

EXPRESSION

Pro-Palestinian mural destroyed during removal

Art department, UNC admin and community respond to takedown

By Regan Butler
University Editor

and Caleb Herrera
Assistant University Editor

and Alice Scott
Assistant University Editor

A mural depicting Palestinian resilience in the Hanes Art Center, which UNC administration directed to be covered with white panels on Aug. 17, was fully removed from the building over the following weekend. Annette Lawrence, chair of the art and art history department, wrote to The Daily Tar Heel that she was informed by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jim White on Wednesday that the artwork was “damaged beyond repair” when it was detached from the wall.

Because the artwork was damaged while being removed, it will not be returned to the department or those involved in creating it, which included some students in art professor Hong-An Truong’s spring 2024 Studio Art 490: Art as Social Action course. Lawrence told The DTH that the pieces were thrown away.

When UNC Facilities Services removed the mural, they also removed the panels that attach artwork to the wall, Truong said. The panels typically remain on the wall as a frame for the murals put on display in the Hanes Art Center lobby space, she said.

White told Lawrence that his office would replace the mural wall for future artwork to be displayed. In an email sent to graduate students

and faculty in the art department on Thursday, Lawrence wrote that White was provided with a list of materials and a diagram for the replacement wall.

“[White] reiterated that things were mishandled and the whole situation could have been avoided with better communication,” Lawrence wrote.

The mural’s concealment and removal

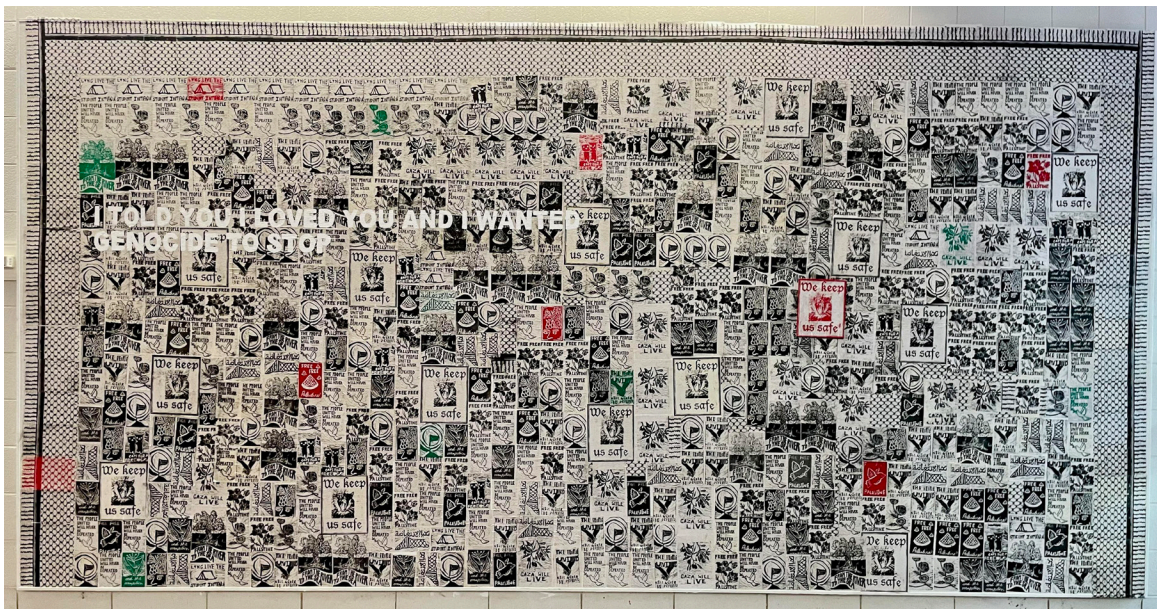
On the evening before the first day of classes, UNC Facilities Services covered the mural in the lobby of Hanes Art Center without notifying the art and art history department.

In an open letter, White wrote it was his understanding that the mural would be up for one year and that a new mural from the next class would replace it. White wrote that he did not confirm an exact timeline with the art department, but expected that it would come down over the summer.

Beth Grabowski, an art professor who has taught at the University since 1985, said artwork is circulated in Hanes Art Center when faculty have pieces they would like to display. The wall’s previous mural was on display for four years.

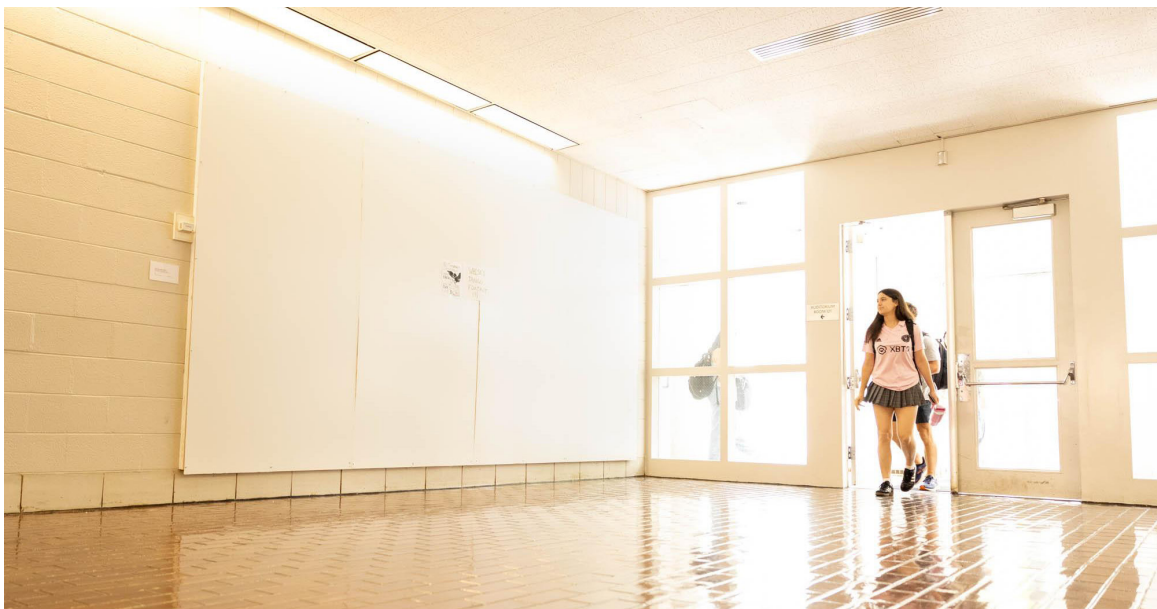
“Things stay up for anywhere from a couple weeks if there’s a lot of demand, or two years when nothing is happening,” Grabowski said. “We generally handle those spaces just informally.”

UNC Media Relations previously confirmed to The DTH that the order to remove the mural came from Chancellor Lee Roberts and Interim Provost Jim Dean. Dean Stoyer, vice chancellor for



DTH/MICHAEL MELTON

The mural, titled “I told you I loved you (Gaza Solidarity),” hangs in the Hanes Art Center on Nov. 18, 2024.



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC students walk by the mural, then concealed, in the Hanes Art Center lobby on Aug. 20.

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FOOTBALL

UNC crushed in Bill Belichick’s first game as head coach, 48-14

Season opener against TCU ends in nightmarish finish

By Brian D’Aguanno
Assistant Sports Editor

It started out perfect. Seven plays, 83 yards and a touchdown.

The Belichick era was off to a quick start. North Carolina football seemed to be back. At least that’s what it felt like.

But then everything came to a halt. The momentum, the yards, the explosive plays — all of it.

UNC only put up 20 more yards on 17 plays the rest of the first half. The offense looked lost. Quarterback Gio Lopez couldn’t get off his first read and wide receiver Jordan Shipp was the only Tar Heel with a reception.

After mounting an impressive opening drive, North Carolina’s offense failed to deliver the rest of the game, culminating in a 48-14 loss in Bill Belichick’s first game as head coach. The passing game was obsolete and the running game, while showing flashes of promise, failed to provide any consistency.



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC head coach Bill Belichick coaches his debut game against TCU on Monday, Sept. 1 at Kenan Stadium.

The performance was reminiscent of last season’s offensive woes, only this time without one of the nation’s most prolific rushing attacks.

“I thought we were prepared for the game but it didn’t go our way,” senior

quarterback Max Johnson said. “We got to do a better job of executing.”

In the second quarter, the offensive troubles climaxed. After

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LAWSUIT

Local conservation group sues Union Grove Farm

Construction at the farm allegedly violates longstanding easement

By Maddie Policastro
Senior Writer

On Aug. 15, local conservation group Triangle Land Conservancy sued Union Grove Farm over an alleged violation of a longstanding conservation easement.

The lawsuit alleges that UGF’s construction of three roads and its plans for a 2500-seat amphitheater “farm stage” are prohibited under the 1988 easement, which was established by the former owners, Bob Nutter and his family, when the property was known as Maple View Farm.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits land use for conservation purposes.

When UGF acquired the Maple View property in 2022, it was bound by the requirements of the conservation easement,

TLC executive director Sandy Sweitzer said.

“The new owners knew about it when they purchased the property,” she said. “It’s part of the reason that they paid less than fair market value because the development rights had been removed from the property.”

Sweitzer said TLC staff met with UGF representatives twice to review these requirements before the violations began.

One provision of the conservation easement prohibits paving any portion of the property with any other non-permeable material, like concrete or asphalt. Construction of new roads, except within a “Farm Operations Envelope” portion of the property or for access roads, is also prohibited under the easement.

According to the lawsuit, TLC discovered the first alleged infraction — a new road on the northwest portion of the property — during a site visit in November 2023.

Sweitzer said UGF could have removed the road and replanted the trees. They also could

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Obviously we have a lot of work to do.

BILL BELICHICK



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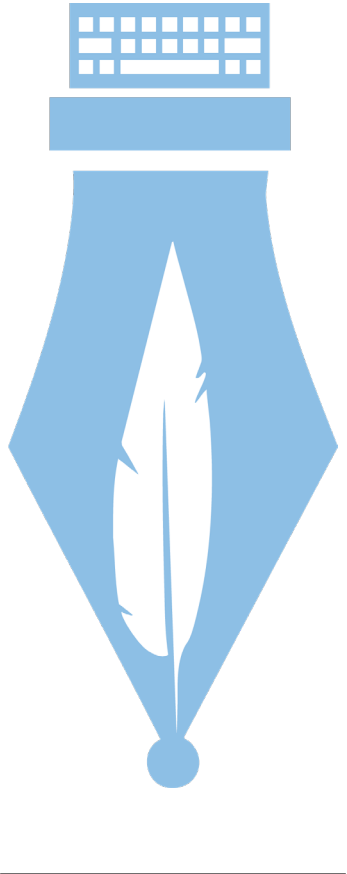
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INFRASTRUCTURE

Bingham Hall reopens after a year

Renovations focus on sustainability, accessibility

By Jordan Andreasen
Staff Writer

After roughly a year of renovations, Bingham Hall reopened on the first day of classes of the 2025-26 academic year.

