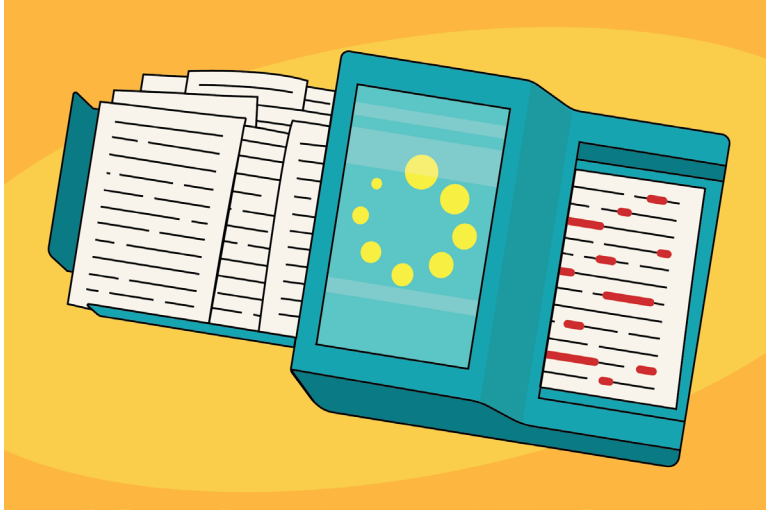


APPLICATIONS



DTH DESIGN/NICK LOTZ

UNC uses AI to review admissions

Technology is used to evaluate writing quality

By Alice Scott
Senior Writer

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Application essays reviewed by the UNC Office of Undergraduate Admissions are auto-scored based on writing quality, according to a document obtained by The Daily Tar Heel that detailed UNC's admissions reader guidelines for the 2022-23 application cycle.

In a statement to The DTH, UNC Media Relations wrote that when the Office of Undergraduate Admissions reviews admissions essays, it uses, or plans to use artificial intelligence to do a basic

evaluation of grammar and writing.

Students review their admissions files

UNC class of '23 alumnus Aidan Hunt, who reviewed his admissions file in 2020, said that the person he spoke with during the appointment told him that essays are computer-scored on a scale from one to four based on writing quality.

Students at any public university are able to review their admissions file due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

UNC sophomore Owen Fay reviewed his admissions file in 2024 and noted in a Reddit post that his essay also received a computer-generated score.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 3

COGENERATION PLANT

Community voices concerns about UNC's request to replace coal with fuel pellets

Pellets would contain plastic which may contain PFAS

By Lauren Zola
Staff Writer
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The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) held a public hearing last Thursday at the Chapel Hill Town Hall to receive comments on UNC's application to test a new fuel source at its cogeneration facility.

The cogeneration facility, located on W Cameron Ave, uses natural gas and coal to create energy.

In July 2024, the University submitted an application to the DAQ to test "engineered fuel pellets" at the coal plant, according to UNC's energy services webpage. The webpage also says that it aims to "transition away from coal while increasing the use of renewable fuels" by testing the fuel pellets.

According to the University's webpage, the pellets are created from pre-consumer paper and plastic scraps that would otherwise end up in landfills.

UNC Media Relations declined The Daily Tar Heel's request for comment about the University's permit application.

Executive Board Member of



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Over 50 people spoke at the public hearing in Chapel Hill Town Hall on Thursday, Jan. 16.

TransparUNCy, Raima Dutt, said TransparUNCy opposes the facility's use of coal.

"It turns out that if you divide the amount of coal they [the UNC

Black and poor population."

Although the proposal to use fuel pellets looks good on paper, Dutt said, the pellets are extremely detrimental to the environment. The fuel pellets would contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals."

According to a DAQ webpage, the permit would require UNC to perform regular sampling of the pellets for PFAS and test its boilers to determine actual PFAS emissions. Based on an analysis of the pellets,

CONTINUE ON PAGE 5

"We think that it's a false solution — kind of a Band-Aid fix — and not really what we were hoping to see from UNC in terms of reducing emissions."

Leah Nelson

Co-chair of the UNC Climate Crisis Committee

cogeneration facility] burn[s], it's one ton of coal ash per UNC undergrad," Dutt said. "So obviously it's really detrimental to the environment, and they dump it in South Boston, Virginia, which is just a predominantly

ART

Southern Mix exhibit celebrates diverse stories of Asian Americans

Oral history showcase is held in Student Union Art Gallery

By Brooke Xu
Staff Writer

lifestyle@dailytarheel.com

Faculty, students and alumni mingled throughout the Student Union Art Gallery on Saturday morning, celebrating the opening of the Southern Mix exhibit.

Southern Mix is a project at UNC that partners with the Southern Oral History Program, Carolina Asia Center and the Asian American Center. It was co-founded in 2017 by alumna Anna-Rhesa Versola with the goal to share the stories of Asian Americans in the South through oral histories.

The exhibit at the gallery highlights some of the stories of individuals who participated in recording their oral histories. Photographs of the participants line the walls, accompanied with snippets from their interviews and QR codes to sound bites from their oral history recordings.

Director of the Asian American Center and English professor Heidi



DTH/ELYSSA MOTHERSHED

Members of UNC Flying Silk write about what the South means to them at the Carolina Union Gallery on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Kim said that the exhibit was an effort from the AAC to get oral histories back into the community and to provide pathways for students to get involved with the work.

Kim said the exhibit was first displayed at the AAC, before it traveled throughout the state to various schools and public libraries. Now, it will be displayed at the Union until Jan. 24, after

which it will move to more off-campus locations.

"It's very important when you're doing oral history work that it not just be extracting information from the community," Kim said. "It should also give back to the community."

Sophie Tô, a recent PhD graduate from Gillings School of Global

CONTINUE ON PAGE 7

STANDOUT

Women's tennis beats Gardner-Webb

Alanis Hamilton wins singles, doubles matches

By Alexandra Jones
Staff Writer

sports@dailytarheel.com

First to finish, Alanis Hamilton looked on as her teammates battled to clinch the doubles point.

A few minutes earlier, the first-year and her partner, junior Reese Brantmeier, dominated Gardner-Webb's No. 2 doubles team, 6-0. The opposition couldn't craft a response to Brantmeier's strong hits, unable to harness enough power to clear the net.

And when they did manage a return, Hamilton rushed to the edge of the net to deliver a dynamic strike. The final kill.

She smiled as she walked off court two at Brantmeier's side. Courts one and three were still in play while the duo shared a few laughs on the bench.

"She's a unicorn with her doubles," assistant head coach Tyler Thomson said. "I would say I haven't seen a freshman doubles player like her in my whole career."

This "unicorn" arrived Chapel Hill just a few weeks ago. During the fall season — a period where Tar Heels compete individually in singles and doubles competitions before the team season in the spring — Hamilton was playing at the U.S. Open Juniors. Despite missing time with the team, she trained constantly. She worked on her strength to prepare to compete at the collegiate level.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13



DTH FILE/LARA CROCHIK

The UNC women's tennis team huddles before a match against Florida State on Friday, March 31, 2023.

“ We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools. ”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

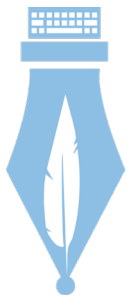
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BUDGET

Graduate students seek stipend increase

Workers vie for higher, more competitive compensation

By Caleb Herrera
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For over 30 years, graduate workers at UNC have advocated for wages that align with the rising costs of living in Chapel Hill.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in the fall of 2023, UNC had a total of 3,503 graduate assistants.

Currently, graduate workers receive a minimum annual stipend of \$20,600, according to a Jan. 9 Workers Union at UNC Instagram post. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, a single adult with no dependents in Orange County needs approximately \$51,000 annually before taxes to meet basic living expenses.

Historical context of stipends advocacy

In 2000, teaching fellows in the Department of English proposed a pay increase to address the growing cost of living expenses in Chapel Hill. With a \$4,100 semesterly stipend before taxes, approximately 80 percent of them were “forced to take on significant work” outside of being a graduate worker, according to a report on behalf of the Association of Graduate English Students.

According to an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel from the Duke Graduate Students Union’s leadership, union-led efforts over the past decade have resulted in stipend increases for their graduate workers, including a recent increase to a \$40,000 minimum for the 2024-25 academic year.

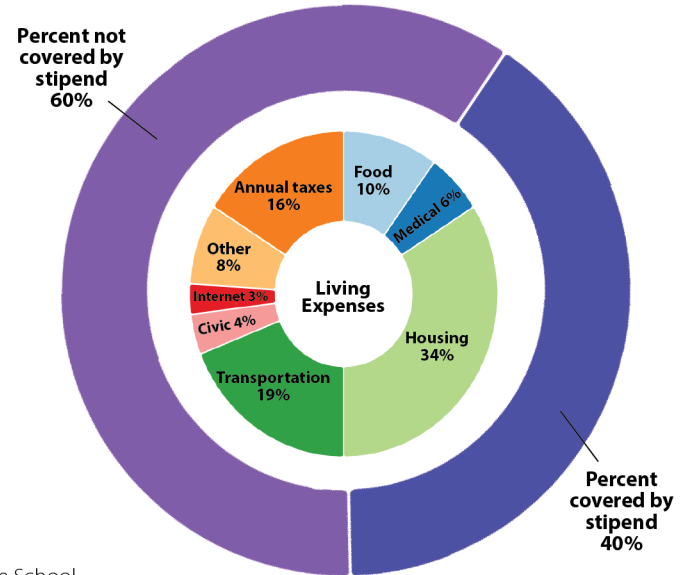
University perspective

Beth Mayer-Davis, dean of the Graduate School, said that the University does not automatically receive additional funding from the state for stipend increases.

“Some of the stipend dollars do come from the state, some of the stipend dollars come from grant support or fellowships that students receive from any number of sources,” she said. “And so the question becomes, given that stipends are paid from various sources for different students, how do we make sure that

UNC doctoral candidate stipend covers approximately 40 percent of a single adult’s living expenses in Orange County

Based on the MIT Living Wage Calculator, a single adult with no dependents requires an annual income before taxes of \$51,084 to live in Orange County. UNC’s minimum doctoral candidate stipend of \$20,600 would cover estimated housing and medical expenses. An additional income of \$30,484 is required to cover all other expenses.



Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator, The Graduate School

DTH DATA/CHARLENE WU

an increase can be afforded, can be budgeted to meet that need.”

The University’s operating budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$4.2 billion. The Graduate School’s funding falls under the Academic Affairs department.

The University has allocated \$77,786,000 toward salaries, wages, scholarships and fellowships for the entire Academic Affairs department. This funding is sourced from a combination of general funds, which include state appropriations and tuition revenue, as well as auxiliary and other trust funds generated by University services.

For the 2024-25 academic year, master’s students and doctoral candidates will receive \$16,500 and \$20,600, respectively.

Mayer-Davis said that the University currently can’t afford the jump to the \$40,000 minimum stipend proposed by the Workers Union at UNC.

“I know personally how tremendous our students are and how much they contribute to our intellectual environment, really to the culture, the heart and soul of our University,” she said. “So that’s why I’m so strongly in support of increasing the stipends, as are our other administrators.”

Graduate workers’ perspective

Jorge Mancilla, member of the Executive Board of the Workers

Union at UNC’s graduate chapter, said the organization plans to deliver its petition to administration this semester.

Mancilla said faculty members have expressed in conversations that they’re having a difficult time recruiting their desired graduate candidates due to more money being offered at other universities.

When Mancilla received competing offers between the University of Texas at Austin and UNC in 2021, Austin’s cost of living was higher, but its stipends were lower in comparison to UNC. The following year, UT-Austin had increased their stipends. Meanwhile, Orange County’s monthly wage to cover the cost of living ranked second highest out of 20 counties in North Carolina, according to the self-sufficiency standard created by the University of Washington Center for Women’s Welfare.

“If I had applied a year later, I might have gone to the University of Texas [at Austin], even though I think UNC is a better fit for me, and this is becoming more and more common as the cost of living keeps going up in Chapel Hill and the stipends remain roughly the same,” he said.

A graduate worker and second-year doctoral student, who has to rely heavily on inherited wealth from their deceased mother’s estate, requested to remain anonymous

because the funds are taxed as income which could be seen as a second off-campus job. Some graduate students said that having a second job is discouraged.

“If I didn’t have that, I definitely could not afford to be here,” they said.

A second graduate worker, who requested to remain anonymous because of concerns that speaking openly might lead to the University pressuring them or their department, shared similar struggles.

They said that they’ve had to rely on additional University jobs, which require approval from their department. The student also said that working multiple jobs requires late nights and early mornings to meet both academic and financial obligations.

In a statement to The DTH, Provost Chris Clemens said that increasing graduate school stipends remains a priority for University administration.

“Over the last few months, we’ve been working closely with GPSG President Katie Heath, Graduate School Dean Beth Mayer-Davis and all the other deans to gather feedback and determine funding,” Clemens said. “We hope to announce an increase in the minimum stipends for PhD and master’s students sometime this semester.”

X: @calebherrera_

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CURRICULUM

Triple-I requirement changing, to be called 'I requirement'

Student and faculty feedback influenced course reforms

By Dylan Skinner

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The IDEAs in Action Curriculum, implemented in August 2022, is expecting changes in the next academic year.

This curriculum requires first-year students to complete a Triple-I course and connected Data Literacy Lab, IDST 101: College Thriving, ENGL 105: English Composition and Rhetoric and a First-Year Seminar or Launch.

Also required are two Campus Life Experience credits per semester, three levels of a global language, a Lifetime Fitness class and completing courses under 10 focus capacities.

The Triple-I requirement, which stands for Ideas, Information and Inquiry, allows students to explore three disciplines under three professors with an overarching theme.

However, this course will look different in the fall.



DTH DESIGN/SHANNON MCMANUS

Sophomore Ava Barnes said she really didn't learn much from her Triple-I course, IDST 133: "How to Not Be Fooled - Or Fool Yourself." She said the class was unexpectedly difficult.

Junior Soorya Goli said the difficulty of Triple-I classes took away from some benefits the class posed.

"[IDEAs In Action] is kind of counter-intuitive because it puts a lot of weight on Triple-Is and First

Year Seminars. It sometimes can be really hard," Goli said. "It can vary a lot and freshmen don't know which one to take, and a lot of kids are taking it just for what's the easiest, more than what they like."

Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Ian McNeely addressed some of the shortcomings of the Triple-I courses. McNeely said that after listening to student and faculty feedback, he and

his team realized that the current format is not ideal.

"For incoming classes, we've modified the requirements so that students have to take what we're calling an 'I course' anytime before they graduate," McNeely said.

In addition to adding recitations for these courses to create "a more intimate setting," McNeely said the classes will be primarily taught by two professors instead of three.

"It'll keep what's working and it'll get rid of what's not working," he said.

First Year Seminars received better reviews from some students.

"I actually liked [them] because of lots of interactions in classes," Barnes said. "And I met new people."

Along with the Seminar/Launch requirement, first-years must also take College Thriving. Barnes said the class gave her access to lots of resources.

First-year Maya Rubin said she didn't see a benefit in the requirement.

"I don't think College Thriving is useful," she said. "I think it's pointless."

Barnes said that if she was in charge she would make College Thriving optional but still offered, in case students want to access the resources it provides.

The required focus capacities make students take classes they normally wouldn't, but Klugh said having 10 was too much.

"We could lower it down to five, and then get on with our majors," she said.

McNeely said that incoming updates to ConnectCarolina would improve scheduling and allow students to take more classes they were interested in, but doesn't anticipate a change in focus capacity requirements.

Goli said requiring CLEs, campus events held by departments or organizations, is stressful and that just encouraging them would be better.

"Two a semester is a lot; it forces your hand," he said. "A lot of kids go and leave early, and don't really take advantage of it."

McNeely also said students should be on the lookout for changes to the Data Literacy Lab, which is currently taken alongside the Triple-I requirement.

