

The Daily Tar Heel

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Zijie Yan remembered as gentle father, mentor

Students, academics and community members mourn associate professor

By Natalie McCormick
Senior Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

A note in Zijie Yan's oldest daughter's penmanship declaring "Zijie is my dad!" greeted visitors at his office door.

Monika Kataria, a postdoctoral research associate who worked in Yan's research group, said Yan would sometimes bring his two daughters to the lab. She said his love for them was obvious by the way he spoke to them.

Senior Bergen Murray, who was in Yan's research group since her first year at UNC, said she could often hear his children giggling in the background of their weekly Zoom meeting.

"Because of how gentle he seemed, I could tell that he was probably a really good dad," she said.

Murray said she joined Yan's research group with little experience, but he was always "very, very patient" with her.

Kataria and Murray are two of the many students and researchers Yan mentored before his death on Aug. 28. Tailei Qi, a graduate student who worked with Yan, was charged with first-degree murder for his death.

Originally from China, Yan graduated from Huazhong University of Science and Technology before moving to the United States to pursue a doctoral degree, which he earned from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2011. He completed his postdoctoral studies at

the University of Chicago in 2015 and became an assistant professor at Clarkson University. In 2019, he joined the UNC Department of Applied Physical Sciences.

Yan recently achieved academic tenure at UNC as an associate professor, and he led a research lab of postdoctoral researchers and graduate and undergraduate students.

"He just wanted to educate people, to teach people and mentor people," Murray said.

According to the Yan Research Group website, which has since been taken down, the group aimed to "transcend the boundary between photonics and materials science by developing new techniques to study light-matter interactions at the nanometer scale."

Yan used conditioned beams of laser light to control the movement and assembly of nanoparticles, Douglas Chrisey explained.

Chrisey was Yan's Ph.D. adviser at RPI and now teaches at Tulane University. He said Yan was his best student, not only because of his productivity but also because of his kindness.

Chrisey said Yan was a leader in his research area and was highly cited in scientific journal articles, even before coming to UNC.

He said that after they had both moved on from RPI, the two stayed in contact, writing to each other about every six months.

"Be assured, during his 17 years in the US he was treated as family by everyone who was lucky enough to get to know him," Chrisey



PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE UNC DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICAL SCIENCES

said in a written statement. "His hard work, his creativity and his kindness will live on in all of us just as he would want it to. He was a great man whose life ended too soon."

Jenni Truong, a graduate student at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, worked in Yan's lab when she was an undergraduate student. Truong said Yan was an excellent mentor and pushed each of his students beyond their

creative boundaries to achieve their full potential.

In addition to doing research with Yan, Truong also took one of the first classes he taught at UNC — a special topics course in nanophotonics.

"You could see his face light up, smiling ear-to-ear, when he was teaching what he was passionate about and he would get so excited when we shared our own interests with him, asked questions, answered questions," Truong said in an email.

Yan was not only a great colleague, but also an outstanding professor, researcher and mentor, Theo Dingemans, chair of the applied physical sciences department, said in an email. With his research program, Yan pushed the boundaries of nanoscience and contributed to numerous papers published in scientific journals, he added.

"Zijie would've wanted us to move forward in educating students and conducting research that would change the world, and we will honor his legacy by doing just that," he said.

On Aug. 30, a candlelight vigil was held in the Dean E. Smith Center to honor Yan. More than 5,000 people attended, including members of Yan's family.

"Dr. Yan left this world a better place from his brilliance, his commitment and the lives that he affected," Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said at the vigil. "That's a life well lived and a life ended far, far too soon."

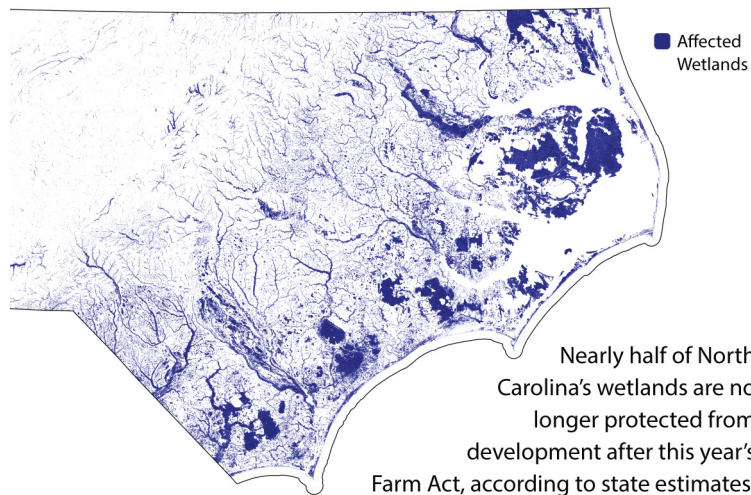
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FARM ACT

Bill, SCOTUS case impact wetlands

Several N.C. bodies of water lose protection under new definition

2.5 million acres of wetlands now vulnerable



Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
DATA VISUALIZATION/KATE BAILEY

By Walker Livingston
Assistant City & State Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

Each year, the N.C. General Assembly passes a new Farm Act — a bill that creates guidelines

for agricultural practices and environmental regulations in the state.

This year's Farm Act, Senate Bill 582, included a controversial provision: it keeps the state from having to protect wetlands that do not meet the new federal definition

of "navigable waters of the United States." It was passed in the General Assembly, despite Gov. Roy Cooper's veto, on June 27.

The new definition was established in the recent U.S. Supreme Court case, Sackett v. EPA, which was argued in October of last year and decided in May in a 5-4 decision. It changed the definition of waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act to only include "wetlands with a continuous surface connection to bodies that are 'waters of the United States' in their own right," according to Justice Samuel Alito's majority opinion.

The Clean Water Act provides environmental protections, like outlawing the discharge of certain pollutants and establishing wastewater standards. But it only applies to "navigable waters of the United States," meaning a considerable amount of wetlands are now left without the protections of the Clean Water Act according to the Sackett decision.

SEE FARM PAGE 8

DUKE'S MAYO CLASSIC



DTH/LARA CROCHIK

UNC senior linebacker Cedric Gray (33) rushed South Carolina quarterback Spencer Rattler (77) during Duke's Mayo Classic against South Carolina at Bank of America Stadium on Saturday.

UNC beats USC

Tar Heels win 31-17, with nine sacks against Gamecocks

By Lucas Thomae
Sports Managing Editor
sports.managing@dailytarheel.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As Mack Brown walked out of the UNC locker room at Bank of America Stadium late Saturday night, he paused to plant a kiss on the cheek of Kaimon Rucker.

UNC's senior edge rusher beamed back at his coach, not saying a word.

He didn't have to. Rucker's performance in North Carolina's 31-17 victory over South Carolina spoke for itself.

Rucker led a dominant UNC pass rush with two sacks and six solo tackles as North Carolina's front seven gave South Carolina quarterback Spencer Rattler fits all night. The Tar Heels took him

SEE UNC PAGE 14

AUG. 28 SHOOTING

Faculty members reflect on campus safety, return to class

By Maya Waid
Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Angelique Bassard was just going for a walk.

Bassard is a graduate teaching fellow in the English department and her days are usually full of 19th-century African American Literature research, doctoral

coursework and teaching undergraduate students.

But on Aug. 28, she was spending some time outside.

It wasn't until Bassard heard emergency warning sirens blaring over the campus speakers that she knew something was wrong. After taking a moment to process the announcement of an armed assailant on campus, Bassard sought shelter

in the closest building — New East.

Once she had locked herself in a ground-floor office with seven other people, including a prospective student and parent, Bassard began sending texts to her parents, brother and husband.

"I remember texting all variations of, 'In case you hear, there's an active shooter on campus, but I am okay. I am in a building. I'm safe.

I'm inside,'" Bassard said.

Like many young adults, Bassard had some practice for active shooter situations. She said she remembered doing active shooter drills in high school after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

"I remember after Sandy Hook, we had these types of drills too — I think we actually had to practice barricading the doors," she said.

Like Bassard, political science professor Marc Hetherington did not have students at the time of Monday's lockdown. When he received an Alert Carolina notifying him of the event at 1:04 p.m., Hetherington locked down in his office and sent messages to his wife Suzanne Globetti, who is a teaching

SEE FACULTY PAGE 3

“With a little love and luck you will get by.”
JIMMY BUFFETT

The Daily Tar Heel

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EMMY MARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

CAITLYN YAEDE
PRINT MANAGING EDITOR
PRINT.EDITOR@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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

AISHA BAIOCCHI
ENTERPRISE MANAGING EDITOR
ENTERPRISE@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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

LUCAS THOMAE
SPORTS MANAGING EDITOR
SPORTS.MANAGING@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

MAKAYLA KEY
DEI COORDINATOR
DIVERSITY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

ABBY PENDER
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

LE HA
OPINION EDITOR
OPINION@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

OLIVIA GOODSON
DESIGN EDITOR
DESIGN@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

KENNEDY COX
PHOTO EDITOR
PHOTO@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

ALLI PARDUE
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR
ONLINE@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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DATA EDITOR
RECORDS@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

SIERRA PFEIFER
AUDIO & VIDEO CO-EDITOR
AUDIOVISUAL@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

MCKENZIE BULRIS
AUDIO & VIDEO CO-EDITOR
AUDIOVISUAL@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

EMMA GEIS
COPY CHIEF
COPY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

ELISABETH JORDAN
DEPUTY COPY CHIEF
COPY@DAILYTARHEEL.COM

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Mail and Office: 109 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Emmy Martin, editor, 962-4086
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DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL

Businesses shelter locals

Franklin Street restaurants, stores allowed community members to hide while UNC’s campus was on lockdown

By Walker Livingston
Assistant City & State Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

Businesses in Downtown Chapel Hill sheltered community members on Monday while UNC endured an active shooter situation and shelter-in-place warning. A faculty member at UNC was shot in Caudill Laboratories, causing the University to go into lockdown for just over three hours.

Laney Sheehan, an employee at Epilogue Books Chocolate Brews and a recent graduate of UNC, said

she and others decided to move customers away from the front of the store and lock the front doors after the initial Alert Carolina.

“We kind of tried to stay away from, you know, any visibility and then we got the shelter-in-place announcement and I’m going to speak for myself but I was really freaked out,” she said.

The initial announcement was sent out to UNC students, faculty and employees just after 1 p.m. on Monday and an update telling students to remain sheltered in place went out at 2:24 p.m. The all-clear wasn’t issued until 4:14 p.m.

“For a while Franklin was just empty and silent, and the longer we all stayed in the lockdown I think it just got more tense,” Sheehan said.

Sheehan and her coworkers brewed tea and gave out the food that the store had made for the day as the shelter in place went on. She said she and her co-workers didn’t require people

in the store to stay through the shelter in place, but strongly urged those who wanted to leave only to do so when they had safe transportation arranged.

“It was also very eerie, like we were all just waiting for something to happen,” Sheehan said.

She said that when the shelter in place was lifted, people slowly left Epilogue, and community members and employees alike offered each other rides and support.

“It was a slow trickle out,

general manager of The Purple Bowl, said everyone who was in the Franklin Street business during the shelter in place stuck together, despite limited updates on the situation.

Stephanie Cobert, the director of marketing for Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership said businesses that housed community members during the shelter-in-place order reached out to CHDP and let them know about their respective situations.

“You want to keep people as informed as possible without,

you know, putting out anything that could ramp up the fear or give people false information,” she said.

On Monday, CHDP shared information from law enforcement as it became available, Cobert said. She also said CHDP has been in contact with several local businesses offering community services and support — through resources like having dogs on site and providing their services free of charge.

On Tuesday, Epilogue offered free churros and a space for community members to decompress, Sheehan said.

“To me, that’s what a community does,” she said. “Coming together and making sure everyone is supported and heard.”

although we also made it clear that if you don’t feel ready to leave yet you don’t have to,” she said. “We’re not kicking you out.”

Sheehan drove two people home — one of them to Hinton James Residence Hall. She said waiting for communication from her friends on campus was incredibly difficult, but having responsibilities to people in Epilogue helped her cope.

Sabine Farer-Buers, the



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Customers sat inside of Epilogue on Tuesday. The Franklin Street coffee shop sheltered customers during the Aug. 28 shooting on UNC’s campus.

X: @wslivingston_

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

SEPT in OC

Thursday, Sept. 7

6 p.m.

CHCCS BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION MEETING, Virtual

Tuesday, Sept. 12

7 p.m.

CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING, Carrboro Town Hall & Virtual

7 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY BOCC WORK SESSION MEETING, Southern Human Services Center & Virtual

Wednesday, Sept. 13

7 p.m.

CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, Chapel Hill Town Hall & Virtual

Tuesday, Sept. 19

7 p.m.

CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, Carrboro Town Hall & Virtual

7 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY BOCC BUSINESS MEETING, Whitted Building & Virtual

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

Faculty members respond to campus shooting

Continued from Page 1

associate professor at the University, and his son, a sophomore at UNC.

Before the situation on Aug. 28, neither Hetherington nor Bassard received any University-specific training or preparation for such an event.

While Hetherington agreed that more training would have been helpful, he said doing such a thing on a college campus would be a “monumental task.”

Unlike Bassard and Hetherington, adjunct professor Giovanna Torrieri was finishing the end of her lecture when the alert showed up on her classroom projector. Only nine minutes before, her class was outside learning and practicing photojournalism techniques.