Located on Polk Place, Bingham Hall was built in 1928 and has been used as an academic building. Architect Quade Gallagher, who works as UNC’s capital project manager in facilities planning and design and construction, said the nearly 100-year-old building was beginning to degrade and needed updates.

Gallagher said the redesign process began in summer 2022 and construction started during summer 2024.

“Our goal was to take this historic building, bring it up to kind of a modern standard, while maintaining some of the historic elements,” he said.

Gallagher said the designers maintained the building’s authenticity by reusing the original windows. After installing a storm window, the designers were able to add the modern amenity of air conditioning without losing the original integrity of the building.

The building’s original terrazzo floors were also used in the redesign.

“[We’re] really trying to be cognizant of what the materials of the building initially were, what can we reuse, not only from a sustainability standpoint, but as well as trying to tell a story of a building over the course of a century and for the next century to come,” Gallagher said.

Among the new renovations, motion-sensored technology called actuators have been added to the entrances and exits of the building. The actuators allow students and faculty to open doors with a wave of their hand to reduce the spread of germs and contribute to accessibility efforts.

Other inclusivity efforts in Bingham include a lactation room, gender neutral bathrooms and a private space with a changing table for those who are paraplegic or have other accessibility needs.

While final construction work is still being done, students and staff are now able to use its brand new office spaces, classrooms and study areas.

UNC sophomore Landry Mcroy said he was very excited about the renovations because the building was not open during his first year.

“I’m glad I don’t have to walk around more construction in the middle of The Pit to Polk Place area,” he said.

UNC junior Maris James said she’s excited for her first class on the second floor of Bingham and that it is one of the “nicer” buildings on campus. She said that the actuators are a good “jumping off point” for accessibility at UNC.

According to Gallagher, UNC Facilities is looking at future renovations for other buildings on campus.

X: @dailytarheel

Mural’s content and removal spark controversy

Continued from Page 1

communications, later wrote to The DTH that Media Relations supplied incorrect information, and that the order came from the Chancellor’s Office, not the Chancellor himself.

Roberts hasn’t directly commented on his involvement in the mural’s concealment.

“The Carolina community deserves clarity on who was involved in this decision,” Student Body President Adolfo Alvarez said. “What led to it?”

In an email obtained by The DTH, Roberts and Dean wrote to the art department apologizing for the “confusion and frustration” surrounding the mural’s covering.

“Carolina’s mission is to expand understanding, not silence it,” Roberts and Dean wrote. “Our commitment to you is to ensure that our teams are sensitive to and inclusive of the stakeholders who need to be consulted when these important decisions are being made. We apologize that we did not do as well as we should have in this case.”

Lawrence wrote that she views the Chancellor’s apology as “an olive branch.” While many questions remain, she wrote that the email advances the effort to diffuse tension about the mural.

Community reactions to the mural

The mural was originally created by UNC students, including some from Truong’s course, but the artwork was not a class project. It was created over a weekend in April 2024 following the disbandment of the on-campus Triangle Gaza Solidarity Encampment, and displayed the message: “I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU AND I WANTED GENOCIDE TO STOP.”

In his letter, White wrote that the mural could be “interpreted as antisemitic.”

“Space must be made not only for pro-Palestinian voices, which have been meaningfully represented through this mural, but also for pro-Israel voices, who deserve equal opportunity to see their histories, challenges and resilience reflected in our shared spaces, spaces that are ultimately paid for by the citizens of North Carolina,” White wrote.

At a Faculty Executive Committee meeting on Aug. 25, Interim Provost Jim Dean said the mural received a number of complaints during the time it was on display, particularly from Jewish students who felt threatened by the artwork. He said he couldn’t answer questions regarding the number of complaints filed, or the manner in which these concerns were lodged, due to the fact that he was not provost at the time.

Niccolo Luftig, vice president of UNC Hillel, wrote in a statement to The DTH that the pro-Palestinian mural contains “some antisemitic elements.” Hillel is an international organization for Jewish college students to build community, hosting chapters at over 850 universities.

“The inverted red triangle widely displayed in the lettering of the mural is a symbol used to target and kill Jewish people by Hamas. This is threatening to Jewish students,” he wrote. “All students deserve to feel welcomed and safe on this campus and hateful symbolism against any group — not just Jews — dampens student life in all respects.”

UNC Hillel Campus Director Hannah Spinrad wrote to The DTH that the ‘O’ in “LONG LIVE THE STUDENT INTIFADA,” prints across the top of the mural are

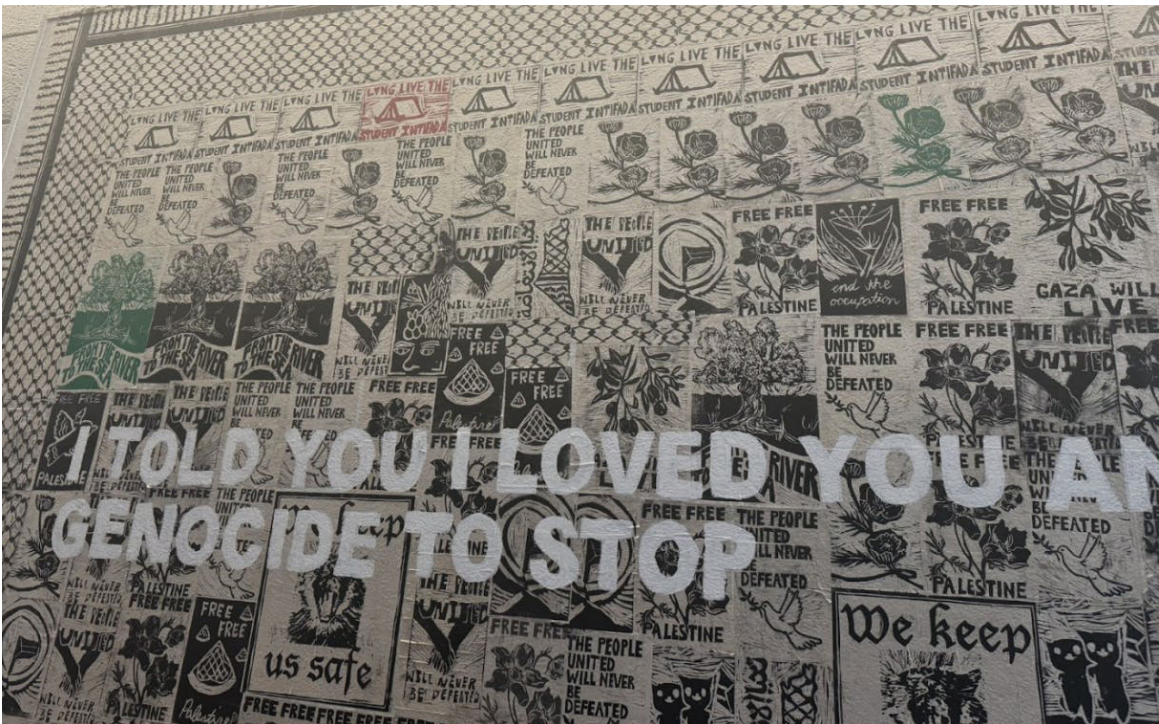


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC HILLEL

The mural is displayed in Hanes Art Center before it was covered on Aug. 17 and later removed.

replaced with the inverted triangle. One of the prints with this phrase and symbol is red.

According to the American Jewish Committee, the inverted red triangle is “an anti-Israel symbol often weaponized under the guise of ‘Palestinian Resistance’ to identify, harass, and target Israelis and Jews, glorify Hamas’ terror, and call for increased violence against the Jewish people.”

In a statement to The DTH, UNC Students for Justice in Palestine wrote that the inverted red triangle symbolizes the Palestinian struggle against Zionist opposition.

They said that the symbol originates from videos in which Palestinian fighters specifically attack Israeli military targets.

“UNC SJP stands firmly behind the Palestinians’ right to resist their oppressors, even through armed struggle, within the confines of human rights and international law,” they wrote.

Truong said she received no contact from administration about the mural or its content during the year and a half that it was on display. She said she doesn’t believe the artwork or its messaging is antisemitic.

One of the students in Truong’s class who worked on the mural, Marin Carr-Quimet, said the intention of the piece was to stand in solidarity with Gaza and the students who participated in the Triangle Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

“This was artwork that’s not about attacking anybody or anything,” Carr-Quimet, who graduated from UNC in December 2024, said. “It’s a lot of students seeing a genocide happen and coming together to say, ‘Genocide is wrong.’”

An anonymous representative of UNC SJP said the mural was about Palestinian liberation and a desire to see the end of genocide in Gaza.

“It’s not antisemitic to want a free Palestine or to express that Palestine should be a democratic nation where people of all ethnicities and all religions can have democracy and live together,” they said.

Mark Katz, a music professor at UNC, said that as a Jewish person, the mural’s message of opposing genocide does not offend him or make him feel unsafe, but instead, resonates with him.

“I’m concerned about genocide, just as a human being,” Katz said. “But, as someone who’s Jewish, I also have have historical concerns about genocide connected with the Holocaust.”

Censorship concerns

On Tuesday, Alvarez shared a letter he wrote in collaboration with UNC Chair of the Faculty Beth Moracco to social media, addressing the mural’s concealment and eventual removal. The letter was titled “Protecting Free Expression and Academic Freedom at Carolina.”

Alvarez and Moracco wrote that the decision to remove the mural has created an environment of fear that student and faculty work could be potentially censored if deemed politically controversial.

During the Aug. 25 FEC meeting, Moracco said she has heard more from faculty about the mural’s concealment than most other topics this year. The concerns she is hearing, she said, revolve around the issue of academic freedom and faculty’s ability to trust the administration.

“The current concern: is this a slippery slope to censorship?” Moracco said to The DTH.

Alvarez said that he does not understand the “sudden” nature with which the administration views the mural as possibly antisemitic, as it had been left up for over a year after the Office of University Counsel determined that the work was protected speech.

“There’s always an argument to be made about how to balance viewpoints with controversial issues, such as the one that the mural addresses,” Alvarez said. “But, it is not good practice to pick one side and silence it with the argument that you have to make room for the other.”

On Tuesday, the Graduate and Professional Student Government published a letter titled “Blocking on Student Freedom of Expression,” signed by GPSG President Leah Frazier, along with former President Pro Tempore/Acting Speaker Alonna Despaigne.

The letter critiques the covering and removal of the mural, stating that it undermines academic freedom and student expression. It asks the University to reaffirm its commitment to these principles.

