

“I signed bi-partisan legislation to ensure privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms.”

— Governor Pat McCrory

“School district formally announces opposition to HB2” on page 6 • Editorial by Sarah Taekman on page 12

Administration designates two gender-neutral restrooms in the A-Building

CHLOE GRILL AND JENNA NICOTRA

With the recent passing of House Bill 2, the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community is a hot topic in politics.

The Chapel Hill High School administration has shown its support for the LGBTQ community by implementing its first two “all-gender restrooms” in the A building.

The gender-neutral bathrooms have one toilet and sink each and had previously been used as faculty restrooms, as they border the teachers’ lounge in A-122. Teachers now use converted student bathrooms with locks on the doors requiring a teacher identification card to enter.

Chapel Hill High School’s Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) has been advocating the necessity of the gender-neutral bathrooms for years and, since early 2015, has been actively pushing the administration to implement the bathrooms.

Former QSA club advisor and English teacher Danielle Cohen has been working with the group to promote the idea of gender-neutral bathrooms for about two years. She feels that the bathrooms will help make life easier for transgender students.

“If we are not in the situation [in which] we have to prove that we fit into a certain gender so that we can pee, then that makes the whole bladder emptying process a whole lot easier for everyone,” Cohen said.

Junior Grace Ingledue, an openly transgender student, has witnessed the impact that the bathrooms have on many Chapel Hill students in just a short period of time.

“Many of my friends are transgender, and they’ve all expressed how glad they are to have the new gender neutral bathrooms,” Ingledue said. “Also, I know some non-transgender people who aren’t



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Chapel Hill High School designated its first two all-gender restrooms in early April, the culmination of a year-long campaign by the QSA club to have them implemented.

comfortable in multiple-use bathrooms who have also benefited.”

Many non-transgender students also agree that the gender-neutral bathrooms are a positive addition to the school. Senior Sam Orenstein believes the bathrooms show progress, but that a change in attitude towards the transgender community is still necessary.

“The gender-neutral bathrooms are a big step forward for our school, but negative responses have demonstrated that discrimination towards trans people is still prevalent,” Orenstein said. “It’s disheartening to hear continued opposition or mockery toward the gender-neutral bathrooms.”

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Student Government supports immigrant

FORREST PRATSON

Chapel Hill High School Student Government is backing a 19-year-old Riverside High school student who is currently in the process of being deported.

Riverside senior Wildin David Guillen Acosta was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on his way to school January 28 and is currently being held in a southern Georgia jail.

Student Government has decided to support Acosta and six other North Carolina high school students who are also currently going through the process of being deported.

On March 24, Chapel Hill students wore purple, Riverside's school color, to show their support for the detained students, in particular Acosta.

Acosta fled Honduras in 2014 to escape gang violence. He told WRAL, a Raleigh news station, that gangs have already killed many of his family members and will most likely kill him if he returns.

Student Government officer Kris Chellani clarified that the group is not supporting the idea of allowing all illegal immigrants to stay in the United States; they just feel that Acosta is similar to many students at Chapel Hill.

"It is an important issue to us because it is really personal," Chellani said. "We aren't fighting for all immigrants to stay in the country. It is just that [Acosta] is someone we can relate to."

Senior and Class President



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE YAO

Seniors Joyce Yao, the Chapel Hill Class President, and Ree Ree Wei hold signs in support of Wildin David Guillen Acosta, a Honduran student who attended Durham Riverside High School and is currently being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Joyce Yao took pictures of students posing with signs that supported Acosta on March 23, and posted the photos on Facebook, along with captions that explained the situation and Student Government's support.

"Right now, this is not about politics," Yao said. "This is about showing our support for a fellow high schooler who wants to live without fearing for his safety every day and who wants to walk across the stage at graduation with the rest of us in June."

Senior Nancy Saldana was "very satisfied when [she] heard [the club] was acknowledging the issue."

