the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine may not protect them as intended.

These chemicals, called GenX, are present in the Cape Fear River and are putting residents at risk by suppressing their immune systems and causing other health issues.

GenX is a member of a family of human-made chemical compounds known as PFAS. GenX chemicals are used in commercial products such as nonstick coating on cookware and food packaging.

GenX exposure is associated with increased risk of health problems in animal studies, including tumors in the kidney, liver, immune system and others, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additionally, it can increase the risk of cancer.

GenX and PFAS contamination is widespread in the Cape Fear region from Fayetteville downstream to Wilmington. Beth Markesino, president of the nonprofit North Carolina Stop GenX In Our Water, said she has data showing these chemicals in the Cape Fear River, the air, rainwater and even soil.

What are the risks associated with COVID-19?

Research has shown from human and animal studies that PFAS exposure may reduce antibody response to vaccines and may reduce infectious disease resistance, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  

EFFECTS OF GENX

A matter of environmental injustice

Dana Sargent, executive director at Cape Fear River Watch, said this is a crisis of an environmental injustice. She said the filter systems that are effective in removing the chemicals, reverse osmosis, are around $200–$300, just for a basic model.

‘There’s a lot of people who can’t afford that,’ she said.

Sargent works to protect the river and has been active in the fight against PFAS. She signed a petition to urge the EPA to require Chemours to conduct health studies on the chemicals they discharge in the river. Markesino said that the pandemic has made access to clean water even more difficult.

GenX in drinking water poses risk

These chemicals, called GenX, are present in the Cape Fear River and are putting residents at risk by suppressing their immune systems and causing other health issues.

She said the chemicals have been proven to inhibit immune system function, it has the possibility to increase the severity or the infection rate of COVID-19 cases. DeWitt said ongoing research should better inform doctors and scientists in the future.

In 2020, DePuyt said GenX was detected in Cape Fear's waters. Since it was safer. In 2016, a significant concentration of GenX has been detected in Cape Fear’s waters.

In the 1980s, DuPont, a chemical manufacturing company with a facility near Fayetteville, started discharging GenX into the Cape Fear River. In 2005, the use of PFPA was phased out after the EPA penalized DuPont for failing to report information about its risk to human health and the environment.

In 2009, the company began using GenX as a substitute known as GenX, claiming it was safer. In 2016, a significant concentration of GenX has since been detected in Cape Fear’s waters.

In October 2020, DuPont filed a lawsuit against DuPont and Chemours alleging they were aware of the health threats associated with GenX.

The tip of the iceberg

In 2018, the Water Safety Act, which aimed to provide a solution to the PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River, was passed by the N.C. General Assembly. It allocated almost $8 million to the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory and $1.3 million to the DEQ. Faced with the PFAS crisis, the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory, universities such as the UNC at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina and others are conducting baseline water quality testing for PFAS in addition to the Cape Fear River, through a program known as the North Carolina PFAS Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Testing Network.

‘Science is just the method, and you want repeatability,’ Jeff Warren, executive director at the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory, said.

‘And you want to see data samples, data sets bolstering the hypothesis.’

He said it will be up to legislators to decide if they want to use the Collaboratory’s data when the report is tendered in April 2021.

Warren said with the funding, North Carolina has greatly moved to the front of PFAS research but that the state should continue supporting the research.

‘The state needs to continue to invest in research in moving forward, because this is such a big issue,’ he said. ‘And we’re just at the tip of the iceberg.’

By Sascha Medina Staff Writer city@dailytarheel.com

Residents in southeastern North Carolina who have been exposed to these chemicals in public drinking water are experiencing compounding effects from the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine may not protect them as intended.

These chemicals, called GenX, are present in the Cape Fear River and are putting residents at risk by suppressing their immune systems and causing other health issues.

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Carrboro BLM murals honor the movement

Ty Small, Coordinator of Carrboro Black Lives Matter, stands in front of his work at the Community Worx building.