"We're right in the middle of thinking about how to break that off and offering it in a more satisfying format, so stay tuned," McNeely said.

X: @_dylanskinner

Slate technology is utilized by admissions

Continued from Page 1

UNC Media Relations did not answer questions about how the AI tool conducts its essay evaluation.

Based on 2022-23 admissions reader guidelines, the generated score shows quality of word choice, sentence structure, grammar, etc.

The reader guidelines explain that reading the entirety of the essays will give the reviewer "a more accurate sense of a student's writing abilities."

Media Relations wrote that no one from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions was available for interview.

"There is no legal obligation to require and/or read essays for undergraduate application review," Media Relations Manager Beth Lutz wrote in a statement to The DTH.

"We read all three [essays] to better assess our applicants," Lutz wrote.

University uses AI-infused software

The 2022-23 admissions reader guidelines state that the auto-generated essay score is found on the Slate Reader Dashboard. Slate for Admissions includes a number of features including a tool that pre-reads documents under review and summarizes what a reviewer needs.

Hunt said when he reviewed his admissions file, he was shown his application in the Slate platform.

Media Relations did not respond to questions asking if the admissions office uses Slate to review essays.

Applicants are expected to write their own essays, the statement said.

Wendy Briley, a college counselor at Briley College Consulting in Wake Forest, said admissions officers use essays to determine what characteristics applicants embody.

Media Relations did not answer a question about the influence of the auto-generated essay score in a student's final admission decision.

How UNC values the essay

UNC's 2023-24 Common Data Set ranks the application essay as "very important" to a student's application.

"No decisions on whether to admit a student are made by AI or anyone outside of the admissions committee," Lutz wrote.

During Hunt's documents review appointment, he said the staff member told him the essay score is not that important to an applicant's final admission decision.

Presentations from Jan. 6, 2023 stated that application readers should pay attention to auto-generated essay scores, as well as an applicant's extracurricular activities and personal qualities when reversing admissions decisions to meet certain quotas.

Former senior admissions counselor at the University of Michigan Ava Butzu said their Office of Undergraduate Admissions never used AI to score essays or for other parts of reviewing applications. Current admissions counselor, Alicia Czinski, confirmed.

Butzu said she thinks that AI reviewing college applications could remove some humanity in the process.

Streamlining the admissions process through AI

Butzu said she understands why AI might be an appealing tool. Doing the same task for 40 hours a week could become exhausting, Butzu said.

Hunt said he got the impression from reviewing his admissions file that his application reader had to review Hunt's application quickly. In the comments left by the reader, Hunt said many words were abbreviated "as if they're writing a text message."

Briley said she thinks AI will help streamline the admissions process due to the uptick in applicants.

Still, she knows students who have had their essays mistakenly flagged for AI-generated content.

"It certainly will not replace the individual reader or the committee, but it can certainly aid them when they are reviewing," Briley said.

University desk writer Alissa Shyshkova contributed reporting to this story.

X: @alice_scottt

RESIDENCE HALLS

Tar Heels reflect on past housing application cycles

Students face difficulties with on-campus availability

By Maria Sullivan

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This past year saw various changes to the Carolina Housing application process, including a higher number of underclassman-allocated residence halls and a longer waitlist.

In the 2025-26 housing application cycle, there were approximately 1,300 students on the waitlist, compared to 1,100 in 2024-25 and 600 in the previous cycle.

"We were registering ahead of a lot of people in our year. They still filled up so fast," sophomore Elizabeth Coats said.

Coats said an increase in renovations and allocation of specific dorms to underclassmen caused anxiety among upperclassmen and conflict amongst roommate groups.

Coats, who is currently living in Grimes Residence Hall, said she went through around ten other dorm options before landing her 11th and final choice.

Some students are calling for the addition of new residence halls to accommodate demand.

"I feel like they definitely need more dorms, because I know this freshman class is bigger than my class, and then the next class is even bigger than that one," sophomore Amelia Schmidt said.

Allan Blattner, executive director of Carolina Housing, wrote in an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel that the changes made to this year's returning students' housing selection process — including increased cancellation penalties and earlier cancellation deadlines — was to anticipate demand trends.

"We are in the early stages of a comprehensive housing master



DTH DESIGN/ANNABELLE HENDERSON

plan that will include renovations," Blattner said.

The plan is also set to include the construction of new residence halls.

However, Blattner said that throughout the expansion process, the number of beds available could fluctuate as buildings are renovated.

Carolina Housing will always hold enough spaces to accommodate the anticipated number of incoming first-years, he said. However, this means that as the number of new students increases, the number of returning students UNC can house is impacted.

"It feels like they're over-admitting and then pushing that responsibility to find housing and to find a new situation off onto the students, when really it's the administration's issue to solve," Coats said.

In the 2024-25 housing cycle, Schmidt said she started with a roommate group of six set to register in an early priority wave. Despite this, they were unable to secure on-campus housing. After a long period on the waitlist, Schmidt said her group received an email around spring break saying they weren't guaranteed a room.

All six of them had to scramble in different directions to find an expensive, inconvenient, off-campus backup, Schmidt said.

She said the University should pursue an approach that prioritizes students from youngest to oldest, with first-years getting the first pick and seniors being the last.

After filling out a priority registration form last application cycle and logging into her registration appointment a month later, sophomore Mary Stone said there were no spots left for her and her roommates.

"It was honestly just a fend for survival," Stone, who decided to leave the list, said.

She resigned herself to spending months on the waitlist, only to come up with nothing by the end of the school year.

"What if somebody can't afford the apartments or the houses around the Chapel Hill campus and their only choice is to stay on campus and to have UNC enroll more students than they can actually house?" Stone asked.

Stone said that moving forward, she wants to see the University acknowledge the problem in a transparent way and work toward trying to fix it.

"Just take our experiences into consideration," Coats said.

X: @mariaesullivan

GLOBAL

With Gaza ceasefire enacted, UNC community questions if peace will last

Deal was drafted by former President Joe Biden

By Daneen Khan

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After 15 months of war in Gaza, and ensuing global protests, reflected on UNC's campus, Israel and Hamas entered a ceasefire on Jan. 19, 2025.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, over 46,600 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli strikes. Displaced Palestinians — about 90 percent of Gaza's population — will begin returning home as fighting ceases.

Cemil Aydin, a UNC professor specializing in Middle Eastern history, said a ceasefire may bring temporary relief from the death and destruction in the region.

"We have practically witnessed a genocide live streamed through the help of technology," Aydin said.

Phases of the deal

The deal, which was announced on Jan. 15 and officially agreed upon two days later, is structured in three phases. The first involves the release of 33 Israeli hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Hannah Spinrad, executive director of North Carolina Hillel, wrote in a statement to The Daily Tar Heel that the organization is filled with joy and relief at the exchange.

"The past 15 months have been an unbearable ordeal for those who were captured and their loved ones, who endured the torment of uncertainty every single day," Spinrad wrote. "We join with the entire global Jewish

community in praying for their safety and working toward the day when every hostage is home again."

Heels for Israel did not respond to The DTH's repeated requests for comment.

The second stage is slated to begin 42 days after the first. During this phase, remaining male Israeli hostages will be exchanged for more Palestinian prisoners as Israeli troops fully withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

Another 42 days later, deceased bodies will be exchanged, border crossings in Gaza reopened and a reconstruction plan will be implemented as parts of the final phase.

Aydin said there are fears that the ceasefire will be broken after the first stage.

"We know that this is the most extremist government in Israeli history," he said. "At least the extremist partners of the Israeli government would want the ceasefire deal to be broken so that they can do more, they can erase more Palestinians and they can expand their own settled areas."

Niccolo Luftig, a junior and vice president of UNC Hillel, said that while he hopes the ceasefire will last, he thinks that after hostages are returned, either side could escalate tensions again depending on circumstances. Luftig said that if the [Israeli] hostages aren't returned in accordance with the deal, it's more likely that Israel will act first.

American ties

Former President Joe Biden approved a ceasefire draft last year, but his plan failed to pass the United Nations Security Council in March. Biden publicly continued to



DTH DESIGN/DANEEN KHAN

send weapons and funds to Israel.

On Jan. 15, Biden released a statement saying he drafted the current deal in May 2024, after which it was unanimously approved by the UNSC.

"[The deal] is the result not only of the extreme pressure that Hamas has been under and the changed regional equation after a ceasefire in Lebanon and weakening of Iran — but also of dogged and painstaking American diplomacy," he wrote.

Aydin said that the Jan. 20 inauguration of President Donald Trump may be the reason for the ceasefire finally passing, with the incoming president pressuring Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the deal.

A Jan. 19 press statement from UNC Students for Justice in Palestine echoes similar sentiments, stating the organization is troubled by the possibility Israel only agreed to ceasefire in exchange for commitments from Trump, such as recognizing a

potential annexation of the West Bank.

The only thing allowing the occupation to continue, Aydin said, has been the support Netanyahu has received from the U.S. government. In the future, he said he can't see a positive development if the government's stance on Israel remains consistent.

Luftig said that the ceasefire means safety for people in Israel, but in the U.S. it means political success for Jewish voters who supported Biden in negotiating a ceasefire.

As an American Jew, he said he believes the war today is less about Israel and Palestine but more about how the conflict can benefit capitalist society in the West.

"As long as the war continues going, the western companies keep making money," he said.

Ceasefire impact and future

The SJP press release states that while the organization is concerned

about the future of the ceasefire, they are taking the deal as a chance to grieve the lives lost and as they stay committed to UNC divestment from Israel and Israeli-supporting businesses.

"We also hope that the ceasefire will create an opportunity for international investigators to enter the Gaza Strip and gather evidence documenting Israel's horrific genocide and crimes against humanity," they wrote.

In a Jan. 15 statement, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said he commends the United States, Egypt and Qatar as mediators in crafting the deal.

He said the UN's priority is to ease suffering and provide relief for the Palestinians as they endure a "catastrophic" humanitarian crisis, and expects the UN's efforts to be matched by other initiatives.

"Ending the occupation and achieving a negotiated two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, in line with international law, relevant UN resolutions, and previous agreements remain an urgent priority," Guterres said. "Only through a viable two-state solution can the aspirations of both peoples be fulfilled."

UNC's Arab Student organization denied The DTH's requests for comment.

"I do think that this ceasefire is not going to be stable, and the reconstruction of Gaza will probably take twenty, thirty years if there are resources," Aydin said.

X: @daneenk_

SCILL

University sparks controversy over tentative spring break trip

Course includes sponsored travel to Israel and Palestine

By Regan Butler

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The UNC School of Civic Life and Leadership launched a new course this Spring on "engaging difference" in dialogue about the War in Gaza, featuring a funded trip to the region. UNC students have expressed concerns about the perspectives included in the course and the trip's safety.

The lead instructor of School of Civic Life and Leadership 190: Courageous Conversations: Israel and Palestine on Campus, is SCiLL Professor John Rose. Three co-instructors also teach the course: The Nantucket Project founder Tom Scott, Bridging The Gap founder Simon Greer and Soliman Consulting CEO Saad Soliman.

SCiLL Associate Dean David Decosimo said the course, and trip, is part of a series called Courageous Conversations, which he said serves as a teaching tool for civic discourse. The series is hosted by Greer in partnership with The Nantucket Project, a non-profit that promotes pluralism through documentaries and storytelling, according to its website.

Course development and key players

Decosimo, who helped develop the course, said it was inspired by the division that followed pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrations at UNC last year. He said SCiLL faculty and University administration want to help the UNC community "heal."

"The goal isn't to end disagreement, or something like that," Decosimo said. "The goal is to help us learn to live together well, even in the middle of our disagreement."

Decosimo said SCiLL took an "unprecedented" route by consulting UNC student groups when planning this course.

Heels for Israel and UNC Hillel did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel's multiple requests for comment by the time of publication.

Mina Bayraktar, MSA vice president, said the organization received an email from SCiLL in the fall requesting a meeting to brainstorm

and gauge interest in the course. Bayraktar said MSA leadership met with faculty, but that they didn't hear anything else until SCiLL leadership emailed them course flyer.

MSA Development Chair Samee Ghaffar said what concerned them the most was the addition of an Israel-Palestine trip and the specific guest speakers chosen for the course.

After seeing the flyer, Bayraktar said they contacted SCiLL and set up a meeting to address MSA's concerns. When MSA leadership met with SCiLL again over winter break, Bayraktar said she felt they were open to feedback. But, she said most of MSA's ideas didn't end up being factored into the course.

by the College of Arts and Sciences and approved by the Provost.

"An application for SCLL 190, which includes a safety plan for international travel, has been received and the review process is underway," Media Relations wrote.

Decosimo said student safety is the utmost priority and that it currently seems the trip will happen as planned during spring break.

The UNC Global Affairs website says that undergraduate international travel outside of UNC Study Abroad "will only be approved to countries with a U.S. Department of State Level 1 or 2 Travel Advisory."

The current DOS travel advisory for Israel, Jerusalem, the West Bank

"So, it felt as if they were asking our input, just as like a bumper sticker to say, you know, 'we got the stamp of approval from MSA,'" Ghaffar said.

Trip to Israel and Palestine

In an email to The DTH, UNC Media Relations wrote that the course trip is a "group education abroad activity," which is reviewed

and Gaza is a Level 3, detailing to "Reconsider Travel."

The UNC Study Abroad Office wrote in an email to The DTH that it is not involved in travel for School of Civic Life and Leadership 190.

"Do I feel safe? Not really. Do I trust the school to like, not put me in a crazy situation? Yeah," an anonymous student said. The student asked to remain anonymous for fear of social repercussions.

Decosimo said all elements of the course, including the trip to Israel, and potentially Palestine, are funded by the University.

"The Chancellor and the Provost are saying, 'Helping our campus grow in this way is so important to us that we are willing to invest to have UNC students go to Israel, and if security allows, the Palestinian territories, to talk to people face to face, to hear them,'" Decosimo said.

Bayraktar said the trip was not made accessible to Muslim students because it falls during Ramadan. The observation involves fasting, which she said makes intense travel inconvenient.

Ghaffar said for Muslim students, going to the occupied Palestinian territories during this time could also be traumatic and disheartening.

"How would you feel if you were going to—during the holiest month of the Muslim year—Jerusalem, the second holiest site in Islam?" Ghaffar said. "You're going there to see it, basically, under an occupied state."

School of Civic Life and Leadership 190's featured perspectives

School of Civic Life and Leadership 190 is only available with instructor approval by Rose, which Decosimo said he thinks is to ensure the students come from a variety of perspectives.

Rose did not provide a comment by the time of publication.

The anonymous student said they think the class has about 20 pro-

Palestinian students and about 10 pro-Israeli students.

"But, my issue is that even though there are a lot of pro-Palestinian kids in the class, there is nobody who is actually Muslim, other than one [person]," they said.

MSA member Arwa Sattar, who wears a hijab, said she was approached by a SCiLL instructor about a month ago asking her to take the course, telling her they hadn't been getting interest from Muslim students.

Bayraktar said she knows multiple hijabi students that were approached by an instructor and asked to take the course. She said they felt uncomfortable and targeted.

Guest speakers for the course include religious leaders, activists, scholars and politicians. Decosimo said the lineup shows that there isn't just one pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian view.

After researching the guest speakers, Ghaffar said he found one is a legal advisor to the Israeli Defense Forces in cases alleging war crimes such as sexual violence, torture and imprisonment of children. He said another speaker, a former Israeli parliament member, made comments about Palestinians deserving collective punishment.

Bayraktar said the Muslim and pro-Palestinian speakers and instructors are not representative of the majority of Muslim and pro-Palestinian views.

Decosimo said unique perspectives in the course include instructors Soliman, an Egyptian-American Muslim and Greer, who is Jewish. He said the instructors, who have relatives that once fought against each other in combat, model for students that differences don't have to inhibit learning from others.