Torrieri, who was in only her third day of teaching at UNC, said that she was receiving more information from students messaging each other than the University.

“It’s a shock because I never would have thought in a million years that I would be experiencing something like that, let alone on my third day teaching,” Torrieri said.

Instead of being able to answer questions from her class, all Torrieri felt like she could do was “just hunker

down with my students on lockdown until we were given the all clear.”

“I would hope that the next step would be to prepare faculty and students for a situation like this because it was hard,” Torrieri said. “I felt really bad being the person of authority in there and not being able to answer questions.”

Despite the fear that came with the events of Aug. 28, Hetherington said he felt his department chair Mark Crescenzi and fellow faculty members helped to properly guide the response to the shooting, as well as the return to class.

“There’s not one right way to respond to what the tragedy that happened here was,” Hetherington said.

In response to the tragedy, Bassard said she “wasn’t in the right headspace to be in the classroom yet” — and didn’t think her students would be in the right headspace either.

Bassard decided to cancel class Thursday, Aug. 31. Although her goal is to “find some sense of normalcy” for the semester, Bassard’s focus is her students’ well-being, and that the events of Aug. 28 would not dampen their experience at UNC or in higher education.

“College should be a new and exciting thing, not a new scary

thing where they have to deal with so many horrible things in the world,” Bassard said.

Since Bassard was “physically further away” from where the incident took place in Caudill Labs, she said she was able to process it differently from colleagues and friends who were closer. Despite the distance, Bassard said that safety is “more at the forefront” of her mind than it was before Aug. 28.

“I don’t want to say I feel safe on campus,” Bassard said. “I think safe is a strong word, phrase, for a very scary time.”

Since the incident, Torrieri has received support from fellow professors but feels that “University-wise, something does need to change.”

“As far as training, I would have liked to know ‘What is the protocol? ‘How can I help answer these questions [from] my students?’,” Torrieri said. “We were not prepped at all.”

In Hetherington’s political science courses, he talks about how the context of experiences shapes reactions and behaviors. Now, he is applying the same framework to help his students through their emotions and feelings from August 28.

“There’s no one-size-fits-all kind of relief that we can provide people,” Hetherington said.



DTH/KENNEDY COX
UNC graduate teaching fellow Angelique Bassard posed for a portrait outside of New East on Tuesday.

For Bassard, she plans to give her students two pieces of advice upon returning to class: feel your feelings and go vote.

“Your experience and how you feel coming out of this experience matters,” Bassard said. “It’s valid, do not be afraid of feeling the full range of everything that you feel when you’re grieving.”

Hetherington said that “there’s

really not one right way” to move forward. He encourages students to talk with others, whether that be parents, students or faculty.

“At this point, we just have to all do our best and provide each other grace and be willing to support people, wherever they are coming from,” Hetherington said.

X: @dailytarheel

PERSPECTIVES

‘I’ve never been that scared in my life’

International students react to Aug. 28 campus shooting

By Eilah Wood

Staff Writer

university@dailytarheel.com

Many international students who came to UNC from countries where access to firearms is more restricted than the United States said they felt unprepared during the shooting on UNC’s campus last week.

Graduate student Charlotte Pallier, an exchange student from France, said she did not feel fully informed about the threat when UNC students were initially warned via an Alert Carolina emergency warning on the afternoon of Aug. 28.

She, and other international students, received the Alert Carolina message via email rather than a text message. Junior Alice Jenkins, an international student from England, said she didn’t receive any Alert Carolina texts during the shooting because she did not have a U.S. phone number.

Pallier said the thought of the dangerous person having a gun didn’t cross her mind at all.

“For me, I wasn’t like ‘Wow, what is happening?’ It was like ‘Maybe there’s someone with a knife on campus or someone that seems dangerous.’ I didn’t at all think about someone with a gun,” Pallier said.

Jenkins was in Dey Hall when the Alert Carolina emergency warning on one of the screens in her classroom warned students of an “armed, dangerous person on or near campus.”

She said another international student in her class told her she would never forget the fear in Jenkins’ eyes in that moment.

Junior Sahra Rajani, an international student from Canada, said she was eating lunch outside of Greenlaw Hall when she heard Alert Carolina emergency sirens begin to go off. She entered the building and took shelter in an office.

“The faculty member that we



DTH/KENNEDY COX
Junior international student Alice Jenkins posed for a portrait outside of Dey Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. Jenkins was in Dey Hall when she received an Alert Carolina email on Aug. 28.

were in the office with was super underprepared,” Rajani said. “We went into her office, and she had no idea what was happening. She didn’t even know there was a situation on campus.”

Jenkins said her professor struggled to lock the door of her classroom in Dey Hall. She added that when they heard sounds of yelling outside, everyone in the class, including the professor, dropped to the floor or hid behind chairs.

“I’ve never been that scared in my life,” Jenkins said. “I was just looking at the door, and I knew someone could just come in.”

Pallier said some of her international friends’ parents were reluctant to believe the news. When some of her friends told their parents about the event, she said their parents thought they were joking.

According to a 2019 survey by the World Education Services, a quarter of international students across the United States expressed concern over gun violence at their educational institutions.

Rajani, Jenkins and Pallier said they relied on their U.S. friends to guide them through their first campus shooting.

“We would always read about gun violence and shootings and stuff like that in the news,” Rajani said. “But to me, it was very much a removed thing.”

Jenkins said she didn’t know what

the sirens meant during the initial Alert Carolina emergency warning.

She had never heard any alarms beside fire alarms in England, where she was taught to go outside to avoid harm, so she said it went against her instincts to remain inside.

“We were all listening to the scanners, reading the news, texting friends, and there was just a lot of misinformation going on,” Rajani said. “I feel like it probably could have been avoided if we had heard anything from the school instead of trying to figure it out ourselves.”

Jenkins said she feels people in the United States are desensitized to gun violence. Some of her peers were looking out the window and continued to carry on normal discussions after the warnings, she said. Jenkins added that for her, the shooting was one of the most traumatic experiences she had in her life.

“The fact that people were so calm and didn’t seem scared made me angry, and it made me sad,” she said.

While many students processed the shooting at home during the long Labor Day weekend, Rajani was unable to visit her family.

But, she said she is grateful for the way UNC “came together” after the events of Aug. 28.

X: @dailytarheel

CAMPUS SAFETY

More than 200 cameras installed in residence halls

University took a step aiming to protect students, deter crimes

By Liza Smith

Staff Writer

university@dailytarheel.com

Approximately 270 security cameras were installed this summer in residence halls across campus.

UNC installed the cameras to enhance security by recording individuals as they enter buildings, but the cameras will not typically be monitored in real time. They are situated to film any exterior doors.

“We don’t want to create a state of mind that we’re constantly worried about something happening, but at the same time, we want to make great decisions about security,” Brian James, chief of UNC Police, said.

Executive Director of Carolina Housing Allan Blattner said the installation of the cameras began on May 15, starting with residence halls that housed summer school students.

The planning of the project began late last fall, and a contractor was hired by late spring. Blattner said the project cost over \$750,000 for the initial installations.

James said UNC Police will only access camera footage after a reported crime or during an investigation.

“We want you to feel more secure, we want to deter crime, but then also — if we do have a crime reported at a residence hall — we want to have the best opportunity to identify that person and hold them accountable,” James said.

UNC first-year MJ DiFiore said he thinks the cameras are a step in the right direction toward achieving a balance of privacy and safety.

“I think that’s a smart idea, given what happened on Monday — a week ago now,” he said. “Unfortunately, there’s uncertainty in the world and I think it’s smart, especially where you have residents, to have your

entrances covered.”

Martha Plaehn, a sophomore living on campus, said she was unaware that cameras had been installed.

“I do think it’s important that students know if they’re being filmed and I’m not sure if I feel like that’s been adequately communicated,” she said.

Plaehn also said she feels privileged to not have had any dangerous encounters during her time living in residence halls, but that the cameras could be a helpful resource in emergency situations.

Blattner said Carolina Housing surveys residents every year and consistently receives positive reports of safety in rooms and buildings.

“That’s wonderful for all kinds of really good reasons,” Blattner said. “But it also can sometimes make people not as conscious of the small things that they can do to help keep themselves safe and their community safe.”

He also said the hope is that the cameras will serve as another barrier for non-University-affiliated people to enter residential buildings.

James said students living in residence halls should be cognizant that UNC is an open campus and take small precautions to ensure the safety of their community — such as not allowing unknown individuals to come in behind them after unlocking a residence hall’s exterior door.

“The cameras are not a secret,” James said. “We want you to know that they’re there — and people that have ill intentions — we want them to know that the cameras are there.”

Blattner said there is a list of frequently asked questions available on the Carolina Housing website that they will continue to build upon as they receive more questions.

“If students have questions that are making them think that this wasn’t a good idea, or are being done for alternative purposes, we’d be happy to try and address those,” he said.

X: @dailytarheel

REMEMBRANCE

‘Truly missed and forever remembered’



UNC students held up lit candles and cell phone flashlights in honor of Zijie Yan during the candlelight vigil in the Dean E. Smith Center on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023. DTH/LAUREN RHODES

UNC community mourns Zijie Yan at candlelight vigil

By Walker Livingston
Assistant City & State Editor
university@dailytarheel.com

Students, faculty, staff and community members picked up Carolina Blue ribbons and candles as they filled the Dean E. Smith Center on Aug. 30. Some were tearful, embracing each other. All were quiet. About 5,000 people gathered to

remember Zijie Yan, an associate professor in the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, who was killed in Monday’s shooting on campus. “Dr. Yan left this world a better place for his brilliance, his commitment and the lives that he affected,” Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said during the vigil. “That’s a life well-lived and a life ended far, far too soon.” Yan had been at UNC since 2019, Guskiewicz said, and worked under Theo Dingemans, the chair for the UNC Department of Applied Physical Sciences, who also spoke at the vigil.

“He would want us to keep doing research here at Carolina that will change the world — that is exactly what we’re going to do,” Dingemans said. “We will dearly miss him.” Yan’s research focused on optical material, and he led his own research group at UNC. Before his time at UNC, he was a professor at Clarkson University and completed his Ph.D. at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His mother, wife and children attended the vigil. Guskiewicz thanked them and honored the professor with a moment of silence. “Dr. Yan was also a loving son,”

he said. “He was a father to two young children — his loss will be deeply felt by all those who knew him and loved him.” Jim White, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, urged members of the UNC community to check in with their friends, colleagues and themselves during this time. “Someone who said they felt fine when you ask them on Monday evening may be feeling much lower today as the realization of what they’ve gone through finally kicks in,” he said. Christopher Everett, UNC student body president, said he — like

many UNC students — experienced Monday’s lockdown in a classroom. “This senseless act of violence that we experienced this past week has left us all struggling to find a way to pick up the pieces,” Everett said. “What I do know, however, is that we can pick up those pieces together.” He said he had never seen a community come together like UNC did on Monday — with students and instructors holding doors shut for each other and checking in on one another. Though Guskiewicz, Dingemans and White shared about the grief and trauma on campus, Guskiewicz said that now, the University must find a way to move forward. “How do we move forward with our lives and feel so fragile and out of control?” Guskiewicz said. “The answer to that question comes from our community; it comes from the countless acts of kindness and bravery that we have witnessed.” Everett said though there are no words to ease the pain of Yan’s death, he hopes Yan’s family will remember how loved he was by the community. “Professor Yan, your presence on this campus will be truly missed and forever remembered,” Everett said. “Our Carolina Blue skies will always be a reminder of you.” Leah Cox, vice provost of equity and inclusion and UNC’s chief diversity officer, instructed attendees who picked up candles to light them and others to light their phone cameras as UNC a cappella groups sang the first half of Hark the Sound. After the song ended, attendees lingered in silence — then slowly left the Smith Center.

X: @wslivingston_



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ACTIVISM

‘Everything sounded like gunfire’: Students rally for change

March for Our Lives UNC, other groups demand action

By Lauren Rhodes

Assistant University Editor
university@dailytarheel.com

Facing camera crews and hundreds of community members, more than 50 UNC students stood, holding a banner with the words “THIS IS OUR REALITY” during a rally following the Aug. 28 campus shooting.

Co-hosted by UNC Young Democrats and the University chapters of March for Our Lives and Students Demand Action, the rally was held outside South Building on Wednesday, Aug. 30.

Attendees held handwritten signs with messages that read, “1 death by guns is 1 too many,” “School shootings are so normal professors kept teaching” and “If I am killed here, throw my ashes on the legislature.”

The event included gun safety advocates and local Democrats, with speakers such as Anderson Clayton, chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, N.C. Rep. Allen Buansi (D-Orange) and N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person).

It opened with a moment of silence for UNC professor Zijie Yan, while the Bell Tower rang three times before UNC Young Democrats secretary Sloan Duvall began to speak.

“We are sharing our lived

experiences and calling on our lawmakers to do better,” Duvall said. “Don’t let our reality be living in fear every day we go to school.”

During the rally, Luke Diasio, vice president of the UNC chapter of March For Our Lives, opened his speech with three words: “I am pissed.”

“We were unsure if our lives would end as we barricaded our doors with desks, listened to the police radio in silence and frantically texted our loved ones as we huddled against the walls on the cold tile floor,” he said. “Everything sounded like gunfire.”