"Being denied education, simply because [you're] undocumented, is completely

unacceptable," Saldana said.

However, Chapel Hill senior George McBurney disagreed with Student Government's position on the matter.

"If the individual came here illegally, he or she should be deported and apply for a green card or citizenship," McBurney said.

Despite his dissent, McBurney acknowledged that it is Student Government's job to make representative decisions for the whole student body.

"Whether I agree with their views or not, it is up to Student Government to make those big decisions for our high school," he said.

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Trumbower earns honors

NICK ELSTON

Exceptional Children teacher Randy Trumbower was selected by his colleagues to receive the 2016 Chapel Hill High School Teacher of the Year Award.

Trumbower, who is commonly referred to as "Coach T," is well recognized among staff and students as a teacher who is always available.

"He's just outstanding in terms of motivating the students, understanding what their needs are, ensuring that they're meeting the academic obligations ... He is absolutely deserving of the award," English teacher Stephen Head, who teaches students on Trumbower's case load, said.

Trumbower co-teaches with five other teachers and gives supplementary instruction for math classes.

"My focus is to make sure the kids who need the most help get the most help," Trumbower said.

Trumbower was humble in speaking about the award.

"For me, it's just the recognition of being selected by my peers. I think it's a really cool honor," Trumbower said.

Trumbower credits the honor to the ability of his students to adapt to a new curriculum.

"My kids are making the most out of a difficult situation," he said. "It's like trying to hit a curveball in the dirt."

The award comes with access to a parking spot at the front of the school, as well as recognition at a statewide conference in late May.



PHOTO CREDIT: NICK ELSTON

Exceptional Children teacher Randy Trumbower poses with the parking spot that is reserved for him as the 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Senior Ricki McDowell has worked with Trumbower in the past and is appreciative of his willingness to help his students.

"Coach T is great," McDowell said. "He helps me with my math and he is always there for me, for things both in and out of school."

Math teacher Myles Aitken was enthusiastic in his support of Trumbower winning the award.

"It's frickin' awesome! Coach T works his rear end off every day," Aitken said. "I remember the first day of school, when I told [my students] that Coach T was going to be in the class all year, there was a collective 'Yes!' from the students."

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Students learn to save lives in out-of-school EMT training course

BERRY RIGDON

After expressing interest in emergency medical technician (EMT) work and investing three months into studying the profession, three Chapel Hill students took the EMT certification exam on April 30.

Seniors Lucie Arricastres, Dan Kleissler and Nick Young are enrolled in the class, which is run by Durham Technical Community College.

The class is held at the South Orange Rescue Squad building, which is located behind Acme Food & Beverage Company in Carrboro.

The Carrboro EMT class is taught by Sara Nicholson and Robert Eaton. It typically meets twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, for four hours both nights.

But the EMT work is not easy, and there are hurdles and challenges for students aspiring to work in the emergency care field.

The program has a high failure rate, with 33 percent of participants typically failing the class. Each student must end the course with at least an 80 percent in order to pass.

The class started in February and will end after the exam. The classes total 192 hours when added up, and only 19.2 hours can be missed before the student is automatically failed.

Arricastres said that the class is much more practical and hands on than many of her high school classes.

"Rigorous, yet rewarding," Arricastres said, describing the class.

Arricastres says that the EMT class and lifestyle have taught her the merits of teamwork, working hard and being dedicated.

"I would definitely recommend the class to any students interested," Arricastres said. "The class teaches you to work hard, the content is super interesting and everything I've



PHOTO CREDIT: DAN KLEISSLER

Senior Nick Young works with other students of the Emergency Medical Technician training course to perform a mock medical assessment.

learned has practical uses."

Young is also interested in the practical side of the lessons.

"We do many interesting things. We learn how to splint people's arms and take people's vitals—very practical and useful

things," Young said.

The course offers emergency techniques that are not offered at school. Students learn through field tests and occasional lecturing.

