

The Daily Tar Heel

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LEGACY

‘Everything we need right here’: The rise and fall of Durham’s Black Wall Street

Newly emancipated people created prosperous district

By Laney Crawley
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On Nov. 10, 1910, Booker T. Washington said that of all the Southern cities he visited, he saw the sanest attitude of white people toward the Black community in Durham. He said that he never had seen a city with so many prosperous, “working negroes.”

Washington was likely referring to Durham’s Black Wall Street.

The existence and destruction of Black Wall Streets across the country are no secret. Tulsa, Okla., a once progressive and wealthy community was devastated due to an assault claim and an ensuing mass hysteria-fueled mob in 1921. Even more than a century’s worth of work in Tulsa has not been able to fully rebuild what once was.

In Durham, though, some remains of these communities can be found nestled downtown on Parrish Street. The street was home to many Black-owned businesses that represented



DTH/SARAH ELLIS

What is known as Black Wall Street was home to many Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurial successes.

the entrepreneurial successes of the greater district and the now historic neighborhoods within it.

Angela Lee, executive director of the Hayti Heritage Center, said the reason this area was even able to thrive largely traces back to emancipation in the South and the newly freed slaves who decided to settle there.

“Stagville Plantation in Durham, at emancipation, it had the largest

number, I think, of enslaved people on their grounds [in North Carolina],” she said. “When emancipation came, all of those men, women [and] children just had to decide or figure out where they would go. And a lot of them settled here and formed what became the Hayti community.”

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REMEMBRANCE

‘People who truly built the University’

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery reflects UNC’s racial history

By Caleb Herrera
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Across from Hooker Fields and behind Connor Residence Hall, a corner of the University’s history sits hidden in plain sight.

Students walk through it on game days, crossing from Cobb parking deck toward the Dean E. Smith Center, often without a second thought at how they’re one more generation walking past the graves of those that came before them.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery was established in 1798 after a land grant given two years prior and serves as the final resting place for various individuals associated with the University. While holding historical significance, it also reflects the histories of Black individuals who contributed to the University’s development.

The cemetery contains approximately 1600 burials spread across six sections, labeled A-B and I-IV. The Dialectic and Philanthropic

Societies were the first to establish plots on the land, with the earliest recorded burial belonging to 19-year-old George Clarke.

The grounds are also the final resting place of various public officials, local authors, Confederate soldiers from the Civil War and veterans from subsequent wars.

Historically, sections A and B were designated for Black burials, both enslaved and free individuals,

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DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery designated for Black burials often only have field stones to mark graves.

ACADEMICS

Class explores race through basketball



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Professor Matt Andrews gives a lecture in his class, History 585: Race, Basketball, and the American Dream, in Chapman Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Curriculum spans from James Naismith era to COVID-19 pandemic

By Alexandra Jones
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To professor Matt Andrews, race and basketball go hand-in-hand. It’s something he notices during

every game he watches.

“[Basketball] is where ideas about race are presented and challenged and reworked, Andrews said. “As I say on the first day of class, I cannot watch a basketball game without thinking about race.”

Since 2019, the history professor has presented this idea to students in History 585: Race, Basketball, and the American Dream. With such a

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

ARTS

UNC communications department event celebrates intersectionality

Local poets to perform on Valentine’s Day in Swain Hall

By Caroline King
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UNC’s Department of Communication’s “A Celebration of Queer Life and Love” event will be held on Valentine’s Day in Swain Hall and will feature performances by local poets Destiny Hemphill and CJ Suitt.

“It’s just a general celebration of love and life,” Event Organizer Kayla Corbin said. “Especially in the midst of so many not-affirming actions being taken by the government, by universities around the country. I think that this is an important moment to just celebrate.”

The celebration is a lead-up event to the 25th anniversary of the Black Queer Studies Conference which Corbin, a doctoral candidate, is the graduate coordinator for.

Corbin said that the intersection of Black and queer identities creates a unique art form.

“To be Black and to be queer produces particular experiences of oppression, but also particular

experiences of living and ways of knowing,” she said. “And so, it’s not just about particular experiences of oppression. It’s also particular experiences of expression.”

Corbin said she tapped into the local art scene to find performers who were “actively celebrating Blackness and queerness.” She selected Stormie Daie, a drag queen to host the show and local DJ Femi the Femme to mix the music. She

contacted Hemphill and Suitt to perform pieces of their poetry.

Hemphill said she felt invigorated by the chance to be a part of the celebration because she also felt it necessary given the political moment. She said that the intersection of Blackness and queerness expands the imagination of what liberation can look like.

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DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

Poet CJ Suitt will be one of the featured local poets at “A Celebration of Queer Life and Love” event on Feb. 14 in Swain Hall.

“ We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated. ”

MAYA ANGELOU

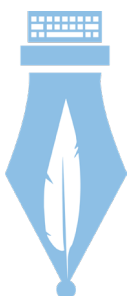
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ACTIVISM

Peace and Justice Plaza serves as reminder of historic protests

Courthouse lawn stood as hub for collective civil rights action

By Sarah Clements
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In March 1964, civil rights activists James Foushee, John Dunne, LaVert Taylor and Patrick Cusick spent eight days on the lawn of the Franklin Street Post Office consuming nothing but water and cigarettes.

In a leaflet written and signed by the participants, the four wrote they were holding a hunger strike to demand Chapel Hill public officials pass a Public Accommodations Ordinance that would end segregated employment and housing practices.

“We hope that each of us, as we observe the final week of Lent, will ask ourselves the question: have I honestly and sincerely done all in my power to eliminate racial discrimination in Chapel Hill?” they said.

The protest is known as the Holy Week Fast, and, according to community historian Danita Mason-Hogans, was the beginning of a long history of civil rights demonstrations at the post office located at 179 E Franklin St. That area is now known as the Peace and Justice Plaza.

The building was constructed in 1917 and remodeled in 1937 using funding from a New Deal program called the Works Progress Administration, Chapel Hill Historical Society Treasurer Thomas Jepsen said.

He said Chapel Hill’s Civil Rights Movement took off in the early 1960s, largely due to the efforts of Black students at Lincoln High School who led weekly marches ending at, what is now, the Peace and Justice Plaza.

“It seemed like a logical place,” Jepsen said. “If we’re going to ask for justice, let’s do it in front of the courthouse.”

By 1963, UNC students had joined the movement, and the number of people protesting weekly on the courthouse lawn increased.

Jepsen said the plaza’s proximity to UNC’s campus was part of why it became a gathering spot, and student organizations often held events there to bypass on-campus speaker bans put in place by the Board of Governors.

“Often the biggest protests are where it comes from a combination



DTH FILE/IRA WILDER

Banners with artwork designed by Triangle artist Victoria Primicias hang in the Justice Plaza on Franklin Street in March 2021.

of student activists and folks from the local community, whether it’s through the NAACP or another organization,” Molly Luby, Chapel Hill Public Library community history coordinator said.

The Holy Week Fast was a prime example of this, and she said it came at an important time in Chapel Hill’s history when change hadn’t yet occurred, and locals were starting to tire of the activists.

“But at the same time, the local Black community showed up and supported the four young men who were sitting out there,” Luby said. “They brought them food and flowers and water.”

Jepsen said protests continued through the years, and during the Vietnam War, the local chapter of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom held weekly peace vigils at the site from 1967 through 1973.

Community members proposed the idea of renaming the plaza in 2006, and Luby said there was a push to name the site after Adams and two other white activists who had participated in numerous protests at the site.

Mason-Hogans said Fred Battle, chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP at the time, petitioned the Town to ensure the



DTH FILE/GILLIAN FASKI

The Peace and Justice Plaza on East Franklin Street is pictured on Aug. 29, 2022.

plaza was representative of the Black individuals who had first fought for civil rights there.

In September 2009, both the plaza and a granite tribute marker were dedicated to historical figures that fought for peace and justice in Chapel Hill, with 17 names currently inscribed in the tribute marker.

“True peace is not merely the absence of some negative force, it is the presence of justice,” the tribute marker reads, quoting from Martin Luther King Jr.

Mason-Hogans said the Peace and Justice Plaza stands as a testament to the resistance of oppression that that was rooted in the Black Freedom Movement. The plaza has also expanded to include a new set of issues and concerns that are all rooted in social justice, she said.

“[The] Peace and Justice Plaza is a beacon and a platform to call us to our better selves,” Mason-Hogans said.

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DEDICATION

Students celebrate Black History Month following DEI repeal

UNC clubs and global organization to host outreach events

By Regan Butler

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Community members are considering how Black History Month may feel different on campus this year after the UNC System's Diversity and Inclusion policy repeal last spring and the lower number of Black students on campus, compared to years past.

With the lack of DEI initiatives at the institutional level, UNC sophomore and Historically Black at UNC President Addison Truzy said Black student organizations now have to "go above and beyond" to ensure their community outreach is effective.

HBUNC is a student-run media group that aims to highlight Black culture and keep its community informed through social media, according to its Heel Life website.

Truzy also said the decrease in Black students due to the elimination of affirmative action will be noticeable and disheartening during this year's Black History Month.

The class of 2028 saw an approximate 25 percent decrease in Black students enrolled compared to the class of 2027.

"I think that's going to be a little bit of a shock factor when we see the turnout rates for these events coming up," she said.

UNC African Student Association President Ruth Uzochukwu said the organization is co-hosting a new event with the UNC Black Student Movement to unify the two groups during Black History Month.

She said the Family Feud-style event is meant to bridge the cultural gap between the African and Black communities. This kind of community-building, she said, is something no longer being facilitated at the institutional level due to the DEI repeal.

In addition to the ASA-BSM collab, she said that ASA and other Black student organizations are hosting an Afro Caribbean Festival in partnership with the Carolina Union Activities Board to "kick off Black History Month," according to Heel Life.

"It's kind of in our own hands to establish those systems for ourselves and really lean on each other," she said.

For Black History Month, the Campus Y will host two sessions

of "Tools for Combating Racism." Participants will be coached by members of A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth, a global organization that states on its website that it provides an "anti-racism activation experience."

ALT Chief Empowerment Officer Kyle Williams said he thinks Black History Month events are sometimes hosted "performatively," and delve into topics that should be discussed year-round.

ALT spoke to students virtually in January and will speak in-person on Feb. 5 at the Campus Y. The program features preparation materials on the history of racism in the United States that must be reviewed prior to the first meeting.

"Really, what I'm trying to do is talk to white people about what's going on in the country and show them what they can do to help," Williams said.

He said it's inspiring for him and his organization to visit places where DEI is under attack because he wants to facilitate uncomfortable conversations. It's important, he said, for the Black community to encourage white people to use their voices and platforms for social change.

Ariyan Byrd, a UNC sophomore and executive social justice advocate for the Residence



DTH DESIGN/ZOEY MORRIS

Hall Association, said that the University's week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day from Jan. 19 to 23 felt like a "Band-Aid over a bullet hole."

She said she presumes Black History Month will feel similarly disingenuous on campus.

"I would say that it just makes the month feel like a quota to reach," Byrd said. "And we just feel like a statistic."

UNC senior and Asian American Students Association member Elizabeth Ballou said that even

non-Black identity-based groups on campus feel hushed by the University on topics surrounding DEI.

Ballou said that from an outside perspective, she thinks it will be difficult for Black students to celebrate their heritage at a University where it feels like they aren't welcome.

"I think it's just gonna be a call for us to do so much more to encourage kids who have a community here," Truzy said.

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BELONGING

Black students foster community through organizations, affinity spaces

On-campus groups provide comfort and a 'second home'

By Dylan Skinner

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At a predominantly white institution like UNC, a sense of community is coveted. Without it, sophomore Nicholas Williams said being a Black student in an overwhelmingly white environment can feel discouraging.

The Union of Black Men at UNC provides a safe space to help students see the different capacities of what it means to be a Black man at a PWI. The organization's motto states that it's a space "made of Black men, by Black men, for the prosperity of Black men."

"[The UBM is] pouring this amount of time to make sure that we have these spaces where we can be ourselves," junior Tyler Coffee said. "Why would I not want to be a part of that?"

The organization provides many opportunities for Black men at UNC to get involved, from various



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC sophomore Ava Wharton, co-president of Sis2Sis, poses for a portrait outside South Building on Friday, Jan. 31.

community service projects and an annual 3v3 basketball tournament to upcoming book and run clubs.

"It's a community of people that really want you to succeed and are there for you every step of the way," junior D'shawn Thomas, UBM's strategic officer, said.

Similar to UBM's mission to unite Black men on campus,

UNC Sis2Sis is about creating spaces to serve undergraduate Black women, the organization's Co-President Ava Wharton said.

"Having a community in a space where you can explore your ideas and where your identity is validated is really important and especially for Black girls," Wharton said.

Wharton said institutions have

failed to support diverse and cultural groups across campus. She said it is important to listen to the voices of all minorities, but especially Black women who stand in an the intersection between gender and race.

Every fall, Sis2Sis hosts an annual Powder Puff football game, which raised over \$2,000 in 2024. Other ways to get involved include community events like a back-to-school cookout and student career fair.

Other organizations on campus hold their own events to provide a space for students of color amidst a predominantly-white environment.

Ebere Udeogu, the UNC African Students Association's social media coordinator, said the connections she's made within ASA inspire her because sometimes the community can feel out of reach if someone is one of the only African or Black people they know.

The community ASA creates helps connect UNC students, some of whom eventually meet in Africa after building relationships on campus.

In March, the organization hosts an annual Africa Night that brings ASAs from various universities together to celebrate their cultures through

performances and traditional clothing.

Udeogu said ASA allows students to be the best versions of themselves.

"It feels kind of like a second home," she said. "Like a home away from home."

The Carolina Black Caucus serves Black faculty, staff and graduate students, to make sure their wider communities have a unified voice.

Vice Chair of the CBC Donovan Livingston, who also serves as a teaching assistant professor in the UNC music department and the Director of College Thriving at the University, said the CBC has always had a symbiotic relationship with Black student organizations.

"It is my sincere hope that in a moment like this, organizations like ours and other cultural organizations feel empowered and safe and affirmed in their capacity to exist, to speak up for themselves, hold space for one another and learn from one another as well."

Editor's note: Ava Wharton was previously a DTH staffer at the University and Photo desks.

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Preserving University history through campus cemetery

Continued from Page 1

due to the lack of Black church cemeteries in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Burials in these sections were typically marked by a simple field stone instead of inscribed headstones, with many having been removed or relocated over time, resulting in numerous unidentified graves.

Notable individuals buried in these sections include George Kirkland, the first Black dentist in Chapel Hill; Wilson Swain Campbell, an ex-slave who established the Town's first school for Black people; and George Barbee, who has one of the oldest stones in Section B.