“In moments such as this, when students question whether their voices matter, it is the responsibility of all governance bodies, faculty leaders and administrators to demonstrate through words and action that their contributions are valued,” Frazier and Despaigne wrote.

Katz discussed the mural’s concealment in his course Music 291: Music and Politics. Since the class explores issues of identity,

censorship and the power of music to express different issues and ideologies, he said it seemed relevant for students.

“I made the point, generally, that when a piece of art — whether it’s a mural or a piece of music or literature — is banned or censored, it is evidence of the power of that artwork and the power of art in general,” Katz said.

Katz said he worries the concealment and removal of the mural may chill expression in the UNC community. He said student and faculty artists may now preemptively self-censor, questioning whether their publicly displayed art will be removed without their consultation.

Media Relations did not respond to The DTH’s request for comment on what the definitive reason for the mural’s removal was: the manner it was affixed to the wall, the amount of time it was displayed or the concerns regarding antisemitism.

At the FEC meeting, Dean said the University has the right to limit the time, place and manner of political statements. Because the mural had been on display for a year, he said it “feels” within the right of the University to take it down.

“People who have strong feelings about this issue have certainly protested and had rallies and created art,” Dean said at the meeting. “And I do think it’s important to point out that this piece of art was displayed for a year — actually more than a year — so I think that there was ample opportunity for that expression. There will be a new opportunity.”

However, Truong said she doesn’t necessarily consider the mural to be political.

“Art can be political and make a statement that is political, but it is not the same as a political statement because the meaning is embedded in the language of visual art,” she wrote in a statement to The DTH.

Truong said that, to her, the mural’s concealment felt like censorship, and she worries about the precedent it sets.

“They have never had a say in what we put up on our walls — the creative work that we display of our students and our faculty,” Truong said. “So, for them to say that as the reason is to normalize an authoritarian reach into our teaching, into our creative process with our students, into our pedagogy. That’s what it’s normalizing, and that is also what is really chilling.”

X: @dailytarheel

REMEMBRANCE

Memorial site dedicated to professor Zijie Yan two years after shooting

Colleagues, loved ones gather to honor faculty member's legacy

By Jackson Auchincloss
Staff Writer

Before his death, UNC associate professor Zijie Yan, a beloved teacher, colleague and friend, studied how to organize nanoparticles with light. On Thursday, exactly two years since Yan was killed in a campus shooting at Caudill Laboratories, community members gathered to honor his memory with the unveiling of a new memorial site, and with the launch of a seminar lecture series named in his honor. The memorial site, a garden located outside Yan's former Caudill office where the shooting took place, includes a bench and a plaque.

The site commemorates the way that Yan — much like the light he studied — organized the nanoparticles of campus into new forms, leaving an impact that can be felt at UNC today.

"He was brilliant. He was a man of grace. He was a man of kindness," UNC professor Richard Superfine, a colleague of Yan's at the department for Applied Physical Sciences, said at the memorial site dedication.

Statements praising Yan's brilliance, creativity and kindness abounded at the 3 p.m. service in the memorial garden.

During the ceremony, speakers also dedicated a new campus bench, which Superfine helped create, and a plaque, which includes an epitaph in both English and Chinese Mandarin. Yan's "light will always shine," it reads.

The garden, designed by University Landscape Architect



DTH/JACKSON AUCHINCLOSS

A memorial dedicated to UNC associate professor Zijie Yan sits by Caudill Laboratories on Thursday, Aug. 28 — exactly two years since he was killed in a campus shooting near that very spot.

Daniel Widis, includes Chinese and Asian varieties like Edgeworthia and Chinese Mahonia — meant to honor Yan's Chinese heritage, Superfine said in his speech.

"Well, I think it's a fitting tribute," UNC Chancellor Lee Roberts said in an interview with The DTH. "I wasn't here on that day two years ago, but I have been here to see how the community has

come together in response to this tragedy. If there's a silver lining to something like this, that's it: to see

"A bench is waiting, is waiting for you, for you all, to give it purpose for a moment and be. Be better. Be better to yourselves. Be better to each other."

Ronit Freeman

Associate professor and close friend of Zijie Yan

the strength of our community."

The dedication ceremony ended with a procession of those gathered placing flowers on the bench.

After the ceremony, professor Douglas Chrisey, the Jung Chair of Materials Engineering at Tulane University and Yan's former advisor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, gave the inaugural "Professor Zijie Yan Memorial Lecture" in Dey Hall's Toy Lounge.

At the lecture, Chrisey discussed his personal relationship with Yan and their collaborative work with photons and lasers.

"If you look at him and his smile, and look at me and my smile — I'm not saying we're related, but we're definitely cut from the same cloth — I'd like to think," Chrisey said in the opening of his lecture. "And, yeah, I'm not saying he got anything from me, but he certainly got some things from me in that beautiful smile."

It was Superfine and a committee of community members who initiated the creation of the Zijie Yan memorial, Theo Dingemans, chair of the applied physical sciences department, said.

The Chancellor's Office funded the memorial garden, and the College of Arts and Sciences funded the namesake physics lecture series, according to a statement from a University spokesperson that The DTH received from UNC Media Relations.

Superfine and members of the Carolina Tree Heritage program built the memorial bench using wood from a 250-year-old campus oak. They also built two additional benches — all three from the same tree. One was given to Yan's wife and daughters, who live in Apex, N.C., and the other was sent to Yan's parents in China.

"A bench is waiting, is waiting for you, for you all, to give it purpose for a moment and be," associate professor Ronit Freeman, a close friend and colleague of Yan, read from a poem at the beginning of the lecture. "Be better. Be better to yourselves. Be better to each other. Be better, for Zijie existed."

X: @dailytarheel

RENOVATIONS

Undergraduate Library to close in spring 2026

The Center for Student Success to move to the top floor from SASB

By Joaquin Mestre
Staff Writer

The Undergraduate Library will close for the 2026 spring and summer semesters as part of a renovation effort to move The Center for Student Success into the upper level of the library.

The UL is located in the center of main campus, between the Pit and Wilson Library, offering a core book collection aimed at undergraduates. The three-story library is a convenient study spot for students and provides access to resources such as research materials.

The CFSS is mainly housed in the Student and Academic Services Building North, which is farther south than central areas on campus. A move to the UL would preserve its programs dedicated to supporting transfer and first-generation students, promoting academic excellence through peer mentoring and providing services through the Writing and Learning Center.

Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian María Estorino said the UL project has been in the works since 2018. Plans began when University Libraries and the College of Arts and Sciences started talking about bringing the Writing and Learning Center to the UL in order to make it

convenient for students to access the resources they might need for their academic success.

"It really creates a much more accessible place where students can go, rather than having to go to many multiple different locations for similar services," Estorino said.

Brian Zhang, a UNC sophomore studying neuroscience, said that he thinks it is a great decision to move the Learning Center from South to North Campus, and that he would be more inclined to use its resources because of the move.

Kim Abels, associate dean of the CFSS, said that this partnership is intended to help the Center's programs fit in easily with the student's daily life, furthering the mission of helping students meet their academic goals.

"We are open to everyone, anybody can come and see us," Abels said. "And so we have a lot of natural affinities with the UL, and it seems like a great spot for us to join in."

Zhang said that while moving the CFSS to the UL is a good decision long-term, in the short-term he thinks the renovation process will reduce study space.

"We have a lot of natural affinities with the UL, and it seems like a great spot for us to join in."

Kim Abels

Associate dean of The Center for Student Success

"Everybody would be crammed into Davis as the only spots," Zhang said.

Considering that the class of 2029 is the largest in UNC's history, the temporary reduction



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

The Undergraduate Library sits on the UNC campus on Aug. 26. It will close in 2026 for renovations.

in UL study space is being met with efforts to still accommodate students' needs.

More seating will be added to Davis Library, opening six new study rooms — one on each floor of the stacks — and additional spaces

in the first floor atrium along with more seating in the Health and Sciences Library. Estorino said that the libraries want to show that there are other places for students to study at on campus.

She said that the Media & Design Center, on the lower level of the UL, will be moved into Davis during the library's renovation. Book and analog materials from the UL will be placed into storage and will be available for students upon request.

In response to student feedback from the libraries' undergraduate student surveys and the Library Student Ambassadors Program, Davis' hours will also be extended to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and will now open at 7:30 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., allowing students to access the library before classes start.

The UL will continue to remain open 24/7 for finals this fall, but it is still being determined where these hours will apply following the UL's closure in the spring semester.

"We're trying to do what we can to expand seating but we do acknowledge that not only are the spaces in high demand, but we also have more students on campus. And so, it's something that we're going to keep working through both during this temporary closure and, frankly, into the future," Estorino said.

X: @dailytarheel

EMPOWERMENT

Local bakers build community, fresh from the oven

Independent kitchens
blend tradition with
togetherness

By Kristin Kharrat
Senior Writer

Last fall, KC Hysmith, Oona O’Toole and Emily Cheves displayed their decadent cakes at a Cake Pickin’. A yuzu and olive oil cake, chocolate cherry and pistachio cake and pumpkin polenta zucchini apple butter cake, amongst others, decorated a picnic table in Southern Community Park.

The event, organized by Hysmith and O’Toole, not only provided sixty community members with full plates of tasty treats, but also contributed to a \$418 donation to World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit that provides global food relief.

As a child, O’Toole loved to bake and was inspired by her father’s affinity for leisurely baking. She began baking professionally during the pandemic, when she opened a micro-bakery in Los Angeles and delivered breads and cookies to people’s porches.

O’Toole runs While You’re Up, a local home bakery that specializes in elevated American pastries with a European influence. While You’re Up also has a stand at the Carrboro Farmers’ Market on Wednesdays and every other Saturday.

O’Toole met Hysmith at the Carrboro Farmers’ Market. Together, they organized the Cake Pickin’, incorporating a \$5 donation requirement for attendees who did not bring a cake. The philanthropic aspect balanced the exorbitant nature of the event, O’Toole said.

“It’s also nice because we are meeting a lot of people in our community that we wouldn’t necessarily meet



DTH DESIGN/MEG JENKINS

Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock and @kchysmith, @sugar___lumps and @whileyoureup on Instagram.

otherwise, and obviously community building is pretty important when you’re trying to speak up about certain things,” O’Toole said.

O’Toole and Hysmith are hoping to host another event before the midterm elections where they can register community members to vote, O’Toole said.

Cheves, who owns Durham-based home bakery Sugar Lumps, said the Cake Pickin’ made her excited during a time that felt overwhelming and helpless. The quality of baking

and sharing baked goods brings people together and creates unique experiences and memories, she said.

When Cheves is not making vibrant cakes, she is using her skills to build social awareness and collective knowledge, she said. She once decorated an apple butter cake with a drawing of a medical debt receipt on fire to promote a fundraiser for

medical debt relief. As a public health analyst, Cheves said she cares deeply about healthcare accessibility.