Diasio called out gun manufacturers and the National Rifle Association. He said he was demanding legislation and bills that would put an end to gun violence.

“Channel the fear you felt in that classroom into your vote and elect politicians who care about gun violence,” he said.

Despite working closely on the issue of gun violence as the president of March For Our Lives UNC, Megan Chen said she never expected it to occur on her own campus. She said she felt “naive” for not anticipating the shooting because of the accessibility of firearms.

“While everyone hoped that it would never happen to them, it ultimately did,” she said. Chen said the organizations involved debated about whether the rally was too soon. But they decided it was best to get people together and not lose media focus.

Clayton said during and after the lockdown, she called students from



DTH/LAUREN RHODES

Students held signs during a rally in front of South Building on Polk Place on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023. The event was hosted by March for Our Lives UNC, Students Demand Action and the UNC Young Democrats.

UNC Young Democrats to make sure they were safe. The reply that she heard from every student, she said, wasn’t fear.

Instead she heard anger and “a lot of rage.” Clayton also said she encouraged the students to organize and engage with the issue.

“People don’t think about ‘Am I next?’,” first-year Elena Abuin

said. “People think ‘Oh, wow, that’s tragic for them, that’s tragic for what happened to them.’”

Abuin held a sign with the words “AM I NEXT?” in blaring red letters during the rally. She said that to her, the statement “personalizes the issue.”

Abuin was at Campus Health during the lockdown. But if it wasn’t for an issue with her insurance, she

said she would have been walking through the location of the shooting.

She said that while she and a lot of students were hesitant to join the rally, in the end, it was beautiful. To Abuin, the wall of students facing the crowd looked like “a mural.”

X: @l_rhodsie

VISITORS

Campus tour guides hide with prospective families during lockdown

Student admissions ambassadors kept tours safe, informed

By Maddie Policastro

Senior Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

Ella Hoyt, a junior at UNC, was leading her tour group toward the Bell Tower when the Alert Carolina sirens first began. She said she initially thought they were test sirens. But people were running around campus.

“I was just worried for my safety and worried for my group’s safety, but I was also trying to figure out what was going on,” Hoyt said. “I was kind of confused, and I think my first thought was just to get everybody inside and make sure we are all in a safe place.”

According to Hoyt, the tour group was led into Murray Hall where everyone became noticeably more worried and confused.

Hoyt was one of several admissions ambassadors leading tours around campus when a more than three-hour-long lockdown began. Zijie Yan,



DTH FILE/ SAMANTHA LEWIS

UNC tour guides told potential students about the Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower on Feb. 24, 2022.

a UNC professor, had been shot and killed — prompting the Alert Carolina message and sirens.

Harlie Ramsey, a senior who was leading a tour near Caudill Labs, said she had not received the Alert Carolina notification when the group first noticed police report to the scene.

Ramsey said fear started to set in when she saw armed police officers run out of their cars in vests, but she had to try and calm herself.

“In the moment, I panicked myself a little bit, but I had a whole tour group,” Ramsey said. “I had families with me, and I just knew

that I needed to get them to safety.”

Ramsey said while the admissions ambassadors are not trained to handle lockdowns, her manager stayed in contact to check in and give updates.

Hemiede Neufville, another admissions ambassador, also stayed in contact with Ramsey during the lockdown.

Neufville, who attended Lumberton High School in southern North Carolina, said she had prior experiences with active shooters in the area and knew the proper routine. She walked Ramsey through barricading the door and texted others to get more information.

“Even now like I’m still wondering myself, how did I stay calm?” Neufville said.

Christopher Lipscomb, a UNC senior and another admissions ambassador, said it was terrifying to be the authority figure during the lockdown. He tried to stay calm for the prospective families.

“All of a sudden, today — what was supposed to be just another standard day for me — is now in theory life or death, potentially,” Lipscomb said. To keep everyone calm, he said

he continued the remainder of his campus tour from a locked-down room in Wilson Library.

“I was so terrified because I knew that if something were to happen, what can I do to make sure that these people are okay?” Lipscomb said. During the lockdown, he said he had families that were being proactive by listening to the emergency scanner and working with current students also in the room to pull together different sources of information.

After the final Alert Carolina message was sent with the “all clear” announcement, Lipscomb said he tried his best to make sure that everyone knew where they were going and that they got home safely.

Lipscomb also said he hopes prospective families were able to understand that admissions ambassadors were doing all that they could to help keep everyone safe and well.

“I really hope that they were able to see the sense of community that we have because, in my role, I certainly did see it,” Lipscomb said.

X: @mkpolicastro

RESOURCES

University, community groups support students after shooting

UNC to host mental health seminar on Zoom on Thursday

By Maeson Wagner

Staff Writer
university@dailytarheel.com

As the University community mourns UNC associate professor Zijie Yan and students process the Aug. 28 campus shooting, Counseling and Psychological Services, Hugs and Pups Posse - Encouraging and Empowering and other organizations have provided mental health resources.

CAPS was stationed at several

campus locations on Aug. 29 and 30. This helped ensure students had easy access to counseling, Avery Cook, the director of CAPS, said. They also emphasized the 24-hour phone number to contact a CAPS therapist — (919) 966-3658.

“I don’t want any student on this campus to feel alone in this or any other experience,” Cook said. “We want to make sure that folks know that there are lots of different resources and support out there for them.”

UNC is hosting a mental health seminar on Thursday from 12-1:30 p.m. on Zoom for students, faculty and staff. The University’s other mental health services, including

peer support and care referrals, can be found at the Heels Care Network.

However, some students say they are more comfortable connecting with mental health services not provided by UNC.

UNC student Chloe Taylor said she’s wary about reaching out to CAPS because she’s heard complaints about the quality of University mental health resources from her peers.

“Now is not the time to not have great mental health resources,” she said.

Sue Estroff, a UNC psychiatry professor, said it’s going to take people time to recognize their feelings, and there can’t be a deadline for when

things will return to normal.

“Don’t rush it. Be with it. It’s not something you can take an Aspirin for, but to live with it and try to learn from it,” she said.

Some students found solace on campus by engaging with HAPPEE — an organization that seeks to aid college students’ mental health by offering comfort from dogs.

Heidi Jo Hetland, one of the original HAPPEE volunteers and a member of the program leadership team, said she hopes the pups provide “a sigh of relief” for students as they process and recover from events of Aug. 28.

“A lot of times people meet other

students here and we see them walk away together or exchange numbers,” Hetland said.

While CAPS and other resources are important, Estroff said what the community can do “with and among each other” to build resolve is the most valuable thing.

Estroff also calls for an adjustment in how University members treat each other on a daily basis.

“We need to take stock of how we are with each other — up and down the line, not just students, but all of us and check our grievances at the door, if you have them,” she said.

X: @dailytarheel

City & State

HILLSBOROUGH

Educator develops app to teach music theory

Adam Canosa is the Teacher of the Year at his elementary school

By Defne Önal
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Adam Canosa, the music teacher at Hillsborough Elementary School, developed a game-based educational music app during the COVID-19 pandemic. Songcraft provides a supplement for students to learn their instruments both inside and outside of the classroom.

He said when his students use the app individually, they play backing tracks and the game will give them live feedback based on the timing of their performance.

“It supplies them with the sheet music that we’re working on together in class onto the screen, and then they’re gradually learning an increasing number of pitches and increasingly complex music theory,” Canosa said.

Generally, if students practice an instrument alone, it’s an isolating experience, Canosa said — they may not know whether they’re having problems.

“You really do kind of need the instructor to listen to it,” Canosa said. “That is an issue because instructors like me have very little instructional time, so giving kids adequate one-on-one time is not going to happen.”

Canosa said he developed Songcraft because he wanted a tool that would allow students to have a guide that would prompt them based on their individual challenges. Canosa is this year’s Teacher of the Year at Hillsborough Elementary. Jessica Nagy, principal at Hillsborough Elementary, said a large part of why Canosa was voted Teacher of the Year was because he created Songcraft.

“It’s something that allowed teachers to take what students have



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM CANOSA
Hillsborough Elementary music teacher Adam Canosa developed an educational music app that helps his students learn their instruments inside and outside of the classroom.

learned in the music classroom and bring it into either their instructional day or indoor recess and to use it, sometimes, to motivate students, because they really love it,” Nagy said.

She also said that she would love Songcraft to be implemented in other schools in the district and to be more accessible to a larger audience.

Todd Cherner, the director of UNC’s Master’s of Arts in Educational Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship program, currently teaches Canosa. Canosa started his second year in the program this fall.

“He’s done phenomenal,” Cherner said. “The first year, he had to take up a variety of courses in business and technology, and then I know that he started to develop his platform Songcraft while he was teaching during COVID, and then he carried on with it afterward.”

Canosa said teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic was emotionally draining and frustrating for him — he said students had to sit separately and were not allowed to play most of their instruments. He said he went home over winter break in 2021 and was committed to spending as much time as possible

to come up with a solution before returning to school.

“So, I built the first iteration of Songcraft, and my kids were able to play it for that third quarter of the year,” he said. “I kind of took the data from their playing and reiterated on it over the following spring break and produced what is pretty much the current version of it.”

Canosa is currently trying to update the current version of Songcraft into a more stable platform. In May 2023, Canosa was awarded a \$10,000 MICRO grant from the NC IDEA foundation. He was then awarded \$20,000 from the National Science Foundation, and is still in the grant process to earn up to \$50,000. He said he is currently using the money to build out the program prototype.

Canosa originally thought he would have to send fifth graders off to middle school without the proper preparation to continue their music studies. But, he said most of his students not only overcame their learning loss, but by the end of year, they were playing songs and demonstrating an understanding of music theory above their grade level.

X: [@dthcitystate](#)

N.C. SUPREME COURT



DTH FILE/SARAH CLOUSER
N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls delivered a speech at the N.C. Democratic Party headquarters in Raleigh in 2018.

Associate justice sues standards commission

By Ethan E. Horton
City & State Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

Anita Earls, an associate justice on the N.C. Supreme Court, sued the N.C. Judicial Standards Commission in federal court on Aug. 29 because it opened an investigation into her comments on diversity in the state court system.

The commission opened its investigation on Aug. 15 after she criticized the lack of diversity in parties who argue before the court and in judicial clerks in an interview with Law360. More than 72 percent of advocates before the court in 2021 and 2022 were men, and more than 91 percent were white — both more than 20 percent higher than the state population. According to the notes in her lawsuit, she was careful to point out that the lack of diversity was not the result of malicious intent.

“Our court system, like any other court system, is made up of human beings,” Earls said in the article. “And I believe the research that shows that we all have implicit biases.”

Earls, the only Black woman and soon to be the only sitting Democrat on the court, also criticized the

elimination of racial equity and implicit bias training in state courts and the interruption of women during court proceedings, including herself.

Her comments, the commission said, potentially violated the portion of the state judicial code of conduct that requires justices to act in a way that promotes public confidence in the impartiality of the court.

“It is Justice Earls’ position that public confidence in the judiciary is compromised when the court system does not reflect the population it serves and is not promoted, as one court striking down a sanction levied against a judge who criticized the court system put it, ‘by casting a cloak of secrecy around the operations of the courts,’” the lawsuit said.

Earls’ suit is based largely on First Amendment grounds. She argued in the suit that her interview criticizing the court is protected political speech, and that investigations into her comments have caused a chilling effect — she has since turned down opportunities to write and speak publicly on court diversity for fear of being disciplined by the commission.

X: [@ethanehorton1](#)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Orange County Rape Crisis Center faces budget cuts

The organization’s federal funding has decreased in past years

By Sophia Fanning
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

As it prepares to enter its 50th year of service, the Orange County Rape Crisis Center is facing debilitating budget cuts.

In an August press release, the OCRCC said the center has to reduce the scope of some of its services and cut staff by 50 percent to stay afloat. With an increase in demand of over 80 percent since 2020, the community will feel the strain of this funding loss, the press release said.

The OCRCC, along with many other centers in North Carolina, is partly funded through the Victims of Crime Act — which was passed in 1984 and established the Crime Victims Fund. The money in this fund is provided by fines and penalties paid in federal court.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the money available in the VOCA funds has declined by 74 percent since 2018.

Sandy Dixon is the lead planner of Crime Victim Services, the committee

within the N.C. Department of Public Safety that handles the administration of VOCA funds. Dixon said that because of steadily declining funds, the Crime Victim Services committee must cap the amount each center or program can receive.

In 2018, North Carolina was awarded over \$100 million for victim assistance programs, more than twice the \$42 million awarded this year.

When making decisions on recipient awards, the committee sets aside 10 percent of the VOCA funds for rape crisis centers and projects focused on child abuse and domestic violence.

“The commission has felt for many, many years now that those are fundamental services,” Dixon said.

Kathleen Lockwood, policy director at the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said she hoped there would have been federal or state intervention to prevent the situation the OCRCC is experiencing, especially because they have seen a decline in funding for many years.

“It’s incredibly disappointing that it’s gotten to the point where programs are considering cutting their staffing or closing altogether,” she said.

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed the VOCA Fix Act, which was intended to create more stability in the CVF so it can continue to fund

centers like OCRCC. Previously, the CVF was financed only by prosecuted cases, but the new law expanded to include penalties from settlement or other non-prosecution agreements.