The cemetery has undergone instances of neglect and damage,

including past acts of vandalism that have raised concerns about its preservation, with 40-50 monuments broken and toppled in 1974 and football fans damaging field stones in a rush to reach the stadium in 1985. It's unclear if these damages were intentional or not.

In April 1985, the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force was established to present recommendations to the Chapel Hill Town Council concerning maintenance and preservation of the cemetery, with their report from later that year raising concerns about the cemetery's condition and emphasizing the need for greater efforts to preserve its historical legacy.

Larry Rhodes, park maintenance supervisor in the Town's Parks and

Recreation Department, said that he and his team aim to maintain the integrity of the cemetery, specifically regarding the fieldstones of unmarked Black individuals as well as the burial plots of "certain dignitaries."

"We try to pay as much attention to the details within the cemetery, given its age and the nature, the way it was constructed, those types of things," he said.

University archivist Nicolas Graham said the lack of clear record of everyone buried in the Black sections of the cemetery "mirrors the documentation we have for slavery at UNC."

"There is substantial documentation showing the use of enslaved labor for the construction and maintenance of campus buildings and of people

working as unpaid servants on campus, but it's not a comprehensive record by any means, and it certainly requires a good bit of research and inference to really understand, to get a broad sense of the role and impact of slavery at the University," he said.

Danita Mason-Hogans, Chapel Hill native and civil rights historian, said that the segregation of Black graves within the cemetery speaks to their position on campus and the families they served.

"In terms of people who truly built the University, what we think about them, what we think about their labor, what we think about their memory, especially when you have something that's dilapidated on one side, and beautifully manicured

on the other side, I think it shows us a lot that is not inconsistent with the history of how people were valued back then," she said.

Mason-Hogans added that it is important that people acknowledge the truth of the University's history and work toward a "prescriptive repair," rather than erase people's histories or diminish their contributions.

"Until we do that, we're always going to have desecration of people's graves because people won't know the truth and people won't be able to do anything that honors that legacy," she said. "And until we do, this will be a University for some people, not University of the people."

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IMMIGRATION

Chancellor says University will comply with ICE

Campus community members voice fears, disappointment

By Adele Morris

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At a Faculty Council meeting on Jan. 24, Chancellor Lee Roberts announced that the University will comply if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement seeks undocumented students on campus during the Trump administration.

Roberts' announcement comes after a new directive from the Department of Homeland Security ending protection from immigration enforcement in "sensitive" locations including colleges, churches and hospitals.

Carmen Huerta-Bapat, a global studies teaching assistant professor, said the Chancellor's announcement creates more anxiety for professors.

"Everyone is going to act differently," she said. "It's going to be very chaotic, absolutely, because it's not like a top-down mandate from the University, other than 'comply.'"

Some students reacted to the chancellor's statement with disappointment and fear.

Ashley Hernandez, the political action co-chair of Latinx student organization Mi Pueblo, said Roberts' announcement restricts students' sense of freedom and safety on campus.

"It's very disappointing, and it's honestly scary, because for a lot of us, people who are undocumented or documented in this environment, in school, we're just here to get an education," she said. "We're just here to better ourselves."

Mi Pueblo's co-president, Alan Rojas-Rodriguez, said there is a newfound fear to enter public spaces with immigration officials now having open access to campus. He said for some students, even venturing to club meetings now feels like a risk.

In an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel, UNC Media Relations wrote that UNC is monitoring federal actions to determine what impact they may have on the University.

"We know that the changes to the immigration enforcement may cause concern for students who are worried about their friends and families. We want everyone to feel supported and informed during this time," Media Relations wrote.

But Rojas-Rodriguez said he does not feel like the University is taking



DTH/VIYADA SOUKTHAVONE

UNC senior Alan Rojas-Rodriguez is the co-president of Mi Pueblo, a student organization that brings awareness to Latinx issues, heritage and culture.

the necessary steps to make students feel safe. He expressed dismay at the lack of communication between the Chancellor's office and student organizations, including Mi Pueblo.

The chancellor's announcement also raised questions regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The act protects students' personal information and academic records from unauthorized disclosure.

Huerta-Bapat highlighted the contradictory nature of the new directive and FERPA.

"We're not even supposed to talk to parents about students' grades, but here we are expected to talk to ICE officials about students' immigration status," she said. "This makes no sense whatsoever."

In his address to the Faculty Council, Roberts noted that he is well aware of the anxiety surrounding the change in immigration policy.

"We're going to continue to try to serve our immigrant students and scholars as best we can," Roberts said. "It's a hugely important population for

us and we want them to feel supported and welcomed and encouraged."

While waiting to hear more from federal and University administration, student organizations have stepped up to provide resources for concerned community members.

A collaborative Instagram post between Mi Pueblo, Amexcan UNC, UNC Arab Student Organization, UNC Asian American Students Association and UNC Black Student Movement provided a statement denouncing Roberts' declaration of compliance.

The post presented a list of demands for the chancellor. This included providing faculty training on how to better support undocumented students and meeting with students and faculty to learn about how new policies impact undocumented individuals on campus.

Huerta-Bapat also stressed the need for an official stance from the University, citing the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district's statement of support for immigrant communities.

Huerta-Bapat said she was "deeply disappointed in the lack of humanity" that the University has expressed toward immigrants.

X: @adelepmorris17

GOVERNMENT

A guide to the UNC student body presidential race

Early voting is Feb. 8 through Feb. 10, with election day on Feb. 11

By Allison Hurley

Staff Writer
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On Feb. 11, UNC students will have the opportunity to cast a ballot for their next student body president.

In 1921, students passed a referendum to add the position of student body president to Student Government. Since then, a student body president has been elected each spring to represent the student body in the upcoming academic year.

"The role is definitely to advocate for the diverse interests of all 32,000 students that come to Carolina," current President Jaleah Taylor said.

Former Student Body President Reeves Moseley was elected in 2020. He said the student body president is the only student who sits on the Board of Trustees, Student Fee Advisory Council and other committees that work directly with University administration.

To file a valid petition with the UNC Board of Elections and have their name appear on the ballot, student body president candidates must obtain at least 1,200 student signatures. At least 300 of those must be from undergraduates and another 300 from graduate and professional students.

The UNC Student Body constitution does not state any regulations on student body president candidates' year or grade point average. Traditionally, the student body president stands in the position for their senior year. All students are eligible to vote for the position.

The UNC Graduate and Professional Student Government has their own executive branch with a separate president. If a graduate student were to be elected student body president, there would be a separate undergraduate president. Regardless, the student body president is the highest ranking member of the student government in the UNC community.



DTH DESIGN/SARAH FENWICK

Traditionally, candidates share details about their platforms to help the community understand their policies. Taylor said it can be difficult for student body president candidates to represent the interests of all students in their policies.

"There's definitely going to be times where you know you're missing someone, or you're missing a certain interest," she said. "It's a really hard thing to do, to make sure that you have all of the ideas of every single student."

Early voting will take place Feb. 8 through Feb. 10, with election day on Feb. 11. Eligible voters can cast electronic ballots through Heel Life or physical ballots in the Frank Porter Graham Student Union.

In 2023, 14.43 percent of eligible voters cast a student body president ballot. In 2024, that number was cut in half at 7.22 percent.

Taylor said the drop in voter turnout may have been due to the 2024 election taking place on Valentine's Day, or that voting occurred the day after a well-being day. This year's election is also scheduled the day immediately after a well-being day.

Moseley said students may not turn out to vote because they believe the student government does not have much power.

"Even I was skeptical coming into UNC and joining student government, that this is just a placeholder title, or student government positions, you don't

really do that much just because you don't carry as much weight as you would like to. But that's really not true at the end of the day," he said.

While serving his term, Moseley said he voted with the BOT on the issues including policy to lift the moratorium on renaming campus buildings and the hiring of men's basketball head coach Hubert Davis.

First-year student Florence Walton said one reason students may not vote is due to a lack of information.

"No one really informs about when, or where or how to actually vote in the election," she said.

UNC's Board of Elections sent an email with notice of the election to all UNC students on Jan. 16, with no further direct communication at the time of publication.

"I haven't heard anything from emails or any announcements," first-year Bailey Heston said.

The ballot for student body president will also include the elections for the offices of president of Carolina Athletic Association, president of Residence Hall Association, president and vice president of the rising senior class and positions in the Undergraduate Senate.

"Students should go vote, and they should get involved in student government," Taylor said.

ADMINISTRATION

Ritch Allison appointed to BOT

North Carolina alumnus is former CEO of Domino's

By Daneen Khan

Assistant University Editor
university@dailytarheel.com

Ritch Allison, the former CEO of Domino's Pizza Inc., has been appointed to the UNC Board of Trustees.

"As someone who is so deeply passionate about Carolina, I am humbled and honored to have this opportunity to continue to give back to the University," Allison said in a press release from University Communications.

Allison is replacing former BOT member David Boliek, who was recently sworn in as state auditor.

The UNC System Board of Governors appointed Allison on Thursday. He will stand for the remainder of Boliek's term, which was slated to end in 2027.

In March 2024, Allison donated \$1,000 to Boliek's state auditor campaign. He also donated \$1,600 to BOT member Brad Briner, who was elected as state treasurer in November.

Allison currently sits on the Starbucks Corporation's Board of Directors. He also serves

on the board for Kenvue Inc, a consumer health company that owns brands including Neutrogena, Tylenol and Motrin.

In October 2023, students protested Allison's attendance at a "fireside chat" at Carolina Inn, due to Starbucks' history of labor law violations. The event was hosted by the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, a partner of the Kenan-Flagler Business School, and mediated by Kenan-Flagler Dean Mary Margaret Frank.

A double UNC alumus, Allison and his wife Susan established the Susan Allison Assured Admit Scholarship Fund in 2017 for assured admits to the business school. He previously served on the Kenan-Flagler board from 2014-25 and as board chair since 2023.

Allison and his wife also established the Allison Mentorship program, which offers "professional development and application readiness support" for first-years interested in pursuing business at UNC.

A replacement for Briner's seat on the BOT is yet to be announced. Phil Berger, the president pro tempore of the N.C. Senate, will appoint a new trustee to serve the remainder of Briner's term, amounting to two years.

X: @daneenk_



DTH FILE/DEREK PENG

Former Domino's CEO Richard "Ritch" Allison speaks at a Kenan-Flagler conference on Oct. 12, 2023.

X: @dailytarheel

City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

COMMEMORATION

Carrboro's first Black mayor remembered for influence beyond Town

New public library to be named after Robert Drakeford

By Brantley Aycock
Senior Writer
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and Sheridan Barry
Staff Writer

On Oct. 7, 1978, Carrboro Mayor Robert Drakeford raced Police Chief John Blackwood across Carrboro, Blackwood in a car and Drakeford on a bicycle. Drakeford won — thanks to the bike paths he had established in the town.

Robert Drakeford was the first Black mayor of Carrboro — serving the Town from 1977 to 1983. As mayor, he cemented his legacy as a champion for community development through strong infrastructure. He passed away on May 16, 2022. Carrboro's new public library, which will open later this month, is named after him.

Drakeford was passionate about expanding access to public transportation, said his son Derrick Drakeford. He said that when UNC officials initially denied his father's request for funding for the creation of the Carrboro bus system, he printed and distributed thousands of yellow flyers with the chancellor's phone number to Carrboro residents and UNC students, encouraging them to call and ask for funding.

"He said he delivered them on a Friday, and he said on Monday, the money was in place," Derrick Drakeford said.

Beyond the bus system, Mayor Drakeford also built bike paths and sheltered bus stops throughout the town.

Herman Foushee, a Chapel Hill native, former Department of Energy employee under the Carter Administration and best man at Robert Drakeford's wedding, said that he was a born leader and leveraged his charisma to rally support and deliver his promises.

"Bob would convince [residents] that, if you want to see some change, just come along with us," Braxton Foushee, Carrboro's first Black Town Council member, said.

Drakeford grew up in New York in a middle class family. His son said he took a lot of his leadership qualities from his mother.

Robert Drakeford's mother was instrumental in opening the first fire station in Laurinburg, and he followed in her footsteps by renovating and expanding Carrboro's fire station in a \$300,000 project in 1981. Derrick Drakeford

said the fire station addition was one of his dad's greatest professional accomplishments.

Robert Drakeford also worked with the federal government to bring sustainable energy to Carrboro and North Carolina as a whole.

"He was not only the mayor of Carrboro, he became a national mayor for the United States, and he was a spokesperson for energy conservation and renewable energy after that," Herman Foushee said.

Thanks to his friends in the federal government, like Herman Foushee, and his role as president of the North Carolina Conference of Black Mayors, Robert Drakeford was able to help rural communities across the state.

Despite his far reach, Herman and Braxton Foushee maintained that Robert Drakeford was "like you and me."

"He was one of the most wholesome people you'd ever meet," Herman Foushee said.

Braxton Foushee chimed in, "You would never think he was a mayor."

Robert Drakeford and his government friends weren't all business. According to Braxton and Herman Foushee, they threw parties and went to clubs often. Robert Drakeford loved to sing and dance.

"One night [Robert Drakeford] was on the dance floor and his heel came off his shoe, but it didn't stop him from dancing," Herman Foushee said.

Herman Foushee said that Robert Drakeford wanted to be an entrepreneur, a dream which he realized in retirement when he opened up an RV park in Laurinburg.

However, Herman Foushee said that Drakeford's number one priority was always his family.