The Daily Tar Heel

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

By Sarah Gray Barr
city@dailytarheel.com

On June 23, local filmmaker and photographer Sekou Keita proposed a Black Lives Matter mural to the Carrboro Town Council meeting. Seven months later, Carrboro has two new Black Lives Matter murals.

The Community Worx Thrift Shop, both prominent locations, after voting against the originally proposed mural placement in an Oct. 6 Town Council meeting.

Both murals were painted by Black artists. Erbriyon Barrett, an Atlanta-based muralist, painted the “Black Lives Matter” mural on the Carrboro Century Cycle home to the Carrboro Police Department.

Barrett said painting the Black Lives Matter message on that building in particular made him realize how some Carrboro Town Council was about bringing representation to the community.

“That was very interesting to me in a good way, not a bad way,” he said. “It was just like, ‘Oh wow, they’re really serious about this.’ So I really appreciate that.”

He said he appreciated the dedication the Council showed toward the mural creation process and how the community welcomed him with open arms.

“It’s important because I know we couldn’t do this 40, 50 years ago out of fear, out of not knowing what’s gonna happen next,” Barrett said.

“We have a bigger voice than we had back then.”

Barrett completed the “Black Lives Matter” mural in February.

The community came together to create the mural on the Community Worx building. Small, a local artist and mural coordinator, led a team of four student artists from surrounding high schools, who created all of the design and renderings for the building.

The team completed the mural in 10 weeks, Barrett said. As one of the first students leading a team, and he said the students drove the project with their dedication to bringing people together and making their voices heard.

“Sometimes you have a voice in a time where they felt like they weren’t heard,” Small said. “For them to say that, and then come up with the brand-new piece that they did, you can take away something from everything in this particular piece. That’s what I love about it. It just speaks in so many different ways in all languages.”

Foushee shared similar sentiments and said the murals show Carrboro’s dedication to bringing equal representation to the community.

“We’re very proud of the murals and the message that it sends as the Town and the Council’s continuing commitment to the Black community, as well as to dismantling racism and balancing the scales,” Foushee said.

The Daily Tar Heel

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

By Britney Nguyen

Staff Writer

At the Carrboro Town Council meeting on Dec. 18, it was Small’s first time participating in a public discussion with the brand-new piece that they have created.

“It’s really about engaging in that real and raw equity work to include anti-racist and culturally responsive equity work and curriculum work that are culturally relevant pedagogy for our teachers,” Small said.

“Here’s a deeper look at her plans for the district:

Racial equity

Hamlett said she hopes to close the existing achievement gaps within CHCCS sooner rather than later. As she makes decisions at the school and district level, Hamlett wants to ask herself if she is doing enough to drive deeper into the root causes of inequities, and how to change the structure that perpetuates those gaps.

“Closing the gap won’t be done by the school district alone, so we will need to work with the community and both the towns to remove barriers that are created in the process of the inequities," she said.

Hamlett added that the CHCCS districts make sure it’s clear students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, also known as exceptional children, are part of the equation.

Mental health and wellness

Another one of Hamlett’s goals is to make sure the school district is equipped to serve students and families with a comprehensive school-based mental health and wellness program during the pandemic.

Hamlett said she has been a proponent of school-based mental health since COVID-19 changed how schools operate.

Deeper learning and exceptional child education

When it comes to high-quality, deeper learning, Hamlett said it’s about emphasizing culturally responsive, anti-racist, anti-bias-based teaching and learning.

Hamlett also said CHCCS is equipped to serve students and families in order to build trust with our marginalized groups and communities, she said.

The OC Voice: Re-imagining community safety

American police with efforts to track enslaved people and sold to misery in the United States.

Throughout our history, the images of every social movement, every justice for black residents may have a platform to talk about local issues they care about. This is Hamlett’s role as a member of the Chapel Hill Town Council.

This is the challenge of times, and we must meet the moment. We have to get it right. I hope you will join us in being part of getting it right, at long last, by insisting on an equitable and innovative public safety model in Chapel Hill that reduces harm and ensures a just and safe community where everyone can thrive.