Hysmith, a local food scholar, studies how minority groups use baking to enfranchise themselves while simultaneously decorating cakes with sociopolitical commentary.

Hysmith said the widespread, human need for food is what makes politicizing food possible.

“We all have to eat, we might all eat differently or with different sets of rituals or norms and we all might

have different access to different kinds of foods and all our cakes might look very different but we all still end up eating, it’s part of our nature as humans,” Hysmith said.

Both Hysmith and O’Toole live in Orange County. O’Toole said that living in North Carolina, as opposed to more progressive cities she’s lived in, can be challenging due to political polarization.

“It’s tough to be a business owner in a position where someone’s upset at you for speaking politically, but as a human I think human rights take precedence over my business,” O’Toole said.

While You’re Up’s stand at the farmers market gives O’Toole the opportunity to connect with community members on a personal level and learn about their experiences. She said that food has the power to allow people to form these connections. She also uses local ingredients and enjoys building relationships with the farmers who supply her kitchen.

“I know that a specific flower vendor likes it when I give her a waffle and because of that she’ll give me a bouquet and we both end up with something we’re happy with that the other person created,” O’Toole said.

Chapel Hill has a historically rich food industry community where everyone shares similar values and supports one another, Hysmith said. Since Chapel Hill is not a traditional venue for a booming food industry, like New York City, she said it is easier for those involved in the community to find one another.

“Sugar is pleasure, and it can often create avenues of connection by creating meaning,” Cheves said.

X: @kristinkharrat

Lawsuit will examine potential violation of 37-year-old easement

Continued from Page 1

have modified the conservation easement by expanding the Farm Envelope to allow for these developments, while giving up additional rights to develop other parts of the property.

TLC discovered two additional roads on conservation property during site visits on April 15, 2024, and March 4, 2025, the lawsuit said.

On June 13, 2024, UGF submitted a letter to the Orange County Planning and Inspections Director requesting a determination to reclassify proposed developments, including a 2500-seat amphitheater, five farm cottages and a farm stay center, as agritourism.

The property is located in the Orange County rural buffer zoning district, which only allows low-density residential and agricultural property uses, including agritourism. The easement states that new structures must be solely for agricultural purposes.

Sweitzer said UGF asked if TLC would agree with any determination Orange County made about what constituted agritourism on the property.

“We did not agree to that,” she said. “And then very shortly thereafter, they submitted a proposal to Orange County for this 2500-seat amphitheatre, and that really changed the whole tenor of our relationship.”

The amphitheater has been a contentious proposal for many

community members, including Susan Walser, a member of Defend Maple View Community. She said residents are concerned about a number of issues, including the proposed amphitheater size, potential traffic and noise levels.

“We’re not sure how that’s going to fly,” Walser said.

Mirrani Houpe, an Orange County resident who lives near the property, said they feel that by expanding the town outward into the country, it may lose zoning regulations put in place for a reason.

“We’re going to see a lot of not just community change, but global change in that area,” they said.

Orange County released a final determination letter on June 4, 2025, which stated the amphitheater is not agritourism. UGF submitted an appeal of this decision on July 2.

In a statement to The Daily Tar Heel, UGF said the lawsuit is a dramatic change from TLC’s initial approval in March 2024, which they said allowed the expansion of the Farm Envelope to include the agritourism plans.

“Union Grove Farm is disappointed by the actions of Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) in filing its lawsuit alleging violations of the Conservation Easement on our property, as well as their opposition to agritourism plans that support the mission of our working regenerative farm,” the statement said.

In an email sent on March 18, 2024, to UGF founder and CEO



DTH FILE/ABBEY MCKEE

Union Grove Farm sits atop a hill on March 22.

Greg Bohlen, the TLC board approved adjusting the farming envelope from 10 acres to 15 acres. The approval, however, required additional steps before the adjustment could be made.

One requirement was hiring a surveyor to map out the updated Farm

Envelope boundaries. Sweitzer said that TLC also needed to see building plans, which she said did not happen until they were sent to Orange County.

“We thought we were on a route to an agreement, but then they continued to violate the terms of the agreement,” Sweitzer said.

UGF, however, said they honored the terms of the conservation easement, and are confident they will prevail as the case moves forward.

X: @mkpolicaastro

GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

Initiative organizes teachers to run for General Assembly

NC Educators on the Ballot seeks new voices for midterms

By Iris Eyster
Staff Writer

A new nonpartisan grassroots campaign is seeking to improve public schools by electing teachers, former educators and education supporters to the North Carolina General Assembly.

The campaign, dubbed NC Educators on the Ballot, began earlier this year when former educator and UNC alumna Patricia Saylor used social media to gather volunteers interested in running for office.

“When I read Patricia Saylor’s idea, I thought, well, it may not go anywhere, but the seeds of it is, that’s brilliant,” Amanda Kilburn, a former educator and UNC alumna, said. “That’s like an actionable, doable, possibly impactful thing to do.”

NCEOB is recruiting educators and supporters of public education to run in Republican primaries in the 2026 election. The goal is to have a candidate on the ballot in each legislative district with a seat up for reelection. According to the organization’s website, candidates are running in Republican primaries to bring new voices into the Republican-dominated General Assembly.

“It used to be that North Carolina was a leader [in education], but it seems that over the past 20 years that one by one, [Republicans] keep chipping away at different things that made us great,” Melissa Simmons, a NCOEB candidate running in NC House of Representatives District 95, said.

Simmons said her salary as an educator has decreased amid rising inflation in the last few years. Her take-home pay is now equal to what she made in 2018, she said.



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

For a candidate to be on the ballot in a Republican primary, they must be registered as a Republican. Not all of candidates running with NCOEB have always been registered as Republicans — Michele Joyner-Dinwiddie, an educator running in NC House of Representatives District 35, was previously registered as a Democrat but switched her affiliation for the sole purpose of running for office.

Joyner-Dinwiddie said she agrees and disagrees with aspects of both Republican and Democrat policies.

“I don’t think anyone in any party ever fully 100% agrees with everything that’s being done in their represented parties,” Joyner-Dinwiddie said. “But I do feel very strongly on the things that are going on in education, to where I wanted to make sure I was in the right party to make those changes happen in a positive way.”

For some educators involved with NCEOB, running for office serves as a viable solution to the issues like low pay and curriculum shifts impacting teachers and public schools, especially in response to complaints and walkouts that have not led to change. Kilburn and Simmons both said they have seen many teachers talking about

walkouts, protests and strikes without getting much traction.

NCOEB also includes many educators and public education supporters who are involved not by running for election, but instead by serving as volunteers. Kilburn, for example, is volunteering and working to spread information about NCOEB. Kilburn said she would be willing to run for office if needed, but only if there were no other candidates running who supported education.

Kilburn said educators need to be elected to office because they are the ones who have experienced being in a classroom, and they have the experience needed to shape public education policy. The gap of knowledge between educators and those shaping policy regarding programs and curriculums has been a lifetime frustration for Kilburn, she said.

“They don’t know how the system works,” Simmons said. “And I think it’s important to have people who know what they’re talking about when they make laws that affect schools.”

X: @dthcitystate

FROM THE FLAMES

Two Carrboro businesses look ahead after electrical fire

Building suffered an estimated \$500,000 in damages

By Ha Lien Gaskin
Staff Writer

Early on Aug. 22, an electrical issue sparked a fire in a commercial building on East Main Street in Carrboro. The two businesses housed in the building, Public Impact and Gates of Beauty Auto Shop, were damaged in the flames.

The building has been condemned, with the Town of Carrboro estimating around \$500,000 in damages.

The fire began in the electrical room of Public Impact in the rear of the building before quickly spreading up to the ceiling. Investigators found the fire to be electrical in origin and accidental, Deputy Fire Chief David LaPlante said.

At around 7:40 a.m. on the Friday of the fire, the Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department received a call from a passerby reporting smoke and flames at 405 East Main St., LaPlante said. Department personnel were on scene within three minutes.

Several neighboring fire departments assisted in responding to the incident. The additional support came from Orange County Emergency Medical Services, South Orange Rescue Squad and the Carrboro Police Department.

LaPlante said he thanks everyone who responded to the fire.

“We couldn’t have done it without everybody that was out there,” LaPlante said.

Gates of Beauty was one of the businesses impacted by the fire. The owner, Brother Peacemaker, took over the auto body repair shop nearly 45 years ago. Since then, the shop has been a staple of the Carrboro community.

“My slogan is, ‘you meet the best people by accident,’” Peacemaker said.

Peacemaker said someone called him on Friday morning to tell him that

Meineke Car Care, the building next to his shop, was on fire. He said he rushed over, but soon discovered that it was not Meineke that was on fire — it was his own shop, Gates of Beauty.

“My plans for the future are to stay where I am for the next 60 years,” Peacemaker said. “How the community can help me out is drop some money on me. I don’t know if the insurance is going to take care of everything, but I’m sure they’re going to do something. What they don’t do, I’m going to need some money to fix it up.”

The shop next door, Public Impact, also saw significant fire damage. Public Impact is an initiative focused on improving student access to teachers and increasing teacher pay. Many staff members are UNC alumni.

Until a decision can be made about the building, Public Impact employees will be able to work and collaborate remotely, Senior Vice President of Communications and Editorial Services Sharon Kebschull Barrett said.

“We’re going to miss having the space for collaboration,” Barrett said. “But it is not that most of us were in there every day, so it hasn’t had that effect.”

The extent of the damages to Public Impact are unclear, and the business is waiting to learn more before deciding whether to restore or sell the space, Barrett said. The whole building was not destroyed, and employees of Public Impact were able to salvage some video equipment.

Barrett said Public Impact is not looking for local assistance at this time.

“We’re encouraging any community members who would like to provide support to help out our neighbor, Brother Peacemaker, who owns the Gates of Beauty Auto Body Shop right next door, because his [business] was also damaged in the fire,” Barrett said. “So we’re encouraging people to provide any support they want to to him.”

X: @halienwg

SEPTEMBER

stay in the know about local government

4

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education Meeting
Lincoln Center
6 p.m.

4

Orange County Board of County Commissioners Business Meeting
Whitted Building, Donna S. Baker Meeting Room
7 p.m.

9

Orange County Board of County Commissioners Work Session
Southern Human Services Center
7 p.m.

10

Chapel Hill Town Council Regular Meeting
Chapel Hill Town Hall, Council Chamber (Room 110)
6 p.m.

11

Town of Chapel Hill Office of Mobility & Greenways Open House
Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room A
6 p.m.

16

Carrboro Town Council Meeting
Carrboro Town Hall, Council Chambers (Room 110)
6 p.m.