Kleissler put his training

to use a few months ago, when he was called at 3 a.m. to help someone under cardiac arrest.

"Before anything else, I remember thinking, 'I have no clue what to do,'" Kleissler said, "but as soon as I arrived, my training kicked in; that's the thrill of emergency medicine."

The heart-attack victim survived. Kleissler sees the incident as an affirmation of what he took the class for.

"Watching someone go from being medically dead to walking in front of me—as a direct consequence of my work—reaffirmed the importance and excitement of the class," Kleissler said.

Kleissler said that the event has further influenced him to pursue EMT work in the future.

"In a high and stressful environment, your brain starts to run on autopilot," Kleissler said. "That's such a rare feeling outside of emergency medicine."

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Teachers from Germany gain experience

FORREST PRATSON

A group of teachers from Germany came to Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) in March as part of a program through the University of Hamburg and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elementary, middle and high school teachers, numbering 15 in total, visited the district, with five of them coming to Chapel Hill High School. In early April, eight students from UNC traveled to Germany to study under teachers there.

German teachers shadowed their American counterparts, a requirement that the University of Hamburg stipulates for its graduates pursuing careers in education.

"I enjoyed all of my four weeks here," German teacher Ben Churner said. "I couldn't have asked for a better school."

The teachers were assigned to various faculty throughout the high school. However, they could shadow any teacher from whom they received permission.

"Many of the classes I attended were lecture-based, which is very different from schools in Germany," German teacher Tim Schmedtje said. "I



PHOTO COURTESY OF COREY WATERS

Ben Churner, one of the German teachers that visited Chapel Hill High School, stands with history teacher Corey Waters. Churner worked with Waters during his visit to Chapel Hill.

also listened to the same lesson multiple times. It could be tedious."

Schmedtje was assigned to history teacher William Melega, but since his background is in English, he spent time shadowing several other teachers as well.

The German teachers had no outside work to complete during their stay in the district, allowing them to focus on the experience of the trip.

Schmedtje said that schools in Germany operate very differently than schools do in America.

"In Germany, teachers are

on the block schedule, so they are not teaching the same class every day," he said. "Teachers are more like coaches; they are there to help the students teach themselves."

The German teachers also were given a chance to practice teaching. History teacher Corey Waters allowed Churner to guide lessons about Europe in his World History classes.

"It was very authentic and genuine, especially because he was some sort of a primary source," Waters said.

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Perkins commended for mock trial leadership

NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

Senior Julia Perkins was awarded the M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership at Chapel Hill's mock trial competition this year.

The competition, which took place February 6 and is called the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Mock Trial Program, is open to all mock trial teams from the state of North Carolina. The teams compete in a trial simulation, with one team acting as the prosecution and the other as the defense.

According to the application form, "the award's recipient will not necessarily be a star witness or attorney, but he or she will be the person who held the team together throughout practices and competitions."

Perkins has been part of Chapel Hill High School's Mock Trial team since freshman year and has played the role of a witness each year.

"I like it because it's a fun project," Perkins said. "You have to figure out all the details of the case, and it's fun spending time with the people in the club."

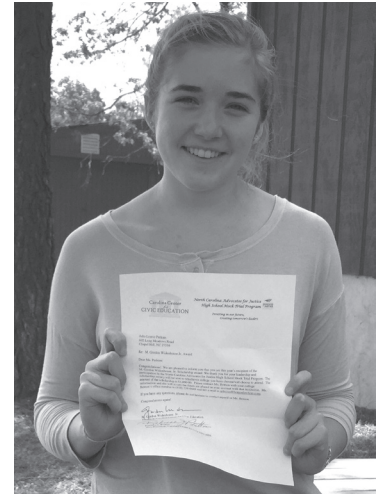


PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Senior Julia Perkins won the M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership for her participation in mock trial.

Perkins was nominated by the team's attorney advisor and former Chapel Hill mayor, Mark Kleinschmidt.