If you live in Orange County and want to make your voice heard on strengthening care locally, email city@dailytarheel.com.
Students get health care work experience

Volunteers can work remotely or at COVID-19 testing sites

By Kaitlyn Dung

university@dailytarheel.com

Students are getting hands-on service experience working in health care — even during a pandemic. The Carolina COVID-19 Student Services Corps allows UNC students to volunteer for service activities related to COVID-19 safety. Here’s what the program is and how it works.

What is Carolina CSSC?

Carolina CSSC is a program led by the Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice that gives students the chance to promote student outreach and support for COVID-19 testing sites and contact tracing. Meg Zomorodi, a CSSC facilitator and professor in the School of Nursing, explained the original purpose of the CSSC was adapted from a model developed at Columbia University. The program was created as a service learning opportunity for health professionals and students who were pulled from their clinical rotations in March 2020.

In preparation for the spring semester, Zomorodi said the CSSC has decided to change the primary focus of the program to on-campus safety. Undergraduates can volunteer and get work experience in health care, she said.

“I’m hearing from (students) that they are thrilled to be able to give back to the community and to form sense of community on this campus, and to get to know people in a safe way,” Zomorodi said.

What does Carolina CSSC do?

The goal of CSSC is to help volunteers University academic and health care sectors to build volunteer and service-learning activities that support the community during the pandemic. Student volunteers and student leads can volunteer at testing sites. For students who prefer a virtual opportunity, they also have contact tracing, volunteer engagement and online workshops.

During the first week of move-in, Carolina CSSC served a total of 1,531 hours, Zomorodi said.

Junior biostatistics major Marnia Trew, a student leader who works remotely for the CSSC. He said the CSSC is a great way to get involved and save a problem that everyone is impacted. “You gain experience with solving a pandemic, which might be a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity,” Trew said.

Kate Nicholson, a junior chemistry major and student volunteer, said she works remotely and in-person for the CSSC. The way the University was handling COVID-19 cases last fall made her angry, she said — until she joined CSSC.

“I think having the CSSC or having some sort of tangible solution has given me an outlet to move toward acceptance and problem-solving opposed to being upset about the circumstances,” Nicholson said.

Is it safe?

Virtual opportunities for the CSSC range from campus-wide communication to helping with contact tracing. In the exclusively asymptomatic testing sites, masks are required and everyone must comply with distancing of 6 feet, Zomorodi said. At the testing centers, air filters keep a constant air flow.

With the commitment of Carolina CSSC to uphold safety on campus during the pandemic, any community members who use the University will reach a sense of normalcy again.

“Having a sense of community in a team of people that we all volunteering together with or the people that you’re helping when you’re volunteering has really great effects, at least on my mental health,” Nicholson said.

Carolina CSSC is actively looking for volunteers and student leaders. Upon completion of 75 service hours, students will receive a certificate as a Carolina COVID-19 Student Services Corps Member. You can sign up online.

Twitter: @dailytarheel

‘Pit Poet’ wants to preach a different message

Ben Goldman wants to offer change from usual negativity in the Pit

By Maris Ava Cruz

Staff Writer

arts@dailytarheel.com

On Jan. 18, Ben Goldman dedicated a poem to “the girl with the blue hair” walking past while he was reading works by Billy Collins on UNC’s campus. When the blue-haired girl accepted his offer, he proceeded to read Collins’ “Candle Hat,” a poem describing Francisco de Goya’s titular headpiece. Goldman is a former UNC student known as the “Pit Poet” who has been reading poetry to strangers for about a year. He began in the spring of 2020 when he took a poetry class in Greenlaw Hall.

Greenlaw Hall is adjacent to the Pit on UNC’s campus, where Goldman said he saw men preaching “very hateful things.” It was then he had the idea to turn that hate into love by “preaching” poems.

“I just stood there and started — a little aggressively, I admit — yelling at people and sharing poetry,” Goldman said, “making a scene of myself.”