16

Orange County Board of County Commissioners Business Meeting
Southern Human Services Center
7 p.m.

17

Chapel Hill Town Council Work Session
Chapel Hill Town Hall, Council Chamber (Room 110)
6 p.m.

18

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education
Lincoln Center
6 p.m.

22

Orange County Schools Board of Education Meeting
Whitted Building
6 p.m.

24

Chapel Hill Town Council Regular Meeting
Chapel Hill Town Hall, Council Chamber (Room 110)
6 p.m.

25

Joint Meeting — Orange County BOCC, CHCCS Board and Orange County Schools
Whitted Building
7 p.m.

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

LOCAL ROOTS

Davie Poplar seedlings continue to grow, 30 years on

In 1993, 100 sixth graders received seeds from the iconic tree

By Emma Arthur
Staff Writer

According to legend, William Davie and a group of UNC founders sat under the Davie Poplar while searching for the perfect location to put the University. After relaxing under the tree, the founders deemed the location worthy for the school. At nearly 400 years old, the Davie Poplar has stood sentinel on UNC-Chapel Hill’s campus for as long as the University has existed. But its legacy extends far beyond the campus. As part of UNC’s bicentennial celebration in 1993, seeds from the Davie Poplar were distributed to sixth-graders who won essay contests in each of the state’s 100 counties. Former North Carolina Botanical Garden director Peter White helped cultivate the seedling project. White and the garden grew around 500 seedlings to ensure healthy saplings for the selected students. Sixth graders were chosen as the recipients for this project due to their high school graduation year falling within 2000, representing the continuation of North Carolina’s public education legacy into the new millennium. “It means that UNC is bigger than just Chapel Hill, it’s a part of people’s lives all across the state,” Damon Waitt, current director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, said. “It

does represent the University’s service to the citizens of North Carolina, and it’s not like planting a flag in those places, but creating a living connection to the University.” Many of the trees that grew from those seeds still stand today, over 30 years later. Brenda Hollowell-White, a former art teacher at Perquimans County Middle School in Hertford, North Carolina orchestrated the ceremony of the seedling planting at her school. The Perquimans County recipient, Sarah Harris Whitt, read a poem at the celebration while dancers from her school performed, followed by the planting of the seedling on their school grounds. The “Baby Davie” still stands outside the school. “I’m just thrilled that it’s still there. It was very important to me because it was a special occasion for the children, and we did our best to make it a special event for the community and for them,” Hollowell-White said. In Richmond County, Fred Morris was selected to be the Bicentennial Ambassador for the seedling project. He was tasked with finding a sixth-grader to receive the seedling in his county, and he had the privilege of attending the event in Chapel Hill. “It was an outdoor setting, they had a platform set up for where the kids could walk up and receive their sapling from Dean Smith and shake his hand,” Morris said. “They had them all seated together, 100 kids from 100 counties. It was part of a full-day celebration.”



DTH/MASON MILLER

The sun shines through the branches of the original Davie Poplar on UNC’s campus on Thursday, Aug. 28.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden has a web page that shares updates on the “Baby Davie” trees across the state. These records show that some of the saplings still stand in counties across North Carolina, including Wilson, Alamance, Surry, Brunswick, Sampson and Polk. In 2024, Wilson County Bicentennial Ambassador B. Perry Morrison Jr. reported on the web page

that their county’s sapling was planted at Toisnot Middle School. He said the tree is still in the area, despite the closure of the school, and that he had visited it that same morning. In some parts of the state, the trees have been lost over the years. A seedling was planted at William R. Davie Elementary School in Davie County, but it was cut down in 2005 to make room for renovations.

Whether or not the trees still stand on school grounds across North Carolina, the Davie Poplar seedling project left a lasting impact on these communities and continues to embody the strength of public education. “It symbolizes an ongoing and persistent interest of the people in the state,” Morris said.

X: @dthlifestyle

SEPTEMBER

don’t miss these arts & culture events

- 5

Carrboro Indie Night
Cat’s Cradle Back Room
7 p.m.
- 6

The WCOM Classic | Disc Golf Tournament & Fundraiser
Steel String Brewery at Pluck Farm
9:30 a.m.
- 11

Libby Buck presents “PORT ANNA,” with Barbara Claypole White
Flyleaf Books
5:30 p.m.
- 11-13

Hoppin’ John Fiddlers’ Convention
Shakori Hills Community Arts Center
- 12

Opening reception of God’s Country
Peel Gallery
6-9 p.m.
- 12

The Sound of Music | Center Theater Company
Center Theater Company
7:30-9:30 p.m. | Every remaining Friday and Saturday in September
- 12-13

Hog Day
East Margaret Lane, Hillsborough
6-10 p.m. on Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sept. 13
- 13

37th Annual Sculpture in the Garden Preview Party
North Carolina Botanical Garden
4:30-6:30 p.m.
- 14

The Bazaar Craft & Art Market
Carrboro Town Commons
12-5 p.m.
- 20

BugFest
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh
10 a.m.-7p.m.
- 20

Sick Chick Flicks Film Festival
Varsity Theatre
12 p.m.-12 a.m.
- 28

Carrboro Music Festival
Downtown Carrboro

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

COLUMN

Bring back the communal screen

By Esha Singaraju
Columnist

When I moved into Hinton James Residence Hall as a first-year, one of the first things I did — after figuring out how to loft my bed — was ask my parents for the login to every streaming service we owned.

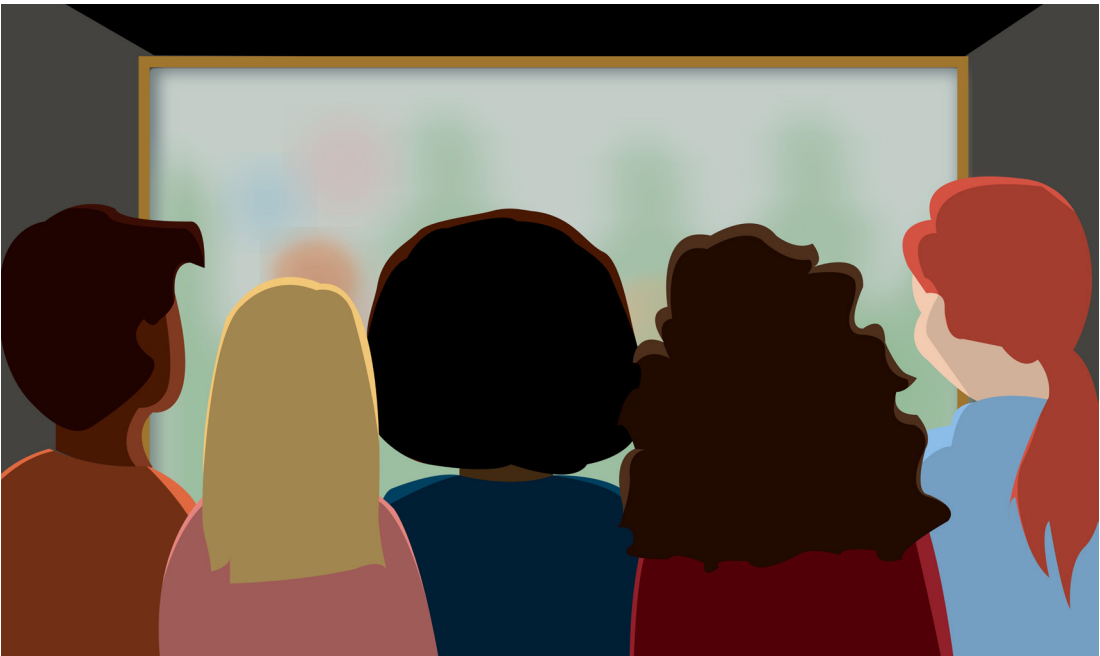
Netflix, Hulu, HBO Max — I wanted everything on my laptop. I had imagined college as this huge blur of classes, clubs and late-night studying, but in the rare downtime, I wanted to catch up on whatever show everyone else was watching.

But I wasn't watching it with everyone else. Instead of a living room packed with friends arguing over which seat they wanted, I watched on my own. On my laptop. In bed. Headphones in. I found myself half-watching episodes while brushing my teeth, scrolling Instagram or finishing an assignment. Streaming was personal and portable, but it was also isolating.

Somewhere along the way, watching became background noise instead of an experience.

For many of us, our first year on campus can be overwhelming. Adjusting to campus, classes, social activities and sleep deprivation made it so easy to retreat into a little streaming world.

Two years later, I'm a junior living in an off-campus house. Every week, my friends and I gather in the living room to watch the newest episode of *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. Watching is no longer passive. We yell at the screen, gasp at plot twists and dissect Belly's love triangle as if



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

we know them all personally. For the first time in a while, TV isn't a filler. It's an event.

This is the experience we're losing. The 'communal screen' — once the center of our family's living rooms, dorm lounges and even classrooms with the lights turned off — is being replaced by our individual laptops and phones. When we stream alone, we strip TV and movies of what makes them powerful: the shared reaction, collective gasp and discussion that linger long after the credits roll.

The fun of watching shows isn't the actual show itself — it's the discourse, the inside jokes and the feel of togetherness that comes from it. Movies and shows have always been fuel for community,

whether it be a midnight premiere, a dorm watch party or the roommate that wants to show you her comfort film. When these experiences are reduced to solo streams, they lose their magic.

College already has its isolating moments: struggling through group projects, eating a rushed meal alone between classes or just feeling swallowed up by a busy campus. It's easy to retreat into your own world when everything else feels fragmented or overwhelming.

Don't let the way you consume media fall into that same trap.

You've heard the cliché that college is about community, but sometimes community doesn't look like a big organization or formal event. Sometimes it looks

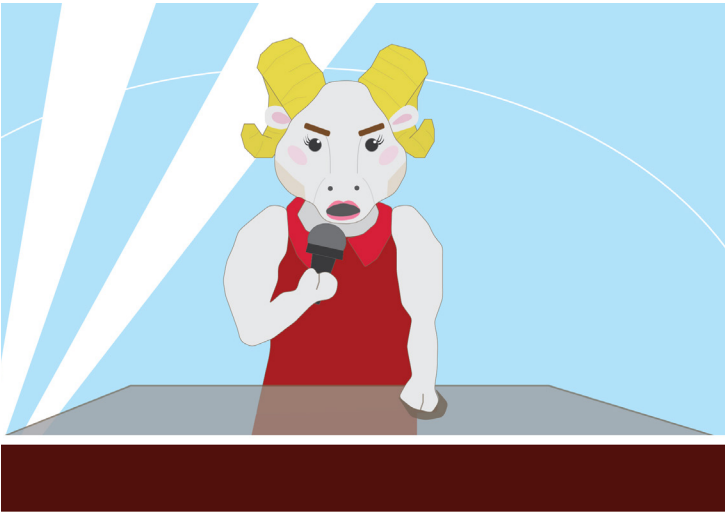
like crowding around a computer with cookies you stuffed into takeout cups from Chase Dining Hall. It looks like watching a show you'll remember, not because it was great, but because of who you were with. Our campus is full of spaces to find this experience in: dorm lounges with big TVs, classrooms with projectors or screens and even your suitemate's giant laptop are enough to turn a normal evening into a movie night.