"Mock trial skills are pretty applicable to a lot of things outside of court," Perkins said. "I'd definitely recommend it to anyone looking to join a club like debate or Model UN."

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Spanish class reinstated

GILLIE WEEKS

Honors Spanish Conversation and Composition will be reintroduced to students at Chapel Hill next year.

The class was taught at Chapel Hill four years ago but was cut because of low enrollment. This year, it was offered at both East Chapel Hill and Carrboro High School.

Chapel Hill Spanish teachers worked to reinstate the class for next year because they feel that it offers a unique experience for students to improve conversational and writing skills that are not as much of a focus in the other Spanish classes offered at Chapel Hill.

The curriculum of Spanish Conversation and Composition is divided into thematic units in which students study different cultural elements of the Spanish-speaking world.

The class explores contemporary topics through journals, debates and speaking activities. Students in the class have the opportunity to speak and write in Spanish while receiving vocabulary enrichment.

The prerequisite for the class is the completion of Spanish III or obtaining equivalent proficiency through Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) of the class.

Spanish Conversation and

Composition is designed for students who have completed Spanish III or IV but do not feel ready for ready for an advanced placement course.

"It is still an honors course, so it will be rigorous, but it provides many students the option [to] keep developing their Spanish without taking on another advanced placement course," Spanish teacher Brenda De Leon said.

The class will also offer an alternative for students who take Spanish IV as freshmen and run out of Spanish courses to take at Chapel Hill.

Junior Anna Farmer plans to take the class next year.

"I wanted to speak more Spanish since there isn't very much speaking in AP [Spanish] Literature. In dual [language], we had to speak Spanish all the time, and I feel like I've lost some fluency," Farmer said.

Initially, Spanish teachers were concerned that enrollment numbers would once again be too low; however, after students signed up for classes, it became clear that many students were interested in the class.

There will be one section of the class at Chapel Hill next year to accommodate the 32 students who signed up.

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Winter guard waves way to state title

MIGUEL RIVERA-TORRES AND JEFF RICHARDSON

Chapel Hill High School's winter guard won first place at the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) Championships on Saturday, April 2, capping a season in which they won every event they entered.

Winter guard, a specific category of color guard, is a sport that originated from military ceremonies. It is usually performed indoors and accompanied by recorded music rather than a marching band.

"The best way to describe it is a form of dance with flags, show rifles and sabres," senior Anjali Valentine said.

Valentine joined the team in December of 2015, the second year Chapel Hill had a winter guard.

"Winning was an amazing feeling, especially after our color guard season, which was affected by our coach at the time leaving," Valentine said. "We reclaimed ourselves, and it felt like we were able to show everyone what we were truly capable of."

Mason Kuenstler took the coaching job after Sara Gardner left following the 2015 season.

According to junior Madison Rexrode, Gardner helped organize the team, important to this year's success.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIANO DAVE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Chapel Hill High School winter guard poses after winning first place at the Atlantic Indoor Championships in its second season of competition.

"[Last] color guard season, the team was extremely unorganized and lacked motivation due to us not having a coach. But when [Kuenstler] came along, he gave us grounded work and a true sense of working together as a team," Rexrode said.

Senior Bobby Scoggins has been on the team for the last two years.

"We call winter guard the 'sport of the arts' because it's a beautiful art form that is also very sport-like due to its physical demand for performance," Scoggins said.

Like Rexrode, Scoggins also gave credit to Kuenstler for pushing the team to its true potential.

"[At first], we were a bit unsure how the season would go," Scoggins said, "but our new instructor really took us to the next level."

Now that the season is over, the team is looking for new members to join next year.

"No experience required, just a determination to work hard," Valentine said.

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Chapel Hill says goodbye to beloved staff member



PHOTO COURTESY OF SULURA JACKSON

KRISTINA KIM

After experiencing a heart attack over spring break, administrative assistant Frieda Whitehead passed away a week later in the University of North Carolina Hospital's urgent care unit, leaving faculty, staff and students to mourn her loss.