According to the Department of Justice, almost \$1 billion has been deposited into the Crime Victims Fund since the enactment of the new law.

Lockwood said while the act was a very important step, the problem is that many lawmakers felt it was a total solution to the problem. The reality, she said, is that it will take years to sustain the Crime Victims Fund and stabilize funding for crisis centers.

The fix didn’t come soon enough for OCRCC, which — according to Associate Director Laing — has lost around 33 percent of its funding. She said she feels that local and state governments should help fill the gap during this funding crisis.

Currently, the OCRCC competes against things like art and green space for local grants, but Laing believes support for sexual violence survivors should be a stand-alone item on local and state budgets.

“Sexual violence is not going away anytime soon, so it should be mandatory to have funding for survivors,” she said.

Since the announcement of the OCRCC funding cuts, Laing said the center has received overwhelming



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEWIS
The Orange County Rape Crisis Center is a Chapel Hill-based nonprofit located on East Franklin Street. The organization is facing budget cuts.

support in the form of donations from community members and those impacted by the center.

Unfortunately, Laing said, donations from businesses or individuals won’t be able to close the large gap created by the loss of VOCA funds, so the center will still have to adapt to its new budget.

In addition to cutting 50 percent of its staff, the OCRCC will now

provide therapy services to only 40 percent of its previous caseload and discontinue its trauma care therapist network. The center will also only provide case management services in the most pressing matters and reduce the scope of its prevention programming in local K-12 schools.

X: [@fanning_sophia](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Chapel Hill, state sees increase in COVID-19 cases

During week of Aug. 19, 485 patients were admitted to hospitals

By Henry Thomas
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Four months after the World Health Organization declared an end to the global public health emergency for COVID-19, North Carolina has seen a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases.

During the week of Aug. 19-26, 485 patients were admitted to North Carolina hospitals for COVID-19. The week prior, there were 435 admissions.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services uses a respiratory virus dashboard to track information about North Carolinians that exhibit cold-like symptoms associated with COVID-19.

The dashboard uses three different metrics to show data about the number of respiratory illnesses in North Carolina, with data from up to a year ago, and is updated weekly.

The metrics — including the number of COVID-19 viral particles found in samples of wastewater sourced statewide, the number of emergency department visits and hospital admissions related to respiratory illness — have helped the NCDHHS understand COVID-19 from a community level, according to their website.

Dirk Dittmer, a professor of microbiology and immunology at UNC, said wastewater testing gives a good impression of how COVID-19 is circulating in a community, because not everyone who contracts it is symptomatic.

According to the dashboard, COVID-19 can appear in wastewater 4-6 days before the first cases in a community are identified.

Dittmer also said the number of COVID-19 cases is largely reliant on a few seasonal factors, including the six-month period before antibodies of those who previously contracted COVID-19 start to go down.

The NCDHHS dashboard also recorded an increase in the amount of emergency department visits for respiratory viruses, with 6.2 percent

of all visits being due to respiratory illnesses the week ending Aug. 26 — an increase from the previous week's 5.6 percent.

COVID-19 cases increased from making up 3.3 percent of emergency department visits to 3.7 percent.

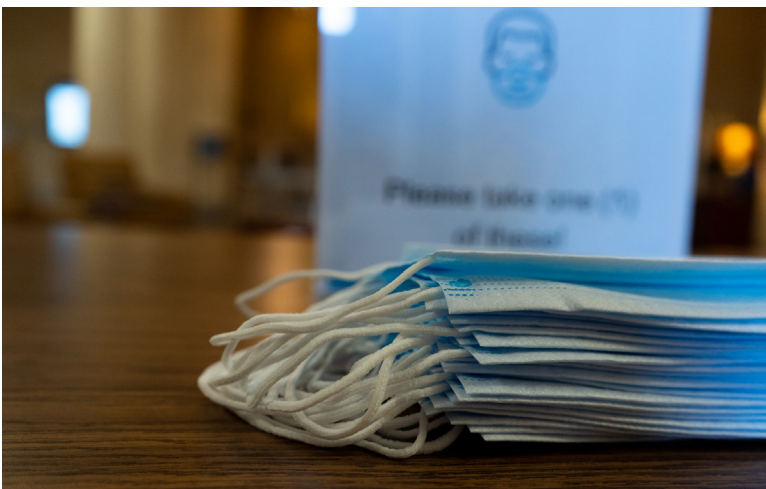
Damon Seils, the mayor of Carrboro, said both Chapel Hill and Carrboro have been observant of COVID-19 precautions, specifically with masking practices.

"I know a lot of local service employees are still wearing masks on their job, which I think makes a lot of sense," Seils said. "We need to keep ourselves safe."

Emily McClure, the owner and a stylist at Urban Fringe Salon — which still requires customers to wear masks — said empathy and consideration for others is crucial, especially in the wake of the pandemic.

The salon had to make changes to their work environment, including limiting their staff to two stylists in the salon at a time.

"It's more important for me to know that my team didn't get sick at work, and that they can still continue to work and earn a living," McClure said.



DTH FILE/CAROLINE BITTENBENDER

Masks lay at the entrance of Wilson Library on Jan. 9, 2022.

Seils said that he thinks Carrboro still feels slowed down compared to before the pandemic began.

"If you're not somebody working, for example, in the local service industry, maybe it's not as front of mind for you what those impacts have been," he said. "I know that local workers certainly feel it because they're working

long hours and working hard hours to stay afloat."

In response to the most recent uptick in cases, new vaccines are expected to be released by Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax in mid-September that target omicron subvariant XBB.1.5.

X: @dthcitystate

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bill passes in veto override, restricts gender-affirming care for minors



DTH FILE/JONATHAN GILYARD

GOP used legislative supermajority to make House Bill 808 law

By Maddie Policastro
Senior Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Content Warning: This article contains mentions of suicide.

House Bill 808 — a law that prohibits access to gender-affirming care for minors — was passed through veto override by the N.C. General Assembly on Aug. 16, after a veto by Gov. Roy Cooper in July.

H.B. 808 will make it unlawful for medical professionals to perform surgical gender transition procedures

on individuals under the age of 18. The bill also bans the prescription or dispensing of puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones for minors.

N.C. Rep. Ken Fontenot (R-Nash, Wilson) was one of the sponsors of this legislation and said his major motivation was to protect children from being preyed upon.

"I personally said one of the hallmarks of my legislative career, however long it's going to last, is going to be making sure we do right by children, and we close all loopholes whereby people can prey upon them or take advantage of them for financial gain and other reasons," Fontenot said.

He said his argument is not to restrict gender-affirming care

through adulthood, but rather to ensure that children develop before they are allowed to make the decision to transition.

Lou Jent, a non-binary parent of a non-binary child, said there is a body of research that shows children develop their gender identity very early on.

Most children develop a stable sense of their gender identity around age 4 and most can label themselves as a boy or a girl around age 3, Jent said.

They also said families have been sent into a mad scramble to find gender therapists and doctors that provide gender-affirming care before these children are locked out of care.

H.B. 808 includes provisions that allow minors who were receiving gender-affirming healthcare as of Aug. 1 of this year to continue their course of treatment.

"If you're locked out of having gender care, or you come out after this deadline, then that is excessively harmful," Jent said. "That means you are locked into presenting, sometimes, in a body that does not align with your gender identity."

According to the 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People conducted by the Trevor Project, 41 percent of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. Half of

these individuals identified as transgender or non-binary.

A study conducted by the Stanford School of Medicine also found that starting gender-affirming hormone treatment in adolescence is linked to better mental health outcomes for transgender and non-binary youth compared to those who wait until adulthood.

Along with H.B. 808, House Bill 574, the Fairness in Women's Sports Act — which was recently passed by the General Assembly in a veto override, will restrict middle and high school students from participating in athletic teams designated for girls if that individual was born a biological male.

As an older member of the LGBTQ+ community who has witnessed similar legislation over the years be appealed, Jent said the harm that has been done before this is massive.

"I get tired, the pendulum — in out, in out — of these rights being stripped away from us and then given back and stripped away and given back," Jent said. "Why are trans bodies the playground for that, and now trans children?"

Cage Bullard, a trans student at UNC, said the legislation was scary to come face-to-face with, as a lifelong North Carolina resident.

They said when legislators close off options for transgender

individuals, it forces those individuals to feel shame and makes them scared for their own safety in the future. Bullard said the legislation is shrouded under the guise of parent communication, which they feel there was never a lack of.

"Although I thoroughly believe that we'll get through this, I believe it will take work," Bullard said. "It'll take effort from us and us continuing to be visible throughout this whole fear."

They said it is important for people to talk with a trans friend or somebody affected by these recent pieces of legislation to understand exactly how they are feeling.

Jent said voting is never enough when it comes to these issues. They said people must take political action such as protesting and calling or emailing legislators.

"People need to understand that this is a war being waged on their bodies because of a political power issue, and when we in the LGBTQ community see the larger community not taking a stand, it sends us a message, and that's largely what we've seen," Jent said. "It sends us a message that these children, and our lives and their lives are expendable."

X: @mkpolicastro

FREY FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE



It Goes So Fast
A Conversation with Peter Grauer,
Chairman of Bloomberg

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.
Mandela Auditorium, FedEx Global Education Center
Learn more: college.unc.edu/frey

LOCAL ECONOMY

Chapel Hill businesses see post-pandemic boom

Owners credit return of UNC students, increase of in-person events

By Grace Whittemore
Staff Writer
city@dailytarheel.com

Orange County’s visitor spending increased by 21.3 percent from 2021 to 2022, according to a recent report released by the N.C. Department of Commerce. This is higher than the state’s average, which increased by 13.4 percent during the same period.

Orange County is among the top 10 counties for increases in visitor spending for the state, ranking alongside neighboring Wake and Durham counties.

Patty Griffin, the communications director for the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, said this increase in spending could be attributed to changes in COVID-19 protocols and lowered risk associated with travel.

“I think, as a whole, people started traveling more in 2022,” Griffin said. “The mask mandate ended in early 2022 and I think people just felt more comfortable traveling.”

Griffin said Orange County has also become a popular spot for those interested in relocating.

“A week doesn’t go by when we don’t have someone in our



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

Customers shopped at Chapel Hill Sportswear on Tuesday.

welcome center saying, ‘I’m moving from New York or moving from Boston,’” Griffin said. “More and more people are coming here and moving here, so they’ll spend time here as a visitor looking for the right place to live.”

In 2022, visitor spending contributed \$236 million to the

Orange County economy, according to the bureau website. In addition to the money visitors are spending in the community, their increased presence is helping to create stable jobs in Orange County, especially in the hospitality, food and beverage industries, Griffin said.

Holly Dedmond, general

manager at Chapel Hill Sportswear on Franklin Street, said that during the COVID-19 pandemic when UNC classes were virtual, business suffered. She said since UNC has returned to in-person learning in recent years, business has almost returned to pre-COVID levels.

“With the popularity of Carolina

football on the rise, people are coming into town for that and then they come to Franklin Street to shop,” Dedmond said.

She said as business increases, the capacity for businesses to hire more employees also increases. For places like Chapel Hill Sportswear, that means student employees have the opportunity to work more hours.

Casey Longyear, co-owner of Rumors Boutique, said the increase in visiting sales for her store in Chapel Hill is partially because of UNC, but also because of the local arts scene that Chapel Hill and Carrboro host.

“I think a lot of people come for UNC, but I think a lot of people come for music as well,” Longyear said. “A lot of people who come in our store, at least, are going to Cat’s Cradle.”

Longyear also said Rumors was able to implement and sustain new raises for their employees after their sales number increased in 2022.

Looking forward, Griffin said the visitor’s bureau will continue to market the Chapel Hill and greater community as a tourist destination with much to offer, especially as Orange County continues to grow in 2023.

“It’s an exciting time for travel and for our destination,” Griffin said.

X: @dthcitystate

NORTH CAROLINA

Political leaders respond to shooting on campus

Dangerous situation at UNC sparks discourse among officials

By Lucy Marques
Assistant City & State Editor
city@dailytarheel.com

N.C. Rep. Renée Price’s (D-Orange, Caswell) reaction to the Aug. 28 shooting on UNC’s campus was one of horror and numbness.

“Another shooting, another killing, again,” she said.

She said that while she understands Second Amendment rights, she also realizes that it was written over 200 years ago and that we are living in a different society now.

The U.S. has seen shootings in college campuses, elementary schools, churches, synagogues and shopping malls, Robert Orr, an attorney and retired justice from the N.C. Supreme Court, said.

“There literally is no place where a citizen can really feel safe,” he said.

Upon hearing the news of the shooting, Orr said he was concerned about the students on campus and his grandchildren who attend school in Chapel Hill.

Orr said that he is continually disheartened by the influence of the National Rifle Association and the gun lobby on elected officials.

N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said young people have been the driving force behind efforts to address gun laws and other safety laws.

“We do need to have more safety around guns but we also need to have a more healthy, more supportive, more inclusive society with better relationships, less family tensions, less workplace tensions,” he said.

In March, the N.C. General Assembly overrode Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto and repealed a state requirement that North Carolina residents obtain a permit before purchasing a handgun.

“That eliminates the pistol permit process and makes it much easier



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) spoke at a rally against gun violence on Wednesday, Aug. 30.

for people to get pistols that are the most likely type to be used in one-on-one interpersonal violence, like what happened yesterday,” Meyer said.