So keep your streaming passwords handy. But the next time you hit play on a show, ask someone to watch with you. The screen is brighter — and the story is better — when it's shared.

X: @dthopinion

SATIRE

My summer internship at Fox News



DTH DESIGN/HELAINA BALL

By Sydney Baker
Opinion Editor

This summer, I interned at Fox News in New York City as a truth intern. My job was not to learn how to fairly and accurately report the truth, but how to bend it — I'm beyond lucky to have learned from the best in the industry.

As our work this semester begins, I can't help but feel like Marco Polo returning to Venice to share what he learned in the East; the philosopher from Plato's allegory, coming back to the cave of those who desperately need enlightenment; Eminem returning to the music industry with some really important things

to say. The Daily Tar Heel has lost its way, and it needs wisdom from our Fox & Friends.

First, one of the most valuable things I learned at Fox News was the importance of presenting objectively bad leaders as good. In the office, instead of a lunch break, we had a Trump break, where we all danced around a fire holding hands, tossing the innards of our lunch boxes as sacrificial offerings to our faithful God. There was a magnificent shrine of Donald Trump, so in The DTH newsroom we have installed a massive Lee Roberts shrine in the back closet. Every hour, we go there for confession, asking for forgiveness for the University Desk's behavior.

In the Fox News broadcast studio, I met many of the broadcast interns — all young white women. Fox News's commitment to incorporating more women in journalism is admirable, but unfortunately our office is already mostly women. However, I've stocked The DTH office with blonde bobbed wigs, bright pink dresses and pamphlets detailing how to quickly abandon your morality in hopes of encouraging our writers to embrace traditionalism.

When I applied to this lucrative internship, instead of sending in my resume and providing writing samples, I submitted an audition tape that showcased my ability to make shit up. It's super exciting to have worked for this prominent entertainment channel that strives to be a news outlet simultaneously. It's a duality you can't find anywhere else.

On the very first day of work, we also had to take an IQ test; anyone who scored above 114 was fired on the spot. So, after speaking to the other DTH editors, we've decided that in our fall semester application we'll only take dramatic arts majors with a GPA less than 1.5. We're not hiring writers or academics — we want entertainers.

And don't get me started on the networking opportunities. In the Fraudster Masterclass with Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson

and Laura Ingraham, we learned how to personally believe one thing while saying the complete opposite on-air. Roger Ailes led an insightful dialogue on cultivating a breeding ground for misogyny and sexual harassment. And for dessert, we had a Q&A panel with Karoline Leavitt, who told us to shut up every time we asked a question. I've honed my skills in communication, and we can't wait to incorporate hypocrisy and aggression in our student paper.

Additionally, we will have alcohol in our break room after an insightful presentation on the link between beer and good reporting by guest speaker Pete Hegseth. We also will not publish facts that we personally disagree with. We will utilize our platform to slander and defame, with the defense that we're merely being loose, hyperbolic and figurative. And we're installing a blow-up pool in the middle of the office so we can really practice swimming in the streams of misinformation.

I hope that this past Wednesday, you picked up our first issue of The Daily Tar Heel of the semester. We promise that it's bursting with disinformation, entertainment and deception.

X: @sydneyj_baker

The microlabels of opinion writing, explained

Opinion writing is famous for a host of microlabels — columns, editorials, op-eds, guest essays, letters to the editor, even cartoons. While each of these pieces serves a distinct purpose, their titles are often colloquially confused and interchanged, meaning an average reader might understandably have a convoluted understanding of an opinion desk. Described below are the functions of each of these pieces of writing.

Columns

The most recognizable subsection of opinion writing, columns are the majority of the Opinion Desk's published content. Their primary goal is to convey an individual writer's viewpoint and spark dialogue in our readership. Most columns are written by "columnists," staffers that are hired separately from the reporting team and specialize in opinion writing.

Editorials

Editorials are written exclusively by The Editorial Board, a group made up of 8-10 experienced opinion writers, the Desk's editor and assistant editor, and The DTH Editor-in-Chief. Editorials aim to provide our audience with a researched, reliable voice, focusing on pressing University matters and national news relevant to students.

Guest Essays

Also known as op-eds, guest essays are the means whereby the readership of The Daily Tar Heel can express their viewpoints to the surrounding community. They are similar to opinion columns in nearly every facet but their author — guest essays are written exclusively by non-staffers. Students at UNC, Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents, and even national readers of The Daily Tar Heel are encouraged to submit a guest essay via email if they feel they have a substantive and researched opinion.

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Letters to the Editor are pieces sent to The Daily Tar Heel from a member of the community in response to a specific article. Like guest essays, letters serve as a check on our coverage and, as The Washington Post outlined, "raise substantive questions about [a news organization's] practices and choices."

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— Opinion Editor Sydney Baker and Assistant Opinion Editor Madelyn Rowley

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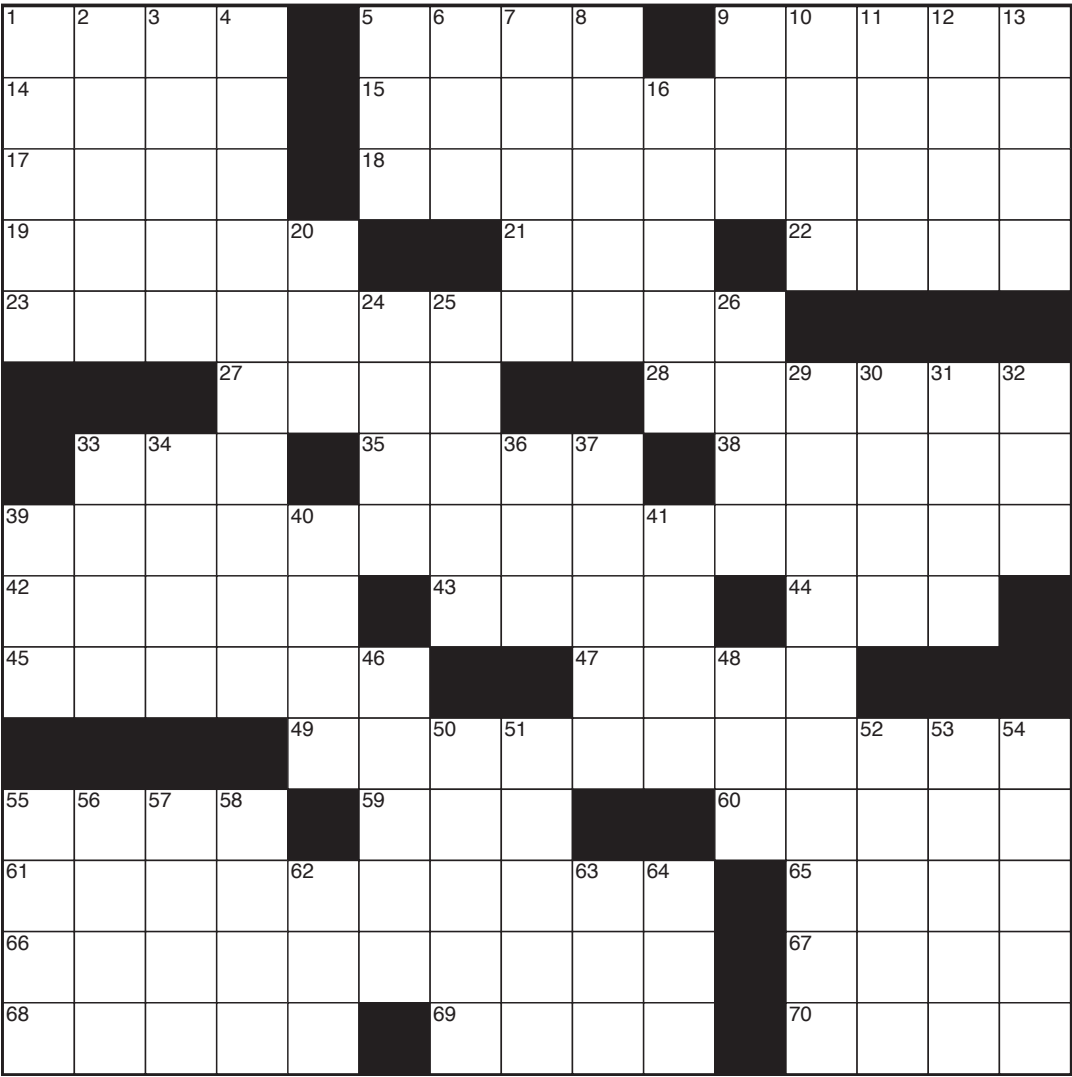


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“Aces of Clubs”

This week’s puzzle was created by Jackson Matz, a DTH crossword contributor.
Jackson is a freshman from Baltimore, Md., studying Neuroscience.

ACROSS

- 1 Study at the last minute
- 5 Cash providers
- 9 Persian tongue
- 14 HBO competitor
- 15 “How nice!”
- 17 Make some changes
- 18 *Common cocktail garnish
- 19 Fix, as a street
- 21 CPR provider
- 22 Eve counterpart
- 23 *20th century European divide
- 27 Subdued
- 28 Short snooze
- 33 Badger
- 35 Purple shade
- 38 “Fingers crossed!”
- 39 *One being extra cautious on the road
- 42 Animal in “The Lion King”
- 43 Argument
- 44 “Sick, dude!”
- 45 Bottommost
- 47 Thrill
- 49 *One using gas and

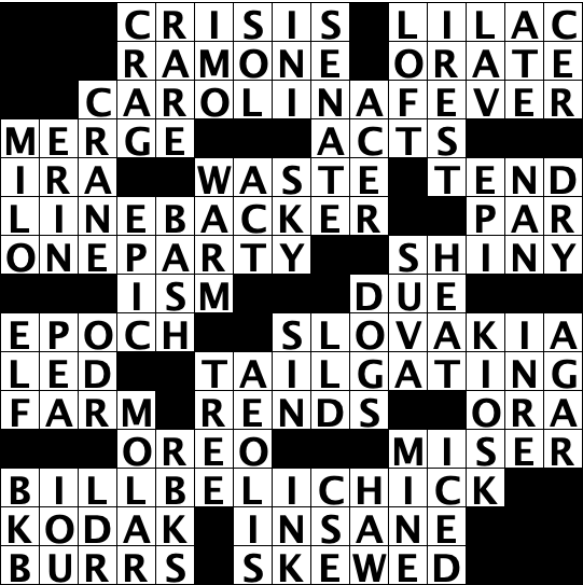
- electricity
- 55 Mother of Helios
- 59 Use the bathroom
- 60 Push roughly
- 61 Country club appointment... where one might learn to use part of the starred clues
- 65 Actress Falco
- 66 Temporary social media post
- 67 GPS calculations
- 68 Eat a ton
- 69 SoCal sch.
- 70 Singular