Whitehead had worked at Chapel Hill for 15 years, during which time she became close friends with English teacher Joanne McClelland.

"I was able to love her; seeing someone every day and talking to them every day allowed for trust. We had a lot in common," McClelland reflected.

History teacher Holly Loranger also worked closely with Whitehead and said that Whitehead will be missed by the entire faculty.

"She was truly the glue that held our school together," Loranger said. "She helped anyone whenever they needed it and was such a huge part of what made this school run. I'm really grateful that

I got to know her and got to work with her for as long as I did."

Whitehead's presence has left an impression on staff members and students alike.

Junior Breana Daye is just one of the students who was affected by Whitehead.

"She was compassionate. I could tell that she cared a lot about me as a student," Daye said.

Whitehead's funeral took place on April 11, at Union Baptist Church in Durham. Many staff members attended in remembrance of their co-worker.

A GoFundMe webpage set up by principal Sulura Jackson to raise money to offer financial support for Whitehead's family has received support from 92 different donors.

On the site, Jackson asked donors to "keep [Whitehead], her immediate family and Chapel Hill High School family in your thoughts and prayers."

Former art teacher Jack Watson left a comment on the page, remembering Whitehead and wishing her family strength in their time of loss.

"It was easy to feel like a boat adrift in rough waters at Chapel Hill High School, but she was always an anchor," Watson commented.

Several student organizations, including the orchestra, national spanish honors society and Student Government donated to the cause.

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Google tests virtual reality in classrooms

JEFF RICHARDSON

Chapel Hill High School was one of the first stops on Google's Expeditions Pioneer Program, which is designed to bring virtual reality "field trips" to the classroom using Google Cardboard viewers.

Representatives from Google visited Chapel Hill on February 29 to perform beta testing on their new product. Students and teachers were able to test out some of the functions and provide feedback afterwards.

Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) Director Garrison Reid reached out to Google in late January after receiving an email advertising the program.

"We filled out a form, and they contacted us, saying they would be in the Triangle area at the beginning of March," Reid said. "Our school was selected, and we were one of three schools they visited the first day in North Carolina."

The program is currently visiting schools all around the United States, as well as some in Sweden and Canada.

Google Cardboard uses a smartphone and a specially designed box to show interactive images to the viewer. Reid described the product as "very similar to Google street view but in 3D."

Junior Abbey Lee experimented with the headsets in her AOIT English class.

"It was actually pretty simple, just an iPhone inside a cardboard box. You can just put it up to your



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARRISON REED

Students in Garrison Reid's web design class experiment with Google Cardboard. The new product consists of a smartphone placed inside a box designed to be worn in front of the eyes.

eyes and see a whole new world," Lee said.

Students were shown a variety of places, including Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore and even the moon. While the students look through the box, the teacher controls the images with an Apple iPad.

"One of my favorite places we visited was [the set of] *The Colbert Report*," sophomore Jonathan Clabo said.

Clabo participated in the beta testing in both his AOIT English and Web Design classes.

"It's cool how Google came to our school and asked us for feedback," Clabo said. "The product had some stabilization issues, but overall it was really fun."

The application that pairs with Google Cardboard is currently on course to be released in late 2017, though the school has not made plans to integrate it into any classes yet.

"I think it was a really good experience, and people around the district are excited to experiment with virtual reality," Reid said.

Junior Matthew Yarnell tried out the virtual field trips while in Reid's scientific visualization class and was impressed by Google's new product.

"It was very cool," Yarnell said. "When we saw the helicopter view of the Grand Canyon, it felt like we were actually parachuting."

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Business club wins big



PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

Junior Nick Pan was nominated to the role of Triad Regional Vice President of the Future Business Leaders of America student leadership organization.

ELI ROSE

A dozen members of the Chapel Hill Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club won distinctions for their participation in the North Carolina 2016 State Leadership Conference in March.