X: @reganxbutler



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

COST OF LIVING

N.C. attorney general joins RealPage lawsuit, tackling rent inflation

Increases in regional housing rates impact locals and students

By Taylor Motley
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On Jan. 7, North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson joined the U.S. Department of Justice and nine other states in filing an amended lawsuit against six corporate landlords and software company RealPage for illegally raising rent prices.

The lawsuit alleges that the landlords violated the Sherman Anti-trust Act and the North Carolina Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practices Act, which both prohibit businesses from engaging in unfair practices affecting competition in the market to increase a company's market influence.

According to the lawsuit, RealPage is a property management software that utilizes nonpublic data from landlords to recommend rent cost adjustments.

When landlords use RealPage's software, they must agree to provide private information about their properties' rent transactions, such as rent discounts, rent terms and lease status. RealPage then analyzes data from more than 16 million rental units across the country to provide suggested rent changes to landlords.

The lawsuit states that traditionally, healthy market competition would lead to landlords offering discounts on rent or luxury amenities in order to compete with other landlords. With RealPage's analytical services, landlords are now coordinating their rent prices, allowing them to raise prices with less fear of losing prospective renters to other properties with lower prices, according to the lawsuit.



DTH FILE/JENNIFER TRAN

Mill Creek Condominiums is a housing complex located in Chapel Hill, N.C., where average rent prices have increased by \$500 over five years.

"In the absence of that software, the property owner will have to find public information and analyze the market and ideally price the rental at a lower level than the one that will come up if they use the software," Roberto Quercia, a professor in UNC's Department of City and Regional Planning, said.

A map by The Washington Post shows that 17 properties in the Chapel Hill area are managed or owned by landlords cited in the lawsuit, including Union Chapel Hill, Bell Chapel Hill and Collins Crossing Apartments.

The average rent prices in Chapel Hill and Carrboro have increased by around \$500 and \$250 respectively over the last five years, contributing to an affordability crisis in the area.

"When people take advantage of the essential need for housing to extract the maximum profit possible by cheating the system, they are damaging their fellow citizens and they are damaging the company," Chapel Hill Town Council Member Theodore Nollert said.

Many community members who work in Chapel Hill and Carrboro must reside outside of the towns due to high living costs, Carrboro Town Council Member Jason Merrill said.

"A lot of people that work in the service industry or work hourly wage jobs live twenty, thirty, forty miles away, over two counties away, because that's the closest they can afford a place to live," Merrill said.

As UNC's waitlist for on-campus housing continues to grow, there is increasing demand from students for off-campus housing. Students are disproportionately impacted by increased rental prices, Nollert said.

North Carolina law prohibits local governments from enacting rent control policies, which would directly counteract rental price manipulation by placing limits on rent costs and increases.

The State of North Carolina is seeking penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation of the antitrust laws and hopes to restore a competitive rental market, according to the lawsuit.

X: @dthcitystate

N.C. DEQ hosts public hearing

Continued from Page 1

the facility would not emit more than 1.2 pounds of PFAS per year, the website currently says.

However, Dutt said that 1.2 pounds of PFAS per year has a large impact on the environment.

"Because they're forever chemicals, they essentially have health hazards that we all need to be concerned about, and they're most going to affect the Chapel Hill community and students nearby," Dutt said.

TransparUNCy is advocating for the cogeneration plant to switch to clean energy, Dutt said.

Dutt added that the cogeneration facility is also located near three of Chapel Hill's historically Black neighborhoods, including Northside, Pine Knolls and Tin Top.

N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said he's been leading a project encouraging Chapel Hill, Orange County and University leaders to begin thinking about how to reimagine the current rail line that runs through Orange County when the University stops burning coal.

While Meyer did make a request to have the public hearing moved from Hillsborough to Chapel Hill, he did not take a public position during the meeting.

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Public Information Officer Shawn Taylor said the DAQ often makes changes to permits based on public comments.

Taylor said someone from a different office will review every comment and draft a report that will come out in mid-February. The Director of the DAQ will review this report and decide what to do with the permit, where it will then be accepted, modified with revisions or sent back to the UNC cogeneration facility for revision, Taylor said.

Taylor said the public comment period will remain open until Jan. 23.

"Mid to late February, I expect we will have completed our review of the public comments, and we'll be announcing our final action," Taylor said.

Leah Nelson, a doctoral student in UNC's environment ecology and energy program, and co-chair of the UNC Climate Crisis Committee, said she thinks the fuel pellets will be more harmful than helpful because of the PFAs emissions they will release.

"We think that it's a false solution — kind of a Band-Aid fix — and not really what we were hoping to see from UNC in terms of reducing emissions," Nelson said.

X: @lauren_zola



DTH/GRACE RICHARDS

Town Hall attendees voice concerns about UNC cogeneration plant on Thursday, Jan. 16.

INFORMATION LEAK

CHCCS possibly affected in PowerSchool data breach

NCDPI works to identify extent of cyber attack

By Kristin Kharrat
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On Jan. 7, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction sent out an email notifying school districts of a cybersecurity breach of student and teacher data in PowerSchool, a national software used to store administrative information for K-12 schools.

The breach occurred on Dec. 19, but PowerSchool did not discover the incident until Dec. 28 and reported it to the NCDPI over a week later on Jan. 7. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Chief Communications Officer Andy Jenks said the district is communicating with PowerSchool through NCDPI with to obtain further details regarding the breach.

The email shared to CHCCS staff and families said PowerSchool has contained the incident and safely destroyed any data that was breached, but it is unknown whether the breach affected schools or individuals within the district. The email also said the NCDPI is currently investigating

the breach and communicating with PowerSchool on behalf of all North Carolina school districts to better understand the impact, if any, on students and teachers.

PowerSchool shared on its website that it is working with Experian, a trusted credit reporting agency, to notify students and educators whose information was breached in the next few weeks. While they have already determined an affected portion of students and teachers internationally and nationally, PowerSchool's ongoing investigation will identify the specific individuals, schools and districts who were impacted.

Jeremy Marzuola, a father of two Carrboro Elementary School students, said he was initially worried about what information was breached in the cybersecurity attack. He said it would be good to know what data was stored in PowerSchool and whether or not an attacker had access to it.

"Given how quickly [CHCCS] communicated that the data breach had been confined, I felt okay about it, I thought they communicated rather quickly, so overall, I felt relatively good about the response," he said.

UNC Professor of Computer Science Saba Eskandarian said breaches of this nature are typically caused by an



DTH DESIGN/HELAINA-ROSE BALL

attacker seizing credentials including passwords or tricking a user into clicking on a phishing email.

He said the information that was breached most likely includes names of students and teachers, academic information, medical information, Social Security numbers and more. According to PowerSchool's website, there is no evidence that any credit or banking information was involved in the breach.

The attackers will typically download this data and ask the

platform for money in exchange for not releasing the information and selling it, Eskandarian said. There are many costs of recovering from a data breach, including the cost of monitoring the breached data and the cost of running the investigation, he said.

"I think there is damage beyond a dollar cost," Eskandarian said.

On their website, PowerSchool said they will be offering two years of complimentary identity protection services for all the affected

individuals as well as two years of complimentary credit monitoring services for all affected adults.

Jenks said there is nothing the NCDPI or CHCCS could have done to prevent this breach, as it happened on PowerSchool's platform. He said the district will await further instruction from PowerSchool and NCDPI before taking immediate action.

An effective preventative method for data breaches, Eskandarian said, is establishing two-factor authentication or the requirement of strong password on PowerSchool. He said these measures are easily applied and do not have a high cost, but they significantly reduce the risk of a breach.

PowerSchool's website stated that, beyond the investigation, the company is investing in its cybersecurity defenses and enhancing its security policies.

Moving forward, Jenks said CHCCS will determine what, if any, additional measures need to be taken.

"We want to make sure we're aligned and honest with what has taken place, and answering everyone's questions and passing along the latest information," he said.

X: @dthcitystate

TOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Brownfields Agreement includes revisions based on community feedback

Plan seeks to balance benefits to Chapel Hill, environmental impacts

By Maddie Policastro
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On Dec. 30, 2024, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality issued a Brownfields Agreement to the Town of Chapel Hill about the redevelopment of the property at 828 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., which currently houses the Chapel Hill Police Department.

The property was initially the site of a borrow pit from the 1950s to early 1960s where it was later filled with coal ash and other materials, including construction and demolition debris. The Town purchased the property in 1980 and the police station was later constructed in 1982.

According to the Town, the materials were discovered in late 2013 and the DEQ was quickly notified.

The draft agreement from the DEQ included revisions to the initial drafts that incorporated feedback provided by community members during the public comment period, which began in July 2024.

Edits included clarifying the definition of “recreational use” in the agreement to only list options that are actually being considered for the property, including sports-related courts and fields, walking space or an amphitheater. Options that are not feasible for the site, like playgrounds, have been removed.

Increases in property productivity, the creation of hundreds of temporary construction jobs and expanded use



DTH/JEROME IBRAHIM

The land that currently houses the Chapel Hill Police Department was discovered to have coal ash in 2013.

of public transportation were also listed in the final agreement as some of the potential benefits that could result from redeveloping the property.

However, some community members feel the lasting environmental implications outweigh the potential benefits that come with the plan and these revisions.

16 community members spoke at the public meeting on Sept. 18, 2024, to discuss the Brownfields agreement. Among them was Shiva Rajbhandari, a founding member of Sunrise UNC, who still has concerns about the future development of the property.

“You can see coal ash coming out of the ground when it rains,” he said. “There’s no chance that’s not seeping into the water system and I think, you know, just disturbing that land.”

With the site so close to the Bolin Creek Trail and the greenway, Rajbhandari said development on the site not only poses serious threats to future construction workers but also UNC students and Chapel Hill residents who regularly use the trail.

He said he would like to see the property sealed off properly or cleaned up entirely.

According to reporting from NC Newsline, completely removing the coal ash from the property would cost over \$11 million, which does not account for the cost of demolishing the existing police department building at the site. The current plan to cap and seal the materials would cost over \$4 million.

Nick Torrey, a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, said he has been advocating for a real plan to clean up and stabilize the site for the last 10 years. The current revisions made by the DEQ, he said, did not change anything of substance.

“The core issue is that this agreement, just as it was proposed in the summer, does not require them to clean up one ounce of coal ash and it allows them to leave it all there, leave all the pollution there,” he said.

Friends of Bolin Creek Co-President Julie McClintock said there was a period of time when the Town was expanding the greenway next to the creek and recognized the potential for coal ash to be dug up during construction. She said the concern that it would roll into the creek and harm the safety of pedestrians led the Town to remove about 1,000 tons of ash.

Torrey said the situation showed how the Town does have the ability to remove the coal ash and that removal is the appropriate solution with coal ash problems.

“One of the big arguments that has been cited by the Town and others through this process has been, ‘We can’t do this because it’s too hard,’” McClintock said. “It’ll be harmful to the community to remove it.”

This all-or-nothing approach to removal, Torrey said, is not the only solution. He said there are targeted areas of coal ash that could be removed, which would make a huge difference to improve the usability of the property and its long-term safety.

In an email statement to The Daily Tar Heel, Alex Carrasquillo, the media relations manager for the Town, said Town staff members are currently in the process of reviewing the draft Brownfields Agreement to determine what their next steps will be. He said this will involve staff, council and community input about the future of the property.

X: @dthcitystate

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Some North Carolinians are drinking raw milk despite risks

Concern stems from national increase in bird flu cases

By Defne Önal
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Homesteader Ali Tisdall first started looking for a source of raw milk because she had dietary and autoimmune problems. A friend suggested that raw milk, with its active digestive enzymes, could help her diet.

“And so I tried it. It didn’t work for me because I can barely eat anything,” Tisdall said. “But I had this gorgeous container of raw milk, so I brought it home, and my husband and my daughters were like, ‘Holy smokes, this tastes so good!’”

To get their hands on the raw milk, Tisdall’s family joined a herd share near Asheville, providing them with partial ownership of a cow and access to a portion of the milk it produces.

“I think my daughters felt way better on it, my husband felt way better on it — far less bloated. And then we discovered that the taste is phenomenal,” Tisdall said.

However, drinking raw milk comes with a slew of safety risks.

N.C. Sen. Brent Jackson (R-Bladen, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson) said drinking raw milk is like playing Russian roulette. Now, there are even more concerns about the practice due to a national increase in bird flu cases, which can be transmitted to cattle.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services advises against the consumption of raw milk, saying

that unpasteurized milk becomes safe to consume after pasteurization kills harmful germs.

Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention links raw milk consumption to many foodborne illnesses.

Raw milk was outlawed in North Carolina in 1983. However, there are still two ways to obtain raw milk legally: purchasing milk labeled as “not for human consumption” (referred to as pet milk) or participating in a herd share program.

Kelsey Barefoot, assistant secretary of The Barefoot Cow, a small farm in Dunn that provides both options, said some farms tend to regulate the herd share milk more than pet milk, since farms are not held responsible for complications in human consumption of pet milk.

Barefoot said she knows people who believe their cows had bird flu and decided to drink their milk anyway. If an infected cow’s milk gets in a worker’s eye, it can lead to pink eye, she said.

“That’s honestly the worst I’ve heard of it,” Barefoot said. “I’m gonna have to see more. Even with the cows, two weeks with a snotty nose — just treat them with a little extra care and electrolytes, and they’re better from what I’ve heard.”

“I mean, it’s obviously just as big of a risk if you’re eating at a buffet, but if it’s not handled correctly, then you could definitely have some problems.”

Kelsey Barefoot

Assistant secretary of The Barefoot Cow

Chad Wilkins, owner of Seven Seasons Farm, which offers pet milk and herd shares, said a lot of people are beginning to distrust mass production and are trying to get back to natural products.

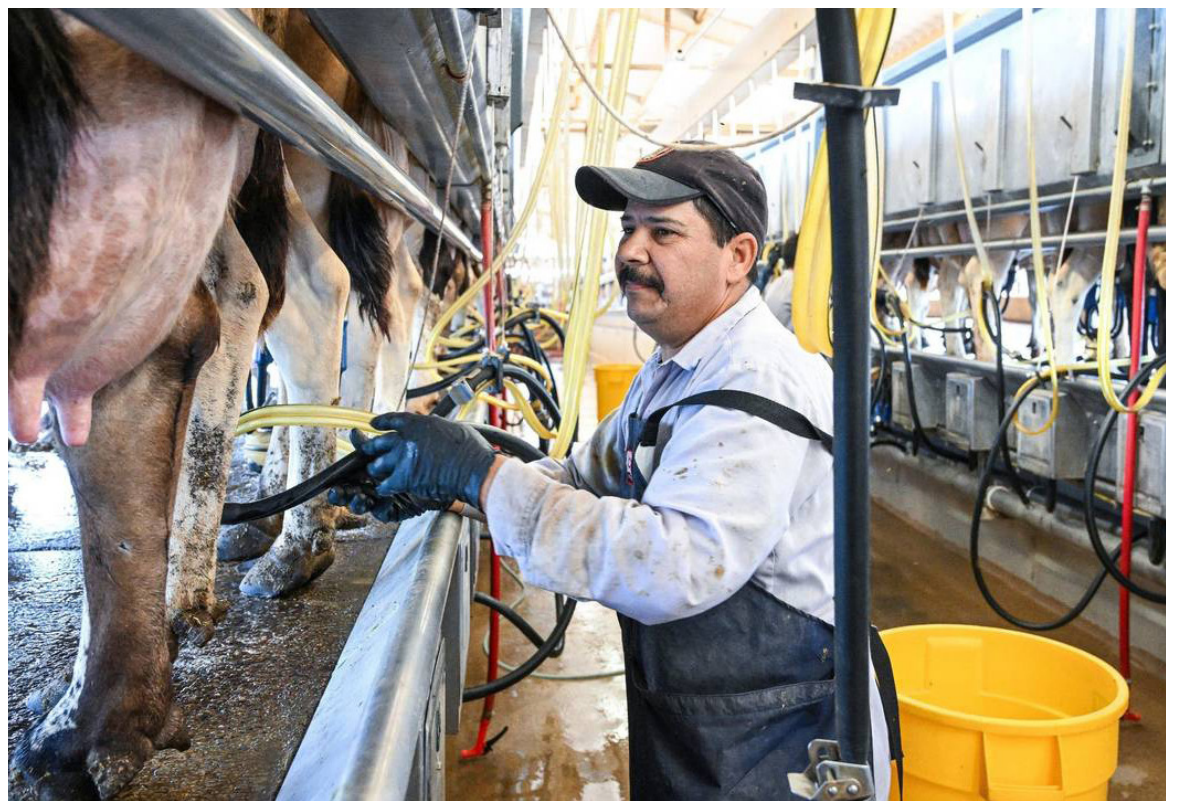


PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG KOHLRUSS VIA TNS

Fernando Hernandez gets cows ready for milking at the Raw Farm USA dairy farm in Fresno County.