T.J. White, president of UNC Young Democrats, said the next steps to prevent further tragedies include advocating at the state and local levels. He added that pushing for change at the federal level creates a baseline for gun safety.

He said he believes events like those that occurred on Aug. 28 are preventable and not anomalies.

“It’s been a roller coaster of emotions,” he said. “I think underlying all that, it’s been a state of shock.”

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) – who has fought federal attempts to strengthen gun control – said on X that the scenes from UNC were heartbreaking and that no student, teacher or parent should have to live through it.

N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland, Rutherford), who voted for the pistol permit repeal, said on X that his prayers are with the students and staff at UNC. He also said he is thankful for the officers and first responders on campus who acted quickly to secure the scene and apprehend the shooter.

X: @Lucymarques_

Farm Act could lead to 2.5 million acres of North Carolina wetlands losing protection

Continued from Page 1

“The provision in this bill that severely weakens protection for wetlands means more severe flooding for homes, roads and businesses and dirtier water for our people, particularly in eastern North Carolina,” Gov. Cooper said in his veto of S.B. 582.

Kelly Moser, a senior attorney and leader of the Water Program for the Southern Environmental Law Center, said that after the passage of S.B. 582, only the state’s existing ban on paving over wetlands without a permit is protecting North Carolina’s communities from future flooding.

“It is completely ill-advised that the N.C. General Assembly removed those protections and that they did not allow Gov. Cooper’s veto to hold,” she said.

The largest swamp in North Carolina, the Great Dismal Swamp, is located in Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank and Gates counties, all rural counties in northeastern parts of the state.

“For those of us here in Chapel Hill, we see how inconvenient and scary flooding can be even in our community,” Moser said. “It will be multiplied for rural communities, communities of color and lower wealth communities.”

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality estimates that nearly half of the wetlands in North Carolina – 2.5 million acres – could lose protection due to the Sackett decision and Section 15 of S.B. 582.

“By saying that North Carolina cannot have more strict wetland rules than the federal government, we now have some of the weakest wetlands protections in the nation,” Emily Sutton, a riverkeeper for the Haw River Assembly – a nonprofit group based out of Pittsboro dedicated to protecting the Haw River – said.

A large part of the assembly’s work is centered around protecting both community members from PFAS,



DTH FILE/MAYA CARTER

Some North Carolina wetlands are newly unprotected under the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Sackett v. EPA. A new North Carolina law eliminates extra state protection for wetlands not connected to other bodies of water.

“It’s going to affect every watershed in the state, every watershed in the country.”

Emily Sutton
Riverkeeper for the Haw River Assembly

per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds, in the Haw that have been discharged from industrial facilities in cities like Burlington and Greensboro.

Sutton said that though some parts of the Haw retain Clean Water Act protections, there are multiple parts of the river that lose them due to the new Farm Act, specifically the low-lying wetlands and upland swamps with critical habitats.

“It’s going to affect every watershed in the state, every watershed in the country,” Sutton said.

Moser said nearly half of the wetlands in the U.S. are now potentially at risk under Sackett.

N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said if these unprotected wetlands are developed – a possibility now

that S.B. 582 has been passed – the state could experience more extensive flooding.

While Meyer represents Chapel Hill and Carrboro in the N.C. Senate, his district also encompasses the rural buffer of Orange County and Caswell and Person counties – areas with a high number of farming communities.

“It’s not good for farmers, or good for any of the rest of us, to have laws that will likely lead to increases in flooding,” he said.

He also said that farmers – who the annual Farm Act is intended for – are indifferent toward the wetlands protections language in Sackett and S.B. 582 because agricultural property is already exempted from wetlands protections in North Carolina.

“Farmers themselves don’t need that provision for any reason,” Meyer said. “It’s really about the development of wetlands into other uses.”

X: @wslivingston_

OUTDOOR SPACES

Native gardening supports local ecosystems

Indigenous people, communities care for, nurture native plants

By Kathryn Bragg
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

For Indigenous communities across North Carolina and the United States, native gardening expands from a simple act of planting local species to an essential practice. Through this lens, communities find a sense of self rooted in connection to the natural landscape, according to Marissa Carmi, the associate director of UNC's American Indian Center and a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Indigenous people believe that local environments are communities to be cared for, according to Carmi. "I would say this is maybe a pan-Native philosophy: that the world around us and everything that is part of the world around us — these are our relatives," Carmi said. "And so having a garden, and taking care of and nurturing a garden, is just taking care of what we see as relatives and what we understand as relatives as part of this kinship network that we exist within." The AIC is in the process of creating the American Indian Cultural Garden, an outdoor space intended to support and affirm Native people on UNC's campus and in the broader community. The AIC consulted UNC's Native community and representatives



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

from tribal nations across the state throughout the development process. The AICG will surround the Carolina Community Garden, which is located across the street from the center, and is projected to be built by the end of 2024. The North Carolina Botanical Garden partnered with the AIC and provided expertise in garden design and installation. "This partnership allows us to really develop stronger relationships with the people who have had the longest ancestral relationship with

the plants and the space and the land," Joanna Lelekacs, the director of learning and engagement at the N.C. Botanical Garden, said. The AICG will feature native plants, including a medicinal garden with sage, sweetgrass, cedar and tobacco, recognized by Indigenous communities as the four sacred medicines. It will also include a "Piedmont Prairie" with native grasses and wildflowers. Species of native trees — such as pecans, persimmons and yaupon holly — will be planted throughout the garden.

The garden will feature art by Native creators, as well as a prayer tree, a ceremonial space and a gathering place surrounded by eight cedar trees to represent the eight tribal nations of North Carolina — the Coharie, Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Sappony, Occaneechi and Waccamaw Siouan tribes. Seating and quiet reflection areas will create a healing environment for Indigenous students and community members, according to the AIC.

The AICG, which will likely be renamed in a native language but remain subtitled "The American Indian Cultural Garden," will act as a community teaching tool, a gathering space and a physical affirmation of Native history and ongoing presence on campus, Carmi said. Native identity is tied to place, Ryan Emanuel, a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and an associate professor at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, said. Emanuel leads a team of researchers in hydrology and works with Native communities in environmental science. He also works to advance tribal consultation when dealing with environmental issues. According to Emanuel, climate change, pollution and unsustainable development are the three existential threats to North Carolina's ecosystem. Emanuel said that if native landscapes are radically altered or destroyed, it fundamentally alters Indigenous peoples' ability to exist as a collective because their identities are tied to those places. "We've tried the Western colonial way of managing the environment for a few hundred years now, here, in what's now the U.S., and the outcomes have been pretty bad," he said. "I would argue that the knowledge systems that Indigenous peoples have and their worldviews concerning our place in the environment deserve a louder voice in whatever we move towards in terms of a new sustainable environment."

X: @dthlifestyle

CAMPUS PUBLICATION

Student fashion magazine explores storytelling



DTH/KENNEDY COX
Coulture Magazine Editor-in-Chief Joey Marmaud posed for a portrait by his desk on Aug. 25, 2023.

Coulture's most recent edition presents irony as an art form

By Morgan Brenner
Staff Writer
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Coulture Magazine, a student-led fashion and lifestyle magazine at UNC, has published bright and chic editions every year since 2015. Coulture has done photoshoots of everything in popular culture, from the man bun in 2015 to the pink lights and dazzling diamonds of its spring 2022 edition. But Coulture's most recent edition, "Issue 15: Issue Provocateur," explored something different: irony as a mode of fashion storytelling, Joey Marmaud, this year's editor-in-chief, said. "Issue Provocateur" was inspired by the work of former Vogue Italia editor-in-chief Franca Sozzani — who used fashion and editorials to make

political statements, often in visually compelling and ironic ways. "We love beautiful photos, we love beautiful images," he said. But we still, we don't want fashion to be perceived as something so passive and static, which I think it's often derided as passive and frivolous and unnecessary." This provocation is evident in one such shoot, entitled "be so for real," which features models glamorously styled and carefully positioned as they take photos of one another for their BeReal: a popular social media app where users are meant to take real-time photos of themselves and their surroundings when the alert goes off. One model is even holding the December 2009 Vogue Italia edition: a reference to an editorial that uses irony in a similar way, Marmaud said. The 2009 Vogue Italia issue was inspired by the then-popular social media site, MySpace. The edition features models posing playfully as though for their personal blogs, capturing candid moments of everything from bowling to smoking. In one, Australian model Abbey Lee sits — her hair carefully tossed and mouth agape — on a toilet. This ironic use of social media is something "Issue Provocateur" encapsulates through the BeReal shoot, he said. Eventually, he added, BeReal became curated in the exact way that it claimed not to be. Marmaud said fashion's imagery is so effective because the irony is so easily understood by the reader. "There's sort of a universal language in fashion, whether you're seeing it front row in New York, or in your house in a magazine, on a farm in Iowa," he said. "It's sort of this universal language

that can appeal to all of us." Monique Gandy, Coulture's style editor for the 2022-23 academic year, said issue 15 was a stylistic change from previous editions. From changing the magazine's logo to featuring clothing from local boutiques such as Rumors and Uniquities, Gandy said issue 15 was designed to be out of the box. Over the past few years, Marmaud said Coulture has become increasingly elevated stylistically, but he hopes this year the process of creating the magazine will be more organized. In preparation for the upcoming school year, Coulture has opened applications for new members until Sept. 8. Marmaud hopes to offer consultant positions to those more interested in the business side of the fashion industry who will help organize scheduling and facilitate communication, as well as more production positions. Cameron Shaw, Coulture's health editor during the 2022-23 academic year, and she said she joined to gain experience in fashion writing. Fashion is beautiful, Shaw said, and that being able to read about fashion is enough to experience the joy of it. "It's easy to look at clothes and imagine what your life will be like in those clothes," she said. "When you buy new clothes, you're not just buying a shirt, you're buying the idea of how your day's gonna go when you wear that shirt." Gandy said fashion is important for activism, social discourse and showing what is happening in the world in a given moment. "It's like a newspaper, it's like a piece of journalism, a timestamp," she said.

X: @dthlifestyle

MENTAL HEALTH



DTH/LARA CROCHIK
Parents of UNC students served free pizza in the Pit on Aug. 29, 2023.

Parents provide care

Community members came together to assist students after shooting

By Emi Maerz
Assistant Lifestyle Editor
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

When UNC mom Christine Senn received texts from her son about an armed and dangerous person on UNC's campus on Aug. 28, she felt "helpless." She lives an hour away, but she knew she wanted to do something to help. The next day, she was handing out pizza in front of the Undergraduate Library with her son. A number of other parents, alumni and on-campus organizations are supporting students following Monday's events. A short distance from Senn, in front of Lenoir Dining Hall, Chapel Hill community member and father of four Sandy Alexander and his wife

offered students comfort with snacks and their dog, Fuller. Alexander, whose daughter attends UNC, wanted to do what he could for the mental health of students. After Aug. 29, HAPPEE Hugs and Pups — an organization begun by moms that can often be found on campus offering hugs and dog pets to students — received about 40 new applications for student and parent volunteers, according to Cathy Emrick, one of the group's co-founders. Emrick was on campus yesterday when the shelter-in-place order went into effect. Her daughter, a senior, was sheltering in the basement of South Building. "It was frustrating to know that my girl was right on the other side of those bricks and I couldn't reach in there and snatch her by the collar and drag her off-campus with me like

SEE CAMPUS PAGE 10

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Dorm residents reconnect in shooting aftermath

Students prioritize rest and recovery in living spaces

By Eliza Benbow
Lifestyle Editor
lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Catherine Oxendine, a resident adviser in Old East Residence Hall, was looking out the window of her room when she first got an Alert Carolina message that there was an armed and dangerous person on campus.

She sent messages to both her friends and residents, asking them to let her know that they were safe. Only a couple weeks after move-in, Oxendine had to quickly learn how to balance getting to know her residents and providing them with support.

“I’ve tried to take as much of a leadership role as I could,” she said. “It was very disheartening being stuck in the dorm, because I didn’t know how my residents were necessarily doing because they weren’t here.”

After receiving the all-clear message from the University everyone — particularly students —

had to answer the question: Where do we go now?

Some students went off campus. Others went back to their residence halls to find solace with friends or by themselves. A few went to the quiet dining halls for a meal.

Evie Jacobs, a sophomore pre-nursing major, said she sat quietly with her friends, including Oxendine, after the shelter in place was lifted.

Jacobs said it was strange for their usually lively group to be so quiet and reflective.

“Being able to connect with everyone afterwards was so surreal, it just kind of felt like —” she paused and sighed. “I don’t know, exactly like a sigh of relief, I guess. I don’t know how to describe it other than a sigh of relief that everyone was okay.”

Sarah Fenwick, a first-year at UNC, said she left the room in Murphey Hall that she and other students had barricaded with a fridge to meet her friends at her dorm.

She spent the night alone in her room, with her roommate choosing to go home for the night.

“Being able to just chill out by myself just felt like the way to go,” Fenwick said.

That night, Jacobs also stayed in her dorm because she was stressed about completing schoolwork for her STEM classes, she said.

“I stayed because I was stressed about like, ‘Oh my gosh, are we gonna have class tomorrow?’” she said. “Do I need to get stuff done tonight? Like how am I gonna even balance my mental health and getting assignments submitted?”