Club vice president and junior Nick Pan earned the role of FBLA Triad Regional Vice President and also was one of ten finalists in the Networking Concepts competition.

Pan campaigned for the regional position at the conference and was selected after a vote by a group of delegates representing the many schools that participated.

While honored by the designation, Pan ultimately credited the other members of the FBLA club with his success.

"To be honest, I have to give all the credit to my chapter," Pan said. "They supported me throughout the entire campaign, and I can't thank them enough."

The club had nine members qualify for the national competition, which will take place in late June in Atlanta. Competitors qualified by placing top four in an event.

The students joining Pan in Atlanta will be senior Evan Amico; juniors Alan George and Ryan Halstater, sophomores Jonas Todd, Justin Mecham, Alex Li, Gabby Kmiec and Riley Johnson; and Freshman Maddie Springer also qualified but will not be going to nationals.

Amico, the FBLA club president, was the fourth place finisher in the Future Business Leader competition.

Amico was enthused by the performance of this year's team, especially when compared to past years.

"This year was the biggest success we have ever had. I am proud of all the members and couldn't be happier," Amico said.

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Students diversify schedules at different schools

JARED WEBER

And you thought attending one high school was enough.

Eight Chapel Hill students opted to split their school days between Chapel Hill and another high school in the district this year, in order to take classes that are not offered at the school.

In addition to the eight Chapel Hill students cross-enrolling, there are also many students from East Chapel Hill and Carrboro High Schools using Chapel Hill to take additional courses.

Cross enrollment is available to all students who have reliable transportation to and from Chapel Hill every day during lunch; most upperclassmen tend to drive themselves, but there is a school bus that provides transit between the three schools at lunch.

The program, which began four years ago with Chapel Hill's Biomedical Sciences class, has expanded rapidly in a short period of time.

"Cross enrollment has almost tripled since we started," Chapel Hill Career Technical Education (CTE) director Kathi Breweur said. "We've hired a new staff member each year to accommodate for the growth."

Juniors Bram Raets and Taylor Cox both decided to take AP Latin at Carrboro High School after Chapel Hill's lone AP Latin teacher, Katharine De Boer, left the high school to work on her graduate school dissertation.

After looking into their options, both students decided to use the dual school program to take their final high school Latin course.

"I first decided to attend classes at [both schools] because Carrboro is the only high school that offers AP Latin," Cox said. "I really do love Latin, but it's a hard language and I was not about to have done four years of it without an AP credit in the end."

On typical school days, Raets and Cox spend their four morning periods at Car-



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Chapel Hill juniors Taylor Cox (left) and Bram Raets (right) walk to second period after taking AP Latin at Carrboro High School. The students are two of eight Chapel Hill students to cross-enroll at other schools this year.

roro—both take three courses and a study hall. After fourth period lets out, they make the 15-minute commute from Carrboro to Chapel Hill to join their three afternoon classes.

Raets, who already had friends at Carrboro he met through a Cappella performances, said the transition between schools "was weird at first, but fun now." The main drawback to the system, he feels, is the time constraint it places on a student's lunch period.

"The [lunch period] commute hasn't been difficult, but it has been a bit annoying," Raets said. "I have things to do during lunch, and I usually lose 15 to 20 minutes of it."

Carrboro Latin teacher Sara Clay first learned she would be teaching Raets and Cox in August when she received her class list.

"I am delighted to have them—the energy and quiet enthusiasm they bring to class," Clay said. "I think dual enrollment allows students opportunities to meet with actual classes and

with teachers where otherwise they might be consigned to online classes."

Other classes that Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School (CHCCS) district students have cross-enrolled to take include Biomedical Science classes at Chapel Hill, Graphic Design courses at East Chapel Hill and the Film and Theater Around the World class at Carrboro.

Overall, Cox said she would "definitely recommend [cross-enrolling] to others."