“We get testimonials all the time from folks who cannot drink regular pasteurized milk from the store, that they can tolerate raw milk just fine,” Wilkins said.

Wilkins said he and his wife are with their cows every day, and if one of them is sick, they would know right away. When a cow is sick, they collect the milk separately, and it never comes in contact with any milk they sell.

“I will say that there hasn’t been a single case reported of

transmission from bird flu via raw milk consumption,” Wilkins said.

Tisdall’s family, in the end, decided to stop buying raw milk because of the safety risk that comes with it. If it were just her and her husband, she said the risk would be well worth the reward, but they have 5-year-old twins who are more vulnerable.

“We decided as a family to hold off,” Tisdall said. “The dream is still to get our own cow. That’s a different situation because then we have full control of the cow and testing. We can also wait till the kids are a little bit older before we reintroduce it.”

Barefoot said that there needs to be freedom, but she also recognizes the need for standards meant to

protect consumers. She said people should be able to produce raw milk for human consumption, but customers have to hold their raw milk farmers accountable for testing, cleaning equipment and ensuring herd health, especially to see if the cows are negative for certain diseases.

“Handled correctly, it’s a superfood,” Barefoot said. “I’ve been drinking it for half my life, and my children have. I’ve drunk it through pregnancy. I mean, it’s obviously just as big of a risk if you’re eating at a buffet, but if it’s not handled correctly, then you could definitely have some problems.”

X: @defnesonall

Lifestyle

The Daily Tar Heel

Oral history exhibit will run through Jan. 24

Continued from Page 1

Public Health, was first introduced to the use of oral histories in health research through their advisor.

“Oral history, I think I was drawn to because, at its best — it’s not a perfect method, just like anything else — I felt like it really humanizes people and their relationships,” Tô said.

Being a health researcher, Tô said she likes that oral histories are an approach which highlight not only individual experiences, but also the context of those individuals within their larger community.

Christina Huang, a junior majoring in American Studies, started working with Southern Mix after taking classes with the Southern Oral History Project.

“I came to UNC excited to learn about Asian American history and to my dismay, there is still no Asian American studies program,” Huang said. “The number of faculty we have every year is so small. Their bandwidth is so thin. I think Southern Mix was the first place where I was like, here is this institutional path where I can funnel my path into this.”

Huang and Tô both emphasized how “Southern” and “Asian American” are terms that are often not seen together and how the diverse and growing population of Asian Americans in the South is often underrepresented in scholarship and media.

Tô said that they hope the work they have done with Southern Mix can honor the distinct cultural pieces and different ways people have been marginalized and the expansiveness of the Asian American experience.

Huang said that the lack of scholarship connects to the limited records of Asian Americans at UNC, which is all tied with broader questions about structural violence, exclusion and racism.

The term “Asian American” holds so many complexities and nuances as a political identity, Huang said, and it’s one of the insights that the Southern Mix public exhibit showcases.

Much of history research can be inaccessible to the public, Huang said, which makes public history projects so important. This work is especially relevant for her in wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling against affirmative action and diversity, equity and inclusion bans throughout the state and country.

“You see the way Asian Americans and Asian American bodies are evoked and manipulated to fit a certain narrative for a political agenda,” Huang said.

At the gallery opening, attendees learned about the work behind Southern Mix and had the opportunity to share their own stories, as well as what “home” and “the South” meant to them.

Feeling included, Kim said, directly contributes to student success and confidence in engaging with the community.

“People want to be seen and want their stories to be heard, and want also to figure out where they themselves fit in this Southern identity and Southern history,” Kim said. “So we really hope that the Asian American Center can help to boost education and conversation about these issues and help people just feel included.”

X: @dthlifestyle

HISTORY

Chapel Hill Public Library hosts Black Cinema Film Series

Free movie screening held in time for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Medha Nair

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On Thursday night, the Chapel Hill Public Library held a free showing of the movie “Selma” as part of its four-part Black Cinema Film Series.

In time for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Robyn McGlotten, a library experiences assistant, wanted to facilitate a shared event for the Orange County community to partake in the library’s resources and to highlight the importance of Black history and cinema.

Thursday night was the first night of the series. “Selma” is a story not only about Martin Luther King Jr. and his efforts in the Jim Crow South to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but a love story — a union between Black History Month and the month of love, McGlotten said.

Marjorie Scheer attended the screening with her friend Rhea Colmar and partner Mahimino Vargas after Colmar saw a post on the library’s Instagram page. The free film showings are great opportunities for those interested in learning more about Black history, Scheer said.

“I feel like honoring Martin Luther King and being in solidarity with his vision is more important than ever,” she said.

The film series is just one initiative that McGlotten and the rest of the library staff are planning for and around Black History Month.

“I’m hoping that the wider Chapel Hill community will be enthused about learning about the diversity of our community, learning more about their neighbors and their stories and how the stories of their



DTH/ANTHONY GUERRA FLORES

Robyn McGlotten, the Black Cinema Film Series organizer, says the event celebrates Black history and the art of storytelling on Saturday, Jan. 18.

neighbors impact their own stories,” McGlotten said. “And then also how the diverse community of Chapel Hill and Carrboro can see themselves reflected in those stories.”

Libraries are valuable spaces for facilitating community, the library’s marketing and communications coordinator Hannah Kanwischer said, but they can only be valuable when people know about the stories and events available to them.

“There’s been a lot of discussion about the loneliness epidemic and people looking for community,” Kanwischer said. “And we’re really trying to be that third space as a library where people can see themselves represented and can join in community.”

A considerable part of the motivation of the film series is serving not just the kids of the community but also the adults.

“A lot of libraries kind of put adult programming and focus on adults to the wayside,” Kanwischer said. “So that’s something that we’ve really delved into more this year. And films are something that we’ve

heard that adults want.”

McGlotten said that the library provides both literature and film, both working together to tell stories across time — especially since many films based off of literature transform the material based on the time period the film is made in and the filmmaker’s vision. In this way, films can be a valuable way of analyzing and understanding Black history. As a supplement to this series, book displays and book lists pertaining to Black history and cinema will also be available.

“That’s part of the immense value of a public library is infusing the community with an excitement about not just reading a physical book, but learning and sharing stories,” McGlotten said. “And so, making those stories available and accessible to people and letting them know that those stories are here within their reach is kind of my motivation for wanting to have this program here at the library.”

X: @dthlifestyle

CONCERT

‘A wealth of music’: Baroque ensemble combines scholarship and performance

NYC-based group played 16th and 17th century compositions

By Temiloluwa Alagbe

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The ornate melodies of Baroque music performed by the TENET Vocal Artists filled the Moeser Auditorium on Sunday for a show that was well attended by local music enthusiasts.

Attendees gathered to enjoy the New York-based ensemble’s renditions of 16th and 17th-century Baroque compositions, written by Claudio Monteverdi, Biagio Marini, Henry Purcell and Dario Castello.

Named “TENET On Tour: Double Take”, the two-hour performance had free admission for UNC music students, faculty and staff, and is part of the ensemble’s southern tour which included three previous stops throughout Virginia.

Jolle Greenleaf, the artistic director and one of two soprano vocalists in the ensemble emphasized the beauty of Baroque music as a genre and the linguistics of their chosen pieces.



DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS

Nicholas DiEugenio and Kako Boga play violins to accompany TENET’s singers in Hill Hall on Sunday, Jan. 19.

“This marriage of English and Italian music, they seem like they would be very different but they have some real common threads which are quite wonderful between glorious poetry and well set text,” Greenleaf said.

Both sopranos sang composition solos, like Rottsolk’s

rendition of Purcell’s “Tell me, some pitying angel tell,” to showcase their individual talent. Alongside their solo performances, Greenleaf and Rottsolk also duetted songs like “Chiome d’oro” and “O dive custos.”

Barbara Pringle, a retired nurse and Chapel Hill resident attended the concert with her husband and

said her favorite part of the show was the violins.

“There was so much harmony, but it was beyond words,” she said.

Nicholas DiEugenio and Kako Boga were the two violinists of the ensemble who alternated between duets and solos alongside theorist Daniel Swenberg and harpsichordist Jeffrey Grossman.

DiEugenio, who is also an associate music professor at UNC, said that the ensemble thoroughly prepared and researched to put together their performance, specifically with the violins Boga and he used.

“The two bows that we’re using are actually from a bow maker located in the UK, specifically based on a model from 1595,” he said. “So, we started doing our homework about the program, even the summer before the season started.”

Retired string and classical instrument maker John Pringle attended TENET’s performance with his wife. Pringle is a long-time baroque music enthusiast and he loved the ensemble’s rendition of the classic pieces, specifically the instruments they brought together.

“They don’t use the harpsichord [sometimes] because it’s too loud, and so they just have the theorbo instead as the continuum instrument,” he said. “And so I love small groups where you can really hear every instrument, and when they played that well, it’s just terrific.”

Collaboration is an important part of TENET as a group, since there is not set membership. Rather, the group consists of different musicians who are brought together for themed projects, according to Greenleaf. Overall, they were grateful for how well this project came together.

In their performance, TENET was able to showcase a section of baroque music, but they also acknowledged that the genre is too broad to contain in one concert.

“The good news is that this repertoire is vast and has lots of amazing composers,” Greenleaf said. “So, we could do, I don’t know, 10 or 15 or 20 concerts — full concerts — with repertoire that would include all of the other wonderful people that were composing in that time. It’s just such a wealth of music.”

X: @dthlifestyle

INCLUSION

Local organization encourages creation of 'bad art'

Carrboro-based club promotes art without judgement

By Ella Williams

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The Bad Art Company, now operating out of the Carrboro ArtsCenter, is dedicated to making art accessible to everyone.

The company offers classes and workshops for those who love to create. No experience or formal training is required, and participants are encouraged to release their creative judgment to get out of their comfort zones.

The name, "The Bad Art Company," isn't a judgement of the quality of the work, but rather speaks to the sentiment of freeing oneself from perfectionism.

Classes explore drawing, painting, writing, collage, coloring and other methods. Examples of workshops offered include Surreal Art and Writing, Tarot Art and History, Creative Goal Setting and Lap Loom Weaving. The company also offers training in graphic design, public art and murals, art for LGBTQ+ rights and accessibility for artists and educators.

Every workshop features an open discussion about art theory, a low-stakes beginning activity, a guest artist appearance and open studio time.

The organization was founded by Shady Kimzey, an artist with a master's degree in education and over ten years of teaching experience. Their work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and publications. They are



DTH DESIGN/CARLY EVANS

Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock.

a self-described "high-achieving rebel" dedicated to creating an inclusive space for those seeking a creative outlet.

Kimzey achieved artistic success without formal art training.

"I haven't engaged with an academic institution because I felt like the critiques and the rules would have made me too critical, and that's the kind of thing I'm trying to relieve people of," Kimzey said. "I feel like it's important to really just say yes to a lot of my ideas and instincts and just try things."

The inspiration to form the company came from Kimzey's

grandmother. Kimzey said their grandmother was once an avid oil painter but then switched to exclusively coloring for fear of making mistakes while drawing her own lines. Kimzey sought to free her and others from this self-judgment. Now, Kimzey says their grandmother attends classes and workshops and creates art unafraid of failure.

"Anything that promotes a positive experience that helps their mind focus on something good, and in a positive way, I think it helps mental health. It helps build relationships, and it's a time where we're not concentrating on

what divides people but on what we have in common and we're trying to create something," Kimzey's mother and BAC regular Terri Kimzey, said.

At the BAC, mental health is the priority above all else.

Kimzey incorporates elements of "dialogue across difference" into the way classes and workshops are run. This is the concept of making people feel comfortable in their surroundings and having respectful conversations across diverse identities and backgrounds.

She does this by sending emails in advance with as much information

as possible, allowing participants to orient themselves before beginning classes, and encouraging them to bring anything to class that would make them feel more comfortable. Kimzey also makes sure to establish themselves in classes as a self-taught artist, thus encouraging approachability.

Steph Hoover, a regular at the Bad Art Company, said that the Bad Art Club is a very queer and disability-friendly space.

The BAC emphasizes connecting art with creating social change. Many of the pieces the artists create have to do with personal struggles or issues they feel strongly about.

"[Art] can both represent the identities of people, it can represent history, it can represent the future, it can try to drive certain messages or certain futures forward," Kimzey said. "I think that it's essential and one of my hopes is that I can help people understand the utility and the importance of what art is beyond just engaging with it as liking it or not."

A standout event for the Bad Art Company was a show in its second year at the Eno Arts Mill Gallery. It highlighted folk and southern folk art made by self-taught artists.

"It's one hundred percent been a gift to have been able to learn from other artists," Hoover said. "My priority has always been the art making as opposed to the art technique."

In the future, Kimzey said they hope to partner with local universities, including UNC, to promote improved mental health among students by providing a creative outlet.

X: @dthlifestyle

AWARDS

Eno Arts Mill's 2025 BIPOC Artists in Residence foster community

Program supports artists with resources to expand their reach

By Manuela Williams

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The start of 2025 has meant many things: New Year's resolutions, a new set of classes and Eno Arts Mill's new BIPOC Artists in Residence.

This year, Kathy Burnside and Neysa Rojas will benefit from the resources of the BIPOC artist residency — private studio space, promotional support, a \$500 stipend and a featured exhibit at the Eno Arts Mill.

Located in Hillsborough, the Eno Arts Mill is operated by the Orange County Arts Commission, a nonpartisan agency of the Orange County government working to develop and strengthen the art community through a wide range of high-quality programs.

Katie Murray, the Arts Commission director, encouraged Burnside and Rojas to apply for the residency after they participated in the Makers at the Mill Holiday Bazaar in November 2024. They saw the application as an opportunity to expand Blue Wagon Studios, an art company which they started together.

"Had it not been for the networking, meeting other people, then I don't think we'd get this far," Rojas said when discussing the pair's journey to landing the residency. "So, I really just think it's special

to talk to people. Go to the free exhibits, go to Open Studio at the Eno Arts."

Before starting Blue Wagon Studios, Rojas worked as a nurse for 17 years. Rojas' late career transition into the arts inspired their business motto "It's never too late to create."

"It is not an easy thing, right?" Rojas said. "I mean, you always hear about this starving artist, struggling artist. Yeah, that's a reality. But I think, at least for me, I got to the point where I was like, 'Hey, if this is still your passion, if it's still in your heart, then you have to give it a chance.'"

The artists recognized that there are many people who want to become artists but see a lack of money and resources as a major barrier. Rojas said the studio space the residency offers them is crucial to expanding their artistic reach.

UNC senior Olivia Stokes is pursuing a degree in studio art and has felt the same sentiment that Burnside and Rojas described.

"A lot of times when I tell people that my major is studio art, their first question is like, 'Oh, what do you plan on doing with that?'" Stokes said. "And it just has this undertone of being so judgmental and like, 'Oh, are you gonna make any money?' And

"I think that people just fail to realize how integral art and design is to our everyday lives. If you look around, art truly is everywhere."