She tried to take a day off from working to be in peace because her brain couldn’t function or focus after Monday, she said.

Oxendine, who was familiar with campus before her time as a student, said her sense of security on campus has been altered since Aug. 28.

“UNC’s campus has always felt like a safe space for me, and to kind of have that taken away is very shocking, and not knowing how to react,” she said.

Oxendine said she has never had active shooter situational training as an RA, but she thinks Carolina Housing likely did not think it was needed because campus has always felt like a safe space.

She said if the University offered this training in the future, it would make her feel more secure and



DTH/CLAIRE BRENNAN

UNC sophomore Catherine Oxendine posed for a portrait in her dorm room on Aug. 29, 2023.

would likely benefit other students as well.

Oxendine also encouraged students to reach out to their RAs for support and information about resources on campus.

“The residents that I do know, and that I’m beginning to know very well, we have all really kind of been

there for each other,” Oxendine said. “And I’m positive that in the coming weeks and throughout the rest of the semester, the bond we have, because we all share a common living space, will continue to grow.”

X: @eliza.benbow

Campus community comes together to support students after lockdown

Continued from Page 9

I wanted to,” she said.

On Aug. 29, Emrick and the Hugs and Pups team sent eight dogs and 22 volunteers to campus. They also offered candy, bubbles and chalk to students.

“We just had so many people that were like ‘I know that this is a traumatic event. I want to be there,’” she said.

Emrick said many students told her the only reason they got up and dressed was because they saw the dogs would be out on HAPPEE’s Instagram.

The North Carolina Study Center — a Christian hospitality house on campus — was open all day on Tuesday, with donations of food and money from parents and alumni pouring in. It was one of multiple

organizations on campus offering similar support to students.

Students, parents and alumni socialized, played games and completed homework inside and on the building’s deck and lawn.

The center’s executive director, Madison Perry, said he knew people were going to need a place where they could have some good

food, see a dog and feel at home.

“Our experience, even yesterday right after the lockdown was over, was students wanted to come here just to touch base because it feels kind of like home,” he said.

Senn hopes that efforts to comfort students continue past this week. She would like parents to organize monthly events and plans to offer bracelet-

making sessions for students soon.

“It’s good to have an immediate response, but there needs to be consistent support, always,” Senn said. “I think sometimes something bad like this brings out good things, but I think those good things need to happen more.”

X: @emimaerz



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COLUMN

Millionaires are trying to buy Chapel Hill’s mayoral election

By Samad Rangoonwala
Columnist

There’s \$120,000 worth of millionaire Political Action Committee money coming into Chapel Hill politics, Triangle Blog Blog first reported. And if you ask me, they absolutely do not want you voting in the election.

Some local millionaires are gearing up to spend four times what outgoing mayor Pam Hemminger spent in her last election. This election is fundamentally about housing and whether Chapel Hill is an affordable, vibrant and diverse college town — or a wealthy exclave for retired millionaires.

Chapel Hill, like the rest of the Triangle, is in the midst of a housing shortage and rent crisis. According to data obtained from Apartment List, the average monthly price of a one-bedroom rental in Chapel Hill increased by 40 percent over the past five years, from \$850 in January 2017 to \$1,200 in January 2023.

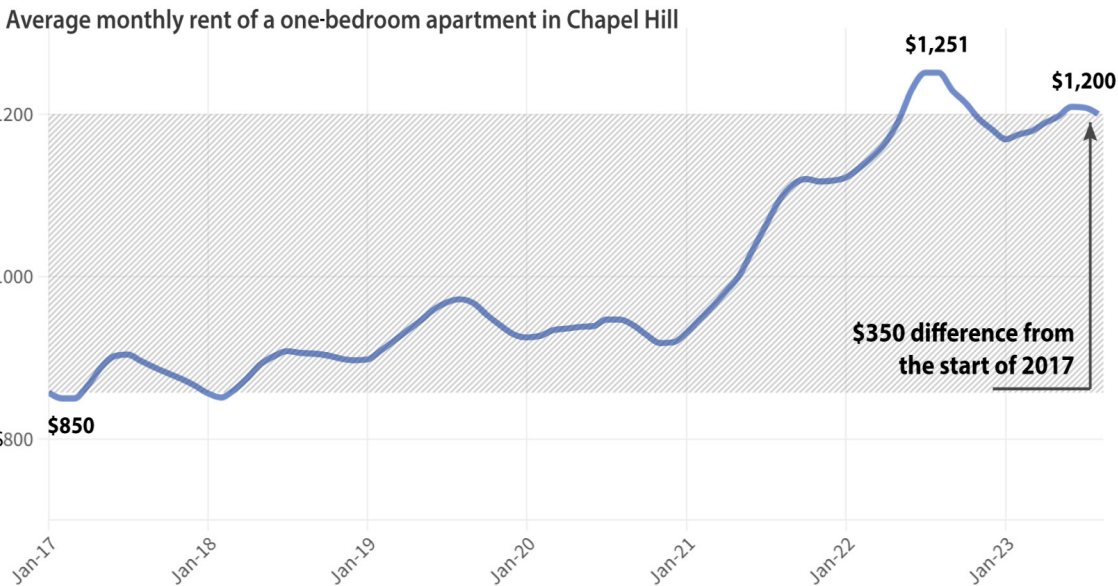
Housing impacts everything, and according to 2021’s Projected Housing Needs study, Chapel Hill needs to build 485 new units a year to keep up with the current growth rate.

From 2010 to 2019, the Town built an average 357 per year. As a start, Town staff presented a proposal to change the Town’s zoning code to allow building up to quadplexes on single-family lots. This was ultimately changed to just allowing duplexes.

Town staff received negative feedback on this, from what was frankly a sham engagement survey. Any community engagement survey that ignores the nearly 20,000 undergraduate students that make

Average rent for an apartment in Chapel Hill is rising

The average monthly price of a one-bedroom rental in Chapel Hill has increased more than 40 percent since 2017.



Source: Apartment List

DATA VISUALIZATION/ NING SOONG

up the lifeblood of the Town, is not one that should be taken seriously.

Mayoral candidate and Town Council member Adam Searing was one of three who voted against the Housing Choices amendment which passed in June. A week prior, Searing announced he was running for Mayor.

Searing claimed his opposition to the housing choice amendment was out of a concern for the amendment’s ability to generate affordable housing, and he said that the people impacted wouldn’t be those living in “fancy neighborhoods” or the “historic district.”

According to an email from an organizer of the PAC which was acquired by Triangle Blog Blog, Searing was pushed to run for mayor by the same group of millionaires pledging to spend \$120,000 to run a “get out the vote” operation, targeting single-family homeowners for the express purpose of getting Searing and his allies elected this fall.

To see it for yourself, take a look at the “say no to rezoning” and other signs supporting Searing and his allies.

According to the petition on the Town website, there’s opposition in

Chapel Hill’s richest neighborhoods that Searing told me he wasn’t concerned about.

Mayor Hemminger, council members Michael Parker and Tai Huynh are not running for reelection, and with Jess Anderson running for mayor against Searing, this election is going to bring turnover on the council.

The candidates have essentially fractured along this housing issue. Anderson, and Town council candidates, Theodore Nollert, Melissa McCullough, Erik Valera and Jon Mitchell are running campaigns with platforms that seek

to continue the work started with the housing choices amendment.

This isn’t going to be the kind of highly partisan election you’re used to, the pro and anti-housing sides are using similar rhetoric – they all talk about affordable housing.

Searing says he is not anti-development. He voted for multiple new housing developments, and according to his website, he voted for over \$9 million of public investment in hundreds of units worth of affordable housing. His commitment to parks and greenspace is admirable, though I think prioritizing parks over homes is poor policy.

He also said on his website that his campaign does not coordinate with PACs. But this does not mean anything, because like every candidate, Searing is legally barred from coordinating with PACs.

Regardless, this PAC was started by the same people who encouraged him to run, for the purpose of getting Adam and his allies elected and then overturning the Housing Choices amendment.

Searing and his campaign are ‘not coordinating’ with these millionaire NIMBYs. But if elected he would be in their pocket.

X: @samadran

EDITOR’S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which comprises seven board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.

The Daily Tar Heel

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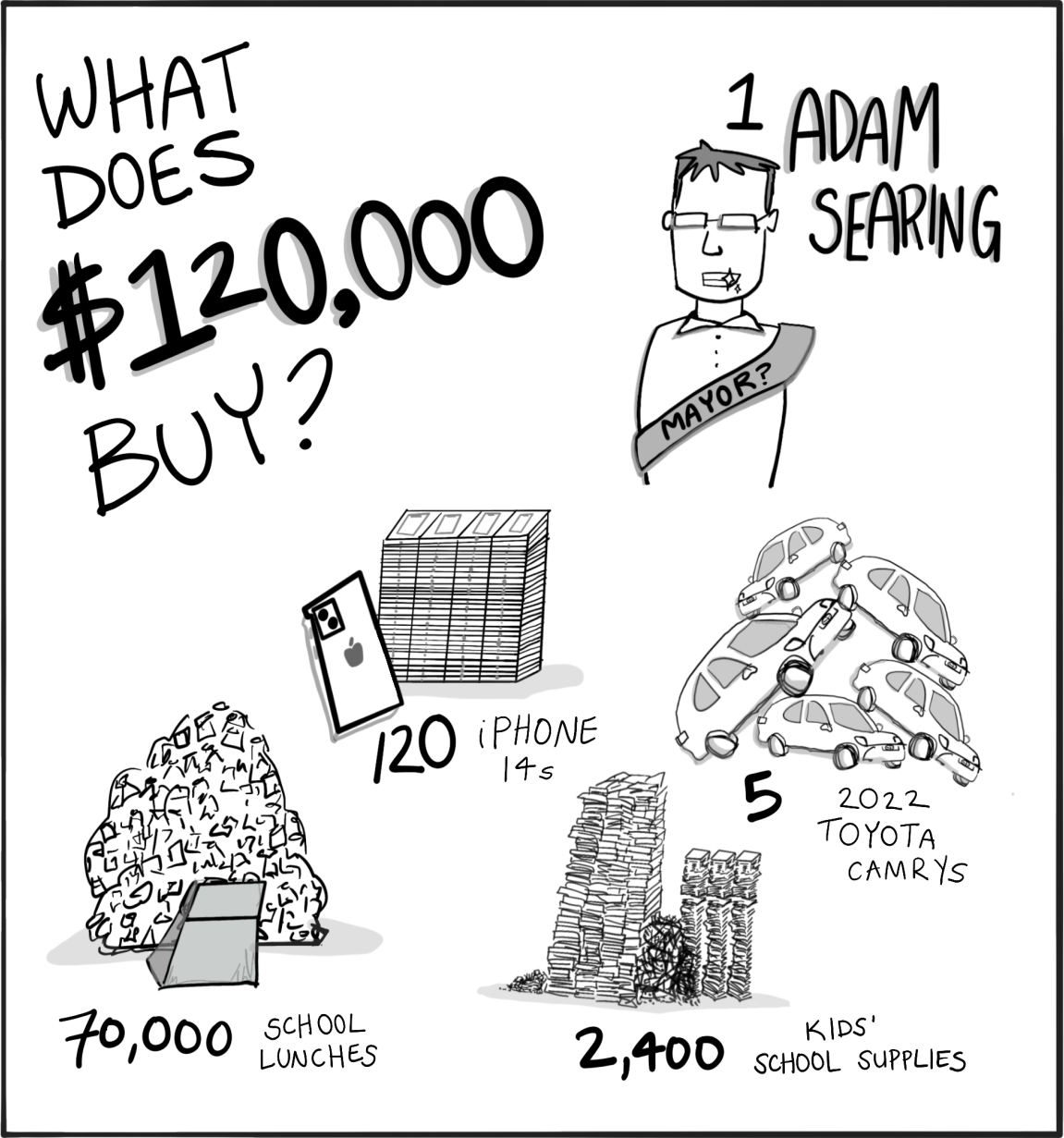
GRACE GAO

What is the editorial board?

A group of student journalists who meet twice a week to discuss the latest news, seeking to comment on issues from an intersectional perspective. The Editorial Board is independent from The Daily Tar Heel’s newsroom.

Editorials are unsigned. They don’t reflect the opinion of any one person, but rather the consensus of the board as a whole, influenced by the values it has held for the past 130 years.

Just as The Daily Tar Heel itself values truth and transparency, the board values integrity, accountability, creativity and fairness.



DTH CARTOON/EMMA JOHNSON

QuickHits

UNC win against USC

UNC’s first football game of the season against South Carolina resulted in a Tar Heel victory. UNC beat the Gamecocks 31-17. There’s only one question left to ask: Who’s the real Carolina now?

OneCard x Apple Wallet

This year, students can choose to put their OneCards in their Apple Wallets, which is pretty convenient. If you do choose to do this, however, your physical OneCard will no longer work. This is less convenient if you lose your phone.

Still waiting for fall

Temperatures are still in the 90s in Chapel Hill. But it’s August.

Bad news for everyone anxiously awaiting autumn. We are yet to be in Cinnamon Girl Fall swing. When will we be able to fully enjoy our pumpkin spice lattes? Put on a cozy sweater? Who are we kidding – we will enjoy our fall favorites anyway!