"At first, I really missed my friends at Chapel Hill, but I got to know a lot of new people at Carrboro," she said. "It's so great that we have this opportunity to collaborate with the other high schools."

For Cox, dual enrollment even opened her interests to a new opportunity—Spanish I.

"I really enjoy it, and it's super easy after taking so much Latin," Cox said.

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Belgian students visit Chapel Hill pen pals

BRENDAN HOLLY

Over spring break, a group of students from Saint-Benoît Saint-Servais, a joint middle and high school in Liège, Belgium, travelled to the United States to stay with their American pen pals in Chapel Hill.

The pen pals are eighth and ninth grade students from Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill High School who took part in a trip last spring to Belgium through the same exchange program.

The program is run by Robin McMahon, the French teacher at Smith Middle School.

"It's really great for young children to open their eyes and see the world outside a classroom," McMahon said.

During the two-week stay in Belgium, the Americans spent one week living with their pen pals, with whom they had been conversing leading up to the voyage. While in Belgium, the Americans experienced Francophone culture while bonding with their hosts.

In early April, the Americans returned the favor to their Belgian counterparts. After arriving mid-spring break, the Belgians were

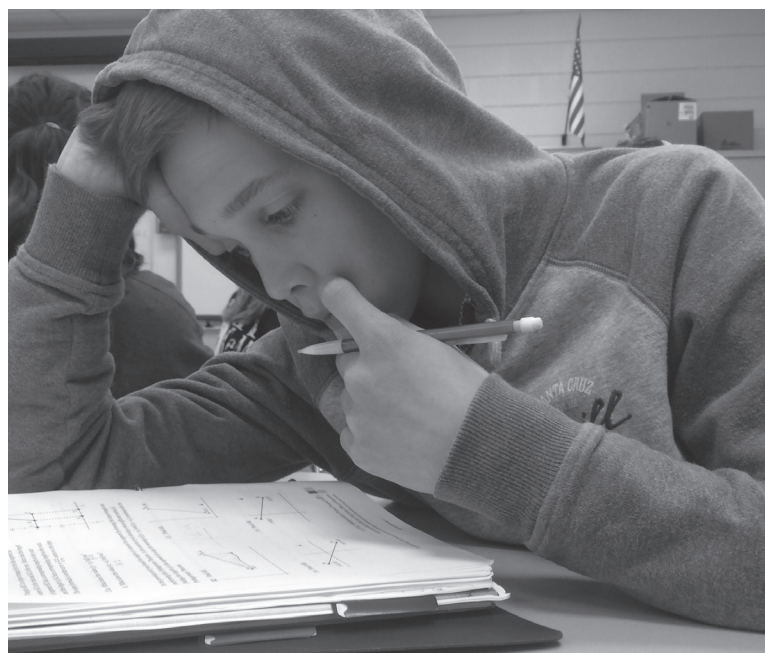


PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

Belgian exchange student Adrien Devadder works on a math worksheet while at Chapel Hill High during a visit to the United States.

immersed in American culture, participating in various activities with their hosts and their fellow travellers.

Some students took trips to the beach, others went to lacrosse games and many visited University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill to experience the Chapel Hill environment.

For the most part, the Belgian students were allowed to choose their own activities; however, some group activities were planned by McMahon, including an excursion to the United States

National Whitewater Rafting Center and a trip to Southpoint shopping mall.

"It was a lot of fun," Belgian exchange student Adrien Devadder said.

The Belgians attended a half day of school at Smith Middle School and a full day at Chapel Hill or East Chapel Hill High School, depending on which of the schools their host student attended.

Devadder was impressed by the difference in scale between Belgian and American schools.

"American schools are much bigger," Devadder said.

The Belgian students returned home on April 7.

Another Belgian student, Nicolas Maroulis, enjoyed experiencing the differences between Chapel Hill High school and his school in Belgium.

"I like [Chapel Hill]," Maroulis said. "In Belgium, I don't have a locker because the students don't change classes; the teacher does. Also, at home, I don't have a bus to school."