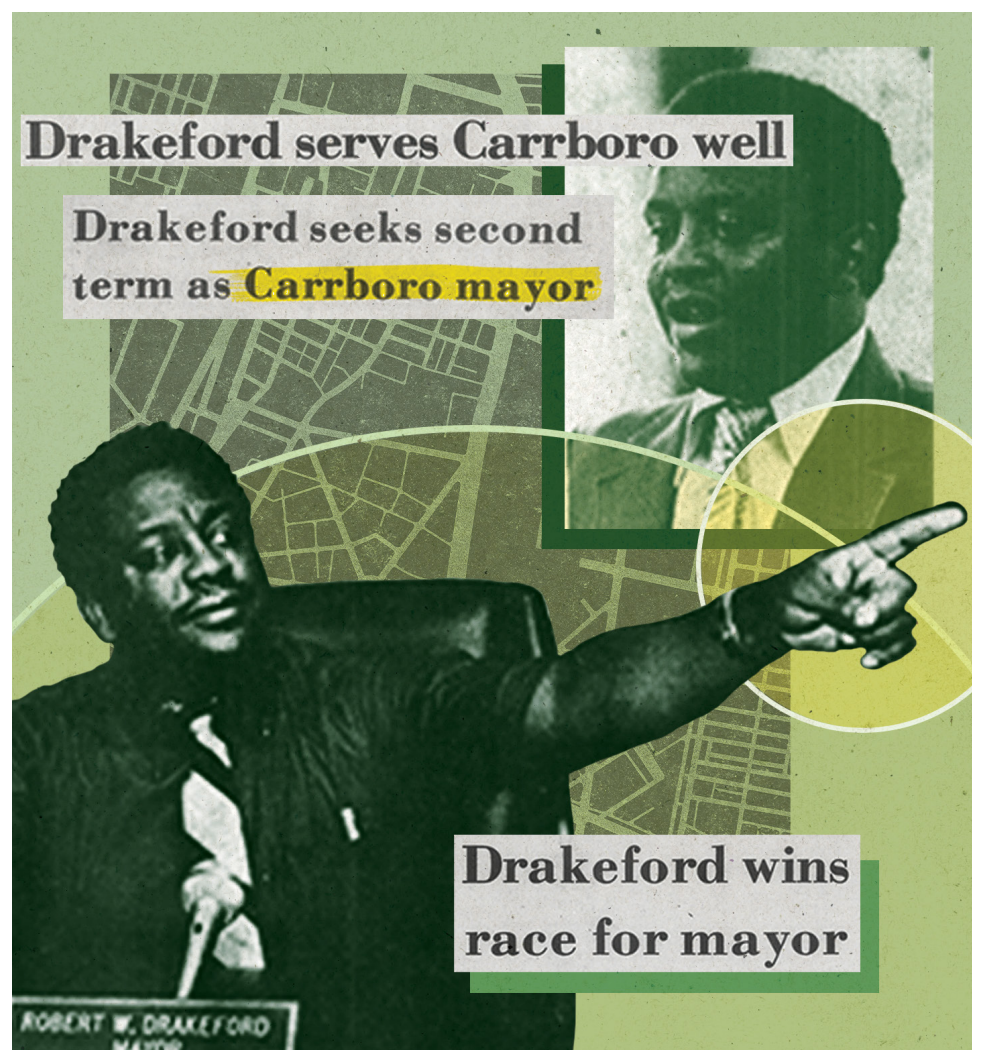
"He was focused on his kids and helping them grow and develop to become the young men that they are today," Herman Foushee said.

Black male mentorship was also important to his father, Derrick Drakeford said. Some of his proudest moments were seeing his sons graduate college and watching Derrick Drakeford defend his dissertation at UNC.

Robert Drakeford extended his mentorship to the children of Carrboro, Derrick Drakeford said. Through his Camping for Tomorrow initiative, Robert Drakeford took kids from low income housing communities camping for a week on the beach, where they learned how to fish and sail.

"He put a lot of confidence in me as a Black male when oftentimes we are denigrated in society, so it helped balance out what I face," Derrick Drakeford said.

X: @dthcitystate



Photos courtesy of DTH Archives and Adobe Stock.

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U.S. Government Jobs for Sale

[Satire]

The new Administration seeks bids for government jobs.

Successful candidates must be registered Republican since at least 2016 and sign a *Loyalty Oath*, swearing absolute obedience to our Dear Leader above all moral, ethical, legal, or constitutional considerations. Previous donors to our Dear Leader are preferred.

No experience is necessary. Candidates with relevant education or work history will not be considered. Plan 2025 calls for replacing the competent career professionals currently in these positions with unqualified sycophants.

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How much should you expect to pay for a job?

This is pure political patronage. South African immigrant Elon Musk paid \$250 million to head the Destroy Our Government Entirely (DOGE) project. Our Dear Leader brought in 11 billionaires so far — this is government by and for the very rich. The price for a position depends on that position's salary grade. It helps if you're anti-science and on record as opposing the hiring Department's congressionally mandated mission, but absolute loyalty and donations directly to our Dear Leader are the main criteria.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Hayti district destroyed by 1960s urban renewal

Continued from Page 1

The Hayti district largely made up the area that made up Black Wall Street. Lee said that, unlike many Black Wall Streets at the time, Durham's was 100 percent self-sustained, complete with everything from a Black-owned hospital, bank and funeral home.

Marc Lee, site coordinator of the Hayti Heritage Center, said there was a strong sense of self within the community.

"There was an entrepreneurial spirit that existed during that time, and I got the impression that a lot of people were inspired by the Black Wall Street of the time, whether it was Tulsa, whether it was Durham or a number of others," he said.

He also said there was less pushback and white people would give monetary support because they enjoyed the notion of "separate, but equal."

"The money that was given to establish NCCU wasn't because they were so philanthropic," Angela Lee said of major white donors of the time like Julian Carr. "It was because they didn't want Black students going to classes at UNC with white students. Black students at that time were in those dorms to clean, to empty the trash, to do the laundry."

Ultimately, racist ideologies and the implementation of the 1960's urban renewal project across the country led to

the decline of Durham's Black Wall Street.

Angela Lee said that a lot of federal highways were intentionally built in poor and minority areas. Documents and research point to a concentrated plan by the federal government to target some Black communities, whether they were poor or thriving.

"It was definitely a systematic effort," she said. "And it worked."

The Durham freeway ran directly through the Hayti district and destroyed Black Wall Street, Andre' D Vann, the coordinator of University Archives for NCCU, said. The freeway divided up the neighborhood, displacing up to 500 families and destroying at least 120 Black businesses.

Vann said that the local government is trying to help families to reestablish some of the wealth there once was. While he said he thinks there will be some real change and development over the next couple of years, there is a lot of grief from those who felt that they were never fully accounted for or given what was owed to them.

"There was certainly a pride that came with having something that you built, that you created, that was yours," Angela Lee said. "And even if, you know, 'Yeah, we're not allowed to go across the railroad track,' so to speak. But guess what? We don't need to. We've got everything we need right here."

X: @delcrawll

PUBLIC SERVICE

Foushee family has helped advance civil rights for decades

New generations continue work in local government

By Sarah Smiley
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The Foushee family has led a legacy of public service in Orange County for decades, organizing efforts during the Civil Rights movement and occupying public service roles throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill and beyond.

"There is no [Chapel Hill Civil Rights] movement without the Foushees," Molly Luby, the community history coordinator at the Chapel Hill Public Library, said.

Currently, Barbara Foushee serves as the mayor of Carrboro, Paris Miller-Foushee serves on the Chapel Hill Town Council and Valerie Foushee (D-N.C., 4th) serves as a congressional representative for the Orange County area.

Valerie Foushee previously served on the Orange County Board of County Commissioners and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education, and is the first Black woman to serve her district. Herman Foushee is the president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP and attended sit-ins during the Civil Rights movement.

"When I think about the legacy of the family, I think of public service — just fighting for people, fighting for people's rights," Barbara Foushee said.

Barbara Foushee's husband, Braxton Foushee, was Carrboro's first Black town council member, and began his Civil Rights efforts when he was in high school.

Barbara Foushee said her husband's humility as it relates to his



DTH DESIGN/SARAH FENWICK

Photos courtesy of Saurya Acharya, Alex Berenfeld, Barbara Foushee and Ira Wilder.

service has been influential in how she approaches her work. She also said she had no idea who Braxton was, or what he had accomplished, until they had been dating for a few months and he received an award.

"We might be riding down Franklin Street, and he will say 'Hey, that's where the bar used to be — we protested so we could go in there and sit down,'" she said. "Or he may mention his time working at UNC Hospitals and leading the desegregation efforts of the hospital cafeteria."

Luby said the Foushees experienced significant violence during the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill. She said James Foushee, who participated

in a historic fast on the post office lawn — which is now the Peace and Justice Plaza — in 1964, had a gun pulled on him during a sit-in at Colonial Drug Store. He was also assaulted by the owner's wife at Watt's Grill during another protest.

"Both [James and Braxton] have been lifelong civil rights activists," Luby said. "They have done a tremendous amount for the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities, and their social justice work extends far beyond the direct activist work of the 1960s."

When she interviewed James Foushee a few years ago, Luby said he described how he and some friends have a tradition of buying

breakfast for unhoused community members in Chapel Hill.

"Looking at folks like Congresswoman Foushee, who's one of my mentors, and my own husband and his years of dedicated service to the community and to civil rights, it's certainly an inspiration," Barbara Foushee said.

Paris Miller-Foushee said she was inspired to run for an elected office after a conversation she had with her late mother-in-law, Vivian Foushee.

Vivian Foushee was a social worker in Chapel Hill, and a vocal proponent of affordable housing and desegregation efforts in the community.

Her work on the town council is an extension of the work Vivian Foushee

accomplished, Paris Miller-Foushee said. She also said her mother-in-law played an influential role in her growth as a leader, planting the seeds and leading by example.

"I'm just really grateful to be surrounded by folks who are civic-minded, public service-minded and who I learn from every time I spend time with them," Barbara Foushee said.

Paris Miller-Foushee said, rather than feeling pressure for being a Foushee, she feels support.

"We look to the people that are not far removed from us — who are part of our family, those who we break bread with," Paris Miller-Foushee said. "Looking at the ways in which they had to do their thing, it helps us see the path forward."

The Foushees' long-standing leadership in their community has fostered a sense of trust with community members, Paris Miller-Foushee said. Sustained leadership is important because it relates to representation, Barbara Foushee said adding that local governing boards and school boards should be as diverse as the communities they serve.

Barbara Foushee said the Foushees have been involved in public service in their community for at least 70 years, and likely before that; however, both Paris Miller-Foushee and Barbara Foushee said their family is no different from any other.

"Just because you have the last name Foushee, it means nothing," Paris Miller-Foushee said. "What matters is the work and the fruit of that labor, and how we have, through the test of time — each and every one of us — individually held true to what we said we would do."

X: @ssmiley2027

EDUCATION

A look into Orange County Schools' desegregation process

Advocacy began in 1954 but district did not fully integrate until 1970

By Defne Önal
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On the first day of sixth grade in 1966, Horace Johnson Jr. and his father Horace Johnson, the first Black mayor of Hillsborough, drove past Central High School — the all-Black school Horace Johnson Jr. attended until fifth grade.

"I figured we were going downtown to a store or something, but we pulled up to the white school," Horace Johnson Jr. said. "Dad got out of the car first, and then he came and let me out and the kids parted like [the] Red Sea."

Orange County did not fully integrate until 1970, Sarah Waugh, the adult programs librarian of the Southern Branch of the Orange County Public Library, said in an email.

Waugh said that after the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, some Black residents began advocating for integration. However, the Orange County school board didn't make any changes until they approved Tonya and Narviar Cathcart's petition to attend Orange High School — one of the all-white schools at the time — in 1963. Three more Black students enrolled after them in 1964.

By 1965, the district approved a plan allowing parents to choose which school their children would attend, whether Black or white, but this approach at first failed to meet the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare standards for integration. After a few modifications, the HEW approved the plan shortly after in September.

After learning that Black students had to walk to Hillsborough Township High School, another one of the all-white schools, to eat lunch because of a broken cafeteria at Central High School, Horace Johnson applied to the Orange County Board of Education to enroll his son in Hillsborough Township High School, making Horace Johnson Jr. the first Black student in the sixth grade there.

"After that day, it went on every day," Horace Johnson Jr. said. "I was called names, and every test I took, I failed."

A white classmate noticed Horace Johnson Jr.'s failing grades and took one of his test papers home. The classmate's mother compared their two tests and realized that while Horace Johnson Jr.'s answers were better, he had received an "F" and her son had received an "A." She shared this with Horace Johnson Jr.'s father, who later confronted the school principal about the unfair treatment.

"After that, my test grades got better," Horace Johnson Jr. said. "I will say, I tried to give her credit because she hadn't worked with children of color — as I got older, I had to stop trying to give her credit because she was a teacher. Teachers are supposed to raise and nourish children."

By 1968, Waugh said the integration process had almost been completed, as all Central High School's students had to transfer to Orange High School.

Iris Chapman, a retired professor from Elon University and an alumna of Central High School, said Central High School became Hillsborough Elementary School in 1996. Many all-Black schools in the South did not survive their original names, she said, becoming either junior high schools or elementary schools.

In the documentary she directed about the history and legacy of Central High School, Chapman included



DTH DESIGN/DIYA PATEL

subheadings next to its alumni detailing their education and careers.

"Look at where they are," she said. "Look at what they are doing. I want you to see what these Black children that you said couldn't learn and didn't want in your school — look at where they are. I wanted people to see that they must not have been so bad."

Courtney Smith, Orange County Historical Museum exhibits and programs coordinator, said that instead of combining the student populations of Central High School and Orange High School, Central High School was closed down.

"All of those teachers and administrators lost their jobs, and that was incredibly harmful for several reasons," she said. "One being the loss of role models and the guidance that was needed, and [two] the message being sent that 'you aren't good enough.'"

Smith said the South has not recovered in the number of administrators and teachers who are people of color.

Before the full integration and closure of Central High School, Chapman said 200 students were kicked out of Orange High School

after a walkout protesting an integration plan to transfer only 10th grade students from Central High School to Orange High School. While most students graduated on time, she said nine were permanently expelled.

"Could it have been done another way?" Chapman said. "I think that's what bothers me every time I see it or work with it. I just wonder because people were hurt — Black and white children were hurt badly through that process."

X: @dthcitystate

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Chapel Hill community weighs cogeneration facility possibilities

Potential switch to fuel pellets may increase some emissions

By **Lola Oliverio**
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On Jan. 16 the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality held a public hearing to discuss UNC's proposal to burn fuel pellets, which may contain Perpolyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in the university's cogeneration facility.

The University filed the permit application in July 2024 in support of their climate action plan, which seeks to move the University completely away from relying on coal. In 2010, the University vowed to end coal use by 2020, but did not complete the goal.

Now, community members and experts are considering the benefits and drawbacks that come with converting to fuel pellets from coal.

"Quite a few pollutants, even by UNC's own estimates, are going up with the new pellet fuel, not down."

Patrick Anderson
Southern Environmental Law Center staff attorney

adverse effects on human health. "Quite a few pollutants, even by UNC's own estimates, are going up with the new pellet fuel, not down," Patrick Anderson, a staff attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, said. "So this fuel is actually dirtier — [and] on a lot of pollutants that we care about — than coal." Despite this, overall greenhouse gas emissions will decrease, as well as sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acid emissions, according to the DEQ.

Effects of burning coal versus pellets

UNC's cogeneration facility has been the subject of debate since it began operations in 1940. The coal ash mound at the 828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. site — which houses the Chapel Hill Police Department — is the byproduct of the facility's burning operations.

Currently, the facility utilizes around 40 percent coal power and 60 percent natural gas to provide power to the university. Campus groups, including No Coal UNC and Sunrise UNC have demanded the university halt its coal consumption and have spoken out against the switch to pelletized fuel.