Goldman said most people simply ignored walking past while he was reading, but his goal was not to be heard. Rather, he wanted to offer something different from the typical negativity heard in the Pit.

“I think people move too fast and don’t spend time looking at simple things,” Goldman said. “I’d like to be a simple thing and be loud enough to hopefully grab people’s attention for a second.”

“Hearing them speak on the pit really just want people to be more aware about making mistakes,” Trew said.

Isabelle Trew, a sophomore at Appalachian State University, has supported Goldman through his poetic pursuits.

Trew and Goldman first met in a poetry class last spring. Trew recalls receiving a text from Goldman inviting her to watch him read poetry at the Pit. From there, the two became close friends, and Trew attended several of Goldman’s poetry readings. They eventually started dating.

Trew has since transferred from UNC to ASU, where she still supports Goldman from afar.

“That’s something I really admire about Ben, is his ability to connect with total strangers,” Trew said. “He can make a friend out of anyone and bring so much positivity into people’s lives.”

Trew herself has even taken the spotlight to read poems by Ada Limón in the Pit.

“Instead of condemning people, we’re welcoming people in and inviting them to join in a communal activity,” Trew said.

Overall, Trew aims to combat the feeling of disconnect that many are feeling during the pandemic.

Several audience members agree that Trew and Goldman have achieved success in their goals, such asfosm more English and women and gender studies major X. Ramos-Lara.

“Hearing them speak on the different poems that were read aloud definitely spread that inclusivity,” Ramos-Lara said. “He tried to, not necessarily cease, but build on a platform of negativity that has been there with the Pit Poacher and create hope for something else.”

Instead of feeling concerned at first seeing Goldman “preaching” in the Pit, Ramos-Lara said they felt warm and welcoming.

Goldman and Trew don’t have a set schedule for when they’ll return to campus, as Goldman said it depends on what books he has available and whether or not it’s raining. However, both agree they would like to return to campus.

Goldman said he has no sort of monopoly on poetry preaching and encourages anyone who wants to read to do so.

“I really just want people to be more fearless in what they enjoy to least people to not be afraid to paint their face,” Trew said.

Kate Nicholson, a third-year chemistry major, cleans a table at the Current ArtSpace testing site on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021. Former UNC student Ben Goldman reads poetry by Billy Collins aloud. Goldman “preaches” poems in the Pit in an effort to spread positivity in response to “very hateful” messages that he has heard spread there in the past.

Twitter: @dailytarheel
Accessibility challenges in UNC parking

Erin Day, a graduate student and doctoral candidate in UNC’s Department of Chemistry, poses for a portrait in front of her parked car in a disabled parking lot near Caudill Laboratories on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021. “It’s such a complicated path,” Day said of her struggle to obtain a disabled parking permit. “It feels like the University at large doesn’t want you to get it.”

The challenges the University’s disabled community faces in transportation and parking on campus

Accessibility obstacles

Day wrote in the appeal that her expired handicap placard placed still renders her eligible for a disabled permit in future academic years. But the appeal was denied by the parking department, and a $10 late fee was added to the $50 ticket.

“This rejection of my appeal came in an email with a PDF that had no name, no phone number and no direct email address to contact,” Day said in an email to The Daily Tar Heel. “But it did have an address to mail the check to pay for my ticket.”

Confused by the situation, Day tried to contact the parking office multiple times, including by phone, email and Twitter.

In an email obtained by the DTH, Day’s attempt to reverse the ticket was responded to by a parking office representative, who instructed her to pay the $80 ticket before she could purchase a disabled parking permit.

Day finally decided to call the parking office representative directly.

“It took like 20 minutes of arguing, and then she realized, ‘Oh that email was vague, it was a misunderstanding between me and you,’” Day said. “So that ticket was wrongfully given.”

To seek further accountability, Day then contacted the University Ombuds and Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

“This is the third time I have had to fight (UNC parking) as a disabled grad student employee,” Day said in an email to the University Ombuds Office. “I hope UNC will log these actions somewhere.”