EDITORIAL



DTH FILE/CAROLINE BITTENBENDER
Senior psychology major Juliet Alegria worked on her senior thesis in Davis Library on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022.

We must stay vigilant in combatting COVID-19

As of Aug. 21, COVID-19 is no longer considered an automatic University Approved Absence by UNC. Instead, the UAA Office website indicates that “COVID-19 will be treated similarly to other respiratory or gastrointestinal illnesses.”

This move is not necessarily surprising, as the University’s shelved its COVID-19 dashboard and the illness is no longer being considered a “public health emergency” by our state and federal governments.

This change, however, stands to remove the sense of caution around COVID-19 on campus, as well as signaling a lack of support for student wellbeing.

Added burden on students

The removal of COVID-19 as a UAA shifts the responsibility totally on students to navigate absences and missing instruction, even when they test positive for the virus.

Per the UAA Office, those with the illness should “work directly with their instructors” for COVID-19-related absences. As students, though, we know that some instructors are more inclined to work with us when it comes to balancing school and health difficulties. Others are less likely to deviate from the University’s Class Attendance Policy, which states that “No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent

from any class meetings” with the exception of UAAs.

So, while the new policy says that students will not have to “disclose [our] personal health information,” those of us who get sick may still feel compelled to share in order to ask for lenience from more strict professors.

As a result, this change will put the onus on students to keep up, with no guarantee that instructors will be flexible with extensions and provide support to stay on track. The UAA Office encourages students to follow up with department chairs if no “reasonable alternative” is offered for missing class, but it is unclear what “reasonable” may mean. This lack of clarity can potentially lead to students having to spend more time and effort to just figure out whether or not they can be supported academically.

All of these steps pile on the challenges students face while dealing with a sickness. Furthermore, if students with COVID-19 are expected to take steps like self-isolation to take care of themselves and our greater community’s safety, it cannot be simultaneously reasonable to also expect them to come to class. It is impossible to expect students to balance their own illness and school work, while also asking them to ensure they protect others from being infected.

We cannot forgo community safety

With this UAA policy change and the technical designation of COVID-19 as a non-emergency, it will be easy for our campus to put safety practices on the back burner. Letting disease prevention slip to the back of our minds will come at the expense of those who are already at high risk for the disease, which can potentially result in severe illness.

The message that the University should be sending is not one that is focused on defaulting COVID-19 to an unexcused absence. Rather, it should be one that emphasizes mindfulness about the disease, as well as preventative efforts like testing, masking, keeping up with vaccinations and distancing, which are recommended by health agencies. So, simply because the University no longer treats COVID-19 with the same severity as it would in a state of “emergency” doesn’t negate the campus’ responsibility to treat the disease with care.

Removing urgency from COVID-19 may stand to hurt those already at risk and burdened by the illness. Without the safety net of a UAA, the University should proactively emphasize safe practices and support for students affected by COVID-19 to protect wellness for all.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

The (im)possibility of resuming normal



DTH DESIGN/HAILEY PATTERSON

By Le Ha
Opinion Editor

After a three-hour shooting lockdown, most of us celebrated the last Alert Carolina message on Monday, Aug. 28: “It’s safe to resume normal activities,” it announced.

While that may have been true, the alert stopped short of telling us how to do that. A week after the alert and the questions – how do we process, mourn and get back to normal after an act of violence – remain unanswered.

To make some sense of the senseless, I turned to talk to others on campus. I asked them about how they have resumed normal (if at all) and what has been on their minds this past week.

Oddesciey Rome, senior

Rome had to push through a mass of law enforcement officers and journalists when she left the Student Union for her off-campus apartment.

“It just felt very overwhelming,” she said. “I still hadn’t really digested everything that we had gone through, to go through the swarms of policemen and the news reporters on the side, actively filming us as we walked out the building.”

She said she has attempted to return to a routine.

“The new normal has changed for us. Every class I go back to for the first time, the professors talk about it. Obviously, everyone in class talks about it. Everyone is talking about [how] they don’t know if they’re actually ready to come back or not.”

Brennen Kosmeh, senior

Kosmeh walked straight home. “It just felt like the natural progression of things to try and go somewhere, where it was a safe space. And then, I could just sort of reflect on things because it was stressful,” he said.

Kosmeh is a physics major, a department in which he told me many of the instructors and faculty knew Zijie Yan, the Department of Applied Physical Sciences associate professor and victim of the fatal shooting.

“One of my professors knew him on a personal level. He held class [on Thursday] and he gave a really, really sweet memoir about what kind of person he was and how he worked with him. He expressed that it was scary. He was actually supposed to be in their lab at 2 p.m. on Monday.”

And normalcy? “Things have gotten back to as much normal as they can be given the situation,” Kosmeh concluded.

Sitao Lin, sophomore

Lin took a bus to Southpoint Mall with friends the next day to be off-campus.

“The friends that were with me – they both happened to be international students from China. A lot of our first concerns was the potential of an increase in anti-Asian sentiments and Sinophobia

because the shooter and the victim both happened to be Chinese international student and faculty.”

Lin feels that these reactions speak to the challenges that students and faculty face coming to Carolina.

“I feel that the university, despite their announcements mentioning community, unity and celebrating our diversity and differences, sometimes they don’t really follow up on those promises. It seems to me that a lot of the words are just very performative.”

Muhsin Mahmud, junior exchange student from the UK

Mahmud called his family in London, who watched the news unfold from overseas.

“It was a moment that they were contemplating whether or not I should be going home and whether or not I should close the curtains on my dream, my American dream.”

He recalled sitting down in a collapse on a bench along Franklin Street to process reality.

“It took quite a lot for me to, before coming, put aside that fear of gun violence and for me to really believe that I would be safe in America. The fact that in less than a week, I had already been in such a traumatizing and traumatic experience. It doesn’t change the way I perceive American people or at least American states, but it does change the way that I perceive the state of America and where safety currently sits.”

Caitlin Kearney, PhD candidate and graduate teaching fellow

Kearney drove home after getting out of lockdown and finally leaving the basement of Peabody Hall.

“I was at a stoplight and I saw the notification that someone had been killed... my heart really sank.”

She decided that she would come back to campus on Thursday to do work with peers.

“I do think it was helpful for me personally to reclaim [Peabody Hall], where I’ve been for the last four years,” she said.

She had yet to return to her teaching responsibilities and said many questions are still up in the air.

“How are we going to work with our students and how are we going to support people that had really traumatic experiences? That part still is a little bit of a question mark for me.”

A new normal

To borrow Kearney’s words, “a question mark” may represent how many of us feel and may feel for a long time. But perhaps these shared feelings of uncertainty will help us gain some comfort that we are unsure together, figuring out a new norm.

X: @dthopinion

LETTER

An open letter to people older than me

Like other students, staff and faculty at UNC, I am still grappling with how to process the heartbreaking events of this past week. The images of students jumping out of buildings, researchers in lab coats walking down South Road with their hands in the air and police officers with machine guns patrolling the Bell Tower seem surreal and beyond belief.

I am 32 years old, a graduate student in the Department of History and a teaching fellow for an American history class this semester. Although I am only 10 to 14 years older than most of my students, it is clear from listening to undergraduates that members of Generation Z have grown up with gun violence in a way that is almost impossible for older people to understand.

I was 7 years old when the Columbine shooting sparked international outrage; women and men a decade younger than me have come of age with seemingly

omnipresent reports of people with guns interrupting learning. The feelings of fear, uncertainty and powerlessness that must come with this are not something that any other generation of young Americans have ever had to face. We can’t fully know what that is like and how the events of the past week on our campus compound that trauma.

Several years ago, I was working as a high school teacher when my school had a lockdown drill. I dutifully urged my students to shelter low to the ground, closed and covered the windows and door and crouched down myself. When I had assumed my own position, I immediately realized I had forgotten to lock the door and sprung up to do that. Following the drill, almost all of my ninth grade students noted my mistake.

“If this was real,” they said with profound gravity, “we would have gotten hurt.”

I realized in that moment that no group of Americans has grown up with gun violence the way that Generation Z has. No group can possibly completely understand the solemnness and anxiety that school violence produces for them.

Older people, including myself, need to listen and learn from those who have grown up with these experiences. We have had the luxury of growing up in schools and colleges that were safer and more secure than the ones that we are leaving to the next generation. Humility, to the fact that gun violence has been a factor in our students’ lives in a way that we struggle to understand, is essential for our community to heal.

– Ian Gutgold, PhD Candidate, UNC Department of History

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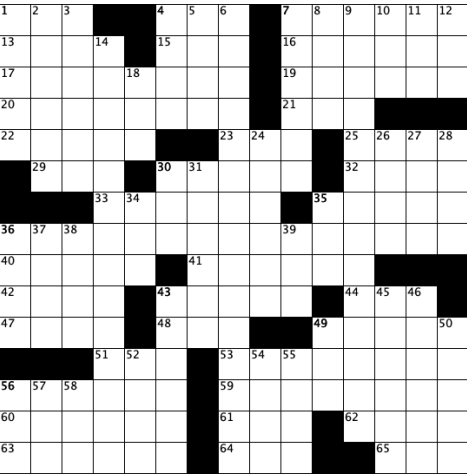
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BABYSITTING/LIGHT CLEANING Looking for a young student who has a car and can do childcare in the evenings and some light cleaning help. (617) 780-4642



This week’s cross-
word was created
by Liam Furlong.
Liam is a UNC ju-
nior majoring in
comparative lit-
erature and edu-
cation. He is from
Wilmington, Dela-
ware.

HOROSCOPES

If September 6th is
Your Birthday...



Today’s Birthday (09/06/23). Benefit through education, travels and research this year. Collaborations deepen with dedication and coordination. Autumn cash flow surges in before changes reorient your winter travels, studies and adventures.

To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Across

- 1 Macs, more generally
4 Sunscreen unit
7 Fully join
13 Dominating victory
15 Roman three
16 At fault, like for an accident
17 “Among Us” target
19 Historical record
20 Loose synonym for depth
21 “The limit” for many dreamers
22 Malta monies
23 “American Dad” network
25 Make a ____ children
29 Pressure meas.
30 Settle a debt
32 Tech event
33 Overarching meanings
35 Alf or ET
36 To begin with
40 Challenges
41 “Stay out of sight!”
42 Like the Student Store, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
43 Violent uprisings
44 Software update type
47 Jordan or Norman
48 Once owned
49 Savory jelly made with meat stock
51 Philosophy major’s favorite question
53 Badly-botched job
56 Iraqi president Hussein
59 Smugly obscure
60 Intrinsic
61 Spearheaded the expedition, say
62 AMC Plus series “Better Call ____”
63 “The One Who ____” (Shel Silverstein poem)
64 Drug that inspired “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds”?
65 Opposite direction for NNW

Down

- 1 June celebration
2 Breach the surface
3 Hunted group in Disney’s “The Incredibles”
4 Optometrist’s office location?
5 Apple, peach, and pecan
6 It rings in the school day
7 Showing high style
8 (“I’m a pig!”)
9 “Best of luck, new Tar Heels!”
10 Kenan-Flagler degree, abbr.
11 Edwin McCain hit “_ _ Be”
12 QB targets, often
14 Morning’s beginning
18 Chatroom ID
24 Droopy-looking hound type
26 Southern African plant
27 Freelance detail, briefly
28 Sharpen, like knives or skills
30 Whistle wearer at the Dean Dome
31 English actress Clarke, Fox, or Jones
34 _ _ _ Not Here (Franklin Street bar)
35 UNC service frat
36 Superstar’s out of work?
37 California wine region
38 “Star ____” (famed intergalactic series)
39 Transport layer security, abbr.
43 Paired ‘scared’ with ‘dared’
45 “Carmen” and “The Marriage of Figaro”
46 The titular “Harry Potter” prisoner of Azkaban
49 Play in part of a play, say
50 Participate in a spin class
52 Natural emotion for Duke basketball
54 Puts into practice
55 “Chrisley Knows Best” member now jailed for tax evasion
56 ‘Bro’s’ alternative
57 Paul Rudd’s hero alias ____-Man
58 Double-helixed molecule



ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Today is a 7 — Determine what you want to say before blurting out something you might regret. Follow the news closely for developments. Find a missing link.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Today is a 9 — Get terms in writing. Provide excellent service. Follow through on what you said. Illusions fade. Realities may not be as described. Action gets results.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)
Today is a 9 — Advance a personal project around unexpected professional matters. Miscommunications could interfere. New opportunities arise from the ashes. Use your power and confidence for good.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Today is a 7 — Balance emotion with reason. You may feel especially sensitive. Allow yourself time to process recent transitions. Knowledge is power. Read a good story.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
Today is an 8 — Adapt with social changes. Keep lines of communication open despite breakdowns. Share resources and information. Action speaks louder than words. Teamwork is your superpower.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Today is a 7 — Focus on an exciting professional challenge. Your passions awaken new possibilities. Let partners know what you appreciate about them. Someone influential is paying attention.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)
Today is an 8 — Listen and learn. Study and investigate. Creativity flowers naturally. Physical action gets results. Explore new terrain to discover unexpected treasures. Walk around outside.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)
Today is an 8 — Plan, coordinate and grow together. Communication is key. Keep contributing to the shared pot to realize a long-term vision.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
Today is a 9 — Your partnership deepens and grows. Doing housework can be romantic. Add candles and flowers. Dance gracefully around possible misunderstandings. Avoid automatic reactions.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Today is a 9 — Your work, fitness and health routines could get disrupted. Keep doing what’s working. Adjust for unexpected circumstances. Stick to practical priorities.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)
Today is an 8 — Take action for love. Miscommunications abound. Patiently clarify. Look for silver linings and hidden opportunities to find them. Stay practical.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)
Today is a 7 — Work out misunderstandings at home. Don’t let little upsets boil over.