"These pellets, they're sort of a way to delay the inevitable — which is transitioning from fossil fuels to clean, zero-carbon energy sources," Victoria Plant, research lead for Sunrise UNC, said.

She said switching to the pellets is a waste of time and resources, as they are not intended as a long-term solution from the University's perspective.

"They could be using this time and using the personnel, resources and all that to be working on a real solution that would ultimately result in lower carbon emissions," she said.

McCullough said she believes burning the pellets is worse than continuing to burn coal, but the main concern should be finding a way to shut down the plant altogether.

Comparing burning coal and burning the pellets is like comparing two bad options when, in reality, shutting down the plant should be the main focus, Anderson said.

"SELC, as an organization, is really asking for UNC to do their own analysis, and we can support it," he said. "But, you know, at the end of the day, our goal is let's not power UNC with any kind of combustion."

X: @lolaoliverio



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Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock.

MEDICINE



DTH DESIGN/KAITLIN STRATEMEIER

UNC Health, Duke partner to open children's hospital

\$2 billion facility will be first solely pediatric treatment center in the state

By **Tulsi Asokan**
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and **Lauren Zola**
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UNC Health and Duke Health are partnering to build North Carolina's first standalone children's hospital by the early 2030s, according to a press release from UNC Health.

While the location for "N.C. Children's" is yet to be determined, the press release said the new hospital will include 500 beds, an outpatient center and a children's behavioral health center.

Construction is expected to begin by 2027 and will take about six years. The total cost of construction is expected to exceed \$2 billion, which will be raised through a combination of public funds and support from both universities and their donors.

Dr. Stephanie Davis, physician in chief at UNC Children's, said that a decrease in specialized providers in pediatric care motivated UNC Health and Duke Health to combine resources and regionalize care.

"We are the most populated state in the country that doesn't have its own free standing, independent children's hospital," Davis said.

Unlike the existing children's hospitals in the state, N.C. Children's will be the first to function on its own campus dedicated to pediatrics, rather than under the management of a general hospital. Davis said she hopes that this new model will allow for a wide range of specialists to help support those with complex needs.

Dr. Robert Lark, the division chief of pediatric orthopaedics at Duke University, said that a free standing hospital geared toward children could better address nuances in pediatric care.

"For example, something as simple as having a small enough tourniquet to put

on the extremity of a two-year-old child is not the same as a tourniquet to put on a 28-year-old man," Lark said.

Lark is also the director of a Duke-UNC Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery Fellowship program. He said Duke Health has been working with UNC Health in the background for a long time, and that he's excited to see their partnership flourish through the new children's hospital.

According to the press release, the collaboration will also work to expand existing clinical research efforts. Davis said that the new hospital will allow for even more collaboration between the universities to research top therapeutics for patients.

"When you do cutting-edge research and cutting-edge trials, then families really know they're at the place where they can get the expert care that they need," Davis said.

Jordan Goetze is a UNC senior and executive director of Carolina For The Kids. She said the organization provides major financial and emotional support to patients and their families at UNC's current children's hospital located on Manning Drive.

Goetze said Carolina For The Kids will also provide funding to the new children's hospital once it is built.

"UNC and Duke would be providing their knowledge and their programs to be in this new hospital," Goetze said. "So

"It would be bigger, better health care, better research because we have more intelligent people working together."

Jordan Goetze
UNC senior and executive director of Carolina For the Kids

from what I can imagine it would be bigger, better health care, better research, because we have more intelligent people working together instead of two separate hospitals."

This Tuesday, UNC and Duke Health officially announced plans for the hospital at a press conference held at Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh. Dr. Wesley Burks, CEO of UNC Health, spoke alongside Gov. Josh Stein and N.C. Sen. (R-Guilford, Rockingham) Phil Berger.

"This is a big splash that will ripple out literally for years and years and impact the people in our state and region in ways that I know we can't even imagine yet," Burks said.

X: @lauren_zola

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EXHIBITION

ArtsCenter highlights African American legacies

Quilt gallery honors women with ties to Wake County

By Will Kleinschmidt
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The Portraits of Resistance and Resilience Exhibition will be displayed at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro through March 3, with an opening ceremony scheduled on Feb. 14. The gallery shows 11 quilts honoring African American women with Wake County Roots — their legacies memorialized through stitches and needles.

The women whose likenesses have been put on display include Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, the fourth African American woman to earn a doctoral degree, and Clarice Nichols Cotton, a day care owner of 35 years. Though they are each well-known for different reasons, their commonality is the impact they had on their communities.

The project began around two years ago when Earl Ijames, the curator of African American History at the North Carolina Museum of History, gave a talk at the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church about upcoming projects. He mentioned Millie Dunn Veasey, an African American servicewoman and Civil Rights advocate, who caught the attention of Joyce Watkins King.

King, a member of the church's arts ministry, recognized that Veasey shared the same last name as her great-grandmother, and the seed was planted for the gallery.

"I was always interested in knowing more about her," King said.



Portraits of the Resistance and Resilience Exhibition line the wall at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro on Sunday, Feb. 2.

"Somehow this germ started of 'I bet there are plenty of other African American women in our community that have done incredible things that we don't know about.'"

King said the church has always been art-focused, with its own gallery that houses rotating exhibits. She said the church's creative inclination served as the groundwork for the exhibition, but the decision to use quilting as a medium for honoring these women came later, when she met Sauda Zahra.

Zahra is a self-taught fiber artist who began quilting in 1998 alongside the formation of the African American Quilt Circle of Durham — a group that meets once a month for quilting show and tells, community outreach projects and more, all in an effort to preserve the tradition of quilt-making in their community, Zahra said. One of her specialties is narrative quilt-making, specifically portraiture quilt-making, which caught King's attention.

After assembling a group of 13 women, which later dwindled to 11,

King reached out to Zahra about serving as their instructor. Though she didn't have much experience teaching, Zahra said she felt compelled to say yes, and saw herself as a facilitator.

"I think the hardest part is getting out of your comfort zone," Zahra said. "Because a lot of quilters, just creating narrative story quilts is an uncharted territory for them."

Zahra described portraiture quilting like a puzzle. Starting with a picture of each honoree, artists then break down the picture, searching for the nuances

in shading on the person's face and matching those tones with various materials. When a photo is taken apart in this way and then put back together, a person reappears, Zahra said.

Besides just recreating their likeness, the women gave their quilts distinctive borders and backgrounds — an expression of these women's experiences and accomplishments.

"When you create a portrait, you're really telling a story about that person," Zahra said. "You're really capturing that person's spirit and energy in that quilt."

The Portraits of Resistance and Resilience Gallery found its temporary residence at The ArtsCenter with the help of Caroline Haller, the center's exhibit coordinator. Although Carrboro falls outside of Wake County, the Orange County small town is tied to the exhibit for one reason: Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten, a Grammy-winning singer and songwriter who is a Carrboro native.

As an artist, she is best known for her unique guitar-playing style. Cotten was left-handed, but lacked access to left-handed guitars, so she had to learn how to play a right-handed guitar upside-down, Haller said.

The opening ceremony will feature a band playing Cotten's music in front of her respective quilt. Haller said that the music and quilt will work together to tell the stories of these women in an engaging and memorable way.

"They just all have incredible stories," Haller said. "And they're worth not forgetting. They were all pioneers."

X: @dthlifestyle

PHOTOSHOOT

'We are here': The Black UNC Yearbook features Black student body

The project is set to be printed into a physical book soon

By Morgan Perry
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Until recently, yearbooks were a thing of the past for UNC students. Student organization Union of Black Men and the media group Historically Black at UNC have brought the school yearbook experience to campus.

The project, titled the "Black UNC Yearbook," aims to showcase the entire Black student body at the University. From Jan. 14 to 24, the Black Yearbook held free portrait sessions for over 300 students.

"I just really wanted to bring the community together," UBM president Ashton Hutchinson said. "In high school, I know that we were kind of cut short due to [COVID-19], and we didn't get the same experience. Some of the seniors here probably didn't even get a yearbook, didn't even get to take a picture, so I just wanted them to have that opportunity."

Hutchinson worked alongside the recently-elected president of HBUNC, Addison Truzy. The project was first brought to his attention by photographers Kyran Taylor, who is also the UBM executive assistant, and Letrell Grady.

Taylor and Grady were inspired by a similar concept project at Duke University, which they were hired for. Taylor brought the idea to Hutchinson, who connected with HBUNC's former President Krystal Lacayo to collaborate on it.

"This yearbook features a lot of things, not only showing the different friend groups on campus, but also showing how much space we take up as a Black community on campus in different organizations," Truzy said.

The Black Yearbook is set to become a physical book, complete with spreads of the different classifications, organizations and activities on campus. Within two weeks, the project held six portrait sessions in the Shuford Suite of Gardner Hall and other locations.

Unlike the brief picture day breaks in grade school, the sessions were events in themselves, with music and space for students to hang out in the Shuford Suite for hours.

"That space was just amazing — the music, all the Black people coming together, congregating," Hutchinson said. "It's just something we needed because January can be kind of slow when it's cold outside; people not really seeing each other. It was nice to have everyone in one space."

The Black Yearbook, though a project about joy and community, also underscores an issue that the Black community at UNC faces.

In September 2024, The Carolina Alumni Review revealed that the percentage of Black students in the first-year class fell from 10.5 percent in 2023 to 7.8 percent in 2024, making it the lowest drop of all racial and minority groups at UNC. Other racial groups' percentages either rose or fell by 1 percentage point or less.

The yearbook serves not only as a fun keepsake but a source of visibility for every Black student and organization on campus for years to come.

"I feel like it was very important, with the decline in the Black

population, to just show that we are here," Taylor said. "I feel like it's very important that the classes that come after us have an example of what we can do and what we can do when we come together, so and then that way, I guess it is record keeping."

Chapter member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority Kezia Kennedy also shares this sentiment.

"I really appreciate that this is getting made in the first place, especially now that the Black population is slowly dwindling off," Kennedy said. "We lost 25 percent in the new class, so it's very important to memorialize and take a moment to acknowledge the spaces that we've created."

Kennedy heard about the yearbook through UBM's Instagram that has over 6,000 followers. For her, the portrait sessions were unlike any other experience she's ever had.

"We got to look at them and get feedback and move things around a little bit, so that was nice," Kennedy said. "In high school, when we've taken pictures in the past, you take the picture and then you're like, 'Okay, you're good to go.' You never get to see the result, so I really appreciated being able to see what the picture looked like and then adjust it as we wanted it."

With hundreds of Black undergraduates left to be photographed, the Black UNC Yearbook isn't finished with its portrait sessions. Students who haven't gotten their photos taken can look forward to a makeup date on Feb. 5 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Shuford Suite.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNION OF BLACK MEN AT UNC CHAPEL HILL

UNC junior Ashton Hutchinson poses for a headshot at the Black UNC Yearbook portrait session organized in Gardner Hall on Monday, Jan. 13.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNION OF BLACK MEN AT UNC CHAPEL HILL

Students at the Black UNC Yearbook portrait session organized in Gardner Hall on Monday, Jan. 20.

X: @dthlifestyle

Celebration of Queer Life and Love to be held on Feb. 14

Continued from Page 1

“I am always so grateful to have opportunities like these because of the sort of connection-making possibilities that they present, not only interpersonally, which is incredibly important, but also in terms of co-imagination of political possibilities too,” she said.

Hemphill is a poet based in Durham who has written about these themes for over a decade and is a recipient of various fellowships and awards.

Hemphill authored “Motherworld: A Devotional for the Alter-Life” which she said she started writing after the first wave of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2013.

“‘Motherworld’ is interested in a future where the collapse of colonial structures, the collapse of anti-Blackness, the collapse of an ecocidal orientation to the Earth, where those collapses would then usher in opportunities to practice rituals of care that sustained life, and particularly sustained Black life,” she said.

She said her goal with “Motherworld” was to help those losing hope in a better future maintain that faith. She said she plans to share some excerpts from it at the celebration event.



DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

CJ Suitt will be one of the featured local poets at the upcoming “A Celebration of Queer Life and Love” event on Feb. 14.

Suitt, the other poet who will perform, is known professionally as Suittsyouwrite. They have also been in the poetry field for over a decade. They were born and raised in Chapel Hill and became the Town’s first Poet Laureate in 2019.

“In a world where fear is a heavily motivating factor right now, it feels so important in every context to be lifting up love — to be lifting up the love we have for each other, and particularly in the communities of Black queer folks who are so often under-loved,” Suitt said.

Suitt said that events like this celebration cultivate places that give people the opportunity to love the Black queer community and allow people who do not know LGBTQ+ people personally a chance to gain understanding.

Suitt’s reckoning with the homophobic depiction of God they learned when they were young while embracing spirituality as an adult is a theme in many of their works. One work they have planned to perform is “My World: A Goddess/God/Universe Poem” which touches on the topics of religion, homophobia and racism.

Suitt said people should not shy away from difficult discussions because they argued that the tension and friction of dialogue is necessary for creating a better world.

Corbin said the event will be open to all. One of her main goals for the event is to normalize queer identities and show there is nothing out of the ordinary about the artists.

“It’s not a lifestyle for them, it’s their lives,” Corbin said.

“I think it’s powerful,” they said. “I think it’s a hard thing to do and it is a hard thing to say, ‘Yes, this is who I am and I’m going to be unapologetic about it, and I’m going to go out into the world and do it.’”

X: @dthlifestyle

CONCERT

Bob Marley Bash honors iconic reggae musician

25th annual event included performers and local vendors

By Manuela Williams
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While most of Chapel Hill was abuzz with excitement for the UNC vs. Duke game, local reggae-lovers gathered in Cat’s Cradle — but certainly not for basketball. On Saturday, the lively, tucked away corner of Carrboro pulsed with reggae beats from performers Mickey Mills and Steel, Jamrock, Zion Project and DJ Ras J for the 25th Annual Bob Marley Bash.

The annual event celebrates reggae superstar Bob Marley by creating space for people to honor his legacy and music.

Attendees were welcomed into the event even before stepping through the Cat’s Cradle’s doors by the aroma of Jamaican food that wafted through the air. Once inside, people danced to the soulful rhythm of DJ Ras J’s beats and lined up at the local vendors.

Trivie Ellis, attended the event as a longtime friend of Mickey and Malika Mills from the band Mickey Mills and Steel.

“It moves your whole soul,” she said. “The beat of the music, it just moves you, there’s nothing else that I listen to that as soon as it comes up, I’m like, ‘Oh my God.’ It’s the collaboration of all of the instruments. It’s the sound itself that just comes together and just makes me whole.”

Ellis in particular loves Bob Marley’s “No Woman, No Cry.”