A representative from the University Ombuds Office responded to Day.

“It’s good to know that you were able to get the permit and the ticket resolved,” Victoria Dowd, assistant University Ombuds and programs specialist, said. “Have a successful semester.”

Davies Osborne-Adams, University Ombuds Office director, said in an email to the DTH that the Ombuds Office could not speak on the specifics of any student who contacts the office.

She said the Ombuds Office helps individuals assess and understand reporting options before they formally file complaints with the EOC.

“Day said she emailed UNC’s EOC office asking if it had considered making an email list to provide disabled employees with resources so that it would be easier for disabled employees to access parking.”

Day said her question received no response from UNC’s EOC office.

“The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office works diligently to ensure all students, faculty and staff feel represented and heard,” Elizabeth Hall, EOC associate director and Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, said in a statement to the DTH.

A familiar situation

UNC Media Relations said 189 disability permits were assigned to UNC employees, and 1,340 employees met eligibility for P2P/ADA transportation.

Day said the incident this summer was not her first issue when trying to access disabled parking.

In the academic year 2018-19, she obtained parking, but only after appealing the parking office’s decision to deny her a disabled parking permit.

“When Day sent in her original application for the permit in fall of 2018, she said she completed the initial steps of UNC’s medical mobility application for UNC community members with impaired mobility.”

In response, the University’s Transportation and Parking Accommodations Committee requested Day’s address.

“I sent them the address of where I was going to be living, and then they were like, ‘We’ve decided you’re on a bus line, it’s fine, you don’t need this spot,’” Day said.

But in Day’s 2018 appeal of her permit denial, she explained that the bus routes offered as a solution by the committee did not have a bench, would add more steps to her day and would possibly cause pain due to the surgery she had had the previous summer.

“Given that the committee contacted me to clarify my address but not my personal mobility challenges, I received the impression that this process values geography more than each disabled student’s and each employee’s necessary accommodations,” Day wrote in her 2018 appeal.

A compliance issue

“...I received the impression that this process values geography more than each disabled student’s and each employee’s necessary accommodations.”

Erin Day

Doctoral candidate in Chemistry department

Elizabeth Myerholtz, an attorney for Disability Rights North Carolina’s Community and Inclusion team, said that, as a public university that provides housing to students, UNC is responsible for compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act.

In instances of alleged accessible parking violations, like that of Day’s, Rebecca Williams, the information specialist and technical assistance for the Southeast ADA Center, believes students with disabilities should not have to apply for accessible parking because they most likely already have state-issued handicap placards.

“The Department of Justice may determine that it is discriminatory to require students with mobility disabilities who have state-issued parking placards to provide additional information or to jump through hoops,” Williams said.

Williams said that, in order for a possibly discriminatory policy to reach the radar of the Department of Justice, a person with a disability must make an official complaint via the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division or a private lawsuit in civil court.

“The University’s permit application process is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other relevant laws,” UNC Media Relations said in a statement. “The ‘University permits, but does not require, students to submit the documentation they used to support their application for a state-issued parking placard in support of their University application as well.’

Myerholtz said the key to overcoming barriers in accessibility is being comprehensive when providing access for people with disabilities.

“When we’re talking about accessibility, we need to be talking about what works holistically and not just meeting a bare minimum,” Myerholtz said. “Let’s not shoot for the bare minimum, let’s shoot to be far more inclusive holistically.”
How to get through cuffing season — virtually

B reak is over, Valentine’s Day is approaching and cuffing season is well underway. And after months of social distancing and pandemic-induced isolation, many of us are feeling extra deprived of human connection.

But with COVID-19 cases still on the rise, finding a companion to cuddle up with during the winter months is harder — and riskier — than ever before.

A changing dating landscape

In the past year, we’ve reinvented how we communicate with others — and the dating landscape has become more virtual than ever.