Olivia Stokes
UNC senior

I think that people just fail to realize how integral art and design is to our everyday lives. If you look around, art truly is everywhere. It's in the clothes you wear, it's



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY BURNSIDE

Kathy Burnside's junk journal is made up of recycled materials that align with the theme of 'Artists Encouraged'.

in the logos of your favorite restaurants, it's in the menus at your favorite restaurants, it's in the ad campaigns that air on TV, it's everything."

Burnside and Rojas said that they are still figuring out exactly what to do with the \$500 stipend, but hope to use it, alongside other grants, to furnish the studio space and offer affordable classes.

Burnside and Rojas' chosen art form is junk journaling, described as the messy cousin of

the scrapbook or bullet journal, which is identified by its neat handwriting and carefully coordinated color palette.

The studio space the residency offers has allowed Rojas and Burnside to open their doors to people to make appointments, attend their workshops or just swing by.

"Neysa and I said we need a place where we can go and hang out," Burnside said.

She described the community and collective excitement their residency has created, saying that people are always texting back and forth about the materials everyone is bringing and the projects they're working on.

"I enjoy teaching classes because that gets other people involved," Burnside said. "A lot of people don't realize that there's an artist in everyone, and I just like to bring it out."

X: @dthlifestyle

MUSIC

Three UNC a cappella groups prepare for competition

Walk-Ons, Tarpeggios and Tar Heel Voices arrange routines

By Erin Mun

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The 29th season of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella is starting this month. Three UNC groups — the UNC Walk-Ons, the Tar Heel Voices and the Tarpeggios — will be competing. On January 25, the Walk-Ons and Tar Heel Voices will compete in the first round at the Carolina Theatre in Durham.

The championship invites all collegiate a cappella groups around the world, with nine regions competing in this year's tournament. The UNC groups are competing in the South region quarterfinals.

To apply, groups must submit live performance videos of two to three songs. The performances are then judged by the ICCA and Varsity Vocals directors, after which Varsity Vocals announces groups that have passed to join the quarterfinals. The deadline for ICCA's 2025 application was on Oct. 15.

The competing groups are mixed voice a cappella groups, which all have a history of competing for the ICCAs.

Tar Heel Voices is UNC's oldest all-gender a cappella group, performing music around campus and Chapel Hill in two concerts every year.

Walk-Ons also have semesterly concerts, focusing on pop music as their primary genre. They all wear

a distinctive clothing item in most of their performances — matching Carolina Blue Converse.

The final UNC a cappella group heading to the ICCAs, the Tarpeggios, is a mixed-voice group that has developed their own unique music style and become a distinct part of the Carolina a cappella community, according to their website. The Tarpeggios did not respond to a request for comment.

Jules Greenway, the Tar Heel Voices ICCA coordinator, said their music arranging team had spent the summer preparing for their song arrangement to learn the music before winter break. Tar Heel Voices won best music arrangement in last year's ICCA quarterfinal competition.

"I think it's definitely our favorite part of the year," Greenway said. "It's really fun. It gives us a really fun common goal to work toward all together, and it's always super inspiring to see all the sets from all the other groups we compete against and the cool ideas they come up with."

Walk-Ons' music team also arranged songs over the summer to put together their set.

"I want my group to have something great to work with at the end of the day that's intuitive to learn and fun to sing," Miasol Yara, former

"We have weeks where we're together all the time. It's just fun. It's a lot of hard work, but we all have fun together."

Mason Roth

President of the Walk-Ons

music director and member of the music team for the Walk-Ons, said.

Groups are required to perform a 10-minute set. Both the Walk-Ons and Tar Heel Voices have arranged a



DTH/CONNOR RUESCH

The UNC Walk-Ons prepare to compete in the 2025 ICCA competition which will be held at the Carolina Theatre.

mash-up of three to four songs which all follow a common theme for each a cappella group. To decide on these songs, all group members contributed by suggesting music pieces and voting.

"A lot of times we're trying to emulate the original song that we picked because we're doing it more for fun and for our personal taste," Yara said.

Although choreography is not strictly required in ICCA performances, it is a part of the judging criteria, so many groups, including Tar Heel Voices and Walk-Ons, also have

choreography teams that guide members through various routines.

The process of arranging music, developing choreography and putting together a performance as a group requires dedication and time.

"We have weeks where we're together all the time," Mason Roth, president of the Walk-Ons, said. "It's just fun. It's a lot of hard work, but we all have fun together."

Walk-Ons generally meet two times a week, but leading up to the competition they've rehearsed as many as five days in one week, and for four hours a day.

"We're not throughout the year going to different competitions, but this is the one chance that we have to

go out and show what we've worked on to other people, and hopefully we want to get some good feedback for it and even place if we can," Roth said.

After quarterfinals, competitions will continue to the semifinals at the start of March. The entire South Region of collegiate a cappella groups will gather in the Carolina Theatre on March 8 to perform their sets for the semifinal.

All ICCA tickets for quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are available on the Varsity Vocal website.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Assistant Lifestyle Editor Morgan Brenner is a member of the Walk-Ons.

X: @dthlifestyle

LITERATURE

Local writers come together for new Horror Writers Association chapter

International organization acts as author support group

By Morgan Perry

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The Horror Writers Association is a worldwide organization made up of published horror writers and lovers of dark literature, from your local teacher with a writing side gig to famed authors like Stephen King.

With over 1,250 members, the association spans several countries including Germany, Japan, Costa Rica and the U.K. The United States HWA separates its members into state chapters.

The North Carolina chapter of the HWA is a fairly new organization, powered by author and co-chair Pamela Raymond (pen name P.M. Raymond) and others who work to connect horror writers across the state. The HWA N.C. is a versatile group of horror writers and enthusiasts, spanning from industry veterans to new writers.

"Horror is a big tent with room for lots and lots of stories and lots and lots of people, and the chapter is here, and we would love for folks to come and explore what we do," Richard Dansky, HWA member, writer and horror video game designer, said.

Former Spanish teacher and published author Samantha Bryant discovered the HWA N.C. by seeing it in other authors' biographies and hearing about it through people she met at conventions. She finally joined when she had enough publications to meet the criteria. There are three membership levels: professional



DTH DESIGN/SHAMIL LUQMAN

writer, supporting member and academic interested in the scholarship of horror literature. Professional writers must submit proof that they have been paid for their stories in order to join.

Today, Bryant collaborates with other authors in the chapter to plan readings and workshops.

"It's hard to be famous enough for an event that's just you to attract a whole lot of attention, but if we can get together a group of us, then that takes some of the pressure off, and we can

get out there and do readings and workshops and things together," Bryant said.

Bryant was recently a part of the chapter's first event of the year, a group

"Horror is a big tent with room for lots and lots of stories and lots and lots of people, and the chapter is here, and we would love for folks to come and explore what we do."

Richard Dansky

HWA member

reading at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill. She is one of many members at the heart of the HWA N.C., along with interim co-secretary Michael Williams.

Williams is a published author who works full time in the Information Security Office at UNC. Due to his schedule, Williams dedicates one day every weekend to writing and recognizes that many writers have strict schedules to balance out their writing with full-time careers.

"I have to treat it as a second job that has a specific shift schedule," Williams said. "And that way, I protect it from the rest of my life. I protect writing from the rest of

my life, but I also protect the rest of my life from writing."

Williams maintains a very active role in the association as interim co-secretary. With this position, he spends time searching for career advancement opportunities for his colleagues, such as finding them publishers and agents.

As a writer, Williams specializes in cosmic horror focusing on characters who must cope with horrific experiences. A great deal of Williams' work also deals with queer characters and respective themes, as he himself is queer.

"Queer people have a really deep love of horror in general," he said. "Horror is a place where the other is welcomed and celebrated, and that is very attractive to queer people."

Williams uses his membership to advocate for proper queer representation in horror literature and acknowledgement of the queer audience by his fellow writers.

One of the many benefits of HWA membership is the valuable feedback authors get from their peers. Through the association, member Shannon Schorey (pen name S.T. Schorey) said she's been able to trade stories with other authors to improve her craft and also learn the business side of writing from industry veterans.

"Writing is very solitary and wonderful, in that you really can do your own thing, but along with solitary work comes isolation," she said. "And so what the Horror Writers Association does is it lets you find community, and also gives you wonderful opportunities to be mentored."

X: @dthlifestyle

Opinion

EDITORIAL

The admissions process is compromised by AI and the BOT

By The Editorial Board
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Amid an academic year defined by the installation of an inexperienced chancellor, the removal of the student-run honor court, the extermination of DEI initiatives and more, the University and its Board of Trustees have proven to be untrustworthy yet again, this time in the application process.

The Daily Tar Heel recently published an article exposing the use of AI in the UNC admissions process. It revealed that there is no legal obligation for admissions officers to read essays for undergraduate application review; instead, they have implemented AI-infused software to summarize essays. The technology, Reader AI, automatically scores essays based on grammar, vocabulary, sentence variability, sentence structure and more. The admissions department does not allow AI use in applications, yet their review process heavily relies on it.

While admissions strictly prohibit the use of artificial intelligence in application essays, the punishments for utilizing AI as a student are even stronger — students are often punished with referrals to Honor Court. The justification for this is indicated by the tendency of AI to fabricate statistics and sources and the disingenuous claim of self-created writing. For admissions officers to even use a tool that frequently misreads and relays inaccuracies to the reader threatens every applicant's chance of admission. Until AI is further developed and reliable, it should hold no significant place in determining students' futures.

UNC places heavy importance on the essay section of the application.

Applicants write one general Common App essay question in addition to two short answer prompts specific to UNC. The first prompt asks applicants to discuss a personal quality and a story that shows how it helped them to positively impact a community. The second asks about an academic topic applicants are excited to explore in college.

Applicants who adhere to admissions guidelines on the use of AI can spend months brainstorming and writing authentic responses that demonstrate who they are and why they should be accepted to UNC. They attempt to capture their human experiences in hopes to connect with another human on the other side of the application. Applicants are rewarded by having those experiences shoved through a computer and boiled down to a number.

While the effort to make increasingly-larger applicant pools more palatable is normal, admissions officers and University higher-ups must consider more holistic ways of doing that. That could mean hiring new officers, changing the process by which applicants are reviewed or even shortening applications. If they don't read main application essays, should they be included at all?

Under the same issue, the UNC Board of Trustees offers backalleys to admission. Text messages between prospective students' parents and their BOT connections show repeated attempts from individuals to use familiarity with trustees to have applicants admitted. While letters of recommendation are accepted, this bypasses the supposedly universal process of admissions, unfairly advantaging those in powerful circles.

Regardless of intention, even mere inquiries into the status of a UNC applicant inevitably bring

attention to the potential student — prompting an unfair second look by an admissions officer. This is inexcusable given admission is supposed to be purely based on merit. Furthermore, the advantageous attention of a BOT member becomes exponentially more impactful for students relegated to the waitlist, given the slim chances of waitlisted admission. For UNC, this is estimated to be under ten percent for out-of-state applicants and under five for in-state applicants.

The crux of the issue lies in the UNC System Board of Governors incessant emphasis on removing all DEI efforts in favor of creating a preference-free, merit-based system. These leaked messages give us concrete confirmation that merit is not the absolute object and, with the right ties to higher-ups in the University system, applicants may be admitted even if they are not competitive with others in the applicant pool.

There is an insidious hypocrisy in championing meritocracy in public whilst slipping select applicants through the back door when no one's watching. Such behavior indicates the legitimacy of our previously voiced concerns about the integrity of the BOT and the admissions process itself.

This is a common theme with our editorials in past months. Those in charge of our public University have a vested interest in saying one thing and doing the other. The way in which they are now pivoting to streamline the admissions process with the use of AI and input from the BOT is not an honest reflection of what they claim to want. Applicants deserve to be considered wholly by humans, not by artificial intelligence nor by meddling university higher-ups.

X: @dthopinion



DTH DESIGN/MEG JENKINS

COLUMN



DTH/OLIVIA PAUL

Dr. Avi Santo from the UNC Department of Communication discusses his new book on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, for a CLE credit event.

Feeling burnt out by your major? Try a CLE

By Natalie McCarthy

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you can go to lectures or workshops for any subject that interests you and engage with it, free from any external pressures that take away from the fun.

Many students first arrive at college thrilled to finally study something they love and expand their horizons, like everyone promised them that they would. Then, they find themselves halfway through their sophomore year and knee-deep in their major's upper-level courses, and learning becomes more about passing their next midterm than the initial passion they entered with.

Suddenly, they resent their major and wonder where their love of learning has gone. As an English major, I've gone to literary readings and lectures, and getting to sit and listen without the looming threat of a pop quiz or an essay reminds me of why I chose my major in the first place.

I genuinely love my subject, but the classroom setting can replace personal interest with obligation. Seeing speakers who have survived and are now pursuing their niches has also inspired and revamped my excitement for my studies.

If you feel like your intellectual endeavors have become mechanical, or that you stopped being a "student of the world" to be a "survivor of chemistry," view Campus Life Experiences as a couples therapist for your relationship with learning.

CLEs offer a unique experience where you can engage with any topic on a deep level with no strings attached. They are often free, don't impact your grade and don't require any commitment to engage further after the event. They let you learn for learning's sake.

Though attending CLEs is a graduation requirement, which can attach a sense of obligation to the events, they are actually a chance for autonomy over your curiosity. Without letter grades on the line,

I've gotten to see political speakers, learn about social issues, watch musical performances and hear art history lectures — none of which have anything to do with my majors or career plans — and I have always come out with my curiosity reinvigorated.

Though CLEs don't demand further interest after the lecture or workshop, I often find myself naturally doing follow-up research or looking for more campus events in a similar field. A few times, an insight I've gained from a speaker has snowballed into a passion project or a new idea for an opinion column.

By offering a more elective learning experience, campus events nurture your sense of intrinsic motivation, which people find to be much longer-lasting and satisfying than learning motivated by grades. While pursuing knowledge with careers in mind, it is important to have autonomous outlets for curiosity so that we don't lose touch with intellectual passion.

Going to CLEs has also allowed me to reconnect with my own discipline in a more fulfilling way, because I know that they do not determine my future in the field. It can get easy to resent your major when you feel like you're constantly fighting off midterms and stressing about your transcript.

When you feel like CLEs are just another graduation requirement that eat up your valuable time, remember that they are also a great tool for exercising intellectual autonomy and refreshing the passion for learning. Many of us came to college in the first place because we loved learning. We should use CLEs to keep that part of us alive.

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COLUMN

LA wildfires spark overdue discussion on prison labor

By Mary Blake Nobles

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As unprecedented wildfires rage in Southern California, many eyes are on the people on the front lines of disaster relief — incarcerated firefighters.

Over 1,100 responding firefighters are California inmates. While their essential work is an exploitation of their incarcerated status, what we're not talking about enough are the conditions in the Thirteenth Amendment that have allowed states to take advantage of their prisoners for little or even no pay. It shouldn't require a large natural disaster to occur to have these conversations.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation oversees the Conservation (Fire) Camps Program at the heart of this issue. CDCR operates 35 camps across the state with a goal to "support state, local and federal government agencies as they respond to emergencies including fires, floods, and other natural disasters."

Through their voluntary participation in the Conservation Camps Program, California Assembly Bill No. 2147 grants inmates the opportunity to have their records expunged, allowing them to seek employment opportunities following their release. In order to qualify for the program, participants



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON ARMOND/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Inmate firefighters work at the Sunset fire in Hollywood on Jan. 8. Over 1,100 responding firefighters in California are inmates.

must be on a minimum security designation with less than eight years remaining on their sentence as well as some other requirements.

Beside the goals of the CDCR, one thing is glaringly obvious: inmates' labor is barely compensated. Volunteers in the program earn between \$5.80 to \$10.24 per day with an extra \$1 per hour during active fires. Consequently, incarcerated firefighters can work a 24-hour shift and not even break \$30.