“I’m gonna be on the floor tonight screaming and singing and crying, because that’s just what I do,” she said.

Attendee Reshan Fernando is also drawn to reggae for its signature



DTH/JACKSON MCCURDY

Mickey Mills poses for the crowd during his performance of Bob Marley’s “Exodus” at Cat’s Cradle on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2025.

rhythm. Fernando fell in love with reggae at 13 when his brother brought a Peter Tosh tape from Dubai back to their home in Sri Lanka. Fernando visits reggae venues around the world and has made sure to attend the annual Bob Marley Bash for the last 6 years.

By the time Mickey Mills and Steel took the stage at 9 p.m., the room was packed. The band delivered an uplifting set filled with beloved classics from Bob Marley & The Wailers discography, such as “Is This Love,” “Redemption Song,” “No Woman, No Cry” and “Three Little Birds.” The bassists’ deep beat pulsed through the floor, Malika Mills tapped her tambourine against her thigh and the crowd swayed excitedly with arms raised, fully immersed in the music.

“Just about all his music was positive, dealing with righteousness, goodness, peace, love, happiness,” lead singer Mickey Mills said.

Throughout the band’s celebratory set, Mickey Mills energetically pranced around the stage, rotating between the center mic and the steel

drum. Once called “the fastest steel drum soloist on earth,” Mills lived up to the reputation as his hands danced effortlessly across its surface.

Many people — including Ellis — consider Marley to be a prophet of sorts; his music is centered on themes of freedom and sanctity.

“His music is futuristic, it’s into what’s going on now,” Malika Mills said. “The struggle is always the same, no matter what generation it is, because every generation has had some type of struggle.”

She said that she is drawn to reggae music and the culture surrounding it, as it helps her stay connected to her Nigerian roots.

“We should appreciate who we are and where our ancestors came from,” she said. “Because of them, that’s who we are and where we are today, because of the struggles that they had in life, the sacrifices that they made. So, we should always honor them and appreciate them.”

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FEBRUARY don’t miss these BHM arts & culture events

- 5** **Black History Month Senior Bingo**
Drakeford Library Complex
10 a.m.
- 10** **African Americans and Labor, an evening with Dr. Michelle Laws and James Shields Jr.**
Carrboro Century Center
6 p.m.
- 14** **Frederick Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon**
Chapel Hill Public Library
1 p.m.
- 14** **Portraits of Resistance and Resilience Exhibition Opening**
Carrboro ArtsCenter
6 p.m.
- 14** **A Celebration of Queer Life and Love**
Black Box Theater of Swain Hall
7 p.m.
- 16** **United Strings of Color Concert**
Carrboro Century Center
3 p.m.
- 20** **McNeil African American History Month Lecture**
Stone Center
7 p.m.
- 23** **Jeghetto in “Real American History: by Jim Crow the Puppet”**
Drakeford Library Complex
2 p.m.
- 23** **The Talk: Black History One-Man Show**
Friday Conference Center
3 p.m.
- 23** **Emmanuel Howard Concert**
Carrboro Century Center
3:30 p.m.
- 25** **Diaspora Lecture: Congo Art, Aesthetics and the Visual Culture of Taller Portobelo (of coastal Panama)**
Stone Center
6:30 p.m.
- 27-28** **Rich With History and other stuff you say at a haunted house**
CURRENT
ArtSpace + Studio

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

PERFORMANCE

Sonny Kelly honors past and future generations with storytelling company

One-man show emphasizes unheard community voices

By Rebecca Savidge
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Sonny Kelly is “like magic,” according to Christie Hinson Norris, the Director of Education for NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

“He reminds us that stories matter,” she said. “And his work elevating untold or unknown stories is a really powerful way to inspire us all.”

Norris first met Kelly when they were both at UNC — Kelly as a Ph.D. student and Norris as the then-director of Carolina K-12 — and was instantly blown away by his energy and ability to connect with an audience.

These are the skills Kelly uses as the CEO of Legacy Heirs Productions, Inc., a company that aims to help individuals tell their stories and work together for positive transformation, primarily through performance.

Kelly has been involved in storytelling through performance since his friend and mentor Mitch Capel — who has his own company MGC Productions — invited him to perform in a two-man show called “The Color of Courage” in 2016.

This show depicted the lives of Black soldiers in the Civil War, drawing from stories that were in historical archives and poems of influential Black writers like Claude McKay and Paul Laurence Dunbar.

It was during this experience

that Capel inspired Kelly to think of himself as more than just an actor, but a storyteller.

“Yeah, he had the gift,” Capel said when recalling this moment. “And, you know, he was very talented.”

While performing “The Color of Courage,” Kelly would tack on an additional story he wrote for his son, Sterling, to help make sense of the violence against Black individuals in the United States.

Capel thought that, though powerful, the story just wasn’t a fit for the performance’s perfect ending that they had already developed, but Kelly didn’t want to discard this important piece he had started working on.

When he then attended UNC and started his work on his Ph.D. in the fall of 2015, he realized that he could turn this personal story for his son into a full-length professional show, now known as “The Talk.”

“The Talk” has since become Kelly’s flagship performance, where he performs a one-man show, embodying the role of 20 characters. From this performance, Kelly was inspired to create his company. He didn’t initially realize how popular his work would be, but he needed a way to handle all the business he was doing.

Kelly also felt a calling to this work and to build something that not only meant something to him, but that would continue to last for generations — hence the name “Legacy Heirs.”

“We are the heir to the legacy of our ancestors and we are leaving a legacy to our heirs,” he said.

The notion of story-telling through performance was also the cornerstone of Kelly’s Ph.D.



DTH/DYLAN THIESSEN

Sonny Kelly poses at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C., after giving a motivational speech.

dissertation, which is entitled “Pipelines to Pathways: Reframing and Reclaiming Black Youth Identities through Performance.”

For his thesis, Kelly worked with youth in Fayetteville over the summer, doing poetry and acting workshops and writing plays with the goal of empowering marginalized groups to break out of stereotypes.

“I learned that even just being a part of an ensemble performance, even if you’re not on the stage, it

does something,” he said. “It creates this collective sense of community.”

He found that through performance, people were able to express themselves more freely and find confidence to speak to a larger body and be heard.

From his initial work with Capel to his work on “The Talk” to his experiences with North Carolina youth, Kelly has inspired his colleagues, his students and people who are able to experience his performances.

“I just want to come into communities and help them to engage, educate and empower so that we can be better,” Kelly said. “So I just hope that my legacy is one that helps people to feel like they can make a difference, and they can make a difference with each other.”

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EDITORIAL

Honor contributions of Black North Carolinians, even if the University won't

By The Editorial Board
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Donald Trump and his executive posse have repeatedly recited their polemics opposing the politicization of history under the efforts of diversity, equity and inclusion. But history has always been political, and in America, constantly racialized. Amid these institutional attacks, the need for community-based celebrations of marginalized peoples' victories has never been more vital. If our university, state and federal government won't stand for its citizens, it's on us to stand for our neighbors.

As North Carolinians, we celebrate the enduring legacies of Black Tar Heels then and now. As UNC students, we must recognize the handprints of enslaved labor impressed into the very foundation of this university, names in brick and stone of the ancestors of our classmates and colleagues.

Honoring Black Tar Heels of the past

Brothers LeRoy and Ralph Frasier and their classmate John Lewis Brandon first integrated our first public university in the United States in 1955. David Dansby Jr. was the first African American to graduate with his bachelor's from the University

in 1961. Karen Parker was the first African American woman to enroll at UNC in 1963. We list these names to elevate their legacies, being as vital to our university as Ruffin, Kenan or Cameron. Before the bravery of these North Carolinians, UNC was not a university of the people, excluding those who were not white and male.

Sonja Haynes Stone was a professor of African American studies for decades, from 1979 onward. Her steadfast support of student advocacy, including Black Student Movement and Campus Y, placed her as a rare advisor for decades of Carolina students. The Sonja Haynes Stone Center is one of the few buildings on campus to be named after a Black person, much less a Black woman.

Zora Neale Hurston's tenure at North Carolina Central University was underlined by her close interactions with University faculty and student body. Reportedly, she sat in on writing workshops and classes taught by fellow playwright and UNC professor Paul Green. Although she was denied admission, Hurston was among those on Green's roster for a Radio Writing and Production elective class, likely occurring outside the official registrar.

Similar to Hurston, after being denied admission to the UNC School of Law, North Carolinian Pauli Murray



DTH DESIGN/AMINA WILLIAMS

went on to be the first Black person to earn a PhD-level degree from Yale Law School. She would go on to become a trailblazer in the fight for civil rights — fighting for women, people of color and LGBTQ+ people and laying the groundwork of the argument to overturn Plessy v. Ferguson.

Championing Black Tar Heels of the future

Given recent federal, state and UNC System actions rolling back DEI efforts, it's vital to intentionally highlight the historic contributions of people of color

in the United States. Understanding the history of one's home is essential to making it a better place. A public university which purports institutional neutrality while resting on a foundation of labor exploitation further suppresses the accomplishments of marginalized communities who have faced centuries of injustice. Contemporary cries for a "meritocracy" are blatantly disingenuous given that unrecognized and uncompensated labor of enslaved people at our university.

The effort to rename Hamilton Hall after Murray remains unsuccessful after four years of petitioning. Among

other things, Hamilton Hall houses the University's history department. Grégoire de Roulhac Hamilton, founder of UNC's Southern Historical Collection, is the namesake of Hamilton Hall. But his glorification of the Ku Klux Klan and promotion of racist ideologies is antithetical to the aspirations and values of students today. Hamilton's love for the South was conditional, robbing the SHC of the other half of Southern history.

As students, we have enormous power to construct our own culture, to curate our own vernacular language that can remake our landscape, rename our buildings and reshape our environment. We produce culture, unofficially, without and oftentimes opposed to institutional guidelines.

As easily as we can say BoLo to reference the bottom of Lenoir or Ehaus for Ehringhaus, we can replace Hamilton with Murray and Carolina with Hurston. We must be empowered to recognize the contributions of would-be Tar Heels Pauli Murray and Zora Neale Hurston — along with all the Black contributors to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community who, for more than 200 years, have shaped the campus we love today with their hands, their minds and their hearts.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

Environmental injustice is often racial injustice too

By Hailey Rodriguez
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Although environmental activists have been fighting for change for more than 40 years, environmental racism persists. No matter where you look in the world, marginalized and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards.

With landfills, refineries and nuclear and fossil fuel power plants more likely to be built near communities of color, there are direct links to health problems with respiratory and cardiovascular health, cancer, weakened immune systems and preterm labor.

One of the earliest examples of a community coming together to fight for environmental justice was in 1982 in Afton, a town in Warren County, N.C. The community acted as a catalyst for congressional research into the impact of dumping toxic waste when it was proposed to move the dump site to a poor, rural and predominantly African American community.

While the effort was unsuccessful and the state still buried 7,000 truckloads of contaminated soil in the landfill, it sent a clear message that the environmental justice movement wasn't going to stop and kickstarted the creation of policy dictating how toxic waste could be handled. The landfill was eventually cleaned up, just 21 years too late.

Those living near toxic facilities are at a higher risk for health issues, and low-income communities struggle to have access to healthcare or medical services, making them even more vulnerable.

When it rained, hazardous PCB chemicals leached into the ground and contaminated Afton's water supply. PCBs were and are well known to be toxic and carcinogenic, resulting in suppressed immune



DTH DESIGN/ANNABELLE HENDERSON

systems and an increased likelihood of cancer.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality recently held a public hearing on the use of PFAS pellets for fuel by the UNC cogeneration facility. Fun fact: those pellets are filled with forever chemicals. From everything I've heard, no one who spoke said they were for the change. Moreover, the coal waste the facility currently uses gets dumped in predominantly Black and poor communities in South Boston and Virginia.

The events in Afton took place 50 years before that hearing. It seems like a long time, but justice is rarely as swift as it should be. Once the feminist movement started, it took 72 years for women to get the right to vote and another 55 before a single woman could apply for loans and credit. But we're not as far along as we should be; it is still a constant need to do more to do right by minority communities.

As clean up begins for the Los Angeles fires, there must be a site where all the hazardous debris can be processed. This site is currently Lario Park in Irwindale, surrounded by

majority Latino communities. While there isn't a guarantee that the hazardous waste will be harmful, it will be if handled improperly or if clean up takes years. It doesn't help when there hasn't been proper communication with the affected communities from the state and federal officials.

Relevant to this is a study published by Rice University, which found that predominantly white communities receive more FEMA funding after national disasters compared to those of color with the same amount of damage, only fueling the wealth inequality growing in countries hit by more disasters.

Racial and environmental justice is painstakingly slow, but if anything can be taken from Afton, it's that change takes everyone working together to make it happen. We must continue to do our parts by participating in active dialogues and being a part of the global community fighting to make a difference.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

UNC must create and upkeep Black monuments

By Savannah Clay
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Black History Month is a time to celebrate the endless places, economies and minds revolutionized by Black music, movements, food, inventions, traditions and so much more. Although we should recognize the contributions and sacrifices Black people have made every day, Black History Month is a perfect time to reenvision how we observe African American contributions.

UNC should reconsider who they observe in history alongside other schools and states. We cannot begin to tell the history of our university without properly memorializing and monumentalizing the African Americans who built and sustained this institution.

In August 2018, protestors tore down Silent Sam — a statue installed in 1913 honoring UNC alumni who joined the Civil War as Confederate soldiers — symbolizing oppression rather than honor. Protests began during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, but the statue was not fully removed until 2019. The removal of Silent Sam marked a turning point in the University's confrontation with its complex legacy.

The Unsung Founders Memorial, dedicated in 2005 to the free and enslaved African Americans who built and served our campus, tells a different story. The monument sits in McCorkle Place and depicts detailed bronze figures holding up a stone table where people can sit. Although the intention behind the ability to physically interact with the monument was for people to become a part of it symbolically and metaphorically, it's often disrespected and disregarded.

In the past, visitors have noted how poorly maintained the memorial was: covered in cobwebs, bird poop and spilled food. In other instances, people fail to value the power behind

the monument, reducing it to a casual study spot. To make matters even worse, the two-foot-tall memorial appears even less significant due to environmental factors causing it to sink into the ground.

The message behind the Unsung Founders Memorial is to showcase how our university was built on the backs of African Americans. Without us, our country, let alone our university, wouldn't be near what it is now — progressively or industrially.

Why are we still serving others even in our memorials? Why are students allowed to come and eat, study and put their feet up without much thought or even a "thank you"?

I acknowledge that the artist of the Unsung Founders Memorial had no ill intent when designing it. Regardless, the difference between the handlings of the memorial and Silent Sam by the University makes a stark, unspoken statement.