Dating apps like Tinder, Hinge and Bumble have always been around, but many have seen a spike in first-time users since the pandemic began. According to AppTopia, a data company, the top 20 dating apps have gained 1.5 million daily active users this year. This influx of dating app users presents challenges, especially since it’s riskier to meet matches in person. To limit the spread of COVID-19, dating app companies have been making moves to discourage in-person dates. Tinder has implemented a video dating feature, while Bumble allows users to display their dating preferences, whether it’s completely virtual, socially distanced or socially matched with masks.

Navigating virtual dating in a pandemic

Think before you swipe. Check in with yourself and decide what you’re comfortable with early on so you can share any safety concerns with others from the start.

Communication is key. Bumble’s Dating 101 in 2021 guide encourages users to have what they call the “COVID conversation.” Make sure you and your match are on the same page, and avoid making any assumptions — everyone’s comfort level is different.

Don’t be afraid to set boundaries and unmatch with someone if they aren’t willing to take the same precautions.

If you do decide to meet up in person, make sure you take the appropriate precautions. (The CDC’s guide to personal and social activities is a great place to start.) Clearly communicate any potential exposure to COVID-19, and make plans to get tested before and after.

Keep in mind that outdoor dates are almost always safer than indoor ones. Dating isn’t always a walk in the park, but right now, it literally can be!

Ideally, put a pin in plans to meet in person. The COVID-19 era has introduced us to so many new ways to connect virtually, whether it be video chats on Zoom or scheduling a movie night via Teleparty.

Living life at a distance

Despite being physically isolated from one another, we are still finding ways to be social. And it’s not just dating apps — between 46 percent and 51 percent of U.S. adults admitted to using social media more since the pandemic began.

Until it’s safe to resume in-person interaction, do your best to keep your community safe by taking advantage of the many ways to connect virtually with new friends and significant others.

What will life look like following the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccination is finally here, and with it comes a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. But while we wait for the full-scale rollout, here’s what to expect as we begin to return to some form of normal.

With the COVID-19 vaccination rollout, the long-awaited end to the pandemic might seem to be just around the corner. But as the new presidential administration begins to implement its coronavirus response plan, the question remains: How soon will the general public actually be able to receive the vaccine, and what will life look like afterward?

Currently, North Carolina’s vaccination plan aligns with federal priorities. According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the goal is to “vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible given the limited supply.”

Right now, health care workers and anyone over the age of 65 can apply for vaccination, and with the essential workers will be eligible next.

After that, the priority is expected to be adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness, and then the general public.

Much like the flu vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be effective — but not 100 percent protective — against the virus. However, the vaccine will likely make COVID-19 infections less severe should one get sick following the vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccination is an mRNA vaccine, which means it contains material from the virus. This gives cells instructions to make a harmless protein that simulates the virus.

After copies are made of the protein, the body destroys all genetic material from the vaccine. From there, the immune system builds cells to fight the virus in case one is exposed to COVID-19 in the future.

Each vaccine requires two shots, given several weeks apart. Both shots must be taken in order for your body to first recognize and prime the immune system for the virus, and then make the immune response stronger.

Individuals can expect to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at health care facilities or pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens.

After receiving the shot, one can expect to have side effects similar to the yearly flu shot — but those effects should subside in a matter of days.

However, protection from a vaccine also doesn’t occur immediately — the ideal level of immunity is only reached weeks after the first shot. In addition, research is still being performed on whether or not individuals who are vaccinated can still be asymptomatic and potentially spread the virus.

Masks will likely still be required in public spaces in order to limit the spread of the virus and its continued impact on the health care system.

President Joe Biden has said that masks will need to be worn for the next 100 days — but even that figure may be optimistic. It is expected to take until this fall for enough individuals to be vaccinated to make a significant impact on the spread of the virus.

Scientists estimate that at least 70 percent of people need to have acquired immunity for the entire community to be protected. And as we move into flu season, outbreaks are still likely going to occur with the introduction of the flu and common cold, as well.