This discrepancy between incarcerated firefighters' essential,

dangerous work and their compensation has led many to call out the program's exploitative nature. Amid the crisis, California State Representative Isaac Bryan authored a bill to compensate inmates at an hourly rate equal to the lowest-paid, non-incarcerated firefighter. According to Bryan, incarcerated firefighters are "heroes". But because of the Thirteenth Amendment and its progeny, they're not.

Ratified in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

declares, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." That clear exception, protecting slavery in prisons, is why the United States is able to exploit cheap labor to produce \$2 billion in goods and \$9 billion in services per year.

To be clear, the Conservation Camps Program is not compulsory — in fact, many participants view it as a great opportunity to give to

their community and prove they can rehabilitate in a more forgiving environment than the prison yard.

However, when you've been given little chance to rehabilitate, even the most exploitative program can seem rewarding if it offers a sense of dignity. Prison labor that is not properly compensated, whether that is rescuing a community from a fire or manufacturing goods in a factory, should be seen and treated as a fundamental violation of one's rights.

Most people in prisons won't be there forever. A large focus of programs like the Conservation Camps Program should be to prepare inmates for a smooth transition following their inevitable release. With genuine investment, reduction of reoffenses and successful reintegration, these efforts are much more likely to be accomplished.

The devastation in California is a focusing event for the unethical labor — from which unincarcerated individuals benefit — that has always taken place. This is entering the public consciousness far too late, but nonetheless it offers a chance to strive for just conditions. The conversation can't end when this round of fires does but must be translated into pressure to reform. The United States heavily relies on prison labor. That indispensability must be met with proper compensation.

X: @mbnobles_

COLUMN

The University claims to meet full financial aid. Can it really say that?

By Delaney Broderick

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The Daily Tar Heel published a recent article where Vice Provost of Enrollment Rachelle Feldman said she attributed the increase of UNC admissions applications to a series of respected qualities of the University, one of which she noted as affordability.

UNC, among a minority of approximately 75 other American colleges, claims to meet 100 percent of the demonstrated financial need of their students. Without prior experience in the maze of a system that is Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as FAFSA, this promise would be alluring to a prospective student. Unfortunately, financial aid jargon continues to mislead and under-deliver, positioning colleges to promote inaccuracies to students.

Upon opening my revised Spring 2025 financial aid offer this past month, I feverishly scanned the PDF for the red net price subtitle. With the FAFSA formula changes I dreaded finally implemented, I discovered some changes to my original financial aid package.

The new federal methodology no longer factors sibling college enrollment in a student's financial situation. It also has eliminated the state and local tax allowance translating to a drastic decrease in financial aid in high tax states. The Student Aid Index evaluates your eligibility for grants from the University, but it now disregards critical considerations and produces an inaccurate evaluation taken as the cornerstone for students' aid.

After expressing the impact my two brothers' college education has on my parent's contributions to my own tuition, I was redirected to an application requesting a readjustment. But amid pleading my case, attempting to mediate the flaws of an inadequate federal system on



DTH DESIGN/CARRIE-ANNE ROGERS

my own small level, I became more aware of a much larger inaccuracy behind the charts and numbers outlining my debts.

The promise of meeting full financial aid is a trend that has invaded top 20 colleges across the country. Yet many students come to find that a lot of these universities are meeting them with work-study opportunities and loans in addition to the sought after grants and scholarships.

The calculation on the financial aid offer is simple: cost of attendance minus Student Aid Index equals eligibility for need-based financial aid. Yet this number, interpreted by the University, remains disproportionate to the grants offered, even considering independently awarded department scholarships.

The opportunity for work-study, which I participate in, is generous. As is the extension of federal subsidized loans offered, but generally the terminology of meeting full financial need gives rise to a technicality question: do federal loans equate to financial aid? Should colleges earn the right to market meeting 100 percent of financial aid if that aid is calculated unfairly?

Students do not pay interest on federally-subsidized direct while a student is in school, making their value more digestible for financial aid departments to offer in their packages. Nonetheless, these loans equate to debt.

The length of the FAFSA was cut by more than half and, as a result, the burden of evaluating students' needs has fallen more heavily on universities. With this newfound jurisdiction, meeting full financial need has been nullified for myself by the offering of more loans, including a federally subsidized loan, one that accumulates interest while I am in school.

UNC's terms for meeting demonstrated financial need, when scrutinized, differ from a debt-free education. Ultimately, offering to close the gap between the cost of attendance and families' evaluated contributions without loans is not a feasible option for many universities. The issue is the false promise of doing so. Meeting full financial need is not a fluctuating cycle of reducing grants and extending loans. Either meet students 100 percent as you claim, or find a new marketing point that more adequately suits your practices.

X: @dthopinion

OP-ED

Graduate students need livable wages

We, the workers at UNC, provide essential public goods to the state of North Carolina. We produce skilled labor and research for one of the fastest-growing states in the country. The state's department of commerce wants to add 2 million jobs with post-secondary credentials by 2030. Without our blood, sweat and tears, this goal would be unattainable. Without our labor, the university would fail, and the state of N.C. could not develop.

The administration refuses to make changes that honor these basic facts. They refuse to pay their graduate workers living wages despite constant requests for funds from faculty across the University. While the University's leadership supports policies that gut social safety nets, the Graduate and Professional Student Government has accommodated the low pay by hosting financial literacy workshops showing graduate students how to apply for food stamps. There is, of course, no inherent shame associated with being on food stamps. There is, however, shame in paying your workers poverty wages when they provide essential public goods.

How does the University expect its teachers and researchers to produce quality research when they are worried where their funding next year is coming from? Why does the University continue to, in reality, waste resources by paying poverty wages that leave students renewing their contracts to ninth, even tenth years, due to burnout?

Even if the administration merely cares about UNC's ranking, recruitment and prestige as opposed to the well-being of its graduate students, these stipends are a national embarrassment. The

minimum stipend is not even close to being competitive with peer institutions.

Duke University, just last year, won \$40,000 stipends among a host of other improvements to their contracts. As a percentage of the living wage, UNC ranks dead last among peer institutions, providing a stipend that is 42 percent of a living wage for a single person with no children.

UNC loves to plead poverty when it comes to paying a living wage. The University has the money to pay us. The administration is able to find \$195 million to finance building a new facility for the business school. Decisions like this simply reflect the priorities of the administration. New buildings to increase enrollment are priorities for the university — paying us a living wage is not.

Administration has provided meager pay increases that do not substantially increase the stipend to a sustainable rate, including fee removal for graduate workers, addition of \$3,000 to the minimal stipend in 2023 and the inclusion of basic dental insurance in 2024. Great change requires collective action. As Frederick Douglass said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand."

We recognize the value of our labor, even if the administration does not. We demand a stipend compatible with our human dignity. We demand to be made a priority. The administration has made it clear that they will not recognize this demand without a fight. Join us in this collective effort and sign our living wage petition. It is your federal right to join the union.

— UE 150 Workers Union at UNC

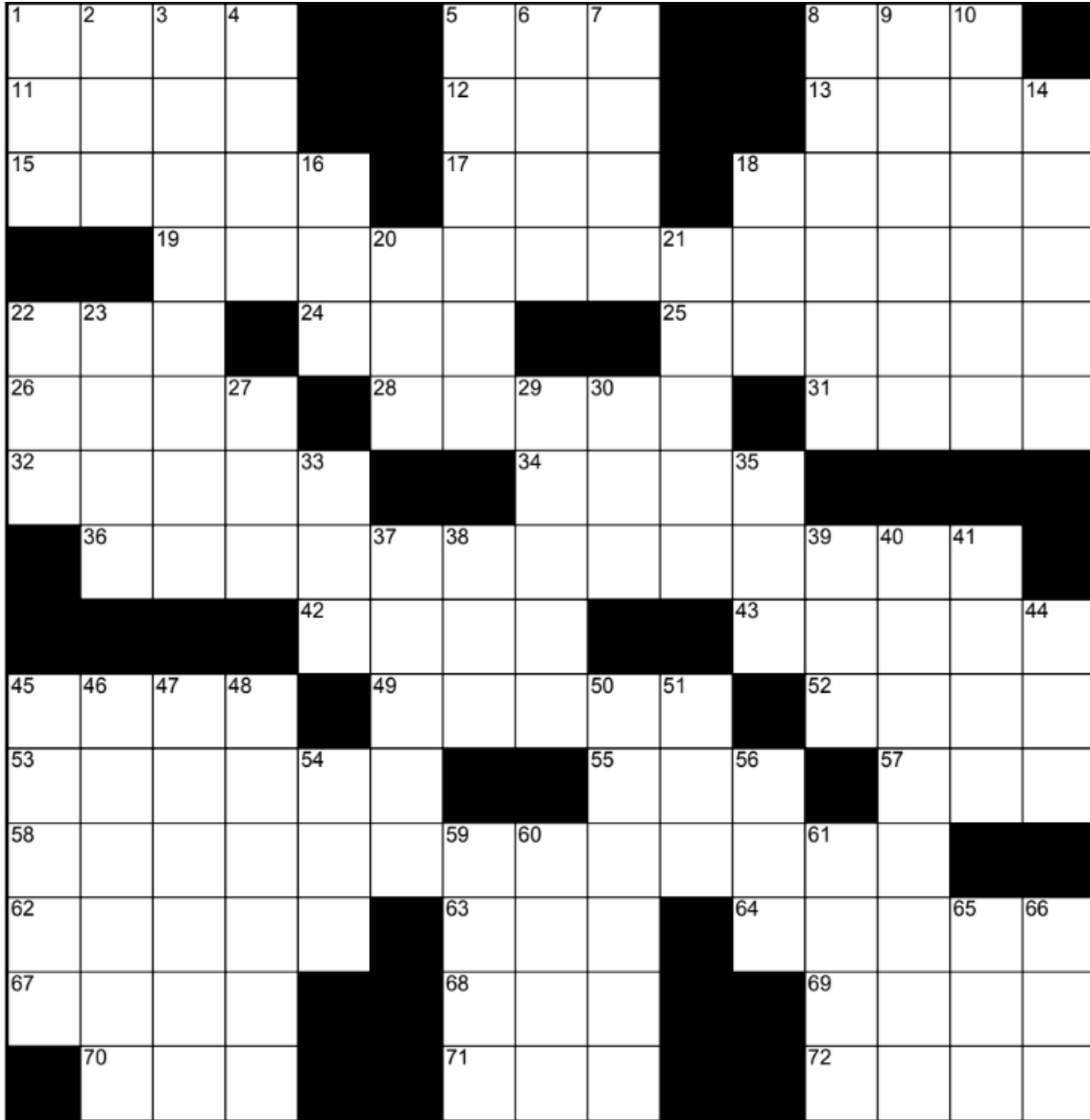
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“Out of a Pickle”

This week’s crossword was created by longtime cruciverbalist Liam Furlong and newer creator Brigit Pierce, who is also the lifestyle editor.

- Across**
- 1 What Meghan Trainor’s all about
 - 5 Bit of cash
 - 8 Hang heavily
 - 11 An ample amount
 - 12 Carolina Brewery beverage
 - 13 Courtroom cry
 - 15 Meek, unsure
 - 17 Harry’s friend and fellow Gryffindor
 - 18 Shrubbery
 - 19 Don’t reuse her as a thematic entry? Oops, I did it again...
 - 22 Poker beverage at the Blue Horn Lounge
 - 24 Monopoly roller
 - 25 Color and fruit
 - 26 Modern TV type
 - 28 Your and my child, a firebringer?
 - 31 Chases the grays away, say
 - 32 “Calamity Jane” legend Day
 - 34 “Hang on!”
 - 36 Microprocessors
 - 42 Word before ‘market’ and ‘circus’
 - 43 One out of 404?
 - 45 King takes the queens?
 - 49 Medium’s medium?
 - 52 Tractor trailer
 - 53 Gamer’s icon
 - 55 Beyonce’s genre
 - 57 Blue feeling
 - 58 Yellow sandwich chilis
 - 62 Milan declaration circa. 313
 - 63 “Much ___ about Nothing”
 - 64 Take up once more
 - 67 Look for hidlers
 - 68 “Burned” music, abbr.
 - 69 Operatic solo
 - 70 Those injured in the MLB
 - 71 “___ for an “___” (biblical trade)
 - 72 Wide-bottomed fruit
- Down**
- 1 Nosferatu, while in flight
 - 2 Comedian Wong
 - 3 Festive Mexican hat
 - 4 Mix a little mud, say
 - 5 Yakko, Wakko, or Dot
 - 6 Soothing succulent
 - 7 Say “it ain’t so”
 - 8 Apply the jam, say
 - 9 Erie Canal endpoint
 - 10 Boy, one of six British kings?
 - 14 British bums
 - 16 Completed a task
 - 18 Earth Day month, abbr.
 - 20 Spanish aunt
 - 21 Blue cartoon Hedgehog
 - 22 Group of whales
 - 23 International alliance
 - 27 Like romantic lights
 - 29 Drop an f-bomb, say
 - 30 Bit of rowing gear
 - 33 Sunscreen unit, abbr.
 - 35 Definitely an article
 - 37 Light Michelob beverage
 - 38 Hot gossip to spill
 - 39 W2 org.
 - 40 Game 7 feeling
 - 41 “Brave New World” drug
 - 44 Free from
 - 45 Cuties in the woods?
 - 46 Stayed away from
 - 47 Pioneer Boone
 - 48 Library features
 - 50 Go up against
 - 51 ___ of the Hill Restaurant
 - 54 Marching bug
 - 56 “As ___ my email...”
 - 59 Runner’s speed
 - 60 Swirling current
 - 61 Harvest 72-across?
 - 65 “Snowman” singer
 - 66 Feature to lend

Answers to “Parting the Seas”



Classifieds

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Horoscopes

Today’s Birthday (01/22/25):
 Let your heart lead this year. Generate abundance with diligent, consistent action. Windfall fruit fills family baskets this spring. An unexpected plot twist could reorient summer plans. Diversify for new autumn income and resources, before collaborating around winter shortages. Love is the answer.

YOPO

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GYMNASTICS

Tar Heels defy expectations early into the season

After Alabama meet, UNC moves up 10 spots in poll

By Anna Liable

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Nobody expected the North Carolina gymnastics program to make noise this season.

UNC was voted to finish fifth in the ACC Preseason Coaches Poll out of six participating teams, only receiving one first-place vote. But they set goals all the way back in September to defy expectations.

“We’ve set some score goals that we want to reach by the end of January, and we’re definitely on the way there,” senior Lali Dekanoidze said.

In her fourth year at the helm of the gymnastics program, head coach Danna Durante has helped lead the Tar Heels back to gymnastics relevancy. She coached them to a 195.225 in their away opener against now-No. 3 Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Despite the loss, UNC set the highest season-opening road score in program history.

After that unprecedented performance, the Tar Heels moved up 10 spots from the preseason poll, putting them

at No. 26 in the rankings. On Friday, North Carolina defeated George Washington, 195.800-194.525, at their home opener at Carmichael Arena.

But this is just the beginning for the UNC gymnastics program, which has multiple Tar Heels named to the ACC Preseason Watch List: Dekanoidze, senior Julia Knowler and first-year JoJo Valahovic, who was named to the ACC Preseason Newcomer Watch List.

The 2025 schedule for North Carolina is filled with meets against top gymnastics programs. The Tar Heels will take on No. 1 Oklahoma in February at the Metroplex Challenge in Fort Worth, Texas. UNC will face a big test on March 9 when the team meets Alabama for the second time this year and takes on No. 6 Michigan State at Propst Arena in Huntsville, Alabama. These matchups will happen right before ACC Championships in Greensboro later in March.

Each of these tests will prove an important role as the Tar Heels look to return to the NCAA Regionals. With the unexpected start, North Carolina wants an unexpected end. UNC hasn’t made it to the NCAA Regionals in the round of 32 since 2022.