UNC must do more than remove problematic statues. They need to take the initiative to build Black monuments that do individuals justice and denounce any symbols supporting slavery and bigotry. Most importantly, the University should actively collaborate with Black communities to design memorials that praise their contributions.

We must transform how we remember the systematically marginalized in a way that encourages dialogue and reflection and teaches the raw truth of African American history. Black History Month challenges us beyond retelling the stories we have always known and to work toward restoring narratives strategically erased or partially told.

The beautiful part about attending an institution with local history is the opportunity to elevate the inspiring stories of everyday Black Americans who walked along the same paths we did. We deserve more than just the Unsung Founders Memorial.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

Insurance reform is part of the answer to N.C.'s climate crisis

By Esha Singaraju

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Just two weeks ago, wildfires tore through Los Angeles, reducing thousands of homes to ash and forcing mass evacuations. As insurers now pull out of high-risk areas, many Californians find themselves unable to afford coverage — some going without any at all.

The same crisis is unfolding in North Carolina. Last semester, unprecedented ocean heat contributed to the formation of Hurricane Helene, unleashing catastrophic flooding across western North Carolina. The storm resulted in over 100 casualties, wiped out infrastructure and left entire communities struggling to recover. With climate-driven disasters worsening and private insurers withdrawing from vulnerable regions, North Carolina must act with urgency. The state must incentivize resilient home construction and reform its insurance market before the next disaster strikes.

Following California's trends, private insurers in North Carolina are



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISHA FOSTER

Debris is piled high near a bridge in Asheville, N.C., in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene on Sept. 30, 2024.

withdrawing from high-risk regions and otherwise drastically increasing premiums. Many homeowners struggle to find affordable coverage, while others face policy cancellations with few alternatives. Those who secure insurance are often subject to North Carolina's "Consent to Rate" loophole, which allows insurers to

charge up to 250 percent of the state's regulated rate with approval of the policyholder. While this measure offers insurers some flexibility, it does little to keep coverage affordable. Even with this provision, some areas like the Outer Banks are now considered too risky, leaving residents with few options.

And as private insurers withdraw, the state relies on safety nets like the FAIR Plan and Coastal Property Insurance Pool, last-resort options for homeowners who can't secure private coverage. But their financial capacity is dwarfed by disaster losses, and now the question isn't just whether these plans can cover claims in the next disaster — it's how long they can remain solvent before rising premiums will render them unsustainable.

One alternative is expanding federal disaster insurance programs, following the National Flood Insurance Program model. Extending federally backed coverage to include wind and wildfire damage could create more predictable coverage options, but the NFIP itself is in financial distress. Chronic underpricing has left it requiring periodic federal bailouts. Without major reforms to how risk is priced and shared, simply expanding the program won't solve North Carolina's deepening crisis.

Insurance may provide financial protection, but true resilience starts with stronger homes. While states like Florida and Alabama have implemented strict construction standards and grants for disaster-

resistant upgrades, North Carolina has yet to make similar sweeping changes.

One successful program underway in the state is the North Carolina Insurance Underwriters Association initiative, which provides up to \$10,000 in grants for coastal homeowners to install hurricane-fortified roofs. These roofs reduce damage likelihood and lower reinsurance costs, leading to reduced premiums for homeowners. It's a rare example of an incentive program that aligns reinsurers, insurers and, most importantly, homeowners.

While stronger insurance protections and resilient infrastructure can mitigate financial and physical losses, they don't address the root cause of worsening disasters — climate change itself. Without action to slow warming, hurricanes, flooding, winds and wildfires will only intensify, pushing insurance and communities past their breaking point. Strengthening North Carolina's response to natural hazards requires both immediate adaptation and long-term strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

Carrboro looks to the future by prioritizing pedestrians

By Cooper Hall

Columnist

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Last semester, I watched a girl get hit by a car while crossing the street. She was fine, immediately got up and walked away, but it was a shocking event to witness, and it made me rethink how our streets are designed. Obviously, we need roads. Cars and buses need somewhere to drive and people have places to be that aren't walkable locations. But why don't we have places where people can walk or bike to get where they need to go and not think twice about getting struck by a moving vehicle?

Pedestrian cities are cities that, you guessed it, are based around pedestrians. These cities, which emphasize walking or biking and utilize car-free zones to create a vibrant public life, have countless benefits. They're the cities of the future.

The Town of Carrboro is experimenting with this, workshopping plans for a pedestrian plaza on East Weaver Street. If the new plans are approved, East Weaver Street, currently a two-way road that houses Carrboro's downtown, would be transformed into a pedestrian and bicycle-only block. The plans for the new pedestrian-priority space include public art installations, green stormwater infrastructure, an outdoor dining area and active transportation routes.

This new space could exemplify how we think about designing our towns and cities in a way that is directly beneficial to residents.

When towns are built around the people who live there, community is built in tandem. With public spaces to walk, play, sit, eat or chat, people can foster their current ties and form new bonds, hence creating a close-knit, inviting environment. Places for this, like third spaces, were shuttered en masse during the COVID-19 pandemic, but they play a vital role in constructing community. A pedestrian plaza would mean progress toward rebuilding third places, and with it, strong bonds with your neighbors.

An important part about walkable communities is that they get people outside, which has inherent benefits like improving



DTH/ELYSSA MOTHERSHED

A biker rides along Weaver Street in Carrboro on Monday, Jan. 27.

mental health and regulating sleep. Outside transportation options, such as walking or biking foster a more active lifestyle, enhancing physical health. Additionally, as more people walk or bike as their mode of transportation, fewer cars have to run, meaning lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduced noise pollution, a huge plus for the environment.

Walkable communities also create space for economic growth. Pedestrian communities have been shown to boost property values, support local businesses, promote tourism and reduce commuting costs.

The possible new pedestrian plaza in Carrboro could result in all of this. The outdoor eating area and public art could draw in residents. Green stormwater infrastructure helps reduce pollutants in waterways. The bike lane and open walkways would decrease car use, alleviate traffic and promote physical activity. The public pedestrian area could bring more business to Weaver Street Market.

The shift to walkable cities isn't reasonable or accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities, elders or car-based business owners — and that's why Carrboro isn't turning all of its roads into pedestrian plazas at once. However, small implementations of pedestrian-priority spaces over time allow people to adjust and adapt, hopefully leading to incredible perks for everyone.

X: @dthopinion

COLUMN

For UNC, institutional neutrality is complicity with Trump and ICE

By Maggie Mead

Editorial Board Member

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On the first day of his second term, President Trump signed a series of 45 executive orders. Among this flurry of legislation were two entitled "Protecting the American People Against Invasion" and "Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States". With these actions, Trump aims to "defend" the American people by launching what Trump called the largest deportation program of criminals in the history of America.

Under this objective, the Department of Homeland Security has authorized U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to enter previously protected locations like churches, schools and hospitals in order to arrest and deport people with suspected undocumented status. At a faculty meeting on Jan. 24, Chancellor Lee Roberts announced that UNC will comply if ICE pursues students on campus during the Trump administration.

The University's complicity with these executive orders is reprehensible; a public university should serve as a bastion for community learning and improvement. If a student is admitted to UNC, which purports to prize meritocracy and institutional neutrality above all, their deportation would be not only an inexcusable act of violence against them, but a loss to the overall diversity of thought and academic excellence our University prioritizes. The loss of even one peer is felt by the entire community. The mere threat of violence against students — our classmates, peers, friends — seeking education is deplorable.

Contrary to claims by the Trump administration that mass deportations will ensure Americans' safety, security and financial and economic well-being, immigrants are essential to the economic prosperity of our country. Immigration expands a country's labor force and increases consumer spending, yielding an overall

economic boost. Further, immigrants bring with them a diversity of thought that contributes to increased innovation, especially essential at a university. In order to cultivate a socially and economically prosperous community at UNC, we need people from diverse backgrounds.

Educators across the country are choosing to uphold immigrant students' right to safety during this time of blatant animosity. Public schools in New York, California and Chicago have issued resolutions to not comply with ICE officers attempting to prevent their students' education. Despite administrative attempts to frame our University's compliance as a neutral obligation to obey an indelible law, institutional interpretations of this legislation are still in flux.

Moreover, these executive orders challenge existing legislation, further complicating the compliance expected of universities. FERPA protects students' right to private information and records, which includes immigration status. When asked how this long-standing legislation would be affected by the recent executive directives, Roberts was steadfast in UNC's compliance with law enforcement. He remarked that he didn't want to try to issue an interpretation "on the fly."

I empathize with the UNC administration's uncertainty during this tumultuous legislative landscape — it must be difficult having your way of life subjected to the whims of an arbitrary agenda. If only administrators could extend this same empathy to undocumented students facing similar, and more dangerous, uncertainty.

If UNC truly values serving as a center for research, scholarship and creativity to teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders as the website says, institutional neutrality cannot be used as a shield to abet violence against the very students seeking an education here.

The innovation, empathy and excellence of our Carolina community depends on the presence of students from all walks of life. UNC must choose to protect its students and reject the blatantly cruel rhetoric of the Trump administration which attempts to paint undocumented people as inhuman. When it comes to the safety of our communities, we cannot choose to remain neutral.

X: @dthopinion



DTH FILE/GRACE RICHARDS

Then-interim Chancellor Lee Roberts approaches the quad with officers on April 30, 2024.

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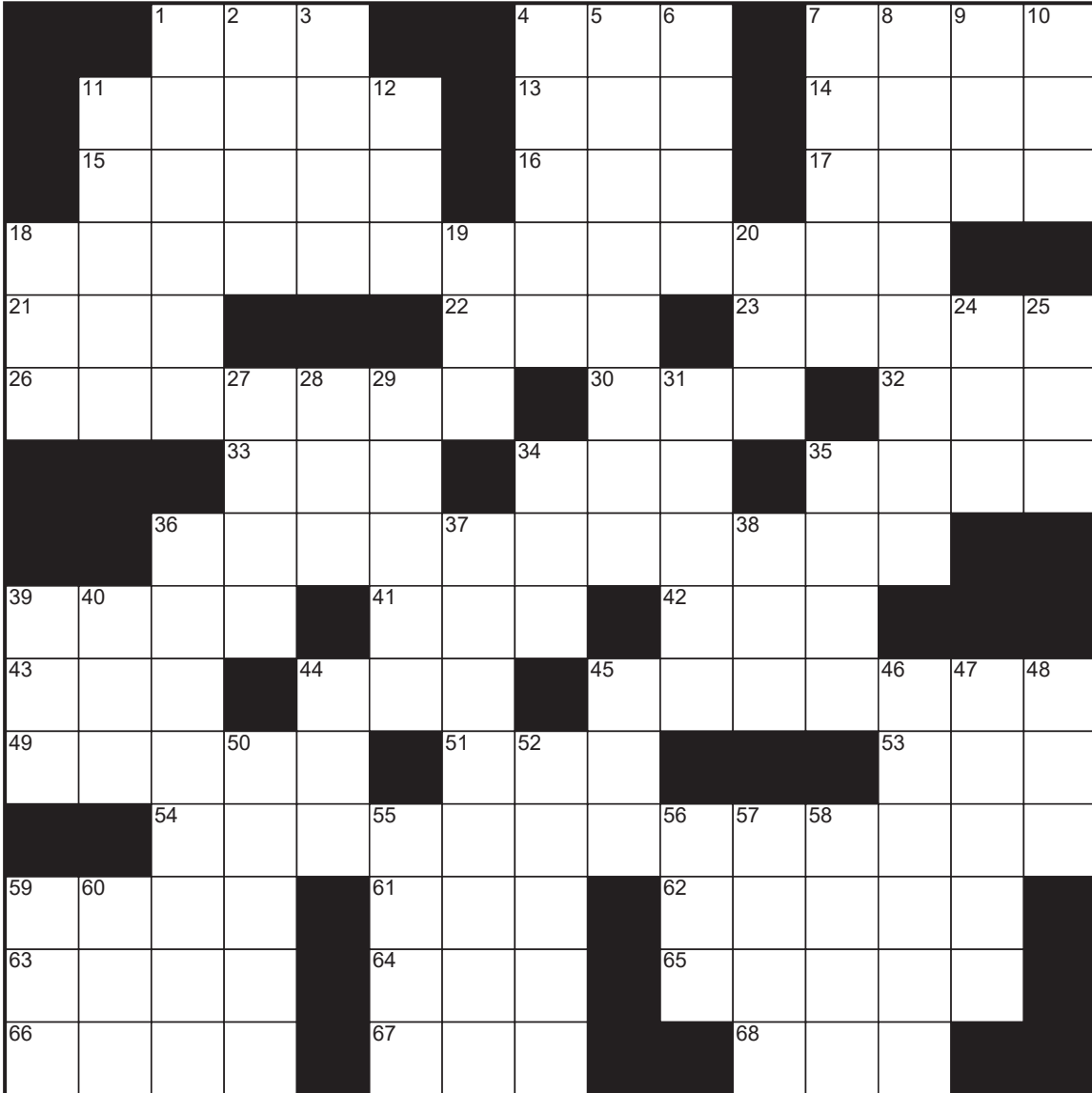
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“Just Add Sage”

This week’s crossword was created by Liam Furlong. Liam is a UNC senior studying literature and Hispanic cultures. He is from Wilmington, Del.