Epidemiologists predict the summer to be more open, given the vaccine rollout and the ability to socialize outdoors, but fully expect there to be an uptick in cases and hospitalizations in the upcoming winter.

Although the future seems bright in terms of eventually returning to some pre-pandemic normalcy, it’s still important to stay updated on vaccine guidelines and expectations.

Regardless of when you’re able to get your vaccine, it’s imperative to continue social distancing, wear a mask and maintain other precautions in order to keep you and your social circle — safe and COVID-19-free.

We’re hiring!

Our columnists, editorial board members and cartoonists are currently hiring. If you’re interested in joining our team, please apply by Friday, Jan. 29. Questions? Send them to opinion@dailytarheel.com

For more information on how to become a member of the Daily Tar Heel, please visit bit.ly/dthopinionapp
LIVE IN NANNY NEEDED - DURHAM Close knit, loving and organized family in Durham, NC seeking a reliable and motivated nanny. Accommodations provided if needed. You would have your own bedroom and bathroom and Kitchenette areas.

**Hours:**
6:15am - 9:15am - Giving kids breakfast, packing lunches and helping kids leave for school. Once the kids leave, you would clean up kitchen, tidy up and organize all their areas.
2:30pm - 6:30pm - Pick up kids from school, give them snacks, take them to sports and bring them back.

If you need references and a good driving record. Please message me. (919) 444-1597

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**Ad rates:**
1 line: $1.50, the day prior to publication
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**PART TIME RECEIPTIONIST 15-20 hrs/week.** Cheerful, team oriented person needed. Computer, phone, people skills needed. Organized, motivated person. Send resume to urbanfitnessnc@gmail.com

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**The Daily Tar Heel**

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**Line Classified Ad Rates**

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**Deadlines**

**Line Ads:** 1 line, the day prior to publication

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**Sudoku**
Saddle Up and Read aims to empower kids

Continued from Page 1

“Saddle Up and Read provides even more than incentive,” she said. “With Saddle Up and Read, I want to give children a safe base to think positively and think creatively and be themselves.”

However, Gooch says her favorite part of Saddle Up and Read has always been the joy the children get from the horses. “For me, it’s seeing children smile, seeing those kids be their authentic selves and seeing parents join in and engage with the activity their child is doing.”

“Not all children get that time to say the things and the ideas and the opinions that they have,” she said. “With Saddle Up and Read, I want to give children a safe base to think positively and think creatively and be themselves.”

Additionally, childhood literacy has immense implications for the development of children. Saddle Up and Read’s website states that two-thirds of children who aren’t reading proficiently by fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

Gooch said Saddle Up and Read provides even more than literacy skills. Throughout her life, exposure to horses increased her confidence and resilience. She said Saddle Up and Read teaches children determination while also providing them a space to think and wonder.

“Not all children get that time to say the things and the ideas and the opinions that they have,” she said. “With Saddle Up and Read, I want to give children a safe base to think positively and think creatively and be themselves.”

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Children learn how to brush Goat, a horse owned by Caitlin Gooch (left). Gooch founded Saddle Up and Read, a nonprofit that aims to improve child literacy rates in its hometown of Wendell and around North Carolina.
It wasn’t until I transferred to UNC that I truly understood the Daily Tar Heel’s fragmented relationship with marginalized communities.

I come from a large community college in Miami where being Latinx is the norm. Upon transferring to a predominantly white institution, I began bearing the same stories from other transfer students with similar experiences.

You’re going to see all these Latino/as in your classes and organizations. Good luck finding Central American food in Chapel Hill. Get ready to correct people who don’t know how to pronounce your name.

I had grown used to the concept of inclusion at my former school, a melting pot that served marginalized communities in Miami. It’s not perfect, but diversity and equity were understood.

When I began working for The Daily Tar Heel in August, I realized the need worked to make our newspaper more inclusive must be practiced, perfected and enforced. I hope to tackle those experiences with me as incoming co-diversity, equity and inclusion officer of the DTH. I’m taking over for Ramshala Manaf, who will be interning with CNN, and work alongside my co-DEI officer, Brittany McGee, this spring term.