“[Our goal is] absolutely postseason,” Durante said. “That should be a no-brainer, and it should be a consistent for Carolina from this



UNC senior Lali Dekanoidze performs a 9.9 bar routine during the meet against George Washington at Carmichael Arena on Friday, Jan. 17.

DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

year moving forward. Our goal is to not be a bubble team. Our goal is to be top-20 so that it’s not even a question whether or not we make regionals. It’s been a while since Carolina has been there, but this team absolutely has the ability to do that.”

The meet against George Washington took the team closer to where they want to be.

UNC started off strong on vault through the efforts of Dekanoidze, who stuck her Yurchenko full, putting up a 9.825. With GW having to count

a fall, North Carolina had the early 49-47.550 lead after just one event. In the second rotation, senior Isabelle Schaefer had a 9.875 on uneven bars, and Dekanoidze finished off the rotation with a massive 9.9. George Washington bounced back on vault, courtesy of two 9.850s, but UNC still maintained a solid lead.

The Tar Heels started off with a hit routine on the balance beam, recording back-to-back 9.850s from sophomore Jessica Naranjo and Valahovic. North Carolina finished with a 9.750 from

first-year anchor Regan McBride to maintain its lead over GW.

On the final rotation of the evening, junior Gwen Fink fell after two hit routines for UNC, but the team bounced back immediately after junior Kaya Forbes earned a 9.875 on floor. Senior Bella Miller sealed the first win of the season for the Tar Heels with a 9.875, ending the night with a team score of 195.800, nearly seven tenths higher than their season opener.

In just the second meet of 2025, the Tar Heels hit 23 of 24 of their routines.

“Obviously, we still have room to grow, but I think with the seven tenths increase just in one week, that really shows how much potential that this team has,” Forbes said. “We still haven’t reached our roof yet or our ceiling yet, so I’m really excited for the potential this team has.”

Although a challenging schedule looms ahead, UNC is taking it in stride to meet the goals set three months ago.

“There were years when Carolina would go into regionals and be nervous because we felt like those teams were better than us,” Durante said. “There is no better way than to get comfortable than to see them head-to-head, see where you stack up and do the training in the gym, reach our potential, get to our max potential.”

X: @anna_liable

DEVILS DOWNED

UNC wrestling earns ninth-straight win against Duke

Lachlan McNeil and Josh Ogunsanya establish early lead

By Sarah Stephens

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DURHAM — Lachlan McNeil took Duke’s Eli Murray to the mat.

With 41 seconds to go in the first period, the redshirt junior looked to boost UNC’s 9-0 lead.

But the Duke wrestler avoided the pin by mere millimeters for nearly 30 seconds as McNeil fought for leverage to pin his right shoulder to the floor.

McNeil held his arm by Murray’s head and finally pinned him down. North Carolina soared ahead 15-0.

In their dual with Duke on Friday, the Tar Heels took control with ease, with three decisions giving the team an early lead. Led by McNeil and graduate Joshua Ogunsanya, UNC toppled the Blue Devils, 40-3.

With the victory, No. 19 North Carolina extended its win streak at



UNC redshirt junior 149-pounder Lachlan McNeil during a wrestling match versus Pitt on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, in Carmichael Arena.

DTH FILE/LARA CROCHIK

Cameron Indoor Stadium, where the Tar Heels have not lost since 1973. UNC has won 48 of the last 50 duals between the two teams overall.

After defeating No. 8 Virginia Tech in a tight ACC dual last week — UNC’s first top-10 dual win

since 2020 — and the next against Duke, North Carolina continued its momentum to advance to 2-0 in ACC play.

“There’s a little bit more emphasis when we wrestle Duke, making sure we get bonus points and showing

dominance,” McNeil said. “They’re maybe not the strongest team in the conference, but the rivalry alone spurs us to really kind of push in these duals.”

McNeil, the No. 5 nationally ranked wrestler in the 149 pound weight class, secured the first pin of the night for North Carolina against Murray. Fans erupted, both in excitement and disappointment, as the Tar Heel team score rose to 15-0.

There was a clear difference between the UNC and Duke coaches. North Carolina appeared comfortable and confident, while Duke’s coaching staff appeared hasty and digging for a comeback. The Duke coaches’ voices rang throughout the stadium, but UNC head coach Rob Koll sat back and let the Tar Heels go to work.

Two matches after McNeil, Ogunsanya secured the second fall of the night for the Tar Heels.

“I’m continuing to kind of earn my confidence and just reassure myself that I belong here,” Ogunsanya said. “I have this skill and the capability to accomplish my goals.”

Ogunsanya, a transfer from Columbia, has recently become a starter in the 174 pound weight class for North Carolina since recovering from an ACL tear earlier this year. His pin gave UNC a comfortable 30-0 lead.

While balancing his new role on the team, Ogunsanya is enrolled in law school at North Carolina and has been adjusting to changes both on and off the mat.

“I’m really proud of how he’s adjusted and been able to manage the course load and the recovery,” Koll said. “The sky’s the limit. If you watch him, you don’t want to grab a hold of him. He’s freakishly strong.”

The win — in dominating fashion — marks UNC’s ninth-straight and 75th in its 100 total matchups against Duke.

For Koll, there was never a doubt.

“Wrestling is not like basketball where you have a following, there’s so much more luck, or chance I should say,” Koll said. “We knew here going in there was a high likelihood — unless we had a bus crash — that we were going to come out victorious.”

X: @dthsports

First-year proves herself in match against Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1

After picking up her first collegiate singles and doubles victories last weekend against James Madison, Hamilton claimed another doubles win and singles sweep, 6-0, 6-3, in No. 6 UNC’s dominating 7-0 victory over Gardner-Webb on Saturday.

“I just felt more comfortable in my skin,” Hamilton said. “I played pretty decent today, so I think that also always helps.”

Four games into Hamilton’s second set of singles on Sunday, her opponent’s name displayed zeroes across the board on court two. Hamilton had won

10 consecutive set points, and looked to control the remainder of the match.

But the streak ended at ten. Hamilton gave up two games in a row. Now, it was 4-2.

Instead of panicking, she used her skillful aim to sneak in two deep balls, just out of reach. She claimed a 5-2 lead on an ace — plus a stare down.

“My opponent did a really good job adjusting and trying to change what she was doing, so I had to adjust off of that as well,” Hamilton said. “But I think at the end of the day, I was able to execute pretty well.”

After a hard-fought loss in the seventh game, she closed out the set

with a slick cross court strike to the left corner to win, 6-3. Hamilton pumped her fist.

“I’m a really aggressive player, and I really love to be at the net,” Hamilton said. “And I think at times, depending on who I’m playing, some people won’t give me as much pace and I have to generate more on my own. But I feel like as long as I keep it under control and have that discipline, then I’m able to build my points better.”

After initially committing to Duke, the No. 10 recruit in the class of 2025 flipped her commitment to UNC in hopes of playing professional tennis.

She described UNC as “the perfect balance” between high-level academics and the thrilling tennis experience she was looking for.

“I knew that when I watched the practice, everyone wanted to be here,” Hamilton said. “Everyone was excited to practice. It wasn’t dreading, like, ‘oh, I have to go to practice’, everyone loved it, and that’s, at the end of the day, the culture that I want to be in and associated with.”

The feeling was mutual. Thomson recognized her as a “world-class” doubles player and noted her potential to become one of the best doubles players in the world. She plays at the

net like a pro. Her powerful serve is an added weapon.

She’s a reliable option to North Carolina’s “work in progress” lineup, after the graduation of six veteran players.

“I wouldn’t put a ceiling on what she can do,” Thomson said. “There’s a lot of things that she’d need to improve on to be elite in the world, but she definitely has the foundation for that. And for singles, she undoubtedly can be one of the top players in the country. How soon that’ll happen remains to be seen.”

X: @alexjdjones_

BASKETBALL | CONFERENCE PLAY

Thirteen threes lead to women's double-digit win over Pitt

North Carolina recorded best shooting in ACC play this year

By Shannen Horan

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Indya Nivar was crowded in the paint.

Nowhere to go on her own, the junior guard quickly kicked the ball out to graduate guard Lexi Donarski. UNC led 4-2 early in the first quarter.

Un-guarded behind the arc, Donarski held the ball in her hands for less than a second before releasing it. Swish.

"Anytime you make open shots, you're a better offense," head coach Courtney Banghart said. "I think we've got good shooters that have been inconsistent at times, but good shots are usually a function of how we play offense."

The No. 13 UNC women's basketball team defeated Pitt, 75-58, on Sunday afternoon. UNC made 13 threes against the Panthers, with



DTH FILE/CONNOR RUESCH

UNC junior guard Indya Nivar (24) looks to make a pass during the women's basketball game against Notre Dame on Sunday, Jan. 5 at Carmichael Arena.

Donarski recording five 3-pointers in back-to-back games for the first time in her career. The Tar Heels' 13 made 3-pointers are the most in ACC play this year, and one short of the school record.

Powered by the three ball, North Carolina is now 3-0 in ACC games on

the road — its best start on the road in conference play since the 2013-14 season. North Carolina also matched its best start through 20 games (17-3) since that same season.

Banghart holds her team to a high standard, and her players have been meeting it this season. She

said they have been improving over time. They are understanding how to play to each others' strengths and become more competitive.

And a big reason for UNC's success has been the improvements in the team's 3-point shooting. In North Carolina's three losses this season, the Tar Heels shot 29.7 percent from three. Now, they're shooting right under 34 percent from behind the arc.

"A lot of the teams previously would sign off because our 3-point shooting wasn't as good," senior center Maria Gakdeng said. "But this year, we have students who work on it every day in practice. So knowing [we are] counting on them to hit those shots is really big."

Although Donarski led with five threes, the graduate wasn't the only one contributing to the effort. First-year guard Lanie Grant shot 44 percent from the arc on Sunday, recording three triples on her way to a 13-point performance.

Halfway through the second quarter, Nivar passed the ball to Grant, who nailed a three from the right corner.

About a minute later, sophomore guard Reniya Kelly sent the ball to

Grant again, who drilled another triple deep behind the arc. North Carolina's lead swelled to nine.

"She literally wants to do whatever this team needs her to do," Banghart said. "She'll put the work in, and then she'll trust her work when it comes to game time."

Graduate guard Alyssa Ustby connected with Nivar for a 3-pointer that ignited a run of four consecutive triples by the Tar Heels. Nivar was 2-2 in the fourth quarter from beyond the arc.

Even the bench saw success at the 3-point line, with first-year guard Jordan Zubich, redshirt first-year forward Ciera Toomey and graduate guard Grace Townsend adding points to the scoreboard.

As UNC's season continues, the Tar Heels will continue to rely on their shooting from behind the arc. Its improvement Banghart attributes to her team's commitment to progress.

"To be able to not play your best and still win a convincing battle is testament to the work these guys have put in."

X: @dthsports

Mistakes plague Tar Heels in last-second loss

Poor shot selection and defense lead to 72-71 defeat

By Matthew Maynard

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Details. Mistakes. Little things.

Those were the words that echoed through the postgame press conferences of head coach Hubert Davis and graduate guard RJ Davis following UNC's last-second loss to Stanford.

With North Carolina up 71-70 and 7.7 seconds left on the clock, Stanford inbounded the ball to Maxime Raynaud, who laid it off to Jaylen Blakes. Junior forward Ven-Allen Lubin and RJ Davis were running down the court, trying to keep up, as junior guard Seth Trimble attempted to stay in front of Blakes.

Trimble stuck his arms up. But Blakes stopped running and pulled up. 72-71 Stanford. 1.5 seconds left.

"It came down to the wire of the game, but we have to go back to the drawing board and kind of just reflect on the second half," RJ Davis said.

On Saturday afternoon at the Dean E. Smith Center, North Carolina fell to Stanford, 72-71, after Blakes hit the game-winning shot. It's the Cardinals' first win over the Tar Heels in program history in 14 games. It also marks UNC's first Quad 3 loss of the season.

In a game that could damage UNC's NCAA tournament resume, it was the errors down the stretch that plagued the Tar Heels. Stanford outscored North Carolina 11-5 in

the final 4:23. UNC missed four of its last five field goal attempts.

"I always say little things lead to big things happening," Hubert Davis said. "And I felt like those little things, those little mistakes led to big things happening today."

Over the past month, the Tar Heels have been in four games that ended within one possession. They won all of them until Saturday.

Hubert Davis has emphasized that if his squad's defense and rebounding were where they should be, the Tar Heels wouldn't be in positions where a last-second shot could cost them the game. Following UNC's 63-61 win over the Wolfpack, he echoed the sentiment after North Carolina allowed 16 offensive rebounds.

Against Stanford, it wasn't rebounding that plagued the Tar Heels. In a matchup with 7-foot-1 Raynaud, North Carolina lost the rebounding battle by just one, 32-31.

Instead, Hubert Davis pointed to first half shot selection. He said his team settled for too many outside jump shots. In the first 20 minutes, North Carolina took just eight layup or dunk attempts compared to 19 jumpers.

The conversion rate? 4-8 on layups and dunks. 8-19 on jumpers or threes.

In the second half, it was the defensive intensity in the closing minutes that decided the game. After holding Stanford without a field goal for nearly six minutes in the last 10 minutes of the game, Lubin lost Raynaud in the corner, who drained the three with just over two minutes left. 68-67, Stanford.

"It's kind of like a delay on defense," RJ Davis said. "Where [we're] one second behind on the communications or we give up a strong side three."

Trimble noticed it too. He said the effort wasn't the same as it had been during the previous four games — all of which UNC won.

And with North Carolina up 66-61 with just 4:10 left on the clock, Blakes went to the line and hit both free throws. Then the Raynaud three. Then a miscommunication on an inbound pass that led to a layup for Ryan Agarwal.

Stanford led, 68-67. After trading free throws, the Cardinal got the ball back down one with enough time for that last-second shot.

"We knew what was coming," Trimble said. "We just didn't get it done this time."

X: @mdmaynard74



DTH/CASSIDY TOY REYNOLDS

UNC graduate guard RJ Davis (4) makes a free throw in the game against Stanford at the Dean E. Smith Center on Saturday.

UNC unable to contain Raynaud and Blakes in Cardinal's game

Stanford's top scorers combined for 45 points on Saturday

By Harry Crowther

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The Dean E. Smith Center fell quiet. Both the fans in the stands and the Tar Heels on the floor were shell-shocked.

Stanford was trailing North Carolina, 71-70, with 7.7 seconds on the clock. Jaylen Blakes inbounded the ball to 7-foot-1-inch Maxime Raynaud. Blakes got it right back from Raynaud and speed-dribbled the length of the floor with junior guard Seth Trimble guarding him. Blakes stopped at the left block, leaned into Trimble and then stepped back. His fadeaway jump shot arced over Trimble's outstretched left hand.

Dagger.

The Duke transfer took a victory lap on Roy Williams Court, pointing emphatically down at the hardwood and screaming in jubilation.

"We knew we had to lock in and get a stop," Trimble said. "I'm gonna beat myself up for that one. I'd like to be the one to embrace that moment, step in and take pride in it. But Blakes got the best of me."

It was fitting that the only two players to touch the ball on the game-winning possession for Stanford were Blakes and Raynaud, who the Tar Heels could not hold in check. The duo combined for 45 points.

"I know when things go right or wrong, we want a definitive answer why they went right and wrong," head coach Hubert Davis said. "There were times where we had wide open shots by the right people and it just didn't go in and they took a shot and it went in."

In North Carolina's 26-point win over California on Wednesday night, the Tar Heels held Cal leading scorer Andrej Stojakovic to a season-low six points. In his postgame press conference, Davis said he had talked with his team about wanting to shut down opponents' best players.