Across

- 1 Sunscreen stat
- 4 TV’s Grandpa Simpson
- 7 Spiritual expert
- 11 Gone old, like bread
- 13 Graphic fragment
- 14 Proctologist’s fixation?
- 15 “In a minute, Mom!”
- 16 Plot development
- 17 Molly’s ecstatic for this abbreviation?
- 18 Herb with an oregano aroma
- 21 Kong, for one
- 22 Hypothetical extent, abbr.
- 23 Like 6:00am, for tired students
- 26 Bring back to health
- 30 Lion’s lounge
- 32 Casino roller
- 33 Chinese Chairman that DeLillo knew, too?
- 34 Playground buddy
- 35 “But life _____ on...”
- 36 Small Iberian croaker
- 39 Ripped apart

- 41 “Atonement” author McEwan
- 42 Hotel type found on Pittsboro Street
- 43 Wedding words
- 44 Some altos in choirs
- 45 Mr. Agana scrambled an answer?
- 49 Degas or Guest
- 51 “Duh! It’s that computer acronym!”
- 53 Stretch of Taylor Swift’s career
- 54 ‘60s horror flick starring Mia Farrow
- 59 Chatroom participant
- 61 “_ _ _ the season...”
- 62 Texas fortress to remember
- 63 A breather for the saxophones?
- 64 Folk musician and activist DiFranco
- 65 Crazy game to play with 28-down
- 66 Aerospace org.
- 67 “_ _ _ Miserables”
- 68 Marry

Down

- 1 Lists 50 American locations
- 2 Word after ‘chosen’ and ‘career’
- 3 Run away from
- 4 In or behind a ship’s stern
- 5 Suit worn on first yearly celebration?
- 6 Engrave, carve
- 7 Third letter in the Greek alphabet
- 8 Fall guy making a comeback
- 9 Captain Morgan’s drink (and Captain Sparrow’s!)
- 10 Olympic chant
- 11 “Rise over run” quotient
- 12 Trip up
- 18 Taint, make dirty
- 19 “You’re the _____ That I Want”
- 20 Japanese currency
- 24 Deny the truth
- 25 “That’s right”
- 27 U.S. Treasury agent, slangily
- 28 Piece of crew equipment
- 29 Historical Riveter
- 31 Tinker-Bell-like, perhaps
- 34 Jot down
- 35 Chinese dinner bell
- 36 Advance, go farther
- 37 Underground explosive
- 38 Single-helix molecule
- 39 A 2-2 score
- 40 Fairly strange
- 44 _____, Doubtfire (Robin Williams character)
- 45 Word before ‘Buddies’ and ‘Jordan’
- 46 Drilled into
- 47 Shrubbery
- 48 Spider-Man won’t, but this aunt of his might
- 50 Largest bodily artery
- 52 “Wonderwall” group reuniting this July after 15 years
- 55 Citation abbreviation
- 56 Gab for a while
- 57 Somewhat dense
- 58 Whip up some brownies, say
- 59 Ceramic vessel
- 60 “The Caspian, it sounds like! Look!”

Answers to “Out of a Pickle”



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Horoscopes

Today’s Zodiac (02/05/2025): The celestial alignments today emphasize collaboration and personal growth. Aries must prioritise communication, while Taurus enjoys positive energies. Gemini focuses on financial planning, and Cancer navigates partnerships. Leo learns tolerance, as Virgo approaches new beginnings. Libra exercises patience with financial decisions, while Scorpio manages family dynamics. Sagittarius balances relationships and finances, Capricorn receives support, Aquarius creates their destiny, and Pisces explores new approaches.

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Sports

The Daily Tar Heel

Q&A

Former UNC gymnast Zoya Yaseka Johnson's journey to mentorship

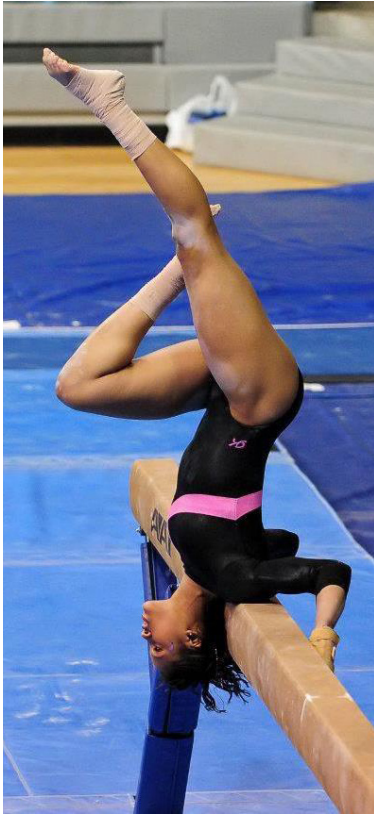


PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOYA YASEKA

Former UNC gymnast Zoya Yaseka does a handstand on the beam at Carmichael Arena.

Coach seeks to provide athletes with a holistic training experience

By Tess Alongi

Staff Writer

sports@dailytarheel.com

Gymnast Zoya Yaseka Johnson competed for UNC from 2009 to 2012. Since then, she has used her skills and knowledge of the sport to inspire new generations.

Staff writer Tess Alongi spoke with Johnson about her journey of becoming an elite gymnast in the United States, a gymnastic coach and, now, a life coach. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Daily Tar Heel: What was it like transitioning to life in America after your early childhood in Jamaica?

Zoya Yaseka Johnson: From an early age, it was very apparent that America is where you go if you want opportunity, and so I came up here kind of already knowing that was the case. I was given the decision by my mother when I came to visit her to stay or not. I said, 'Yeah, I want to stay.'

Not long after that, I discovered gymnastics through my favorite cousin. And then, not long after that, I saw Dominique Dawes on the TV for the '96 Summer Olympics and said, 'I want to be just like her.' If luck would have it, I ended up at her gym and I was able to catch the eye of her coach. So, I got to train at a really high level — at the elite level, which is the level in gymnastics where they train you for the Olympics.

I had my heart set on going to the Olympics, but around 16, I kept getting hurt. I realized that I did want some kind of life after gymnastics, so I [shifted] my focus from going to the Olympics to going to college. I was afforded the opportunity to go to many colleges on a full ride. I chose UNC because it felt like there was a really great balance of academic excellence as well as athletic excellence. I loved the teammates that I would be coming in [to].

DTH: How did you get into coaching?

Johnson: I never thought I would be a coach, but my plan to do Cirque du Soleil kind of fell apart after college when I realized that I had residual

symptoms from my concussions. I was advised not to train at that same level to stay alive, or at least have the highest quality of life I could have and not subject myself to further injury or just a decline in cognitive health. That kind of prompted me to shift focus from gymnastics at a high level to giving myself an opportunity to just discover who I was outside of the sport and, as I shifted into coaching, focusing on how I could give my athletes a more well-rounded experience than I had.

DTH: What does the process of building an Olympic program in Jamaica look like? What is your role?

Johnson: I was the vice president of international relations [for the Jamaica Amateur Gymnastics Association] for a while, and I was doing clinics with the kids that were both technical in terms of strength and flexibility conditioning, but also bringing mindfulness into the coaching there, through those clinics. Now I'm just on the fundraising board. Finance is always a part of being able to advance the program, outside of being able to produce athletes who are technically sound,

having facilities that can support their progress is also important.

DTH: Looking back on your journey, what advice would you give to young athletes?

Johnson: In college it can be easy to get caught up in your measures of success, but it's also a really great time to figure out who you are outside of your sport and outside of your output. North Carolina is a really great place to do that because there are so many opportunities, both as an athlete and just a person trying to figure out how they want to impact the world.

X: @dthsports

Class examines race, basketball in U.S.

Continued from Page 1

storied basketball program at UNC, the curriculum portrays the sport through the lens of race. Andrews said that this course explores both popular culture's impact on race and how basketball challenges existing ideas of race.

"I think that it's interesting to hear about something like sports in the context of American history, only because it does shape a lot of the way that we are and think today," Sarah Jimenez, a history major and a student in the class, said.

When building the curriculum, Andrews looked to his own bookshelf. He scoured his archive of basketball literature and recognized the amount of racially coded language underscored in various coverage of the sport, including stories in Sports Illustrated magazines.

With that in mind, he curated a list of documents that build knowledge of racial theory as well as trace the evolution of race relations throughout landmark eras in basketball history.

History 585 spans from James Naismith's creation of the sport on Dec. 21, 1891 in Springfield, Mass., to basketball in the "bubble" due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

On the first day of class, Andrews gives his very own "racial biography" to his students — a start unique from all his other courses — because of the significance of his white identity to the topic at hand.

"Because this course is all about ideas about race, about whiteness and about Blackness, and about the kind of theories that are out there, I say, 'So this is who I am,'" Andrews said.

The course has allowed students from a variety of interests to think critically about interpretations of race. Coming from a STEM background, Riley Harper didn't know much about sports history. But the course has allowed him to gain a deeper understanding of race relations in the United States

through basketball. It has led him to question more about society.

"Going to UNC, which is a pretty well-known basketball school, I think it's been cool to connect this course and also just the subject of history to the broader student culture, like the Dean Dome and Dean Smith," Harper said.

Coming from all different backgrounds, many students enrolled find their preexisting belief systems challenged, as Andrews encourages students to make up their own mind.

And Andrews has been able to have an impact on his students' thinking. One of the firsts was a student who wasn't a believer in the severity of racism. After the death of George Floyd, who was killed by a police officer in 2020 and became a highly discussed topic in the NBA, this student emailed Andrews saying that his class was the first "crack" in his thinking.

Seeing the impact of Floyd's death, the student realized the impact racism had on the world around him.

"I want the class to crack the way everyone thinks about race in some way, shape or form," Andrews said.

Andrews does this by gearing his teaching style toward his 20-year-old self. He wouldn't have been thrilled to learn about topics like race and gender alone, but the introduction of sports would have been a game-changer.

He said it would have gotten him, and so many others, in the door.

What started as a sports focus has also evolved to include the University. Students read "Game Changers" by Art Chansky, spotlighting Charlie Scott, the first Black varsity basketball player at UNC in 1967.

"Race matters. Race has mattered," Andrews said. "I want people to see what African Americans have been up against historically."

X: @alexjones_

HISTORY

Reflecting on the trailblazers that set the stage for Black athletes at UNC

Edwin Okoroma paved the way when he began playing in 1963

By Beckett Brantley

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UNC enrolled its first Black undergraduate students in 1955, but the first Black varsity athlete didn't take the field for eight more years.

Even then, some sports didn't roster their first Black player for several more decades.

Here are some of the Black athletes who broke racial barriers at UNC, on and off the field.

Edwin Okoroma

Edwin Okoroma was born in Imo State, Nigeria and came to UNC on a non-athletic scholarship in 1962, becoming the first Black African at the school.

Okoroma tried out for the soccer team and earned a spot as a forward, making him the first Black varsity athlete to play at North Carolina. During his two seasons on the soccer team, Okoroma was promoted to the starting lineup. He finished his final season with six goals.

Charlie Scott

In 1967, Charlie Scott became the first Black athlete on scholarship at North Carolina. He was also the first Black athlete to play on the varsity men's basketball team.

Scott grew up in Harlem, New York City, but came to North Carolina to attend high school at the Laurinburg Institute in 1963. While there, Scott caught the attention of then head coach Dean Smith, who recruited him to play at UNC despite some threats from boosters.



DTH DESIGN/LIZA SMITH

Photos courtesy of DTH Archives and Yackety Yack.

During his two years at North Carolina, Scott averaged over 22 points and won the ACC regular season and ACC tournament title with the Tar Heels in 1968 and 1969. He also played in the 1968 national championship game.

After leaving UNC, Scott spent eight years in the NBA. In 2018, Scott was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Rochelle Small-Toney

Nearly a decade later, in 1977, Rochelle Small-Toney became North Carolina's first Black varsity women's basketball player — four years before the NCAA included women's basketball in 1981.

Small-Toney grew up in Wilmington, N.C., watching broadcasts of UNC basketball. But when she arrived as a student, Small-Toney had no basketball experience.

After joining the Black Student Movement's intramural team and then the junior varsity squad, the 6-foot-1 Small-Toney was encouraged by her coach to try out for varsity. Then-

varsity head coach Jennifer Alley gave the senior center a spot on the team.

In her one season of varsity basketball, Small-Toney led the Tar Heels in scoring on several occasions, including games against Virginia and Indiana.

Sonya Bright

Sonya Bright became the first Black softball player at UNC in 1989.

She was recruited from the slow-pitch softball team at Jordan High School in Durham, N.C.

Touted for her speed, the left fielder became the leadoff hitter, which paid off for the Tar Heels. In her first two years, Bright became known for her running slap bunt designed to get on base.

In her senior year, Bright had a .393 batting average and stole 32 bases. She is top-10 all time at UNC in career stolen bases (73), hits (230), runs (158) and triples (15).

After graduating, Bright played professionally for three years.

X: @beckettbrant

MEN'S BASKETBALL | DUKE GAME

Tar Heels have to 'move forward' after blowout loss to rival

Team is on the bubble of making the NCAA tournament

By Caroline Wills

Sports Editor
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DURHAM — A dejected Seth Trimble sagged into his seat. The junior guard released a heavy exhale. His eyes stared distantly ahead.

Another loss. Another defeat to a ranked opponent. Another game that exposed UNC's glaring weaknesses. An 87-70 slaughter by No. 2 Duke, who outmatched North Carolina in every way possible and led from start to finish on Saturday at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Still, after the game, Trimble kept his tone light and optimistic.

"We know we can't mope around and whine about it like the season's over this early in the year," he said. "We know we got to group back together and just keep uplifting, mentally. It doesn't get easier."

And it really won't get easier. Not with UNC teetering on the bubble of making the NCAA tournament. ESPN analyst Joe Lunardi projected North Carolina to be one of the Last Four In prior to Saturday's matchup.

Not with another game against Pitt next Saturday, a team North Carolina fell apart against on Tuesday.

Not with two more Quad 1 opportunities, in which the Tar Heels are 1-9, looming. They'll go to Clemson and later have one more crack at Duke at the end of season.

So now what? Where does UNC go from here?

Junior forward Ven-Allen Lubin pointed to improving UNC's ability to take care of the ball. In Quad 1 games this season, North Carolina is averaging 11.75 turnovers per game. Against the Blue Devils, the Tar Heels had 14, handing Duke 19 points.

In the last two games, UNC gave up a combined 41 points off of turnovers, only scoring 11 for themselves.

On Saturday, turnovers hurt North Carolina less than 10 minutes into the first half, allowing Duke to explode on a 16-0 run. The



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

UNC junior guard Seth Trimble (7) dribbles the ball during the men's basketball game against Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 1. UNC fell 87-70.

Blue Devils had a double-digit lead before the Tar Heels could blink.

"They whooped us," Trimble said. "They kicked us straight in the back from the jump."

Then, UNC was plagued by defensive lapses. Outsized at every position — Duke's average height is about 6-foot-7 and North Carolina started its small, four-guard lineup — the Tar Heels were beaten to the boards on key possessions.

"We can't just ask Washington, Withers to battle against them by themselves," graduate guard RJ Davis said. "We've got to do a better job of rebounding, especially defensively, because they were getting a lot of second chance points with that."

Lubin said UNC has to do more talking on the defensive end. Individual matchups have to guard better one-on-one. They have to get more physical.

There's also the scoring droughts, which, at one point on Saturday, dug UNC into a 32-point deficit. But that's not a new problem, either.

Against Pitt on Tuesday, the Tar Heels didn't score for the final 3:21 of the second half, allowing the Panthers to build up a 14-2 run to win it.

And in the loss to Wake Forest, a nearly six-minute drought allowed the Demon Deacons to recover the lead in the second half and build up a double-digit advantage.

During the 16-0 run in the first half that dug North Carolina into an inescapable hole, the Tar Heels were held scoreless for nearly three minutes. Three minutes after they ended the drought, they were scoreless for another five and a half minutes to give Duke a 27 point lead.