I entered into this position hoping to mend some of the hurt our paper has placed on marginalized communities. But that alone isn’t an easy feat. There’s a reason some journalism students of color refuse to write for the DTH or community groups that have rejected interview requests from us. Many people of color don’t feel supported by a newspaper that is supposed to reflect and tell stories of our communities.

Out of more than 200 DTH staffers who filled out a diversity audit survey last semester, I’m one of many 20 Latinx students. Across the newsroom, there are only 10 Black staffers, according to the audit. Those numbers are outrageous and, quite frankly, embarrassing for the DTH.

This spring term, we plan on shifting our Elite section to publish twice a month, instead of a monthly section. For staffers, we continue to promote the Sharif Durham Leadership Program, a talent and leadership development course for DTH staffers from marginalized communities, in its second year of existence.

Throughout the spring term, we also plan to hold several workshops aimed at reflecting on the DTH’s mistakes with marginalized voices, and ways to avoid those mistakes in the future.

The work to ensure our newsroom looks like the communities we cover cannot be accomplished in a single semester. It can’t be done solely on paper. It requires two DEI officers.

Making the DTH an inclusive space for staffers and readers is a newroom-wide effort that I hope to work on alongside Brittany this term and plant seeds for growth in the future.

Heidi Pérez-Moreno 
Senior Writer 
evolve@dailytarheel.com

COLUMN: Reflecting on our past and looking forward

Elevate: Amplifying Voices in Our Community is a project that was launched in August 2020. Created in collaboration with the first Sharif Durham Leadership Program cohort, Elevate is a project to celebrate the voices of marginalized communities that make up Chapel Hill, who contribute to our culture and way of life every day that they are not reported and respected.

Elevate accepts pitches throughout the year for op-eds and letters from members of different groups in our community. Please send submissions to elevate@dailytarheel.com.

Brittany McGee 
Praveena Somasundaram 
Heidi Pérez-Moreno 
Mingshen Shen

Elevate

A space to call home, where bikes establish community

By Praveena Somasundaram
Senior Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Though Zena Carlota has owned bicycles throughout her life, she never thought about fixing up or building a bike on her own.

But that changed when the artist moved from Oakland, California, to North Carolina a few years ago. In a new and unfamiliar place, Carlota found her way to WTP Wrench Nights.

Hosted at the ReCycleye NC, a local nonprofit that encourages recycling, Wrench Nights create a space for women, trans, femme, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming identifying community members.

Participants can choose a donated bike to repair alongside a volunteer mechanic and take home with them. They can also work on individual repair projects or community projects.

The training and resources provided through the WTP Wrench Nights are free.

It was during these Wrench nights when Carlota first saw Burnett.

Burnett is a vintage, sunshine yellow bike with a white basket in the front that holds flowers. Carlota tucked between the wires. Carlota had worked on two other bikes before choosing to throw her lot in with the group.

Amid COVID-19 and racial justice uprisings, Carlota said, "It would be something that could actually help with my healing," she said.

Carlota became involved with the WTP Wrench Nights after meeting ChHS, a postdoctoral fellow at UNC and board member at the REACH Project, who helped establish the Wrench nights and organizes Queer Ride Carborro, a monthly bicycle ride to support the local queer community.

In all the places Graves has lived, she said there have been spaces for people who hold identities often marginalized in cycling to ride and reproduce. Where she comes from, she said, "There was the BOLC Creek Trail at night.

As an English as simple as having a bright yellow bike that makes me smile every time I see it would be something that could actually help with my healing," she said.

Graves has worked with the Wrench nights and organized Queer Ride Carborro.

A welcoming place for all

Elias Gross, a transgender volunteer mechanic at the WTP Wrench Nights, has been working with bikes for the past 8 years. Now a graduate student at UNC, Gross said what makes the Wrench nights special is that he gets to be himself without worrying about what others think of him.

“Getting the other identities that he has is totally fun,” Gross said.

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