Auburn's Johni Broome, Alabama's Mark Sears and Louisville's Chucky Hepburn each lead their team in scoring. Those stars combined to



DTH/HEATHER DIEHL

UNC junior guard Seth Trimble (7) talks with head coach Hubert Davis during the game against Stanford in the Dean E. Smith Center on Saturday, Jan. 18.

score 69 points in three losses for the Tar Heels. Against Cal, it looked like the Tar Heels might have turned a corner in shutting down opposing stars with their defense on Stojakovic.

Entering Saturday, Raynaud was averaging an ACC-high 20.5 points per game. He is a matchup nightmare with his size inside and his ability to stretch the floor.

"We didn't lock him down," Trimble said. "The scout at the end of the day was to take him away. Every time Maxime touches the ball in the post, we wanted to double him, get it out of his hands."

UNC did bring the double and force Raynaud to give it up. He still scored 25 points but on 8-24 shooting — 3-13 in the second half.

The three field goals he did make in the second half all came on defensive breakdowns. Junior forward Jalen Washington bit on a pump fake and Raynaud drove to the cup, finishing with a two-handed flush. Junior forward Ven-Allen Lubin closed out too hard, and Raynaud went past him for a layup.

Under two and a half minutes to play with UNC up by four, Lubin helped off Raynaud as Blakes drove into the lane. Blakes kicked it to Raynaud in the corner for a three that cut the lead to one.

Blakes was the primary ball handler for the Cardinal, controlling the offense and getting to the rim. He scored 20 points on 7-13 shooting.

"We were really loose tonight," Trimble said. "We let [Blakes] get wherever he wanted to. We weren't intent, and we didn't have the intensity that we needed when it came to our ball screen coverages."

North Carolina's miscues allowed Stanford's stars to give the Cardinal a chance to win in the final minute.

Blakes made the Tar Heels pay. "We could have avoided that," Lubin said, "by raising our intensity level, the little details of being very aware of what's going on on the floor. So I believe it was everything before that. Something that we definitely got to improve on."

X: @dthsports

Special Projects

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS



DTH DESIGN/CARRIE-ANNE ROGERS

How is DiPhi connected to UNC Student Government?

Some have concerns about the significant overlap between groups

By Caleb Herrera

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Every Monday during the school year, the University's oldest student organization, the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, holds a meeting that starts at 7:30 pm and can run until 2 a.m. The next day, a handful of DiPhi members spend their time recovering from the night before as they prepare for their next meeting — the Undergraduate Senate.

The two groups are different: anyone can join DiPhi through a petition for membership, while members of Student Government are elected. Still, their memberships have significant overlap. Half of the senate's leadership along with the Student Body Treasurer are members of DiPhi.

What is DiPhi?

DiPhi was founded in 1795 as a literary and debate society to address the University's lack of an English department. According to DiPhi Senator and Undergraduate Student Body Treasurer Andrew Forbes, in the early years every student was required to join either the Di or Phi societies which led to political competition and even "duels."

Operating in a parliamentary manner, DiPhi holds weekly meetings in their 'Dialectic Hall,' which is New West. Social events for the societies are held in the 'Philanthropic Chambers' located in New East. Guests are welcome to attend and participate in meetings, where members debate topics ranging from foreign policy to literature.

DiPhi is currently led by Joint Senate President Anna Crist, who has been involved with the organization since 2022. Crist herself is not in Student Government, but said there are "a couple people in DiPhi who are ambitious."

"What happens in Student Government is absolutely not DiPhi sanctioned, it happens completely outside of DiPhi," Crist said. "I would stress that there is absolutely a divide between DiPhi as an institution and

this select group of people who are doing this other thing, who happen to be in DiPhi, but they do not speak for the organization or represent us in any way."

How did this overlap happen?

Forbes said the old requirement for UNC students to join one of the societies laid the groundwork for overlap between DiPhi and student government.

However, Richards said DiPhi's entry into Student Government can be traced to 2021, when Richards and fellow student Anna Fiore ran for Undergraduate Senate.

"DiPhi started getting interested and involved in Student Government in an organized way when Anna Fiore and I ran for Senate in 2021 to put a focus on campus food insecurity and fix some election rules we thought were unfair or likely illegal," Richards said.

He said one of their primary goals was to amend legislation that had shrunk the size of the undergraduate senate in

"Is it great that Student Government functions as a hybrid regime right now? Probably not."

Andrew Richards

Former DiPhi and Undergraduate Senate member

recent years. Taking advantage of low voter turnout during midterm elections, Richards recruited candidates, including many from DiPhi, his existing social network at the time. Richards also said they recruited a substantial number of non-DiPhi members.

"We recruited a ton of people and they all won, more or less unopposed," he said. "And they all got into undergraduate Senate and suddenly I had a working majority senate to like, play with, which I don't think was something that I had really contemplated."

This new majority enabled Richards to enact reforms, particularly in allocating student fees.

"Opinions differ very strongly about whether or not this was a genuine attempt to improve things or like a scheme, and I think probably the truth is somewhere in between as it is so often with these things," Richards said.

He said DiPhi members were involved with Student Government during his time at UNC, but not in a systemic way. Richards added that he and Fiore's campaign was "definitely the start of what's happening now."

"There's a lot more understanding and there's a lot more interest in power vested in the undergraduate Senate than there was when I joined when I started out," he said.

'A hybrid regime'

Richards compared Student Government to managing a "fantasy football team" for "government nerds." He said it gives members the opportunity to experiment with governance structures and processes, like the district system and constitution, while developing skills and networking.

"Having those kind of people running the pretty serious appropriations process is probably good," he said. "And having those people network with administrators and be able to do lobbying is probably not always bad, although definitely sometimes."

While he acknowledged the positive outcomes of DiPhi's involvement, he said having people from a "high engagement organization" has its downsides. He also cited interpersonal conflicts between DiPhi members which spilled into Student Government and caused disruptions.

"When I passed a bill we expanded the size of senate and then ran 30 of my friends for senate and took over, not everyone was thrilled about that," he said. "Most notably the student body president."

One former DiPhi member who was involved in Student Government, senior Sophie Van Duin, has been outspoken about her concerns about the overlap. Van Duin created a 27-page 'Subversive Guide to Student Government' outlining other trends within student leadership prior to her resignation as chair of the Board of Elections in Fall 2024.

Now, as a graduate, Richards expressed a desire for deeper engagement in student governance from different parts of campus.

"Is it great that Student Government functions as a hybrid regime right now? Probably not," Richards said. "I think now that it exists, it will become more socialized and maybe other groups will run slates. I wouldn't be surprised if you see BSM run one. I think that adding more structure to it is, in general, good."

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Tar Heel Verses

Sponsored monthly by Bob Young '57 in honor of his wife, Pat, and the 1957 UNC National Championship basketball team.

Ten words: edges, dying, substances, blood, days, night, lost, sky, shadows, waiting

On Walking to the [fucking] Post Office

By Cole Ray Thomas

These country roads are not safe.
I am not even sure we can call them "country roads" anymore.
The ditches seem to creep closer to the paved road.
One step soon becomes a shitty leap.
The waning phases of the moon change every night.
The edges of envelopes are browning with age.
We are still looking up at the sky.
Waiting for Trey to show up
The hope that at least his body will be found.

I checked the truck, the one he traded his other truck for,
after he traded the other truck for another truck before that.
I checked his abandoned truck for blood.
All I found was a ransacked truck and thrown around substances.
It's been days, weeks since he went missing
The images flashing, of him dying alone
Possibly killed
Possibly hidden
Another body hidden by some drug addicts

A lost shadow,
Dark black ink pouring over the stories that remain untold,
unpublished
An unsigned certificate of death, an unfinished funeral,
Another missing person
Another unstamped letter.

[FRAGILE]

Cole Ray Thomas is a first-year student with the intended major of "Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literature". He says he is a student for the passion, not for the career.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY | CELEBRATIONS

Friday Center hosts 40th annual MLK Jr. gathering

Speakers, musicians sustained theme of 'We still dream'

By Suhas Nittoor

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The MLK Jr. University Community Planning Corporation hosted their 40th annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy at the William and Ida Friday Center this Sunday.

Speakers throughout the event sustained the theme "we still dream," emphasizing that it is critical to continue King's legacy.

The event began with a flag presentation, followed by a musical performance by Carter Minor, a Carrboro based musician. Then, the Master of Ceremonies Bishop L. Gene Hatley stated the purpose of the planning corporation's Board of Directors.

"In 1993, this board was incorporated with expressed purposes to foster and promote coalition building among and across the diverse racial and religious communities of greater

Orange County by educating the community about humanitarian issues, ideas [and the] legacy of the religious Prophet Dr. King," Hatley said.

Hatley continued, saying that the board also established an endowed fund that awards educational scholarships, promoting community based activities and enhancing racial and religious cooperation in Orange County.

Throughout the event, speakers emphasized the importance of community unity, racial and religious cooperation and the legacy of King.

"His legacy reminds us that achieving real, meaningful change requires ongoing, demanding action," Chancellor Lee Roberts said during the event.

The audience sang the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which includes lyrics about hope and faith, including, "Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us."

Roberts provided additional remarks reflecting on King's visit to UNC and his impact on the University's promise of building a hospitable community for everyone.

King visited the University in May 1960. During his visit, he spoke to an "overflowing crowd" at Hill Hall, Roberts said. King shared the speech, "The Struggle for Racial Justice."

Local leaders including Chapel Hill Mayor Jess Anderson and Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee also spoke at the event. They mentioned the importance of standing up for each other and staying committed to improving the community and world.

Donovan Livingston, current UNC teaching assistant professor and director of the University's College Thriving program, provided the keynote address on Sunday, telling The Daily Tar Heel that it was the "honor of a lifetime."

"If Dr. King were here today, he would encourage, implore you to make sure you don't waste your time sifting through information that is meant to knock you off track," Livingston said in his address.

In 2016, Livingston recited his viral speech "Lift Off" at Harvard's Graduate School of Education convocation, which was later deemed powerful by Hillary Clinton in Teen Vogue.

Livingston told The DTH that he hoped his Sunday speech would



DTH/JOSEPH MOORE III

Bishop L. Gene Hatley speaks about coalition building across diverse racial and religious communities at the 40th annual MLK Jr. Memorial Celebration.

challenge the audience to think about how to respond to moments of injustice.

Delores Bailey, a member of the planning corporation's Board of Directors, presented the Bridge Builders Award along with Lillian Lee, another board member, who also presented the MLK Citizenship Award.

Nevaeh Hodge, a 2024 MLK Jr./Edith Wiggins Scholarship recipient, said she attended the event because the organization's activities are impactful.

"I think it's really important to just celebrate his legacy and continue to fight for what he believed in," Hodge said.

X: @dailytarheel

Chapel Hill community celebrates Dr. King's movement and legacy

Participants marched, prayed, sang in honor of historic holiday

By Victoria Yang

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On a cold and brisk Monday morning, Chapel Hill community members gathered in the First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill for a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The ceremony, organized by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, was originally scheduled to begin at the Peace and Justice Plaza, followed by a march along Franklin Street to the First Baptist Church. However, the planned march was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Despite that, up to 50 attendees still congregated at the Peace and Justice Plaza and marched through the cold to the First Baptist Church.

The ceremony began with various activities featuring Town council members and religious leaders, including a call to worship, interfaith prayers and a collective musical rendition of the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson, an American writer and civil rights activist.

Sunlight streamed in through the stained glass as the crowd sang along to other hymns with the One Human Family Workshop Choir.

"For the most part, it's just a lovely time to be together this year," Chapel Hill resident Margaret Vimmerstedt said. "And you could tell — I mean, I feel like it's really important to have times when our community comes together."

In his speech to the crowd, keynote speaker Rev. Kendal McBroom spoke about the juxtaposition between honoring King's dream and the current state of society in the United States, including increasing rates of



DTH/ANTHONY GUERRA FLORES

50 attendees marched through the cold to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. before gathering at First Baptist Church on Monday, Jan. 20.

poverty, lack of access to education and unaffordable health care.

"These statistics are not just numbers," he said. "They're our cousins, they're our loved ones, they're our church members — they are us."

Honoring King requires more than just a ceremony, he said — it demands action and a commitment to the principles King promoted of love, equity and truth. Chapel Hill Council Member Paris Miller-Foushee

sustaining Chapel Hill's historical contributions toward the Civil Rights Movement.

"Those who believe they can forever keep you down and keep people oppressed, marginalized, subjugated [and] demonize them — that's the delusion, that you can keep people down," McBroom said. "You can't keep people down. People will rise up every time from the ashes."

Achieving justice is a revolutionary act of faith, McBroom said, that mandates courage, persistence and a willingness to challenge and transform systems of power for the

good of the whole.

Although there are many changes happening locally and nationwide, Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee said she continues to be inspired by people, including the community members who marched and their resolve to stay in the fight toward justice.

"Unity is the only way forward," she said. "Let's commit to it beyond today."

"That's the delusion, that you can keep people down. You can't keep people down. People will rise up every time from the ashes."

Rev. Kendal McBroom

Keynote speaker

said in times of ongoing crises, communities must organize and be on the right side of justice.

"I'm ready for my call to action," Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP President Herman Foushee said. "This year we're recommitting to Dr. King's dream on both individual, business and community levels. We know that making the dream come true begins with each and every one of us."

Foushee said he wants to get more people involved in the local NAACP branch so that it becomes more of a community branch,

Carrboro holds youth-led event

Teens share aspirations, educational material

By Caroline King

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People of all ages and backgrounds gathered at the Carrboro Century Hall on Saturday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. with a teen-led event.

The celebration was organized by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Council in partnership with the Carrboro Youth Council and Youth Advisory Board. The event featured a few student speakers from each organization.

One speaker was Vienna Fornville, a tenth-grader who joined the NAACP in the third grade and who's served as the CH-Carrboro NAACP Youth Town Council secretary for the past two years.

In her speech, she said she was recently accepted into the Disney Dreamers Academy, an educational mentorship program. She was one of only four students selected from the state of North Carolina.

She drew the connection between the name "Dreamers Academy" and King's "I Have a Dream Speech."

"I'm the dreamer," Fornville said. "Learning about MLK, about my whole life, his mindset, and how he's impacted the whole world, it felt like, wow, his words have led me to this point."

In the spirit of King, the Carrboro Youth Council presented a video featuring interviews with Chapel Hill High School students about their dreams for the future.

Each person's dreams were different; some were career goals and others were academic ambitions, but all were bold.

The teens also created a Kahoot quiz game with questions about King, asking audience members trivia questions — like the name of his first book, "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story."

The quiz stirred some friendly competition, and the top three with the highest scores each won a book from Golden Fig Books related to the Civil Rights Movement.

While fun, the quiz also educated participants on some of Carrboro's history, like the fact that it was not until 1966, 12 years after Brown v. Board of Education, that Frank Porter Graham Elementary School was integrated.

"[King's] holiday, and holidays such as Black History Month — it's an opportunity to really pay attention to and just really think about where we are, where we need to go," said Anita Jones-McNair, Carrboro's chief race and equity officer, after the event.

Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee, who is the first Black woman to be mayor of the town, closed out the event with a speech calling on the youth to lead the future.

"Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation," she said, quoting Coretta Scott King. "So the young people, you got it next," Foushee added.

Viola Ahmed, the president of Carrboro's Youth Council, embraced the role of change maker.

"The youth council, and especially the NAACP Youth Council, we bring youth voices to the community, and we actually work with local government," Ahmed said.

One of the recent projects the Youth Council worked on with the town was securing a teen space in the Drakeford Library Complex that will open soon.

"The reason why we got that addition to the library is because our youth council spoke up," she said.

The mission of the NAACP Youth and College Division is to create a "courageous generation of intelligent, militant and effective youth leaders creating a world for all people to thrive," according to its website.

Kennedy Lytle, a tenth-grader and head chair of publicity for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council, said she found community within the council and encouraged others to join.

Middle and high schoolers interested in joining the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council and Carrboro's Youth Council can visit their websites online.

X: @dthlifestyle

X: @dthcitystate