They couldn't get stops, so the Tar Heels couldn't run out in transition. And without the transition game up to its usual standard, North Carolina couldn't capitalize. That was the game plan, according to Trimble, and the Tar Heels couldn't follow it. They can't win without it.

"It's really infuriating," Trimble said. "It's really frustrating, but we can't do nothing but keep fighting."

Head coach Hubert Davis admitted he feels frustration. North Carolina has lost four of its last five games and three consecutive road games, falling to 6-5 in the ACC.

So what now? The players say it's not too late. But opportunities are dwindling. The schedule isn't getting any easier. March is on the horizon.

"My expectation is for us to continue to move forward," Hubert Davis said. "We don't play for another week, so this is a great week for us to regroup."

And what other choice do they have?

X: @carolinewills03

UNC derailed by Blue Devils' 16-0 run

North Carolina fell into a deep deficit early in the first half

By Emma Moon

Assistant Sports Editor
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DURHAM — UNC players scattered outside the visitor's locker room tried to accept what just happened. They tried to make sense of it.

One by one players exited the locker room to head to the bus. The Tar Heels didn't take the time to shower at Cameron Indoor Stadium. They rushed out with hoodies up and headphones on. After being run off the court in the opening minutes, they probably would have left earlier if they could.

"[We're] just trying to accept it," junior guard Seth Trimble said. "After a loss is always hard. A loss is always hard to deal with. Guys have to [deal] with emotions, but we have to drop it."

Maybe just forgetting is the best choice. Sure, UNC players understood Duke's talent, but they didn't expect the gap to be this wide, right?

Well, it was. UNC fell, 87-70, on Saturday evening to No. 2 Duke. The 17-point win marks the largest margin of victory for the Blue Devils since the 2009-10 season. They never recovered from Duke's 16-0 run in the opening minutes. In the first half, UNC's nine turnovers outnumbered its eight field goals.

As the game unfolded, it's surprising the Tar Heels only lost by 17. But the way the game progressed can be condensed. The Blue Devils exploited UNC's weaknesses in 2 minutes and 38 seconds. That's all they needed.

Down by one with 15:47 left in the first half, UNC junior forward Jalen Washington and Trimble attempted to double-team Duke's Cooper Flagg.

Flagg kicked the ball out to guard Tyrese Proctor on the corner. He nailed the three to begin the run. Sophomore guard Elliot Cadeau worked to find Trimble on the ensuing possession, but the pass was intercepted by Flagg. He raced down the court, sending the ball to Proctor for the slam.

"They capitalized off of our turnovers," Trimble said. "You get

turnovers, you're able to run. Any team can execute. A team like them, they'll execute 99 of them like that."

And their next four possessions went quickly. Flagg hit a three at the top of the key. Then came a deflection by Maliq Brown, which led to a Flagg and-1 on the breakaway. UNC recorded 14 total turnovers, giving Duke 19 points off them.

"We've talked at great length about how important it is to take care of the ball in two ways," head coach Hubert Davis said. "One, obviously, [is] unforced turnovers, and shot selection. Our live ball turnovers are turning into pick-6 plays for the opponent."

On Duke's next possession, Kon Kneuppel found the net from behind the arc. Kneuppel found it again right after, driving to the basket before making a jumper over first-year guard Ian Jackson.

The Blue Devils got everything they wanted. UNC missed wide-open threes as Duke closed out fast. The Tar Heels are No. 268 nationally in 3-point percentage.

North Carolina's size also prevented them from driving to the rim. All of Duke's rotation players are above 6-foot-5, making the team the longest and tallest in the country. UNC starts four sub-6-foot-4 guards and are the shortest high-major team in the nation.

Duke led 23-6 with 13:06 remaining in the first. The score was 40-15 at the five minute mark.

The Blue Devils bullied North Carolina, and they did it in two minutes. Duke still led by double digits even after going eight minutes without a field goal late in the second half.

"With the crowd and the score, I think we just kind of lost some focus," junior forward Ven-Allen Lubin said, "and guys lost that we can control the game."

While it's tempting to want to forget everything that happened on Saturday, the Tar Heels can't afford to. They weren't able to overcome their weaknesses on Saturday or even find a partial fix.

And as UNC players exited one by one, maybe they all came to the same realization: a solution might never come.

X: @emmahmoon

HOCKEY

Drew Smith emerges as key player against Wolfpack

First-year forward stands out in Governor's Cup

By Sarah Stephens

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RALEIGH — Although he's barely settled into life on the UNC men's ice hockey team, first-year forward Drew Smith found himself playing in one of the team's biggest games of the season.

With six minutes left in the second period, Smith stood at the blue line. He received the puck from senior forward Zach Mangel and fired. The puck found the back of the net.

Smith has only played four games with the Tar Heels, but he's already making an impact. According to head coach Steve Rice, the goal provided a glimpse into the future of UNC hockey.

After an intense weekend of rivalry matchups against the N.C. State Ice Pack — who rank No. 2 in the ACCHL DII league — No. 7 UNC split results, securing an overtime 3-2 win on Friday before

falling 4-1 in the Governor's Cup on Sunday at the Lenovo Center. Despite the recent loss, Smith proved to be the highlight. He's scored two goals in the last two games, even after joining the team in January.

On Sunday, it was a dry first period for the Tar Heels, with the Wolfpack recording their first goal with a deflection off a stick, sending the puck into the bottom left corner of the net.

It wasn't until halfway through the second period that Smith buried the first, and only goal, for North Carolina, sinking a puck from nearly center ice.

"He's got a wicked shot," Rice said.

The score remained 2-1 for the majority of the evening, with N.C. State holding the advantage. UNC emptied its net for a chance to tie it up with an extra attacker on the ice, but in the final two minutes of the third period the Wolfpack's Alex James and Jake Gifford capitalized, scoring back-to-back goals.

UNC took six shots in both the first and second period, and four in the third, but N.C. State managed to get off more shots than the Tar Heels, in part due to UNC's sloppy play. North Carolina

averaged around five turnovers per period.

Still, Smith stood out. With his lone goal, he proved to be the only offensive spark.

"If [Smith] does ever turn a puck over, he actually turns around and gets the puck back," Rice said. "It's amazing."

The forward studied abroad in Ireland throughout the fall, but was brought onto the team by Rice after being endorsed by junior goalkeeper Lucas Brown. Brown, who had experience skating with Smith, suggested that the team reach out to the first-year when he returned to the U.S. Smith had not skated for over four months.

Not only did Smith score at the Governor's Cup, he also scored on Friday against the Wolfpack.

"He's got a lot of grit and determination, and I think it's gonna bode well for us," Rice said.

After playing hockey for Phillips Academy Andover in high school, where he saw action in 84 games, Smith has shown his potential in a short time.

For Rice, visualization is much more than a mental exercise — it's the key to UNC's success. He believes seeing success in the



DTH/SAMANTHA LEWIS

UNC first-year defenseman Drew Smith (18) defends the puck at the Lenovo Center on Sunday, Feb. 2 in the Governors Cup game against N.C. State. UNC fell 4-1.

mind translates to the ice. It's a characteristic Smith shares.

"If you visualize it, I believe that the mind is so powerful it'll get you to find the net instead of the goalie," Rice said.

It's clear that Smith has visualized success. He doesn't just see it, he chases it.

X: @dthsports

Special Projects *The Daily Tar Heel*

CONDUCT

Activist loses Morehead-Cain scholarship, left unsure of what rules she broke

The foundation terminated her funding on Jan. 6

By Aisha Baiocchi
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Laura Saavedra Forero describes herself as an activist before anything else.

Her advocacy is extensive, but she's also a senior, a neuroscience major and until recently, part of the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship.

On Jan. 6, Saavedra Forero received a letter informing her the Morehead-Cain Trustees had decided to terminate her scholarship.

Saavedra Forero has faced a number of disciplinary and criminal charges for her protesting last spring, but all but one were dropped. The details around losing her scholarship remain unclear to her to this day.

"I never would have thought that a foundation that is so well established and prestigious would not have a formal process that would allow for due process for me," she said.

The Morehead-Cain Foundation said in a written statement to The Daily Tar Heel they do not disclose any confidential information about current or former scholars. They denied numerous requests for an interview.

"A student's scholarship will be terminated upon conduct that is, in the sole judgment of the trustees, incompatible with the standards of the Morehead-Cain Program," the statement said. "Such conduct may include violations of the Foundation's nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policy, provisions of the University Honor Code, state or federal law, as well as any behavior that causes the trustees to question a scholar's personal integrity or fitness to represent the Morehead-Cain community."

'I never hid who I was or what I did'

Saavedra Forero said she wrote about her activism in her application and talked in her interviews about her use of nonviolent action. "I never hid who I was or what I did," she said. "I always made it very clear, throughout my entire college application process, that if a program or a university did not want me for who I was at my core, and that is someone who organizes for the community, then I did not want to be there."

Saavedra Forero said, at first, she felt supported as she did her best to live into her commitment as a scholar and activist. She was elected Campus Y co-president and organized a sit-in in response to the administration's lack of accessible infrastructure. The Morehead-Cain Foundation featured her work on its "Catalyze Podcast" in October 2022. She said things started to change in March of her sophomore year, when the foundation invited Republican Representative Tim Moore to an event.

A group of scholars, including Saavedra Forero, found the invitation of Moore offensive. In response, they attended the event holding signs criticizing his legislation. After the event, she had a meeting with scholarship President Chris Bradford and another scholar. According to the recording of the meeting, Bradford criticized two scholars' choices to protest the event and questioned their methods. After her interaction with Bradford that day, Saavedra Forero said she was a little on-edge, but it never crossed her mind that her advocacy moving forward would cost her the scholarship.

The statement from the Morehead-Cain Foundation says grants for scholars are renewed only one semester in advance to ensure scholars are continuously meeting the foundation's expectations. The decision to renew the scholarship is decided at the discretion of the foundation's seven trustees.

Protesting last fall

In November 2023, the night of the scholar banquet, Saavedra Forero received a text from Bradford asking they meet.

He pulled out a picture of a graphic Saavedra Forero had posted on her Instagram story and asked if she recognized it.

The cartoon was connecting the coffee chain Starbucks with the violence in Gaza. It depicted a hand with a bracelet displaying the Israeli flag using an espresso machine to make coffee in a Starbucks coffee cup, except there are dead bodies in the machine and instead of coffee, blood is coming out.

Bradford said the image was Blood Libel, an antisemitic trope used by Nazi Germany during World War II claiming Jewish people used the blood of non-Jewish children for rituals.



DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

Laura Saavedra Forero is photographed in the reflection of the doors of the Morehead-Cain Foundation on Jan. 24.

"You have called people Nazis, now you are behaving like one," he said in a recording of the meeting.

Later that day, Bradford sent her an email alerting her that her scholarship may be in jeopardy.

"I am very clear that you have a right to free speech, and I do not believe that anyone has a right to not be offended," he wrote in his email. "But I am equally clear that this scholarship is a privilege, and that the behavior of scholars

was to assert dominance in this relationship, which is to remind Laura that she is being paid for in large capacity by the foundation."

During winter break, Bradford asked Saavedra Forero to meet and emailed her a letter.

"In each of the past two terms, you have, in the name of 'activism' made choices that have undermined the welfare of others," the letter stated.

The letter also listed four activities that Saavedra Forero had to agree to abstain from: "ad-hominem" attacks toward individuals, spreading "propaganda," harassment

directed at individuals and activities that disrupt other individuals' ability to participate in campus activities.

Saavedra Forero called Bradford and another representative from the scholarship on Jan. 17 and asked if it's possible to lose the scholarship even if she followed the renewed agreement.

"Absolutely," Bradford responded. "I think the biggest power imbalance to this day is the lack of knowledge and evidence that I was given," she said.

After the events of April 30, multiple protesters reported injuries from the police, including Saavedra Forero who was trapped under a barricade. She says she did not hear from the foundation about the event. A week later, she participated in the march that attempted to block Provost Chris Clemens' car from exiting the parking lot. Saavedra Forero was charged with "impeding traffic" and "resisting a public officer." She said she was the only participant charged with impeding traffic. She was also referred to the UNC Honor Court and the Emergency Evaluation and Action Committee for her conduct.

Catherine Scott, a sophomore Morehead-Cain scholar, was with Saavedra Forero on May 8, and said she thinks the choice to charge her is part of a larger pattern of targeting by UNC Police due to her status as a wheelchair user.

On July 24, Saavedra Forero received notice via a formal letter that she was suspended from the program.

Losing the scholarship

In August, the Honor Court and EEAC charges against Saavedra Forero were dropped, and she informed Morehead-Cain. She also sent them a letter from her lawyer explaining that she would enter a plea deal so the last of the criminal charges were dropped. A few months later she sent a letter to the Trustees prior to their meeting to explain her situation.

SJP organized a walkout in October, during which some protesters vandalized University buildings. Saavedra Forero attended the walkout but couldn't enter buildings. A few weeks later, she was served with a warrant for material on her phone. Saavedra Forero said her identifiability was one of the most frustrating parts of her experience with the foundation because as a wheelchair user, she couldn't take the same measures as other scholars to obscure her identity while protesting.

"I think that is significant to the targeting and repression of my speech, of my actions, and fairly ironic that is the basis of Morehead-Cain's attack on their own scholar," she said.

At the end of the semester, she received a letter from Bradford saying it was "highly unlikely" that she would regain her scholarship.

She said when she got confirmation in January that her scholarship was gone, she was disappointed, but not surprised.

"It's difficult for me to know what I would have changed," she said. "But in terms of being steadfast and completely committed to liberation, there's nothing I would change. I know that is what my ancestors would want, and I know that this was the bare minimum."

According to the statement from the Morehead-Cain Foundation, scholars are expected to notify the foundation if they violate the expectations. Saavedra Forero said she wasn't aware of any potential violations for her conduct last spring. Now saddled with tuition costs, Saavedra Forero said she reconsidered her decision to come to UNC.

"If I knew what I know now about both the University and the Foundation's approach to repression and free speech and controlling and surveilling, I probably would have never taken it," she said. "But there's some things you don't know until you get there."

"I think there was a moment in time where Laura's boldness went from inspiring to threatening the foundation."

Anonymous
Morehead-Cain alumnus

should be a model for the behavior of others on campus."

An alumnus of the scholarship, who asked to remain anonymous, said watching the foundation discipline Saavedra Forero was painful. They said the process by which she lost her scholarship seemed especially personal.

"I think there was a moment in time where Laura's boldness went from inspiring to threatening the foundation," they said. "And their only understanding of how to react



DTH FILE/HEATHER DIEHL

Saavedra Forero spent 32 hours outside South Building advocating for greater accessibility at UNC in Feb. 2023.

X: @_aishabee_