DOWN

- 1 French sweetheart
- 2 Less polite
- 3 Bush 2006 Supreme Court apointee
- 4 It might be the cause for green eyes
- 5 Cobbler’s tool
- 6 Not just “a”
- 7 Playwright David
- 8 Tiny plant opening

- 9 “Victory!”, in short
- 10 Region
- 11 Comedian Foxx
- 12 Epic story
- 13 Thingy
- 16 Shenanigan
- 20 Color TV pioneer
- 24 Calls strikes and balls
- 25 Antique
- 26 Hair removal brand
- 29 Awkward extra on a date
- 30 Exploding star
- 31 Copied
- 32 Each
- 33 R&B singer with the hit “Miss Independent”
- 34 Some
- 36 UNC’s counterpart in the “South’s Oldest Rivalry”
- 37 Soccer great Lionel
- 39 UPS competitor
- 40 Mathematician John who was the subject of “A Beautiful Mind”
- 41 Monopoly holding
- 46 Uses a keyboard
- 48 Refusals
- 50 One-ups
- 51 Fix, as grass on a green
- 52 Acknowledge nonverbally
- 53 Aquafina rival
- 54 WNBA player with an apt candy brand partnership
- 55 Student’s end of week exclamation
- 56 Sharpen
- 57 “Frozen” queen
- 58 Times of day before eves
- 62 Back muscle, informally
- 63 Choice words
- 64 Big Apple sch.

Answers to
“Tar Heel Touchdowns”



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Horoscopes



Today’s Birthday:
September 3, 2025

Rather than trying to make resolutions and reinvent your vibe in the coming year, think about how you can be a bigger menace to everyone around you. The year ahead can be overflowing with your joy that you scooped straight from the river of others’ annoyance. I’m sure “Man in the Mirror” by Michael Jackson is just a suggestion anyways.

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

ARIES

Today is a 7 — Think about if you could survive your jaw being wired shut for a week. Reflect accordingly.

TAURUS

Today is a 10 — Go to one of your professor’s office hours this week. Those recommendation letters won’t write themselves.

GEMINI

Today is an 8 — Post a song that you don’t actually listen to on your Instagram story to seem cool and indie to impress your crush.

CANCER

Today is a 6 — Attend the performative male competition this Friday. The love of your life is waiting there for you with matcha and a Labubu in hand.

LEO

Today is a 2 — You will begin to cough in three days.

VIRGO

Today is a 6 — Spend an evening psychoanalyzing your friends using only WebMD and take everything it says as completely accurate and factual.

LIBRA

Today is an 8 — Start incorporating the word ‘huzz’ into your everyday dialect, especially if it annoys your friends.

SCORPIO

Today is a 3 — Unfollow your ex-situationships on Instagram to cleanse your aura. (Yes, even if they’re a loyal story liker.)

SAGITTARIUS

Today is a 4 — Aesthetically wallow in self pity on the Wilson steps between your classes. Send your morose vibes to any passersby.

CAPRICORN

Today is a 7 — The chances of tripping on a loose brick in front of the entire student body are low, but never zero. Watch your back.

AQUARIUS

Today is a 5 — Perhaps it would be better if you got a BBL.

PISCES

Today is a 9 — Purchase a new trinket from the nearest thrift store. You know you want to.

Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

Offensive struggles plague Tar Heels in blowout loss to Horned Frogs

Continued from Page 1

a turnover gave the Tar Heels life, Lopez dropped back to pass on a crucial third-and-4 from UNC's own 25-yard line. Only down three points, the Tar Heels needed a conversion.

But as quickly as the South Alabama transfer corralled the snap, he fired a pass to Shipp without a glance at his other receivers.

The ball never touched Shipp's hands, instead landing in the hands of TCU safety Bud Clark, who returned it for six points the other way.

"Anytime you give up two turnovers for touchdowns, offensively that's not good," Belichick said.

Following the interception, Lopez slowly walked to the sideline. When he got to the bench, he stood still, starting straight ahead. He nodded his head, seemingly in an attempt to recoup himself and get back on track.

It didn't work.

North Carolina only mustered one first down in the first half after the opening series. Nothing went right. With every rush stuffed at the line of scrimmage and each pass a desperate attempt to get the offense going, consistency was impossible to come by.

"If you don't make yards on first down, then you're at second or third and long and we ended up with too many three-and-outs there in that second quarter," Belichick said. "First down really helps you a lot on second and third



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC redshirt sophomore quarterback Gio Lopez (7) runs with the ball during the game on Monday, Sept. 1.

down, we just didn't do a good enough job on first down tonight."

The struggles continued into the second half.

After fumbling from a hit in the third quarter that resulted in the second defensive touchdown for TCU, Lopez hobbled off the field

with an apparent injury. He was replaced by Johnson for the rest of the game. Lopez completed just 4-of-10 passes for 69 yards in his Tar Heel debut.

With the change at signal caller, the Tar Heels found some success, putting together a 10-play,

80-yard touchdown drive. With the game already out of reach, North Carolina was doing anything to rewrite the script.

That success was short-lived though, with sophomore running back Davion Gause fumbling away North Carolina's chance



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC offensive lineman William Boone (71) blocks his opponent on Monday, Sept. 1.

at another score on the ensuing drive. It was UNC's third turnover of the game.

The sequence served as a microcosm for North Carolina's offensive output all night — the inability to string drives, or even plays, together against TCU's defense without costly mistakes.

UNC finished the game with 10 first downs compared to TCU's 29. North Carolina posted just 222 yards of total offense with two touchdowns, not enough to match the Horned Frogs' 542 yards and four offensive scores.

"We played competitively but then couldn't sustain it," Belichick said. "Obviously we have a lot of work to do."

X: @dthsports

SEASON OPENER

Sluggish defense puts game out of reach for UNC

TCU picked apart North Carolina's scheme all night

By Beckett Brantley
Assistant Sports Editor

When TCU lined up for the first play of the second half, UNC desperately needed a stop.

Instead, running back Kevorian Barnes took the handoff, pushed through the scrum at the line of scrimmage and followed the right sideline 75 yards into the endzone.

Untouched by the defense.

When the second half of Monday's game started, there was still a chance for the Tar Heel defense to reign in the TCU offense that had run — or rather, passed — all over them in the first half. A hope that, maybe, TCU would keep running the ball up the middle so UNC could keep stuffing it. In the 48-14 loss to the Horned Frogs at Kenan Stadium, the Tar Heel defense cracked in the first half and then fell apart in the second, putting the game out of reach.

North Carolina had contained TCU at the line until Barnes' run, only allowing 54 rushing yards.

In one play, UNC's run defense joined its secondary in hell.

"It was a good run on them," junior defensive

back Kaleb Cost said. "It was a competitive play on them. He broke out and made a good run."

Cost engineered one of the few bright spots for the defense,

diving to intercept a tipped pass and preventing an imminent score in the second quarter, when a touchdown would still have given North Carolina the lead again.

But the secondary otherwise seemed slow on the uptake, getting caught play after play on soft coverage, always five or six yards away from the receiver when he caught the ball.

Redshirt senior defensive back Thaddeus Dixon — UNC's savior in the secondary — was largely absent from the box score, if only because he was doing his job on the right side. After TCU's offense found its stride in the first half, quarterback Josh Hoover avoided Dixon, mostly throwing to his left.

There, he found much less resistance. Senior defensive back Marcus Allen had a similar stat line to Dixon — one more tackle but one fewer pass breakup — but his numbers instead were reflective of lagging coverage and late efforts.

Redshirt first-year defensive back Khalil Conley replaced Allen in the first half, but the more experienced back eventually subbed back in when Conley couldn't bring better coverage.

"We're just going to have to work harder on it, tackle better. There's no secret to it, no pill you can take, we just have to tackle better fundamentally."

Bill Belichick
UNC football head coach

"We gave up several long plays on defense where they gained a lot of yards on one play," head coach Bill Belichick said. "Too many of those."



DTH/PEARCE BARNES

UNC's defense fails to stop a touchdown during the football game against TCU at Kenan Stadium on Monday, Sept. 1. The Tar Heels lost 48-14.

After the 75-yard run, the run defense broke down. In the second half, TCU rushed for 204 yards, chugging down the field.

Where backs were stifled in the first half, they now dragged defenders upfield to set up short-yardage downs and broke free from tackles for big plays.

On the next drive, the TCU line created a hole for running back

Trent Battle to break free, and he cruised 28 yards to the house.

"We're just going to have to work harder on it, tackle better," Belichick said. "There's no secret to it, no pill you can take, we just have to tackle better fundamentally and get more guys around the ball so we don't have so many tackles in space."

From the second TCU drive, when the cracks began to show in the defense, North Carolina's pass defense was out of sorts and always out of place.

When the run defense followed

in the second quarter, slow to make its tackles, bad plays ensued for the Tar Heels.

With no stronghold on the defense, it seemed like UNC had given up.

"Regardless of the situation or regardless of the play that just happened before or after, whether it's a good play or a bad play, we gotta keep going," Cost said.

X: @beckettbrant

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Veterans step up to extend winning streak

Tar Heels gain momentum with two weekend victories against UNCg, Milwaukee

By Jack Morris
Senior Writer

From an early point in the 2025 season, women's soccer head coach Damon Nahas spoke to the challenge of putting the puzzle pieces of a new team together.

Six new starters take the field in every match for the No. 22 North Carolina women's soccer team. And two road losses to open the year only made that process tougher.

But three returning upperclassmen starters — junior forward Olivia Thomas, senior forward Kate Faasse and senior midfielder Tessa Dellarose — still hadn't taken the field together this season.

That changed last week. Behind its experienced leaders, UNC secured two more wins to close out August, defeating UNC Greensboro, 4-0, and Milwaukee, 4-1. Faasse and Thomas were responsible for five of the Tar Heels eight goals in the two contests at Dorrance Field, while Dellarose made her season debut after battling an injury.

Faasse entered the match against UNCg still chasing her first goal of the season. After leading the nation in goals scored last year, Faasse felt the urgency rising.

"The anticipation's been going on and people have been saying things, but I've been trying to find my own calm, work on my own things and just stay focused on the team," she said.

In the 35th minute, her drought ended. Faasse found herself in the middle of a crowded box, where she poked in her first goal, narrowly breaking the goal line.