SUDOKU

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

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	1						9	
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Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

UNC defense stout against South Carolina

Continued from Page 1

down nine times — the Tar Heels’ second-most sacks in a game since 2000 — and completely eliminated the Gamecocks’ ground game.

‘Show, don’t speak’ had become somewhat of a guiding principle for UNC’s defensive players after a disappointing 2022, in which they allowed 436.5 yards per game. Only 15 out of 131 FBS teams gave up more yardage per game last year.

The North Carolina defense showed on Saturday that it’s ready to change the narrative. But the players won’t belabor the point — they’d prefer to make that statement through their on-field play.

“We’re tired of the talking,” junior linebacker Power Echols told reporters during training camp on Aug. 3. “We wanna show everybody that hasn’t seen what we can do, what we can do. I feel like we just wanna put [the doubts] to bed with our actions and not our words.”

After receiving the ball first, the Gamecocks

promptly punted it away. Defensive back Alijah Huzzie, a transfer from East Tennessee State, broke up a pass intended for South Carolina star receiver Antwane Wells Jr.

“[The three-and-out] definitely set the tone for the game,” senior linebacker Cedric Gray said.

North Carolina forced a punt five times and caused a turnover on downs four times on Saturday.

The Tar Heels were by no means perfect on the defensive side of the ball, though. The secondary struggled to prevent explosive plays, giving up nine completions of more than 15 yards, and South Carolina’s Xavier Legette antagonized redshirt first-year cornerback Tayon Holloway with nine catches for 178 yards.

But even when the UNC defense would bend, it seldom broke. South Carolina marched within 25 yards of the goal three times in the fourth quarter, but in those sequences, the Gamecocks were held to only one field goal and failed to convert on fourth down twice. Sacks from senior nose tackle Tomari Fox, graduate

transfer linebacker Amari Gainer and Rucker ensured that South Carolina only came away with three points in the final quarter.

“It’s satisfying, you know, as an edge rusher — just seeing your boys get sacks after sacks even though I’m getting double-teamed, triple-teamed,” Rucker said.

On Saturday, Heisman Trophy hopeful Drake Maye found himself thanking the defense after the game.

Following a shaky performance in which Maye threw two interceptions, he told reporters, “I think the defense won us the game tonight.”

That’s a stark contrast to last season, when North Carolina’s offense had to routinely make up for a lack of defensive intensity. Perhaps the best example of that phenomenon was the 63-61 win over Appalachian State in which UNC allowed 40 points in the fourth quarter.

“[The offense] definitely bailed us out a few times last year,” Gray admitted. “But, you know, like I said, we have each other’s backs.”

Brown said the biggest thing that’s changed about the defense since the debacle is the players’ maturity.

“They didn’t pull the old ‘poor me’ like they did at App State last year in the fourth quarter,” Brown said. “This should really build on their confidence.”

That confidence stems from comfort. After a five-year break from coaching, Gene Chizik was rehired to UNC’s staff in 2022 as the assistant head coach for defense. His second go-round with North Carolina began less smoothly, but both Chizik and his players are more comfortable in their roles, Brown said Saturday.

The Tar Heels will have a fitting opportunity to prove that their defensive effort wasn’t just a flash in the pan when they face App State in Chapel Hill next weekend.

“We can definitely build off this,” Gray said. “We’re not going backwards.”

X: [@lucasthomae](#)

WOMEN’S SOCCER



DTH/DEREK PENG

First-year forward Mia Oliaro (22) dribbled the ball during the women’s soccer game at Dorrance Field on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023.

First-year, Chapel Hill native shines in Arkansas game

Mia Oliaro scores impressive goal from more than 20 yards out

By Noah Monroe

Senior Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

When Mia Oliaro was growing up, her father Scott called Anson Dorrance for some advice on how his daughter should train.

The North Carolina women’s soccer coach told Scott that Mia should find a wall and kick a soccer ball against it to develop leg power.

As time went on, Scott would send Dorrance progress updates — countless photos of torn-up soccer balls, their leather exteriors ripped to shreds thanks to Mia’s consistent practice.

Fast-forward to Sunday, when Mia — a first-year forward for the Tar Heels — scored her first career goal on a powerful strike from outside of the box to tie the game in North Carolina’s eventual 3-1 win over Arkansas at Dorrance Field.

“I’m incredibly proud of her because that’s a first-year scoring an incredibly significant goal in her first year,” Dorrance said. “I give her full credit for her work

ethic and her commitment to her own development, but also having the focus in that moment to make a difference.”

Throughout UNC’s practices this season, Dorrance had to remind Oliaro to take her shots. So, with UNC trailing for the first time this year, she stared down Arkansas goalkeeper Sierra Cota-Yarde from over 20 yards away and thought, ‘Why not?’

After planting her foot into the ground, Oliaro swung her right leg and watched as the ball went right past Cota-Yarde’s outstretched arms and into the top-left corner of the goal.

“We all were working really hard through the whole game, and it just hadn’t come yet,” Oliaro said. “We had a great combination between several of us, and luckily I got the ball.”

As a Chapel Hill native, Oliaro is able to play college soccer in front of her family. Dorrance Field is roughly five miles away from where she went to high school at Chapel Hill High. She has the word ‘Oreo’ written in Sharpie on her wrist tape — the nickname she has for her brother, Tyler.

Oliaro’s close proximity to UNC helped Dorrance recruit the former U17 US Youth National

Team member and convince her to be a Tar Heel before she decided to leave home and go elsewhere.

The results she’s produced so far have been significant. Before Sunday, she assisted on a go-ahead goal in UNC’s 3-1 victory over Cal.

“I feel blessed,” Dorrance said. “I love the kid and I love the fact that she has won the right to play significant minutes in each half. Already as a first-year, she’s making an impact.”

The impact that first-years like Oliaro have had on UNC so far has been noteworthy.

Following North Carolina getting shut out in two of their first three games, the offense has bounced back to break out of its lull, scoring in three straight games. Of the 15 goals the Tar Heels have scored this year, six have come from first-years.

“I think it really shows the depth and talent on our team, we’ve had so many different goal scorers,” redshirt sophomore midfielder Ally Sentnor said. “I’m really proud of everyone for stepping up when their moment comes.”

X: [@thenoahmonroe](#)

FIELD HOCKEY

Team picks up two wins over Penn and Princeton

Head coach Erin Matson said the Tar Heels “stuck together”

By Jennings Lin

Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

The No. 1 North Carolina field hockey team (3-1, 0-0 ACC) traveled to Philadelphia for the ACC-Ivy Challenge. The weekend series featured wins against the University of Pennsylvania (0-1, 0-0 Ivy) on Friday and No. 10 Princeton University (0-2, 0-0 Ivy) on Sunday.

Bruder shines in 4-0 win against Penn

Following last week’s loss to Iowa, the Tar Heels wasted no time in ramping up the intensity against the Quakers.

On Friday, first-year forward Charly Bruder served as UNC’s spark plug, recording a goal off a penalty corner less than three minutes into the game. The goal was Bruder’s career first, scored less than 30 miles from her hometown of Malvern, Pa., and she went on to add another goal to help carry the Tar Heels to a 4-0 victory over Penn.

Bruder opted to forego the second semester of her senior year of high school, choosing instead to enroll early at North Carolina in January. Grayshirting in the spring allowed her to get more comfortable with what college classes are like, the campus and just being a first-year in general. Bruder was also able to further develop her hockey skills that spring, which set her up for success on the pitch this fall.

“There was no doubt in anybody’s mind that she would make an impact this fall just coming in as a normal freshman,” UNC head coach Erin Matson said. “But then, when it was decided that she was a grayshirt and she was able to come in January, it was just that much better.”

Bruder’s performance on Friday was backed up by a stout defense, which prevented Penn from registering a single shot during the first half and held the Quakers to just three shots for the game.

“We take pride in that,” Matson said. “It’s part of Carolina field hockey, defending from the front and attacking from the back.”

Victory against Princeton in overtime

Sunday’s matchup against Princeton started off slow for the Tar Heels,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL NANCE

UNC graduate midfielder Pleun Lammers (30) went after the ball during the match against Princeton on Sunday.

with Princeton senior forward Bridget Murphy recording a goal in the opening five minutes to put the Tigers up 1-0.

UNC continued to struggle offensively throughout the first three periods, failing to record a goal despite outnumbering Princeton in shots, 12-5. But, eventually, North Carolina was able to battle back for a 2-1 overtime victory thanks to a fourth-period goal from sophomore midfielder Ryleigh Heck and a deciding penalty stroke from junior midfielder Lisa Slinkert.

“Being down a goal, we handled it very well,” Matson said. “We stuck together. There was never a moment of doubt or it crossed someone’s mind that we were going to lose the game.”

After an early deficit, the Tar Heels finally found success late in the game. On UNC’s fifth consecutive penalty corner of the final quarter, Heck tied the game up 1-1.

In sudden death overtime, the Tar Heels kept up the same intensity and pressure, and their efforts were rewarded with a penalty stroke after a shot from Heck was saved illegally. Slinkert’s subsequent penalty stroke goal handed UNC its 2-1 victory.

“[Slinkert] earned the spot to get out there today and did a good job of putting it away when it mattered,” Matson said.

With two more wins under their belts, the Tar Heels will travel to Norfolk, Va., on Sunday to face Old Dominion at noon.

“It was great to see them have that confidence and belief in themselves to just do what they do best,” Matson said. “To go out and play, stick together, work for each other, and eventually the stuff will start falling our way.”

X: [@jenningslin_](#)

SCOTLAND

UNC golfers lead Team USA to thrilling win

Ford, Menante and Greaser competed in the 49th Walker Cup

By Harry Crowther

Staff Writer
sports@dailytarheel.com

Members of the UNC men's golf team, David Ford, Dylan Menante and Austin Greaser, competed for Team USA in the 49th Walker Cup in Scotland this weekend.

The United States rallied to defeat Great Britain and Ireland 14.5-11.5 at the Old Course at St. Andrews. The matchplay team event, which was composed of two singles and two alternate-shot sessions, took place on Saturday and Sunday.

The Walker Cup is amateur golf's premier team event. It's played every two years between two teams, one representing the United States and the other representing Great Britain and Ireland. 2023 marked the first time a Tar Heel has played in the Walker Cup since Tom Scherrer in 1991.

Ford, Menante and Greaser — all ranked in the top 10 of the World Amateur Golf Ranking — entered the week having reached match play in the U.S. Amateur at Cherry Hills Country Club two weeks prior.

Before the event, Greaser told reporters he had never dreamed of playing a Walker Cup at a historic place like St. Andrews. The Old Course at St. Andrews is the oldest golf course in the world and St. Andrews Links is often referred to as the 'Home of Golf.'

"To be able to feel the nerves and the pressure and just the amazing opportunity to represent the United

States of America, I don't care how many or what holes I play," Greaser said in a press conference on Friday. "I just want to play."

Menante was paired with Vanderbilt standout and No. 1 ranked amateur Gordon Sargent to put the first point on the board for the USA. They defeated Barclay Brown and Mark Power of GB&I in a 3-and-2 victory in Saturday's foursomes.

"My legs were shaking on the first tee shot," Menante told reporters after the match. "So I was like, 'Just please go left like it's supposed to.'"

Ford and Preston Summerhays lost their Saturday foursomes match 1-down, while Greaser sat out the opening session.

In Saturday's afternoon singles session, Greaser and Ford both had leads but couldn't hold on. Team GB&I took a 7.5-4.5 lead going into the final day.

Menante and Greaser teamed up Sunday morning in the foursomes but struggled against the GB&I team of Liam Nolan and Power, losing 4-and-3. Team USA, however, trimmed GB&I's lead to just one point entering the final session.

Needing six points in the Sunday singles to win the cup, Team USA won seven. Menante tied his match against Matthew McClean, while Greaser and Ford anchored the comeback. Ford sunk a birdie putt on the 16th hole to win his match over Alex Maguire and clinch the cup outright. Greaser clinched the final point, winning his match 3-and-1.

Emotion poured out of Ford after making the cup-clinching putt, shouting in triumph with his fists clenched. While carrying the American flag, Greaser greeted him

on the 18th fairway with a jubilant chest bump.

"They just played hard, right to the bitter end," USA captain Mike McCoy told Golf Channel's Steve Burkowski. "We had those two Tar Heels in those last two spots. I had a lot of confidence in them."

The UNC men's golf team will begin the fall season Sept. 15 through Sept. 17 at the Olympia Fields/Fighting Illini Invitational in Chicago. Ford, Menante and Greaser will return to the Home of Golf with their Tar Heel teammates for the inaugural St. Andrews Links Collegiate Oct. 23 through Oct. 25.

X: @dthsports



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAROLINA ATHLETICS

Members of the UNC men's golf team Dylan Menante, David Ford and Austin Greaser posed with the Walker Cup after competing in the international golf event in St. Andrews, Scotland this weekend.



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