"[Kate's] doing the right things and she's created a lot of opportunities for us this season that haven't gone in the back of the net for her," Nahas said. "But as I told her, don't try and impress, keep doing the right things, the goals will come."

Faasse, who is admittedly superstitious, is doing everything she can to get back into goal scoring mode.

Her superstitions from last season haven't stuck. They're all changing.

"Hair ties, threw them out," Faasse said. "I bought new cleats [too]. They're on the way."

Whether it be the changes in wardrobe or the extra work that Faasse and the staff have put in, something clicked.

Early in the second half, she secured the brace with a tap in past multiple UNCg defenders. The Tar Heels used the outburst from Faasse to dominate in their third consecutive shutout.

Faasse and her veteran counterparts rolled the momentum into North Carolina's second match of the week against Milwaukee. Thomas found the back of the net in the seventh minute to give the Tar Heels an early lead.

But the lead didn't last long as Milwaukee answered in the 21st minute.

"They made it difficult [for us], we made it difficult for ourselves in the first half, and the goal we gave up was just a cluster of mistakes," Nahas said.

After not having the right mindset in the first half, UNC had its backs up against the wall once again. But Thomas, Faasse and the return of Dellarose led to a "phenomenal" mentality in the second.

Dellarose returned against Milwaukee after being sidelined for nine weeks due to injury.

She spent the first five games this season exercising a different role, using her vision and presence from the sideline to help the Tar Heels even when she wasn't on the field. And she's grateful for that experience.

In her return, North Carolina needed that leadership.

After over a 45 minute UNC scoring drought, first-year midfielder Bella Devey broke the tie.

As time ticked down, the one-goal lead remained. Until Thomas and Faasse took over the match.

Both netted goals to extend the lead and put the match out of reach.

And Dellarose raved about their energy and effort in her absence.

"They lead by example every single second that they're out on the field [and] they're giving it 100%," Dellarose said. "Their energy is just contagious."

After a sluggish 1-2 start to the 2025 season, the Tar Heels have won three straight while only allowing one goal in that stretch. The focus has been simple: finding ways to get positive results while learning from the negatives.

With Dellarose back, Faasse rediscovering her scoring touch and Thomas steady up front, the Tar Heels are starting to look like themselves again.

"Finding Carolina soccer and building upon that [is] what the name of the game is," Dellarose said.

X: @dthsports



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

UNC junior forward Olivia Thomas (33) kicks the ball during the women's soccer game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Dorrance Field on Sunday, Aug. 31.

MEN'S SOCCER

Persistence pays off in UNC's 2-0 win over Evansville



DTH/ALEX YANG

UNC junior defender Luca Nikolai (13) chases the ball during the game against Evansville at Dorrance Field on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Strong defense and two late goals guide North Carolina to a shutout

By Connor Foote
Senior Writer

For more than an hour on Thursday night, the UNC men's soccer offense struggled to find space in the final third.

There was a sense that when a foul was committed, or a University of Evansville player sent one long, that something was going to happen soon.

Even when North Carolina struggled to break the deadlock.

Then suddenly, that something came. A cross from graduate forward Nacho Abeal connected to the head of graduate midfielder Andrew Czech and fell back across the goal to first-year forward Ryan Dugan. Dugan struck a bouncing, game-winning goal in the 69th minute to put North Carolina up 1-0.

"I missed an earlier volley, so I wanted to redeem myself," Dugan said. "Coach says we always gotta have guts, so I hit it one time again and thankfully it went in."

Persistence was a key theme Thursday as the Tar Heels worked to defeat the Purple Aces, 2-0, at Dorrance Field. Although No. 15 North Carolina struggled to create a meaningful play in the final third, it continued to push hard, rocketing in two late goals in the shutout.

While the defense limited Evansville to three shots on the night, the Tar Heels found the game much harder to affect from the other side of the ball. Possessions were given away from the midfield and runs ended prematurely. As soon as the attack approached the penalty area, it was turned away.

This was, in head coach Carlos Somoano's opinion, probably his fault.

"[In the] first half we tinkered a little bit," Somoano said. "We're trying to find a way to move the needle, and we diddled around a little bit."

North Carolina was forced to come back from losing positions against both UCF and Seattle, so a change in approach was certainly warranted. But just 20 minutes in, it was a change Somoano abandoned.

He opted for early substitutions, swapping four of his 11 players in an attempt to spark a change. Dugan was one of the four, but the forward, whose speed helped him to a debut goal against UCF, was unable to produce anything meaningful.

Mature defense from Evansville continued to stifle offensive creativity. Disappointment followed where assists should have been made.

The only consistent unit was the five-man backline. It looks now to be fully comfortable, marking some found cohesion with a deserved clean sheet. They were so solid that junior defender Luca Nikolai played mostly offensively, the conduit through which any semi-successful play was worked.

"When I was younger, I was a winger," the JMU transfer said. "And at some point in my career, I became a right back. So it was always important for me to go up front, to create something up front, to run those lines up and down."

Those lines eventually yielded something worthwhile in the form of Dugan's goal.

"One of the pitfalls that a lot of guys fall into is they start playing for playing time," Somoano said. "What can I do to play more? And that's a trap. I mean, you're done if you do that. Ryan Dugan is not doing that. He's playing as hard as he can when he gets a chance to help the team. And that is everything."

Seven minutes after Dugan scored, Nikolai capitalized on his effort with an absolute scorcher bar down to cement UNC's 2-0 win.

As the Tar Heels head south to face College of Charleston on Monday, displaying their offensive capability early will be a priority. In spite of their 3-0 record, North Carolina must learn to score fast and score first.

X: @dthsports

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

One-third of graduate student senators resign

Board of Elections chair
sues every member
of GPSG legislature

By Aidan Lockhart
Enterprise Editor
and Caleb Herrera
Assistant University Editor

Nineteen members of UNC’s Graduate and Professional Student Government — around a third of the entire legislative branch — resigned on Tuesday.

The resignations came in response to a Student Supreme Court lawsuit filed by Board of Elections Chair Elias Larson North against every individual member of the GPSG. North also filed an injunction on the upcoming GPSG elections, with Aug. 31 being the last day the election could be held in accordance with the GPSG code.

The lawsuit alleges that the GPSG “held no records as to the terms or times of election for the senators of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate.” According to North, they can’t hold elections because they don’t know who is being elected or what positions are vacant.

On Thursday, the Student Supreme Court issued an order granting the temporary injunction on the GPSG elections until Sept. 8.

The suit comes less than two weeks after the GPSG failed to impeach North by two votes. North was accused of gross misfeasance involving, among other violations, an unsupervised ballot box during the spring undergraduate elections and providing false testimony.

Of the 19 senators who resigned, 18 voted to impeach North.

Avery Baker, a former GPSG senator, said that this isn’t the first time North has raised issues within the student government.

“He chose a nuclear option when he did not have to, just like he did with the GPSG presidential election,” Baker said.

Last March, North cast the tiebreaking vote to disqualify GPSG presidential candidate Nyssa Tucker. Tucker won 70 percent of the vote. The grounds for Tucker’s disqualification were a finance report submitted 91 minutes past the 5 p.m. election day deadline.

Baker argued that Tucker had no previous or frequent violations during the campaign and was not notified of any violations after the form was submitted. North



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

DTH graphic depicts direct quotes from senators’ resignation emails. Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock.

said the law gives the BOE broad latitude within the GPSG code to apply sanctions to candidates who violate procedure.

“Needless escalation”

An email summons was sent to senators at 11:36 p.m. on Monday night — just 22 hours before the scheduled pretrial hearing at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday. In multiple email chains, obtained by The Daily Tar Heel, senators resigned in quick succession. Many of them directly cited the lawsuit as the reason for their resignation.

Multiple senators, in both their resignation emails and interviews with The DTH, said they felt the situation could have been resolved without the lawsuit. In her resignation email, Alonna Despain — formerly President Pro Tempore of the GPSG — referred to the choice to sue every graduate senator individually as “needless escalation”.

“At the end of the day, this is all performative,” Despain said.

In an email to The DTH, Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court Andrew Gary wrote that, to his knowledge, there is no precedent for a suit being brought against every single member of either Senate.

North said he did not expect a substantial portion of the senators to resign, as it was a “fairly simple motion,” and it should be “fairly easy to see why it would be necessary.”

“I just can’t see a world where this level of escalation and time wasting is anything other than retaliatory, when you had another option in front of you.”

Alonna Despain
Former GPSG President Pro Tempore

“There’s not a way to set it up, for an election to occur, that would have anything close to democratic legitimacy,” he said.

Multiple former senators said that this suit by North is a retaliation against the GPSG for

attempting to impeach him earlier this semester.

“I just can’t see a world where this level of escalation and time wasting is anything other than retaliatory, when you had another option in front of you that was collegial and also more timely,” Despain said.

North said he does not have confidence that political leadership in GPSG is willing to work with the BOE, or him specifically, in good faith.

“When, in the past, I’ve attempted to engage with collaborative, cooperative efforts with GPSG, it has blown up in my face pretty substantially,” North said. “After I fully cooperated with an investigation one of their Senate committees was putting on, they impeached me and failed to hold a trial for four months, which put us, to some extent, in this position.”

“Waste of time and energy”

Despain said that frustration among the GPSG senators is widespread, and this lawsuit was the last straw for many people.

“People are just tired, people are fed up,” Despain said. “I’m no longer able to make a difference the way that I thought I would.”

Former senator Jacob Ginn wrote in his resignation email that “participating in [GPSG] is a waste of time and energy.” Multiple senators echoed the sentiment.

In an email to the GPSG, senator Fernando J. Quijano said that while he shares in the frustration of the senators who resigned, he believes the Senate still has important responsibilities to the graduate student body.

“Even in its imperfect state, GPSG continues to provide real, tangible resources that benefit graduate and professional students across UNC,” Quijano wrote.

In 2022, the Faculty Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting pay increases for graduate students, which led to a University-implemented stipend increase at the beginning of 2023. According to then-GPSG president Theodore Nollert, it was the largest ever one-time stipend increase for graduate students.

The GPSG is also responsible for distributing the Emergency Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to graduate and professional students who require it. Despain said the current lawsuit could impede the GPSG’s ability to disperse emergency funding.

“People rely on that money,” she said. “I mean, heck, the tropical storm that just came through, people relied on [the emergency fund] to get through that.”

In their resignation emails, many senators suggested alternative ways to improve working conditions for graduate students outside of the GPSG, with many suggesting UE150 – The Workers’ Union at UNC as another way to make their voices heard.

In an email obtained by the DTH, Omar Merhebi — the newly appointed speaker of the GPSG senate — wrote that it is impossible to hold a regular meeting of the senate at this time because there are not enough members of the senate to meet quorum.

X: @dailytarheel

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