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Plans for development in Chapel Hill and Carrboro move forward

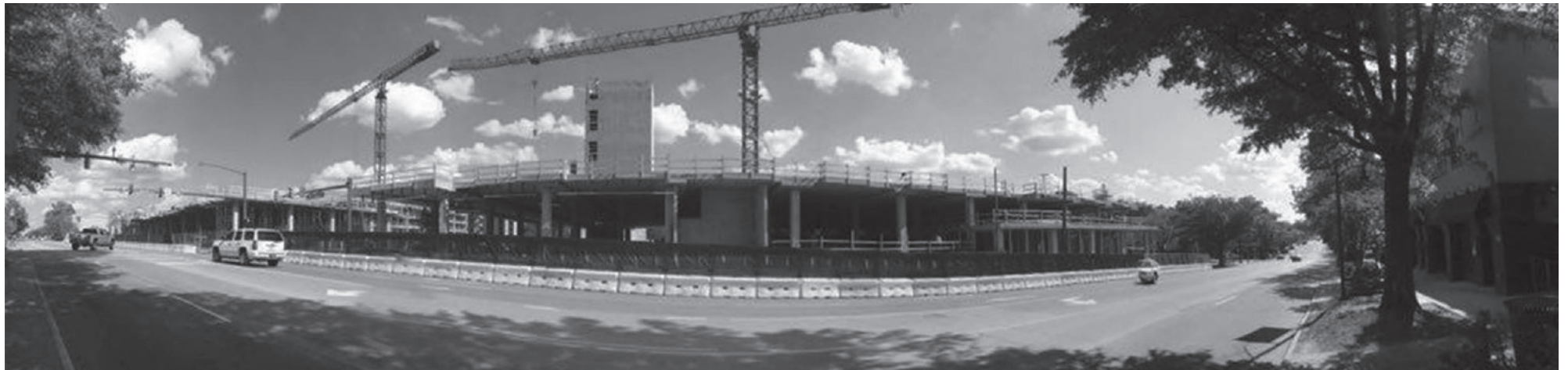


PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

A TargetExpress is rumored to be under construction on West Franklin Street, as part of a project for the development of Carolina Square. The construction for Carolina Square extends, roughly, from University Baptist Church to Panera Bread and is opposite from restaurants, including Old Chicago and Spicy 9. The location was previously occupied by University Square. The project is expected to be completed in 2017.

MILLY AMES

Modifications to a conditional use permit were approved by the Carrboro Board of Alderman on March 8, allowing a new five-story Hilton Garden Inn to be built in downtown Carrboro.

The hotel will be the second one built in Carrboro, following the construction on 370 E. Main Street of a Hampton Inn and Suites, which opened in August 2013. The new hotel will be located at 300 E. Main Street in downtown Carrboro, behind the Carrboro ArtsCenter.

Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle and the Board of Alder-

men have been working with developers to design a hotel that will both benefit and fit in with the local community.

“While the name on the front is a large brand, it will actually be owned and operated by a local business—the same business that owns the Hampton Inn,” Lavelle said.

When asked about the decision to allow the construction of a new hotel, Lavelle stated that “Carrboro is becoming an increasingly popular town. The new hotel will allow more visitors to stay in downtown Carrboro ... [and] increase sales for local shops and

restaurants, [and] music venues.”

Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist, who has been a member of the board since 1989, has witnessed the town develop over the years. Despite being opposed to some of the larger developments in downtown Carrboro, Gist recognizes that the construction of a new hotel will benefit the community.

“I’m somebody who wants Carrboro to look how it looked when I got here; however, I know that’s impossible,” Gist said. “The thing to do is, as the changes happen, make sure they’re manageable and positive. I see [the

construction of the new hotel] as positive change.”

Gist also stated that the hotels are subject to an occupancy tax that directly benefits the community.

“If you go and stay in the hotel, there’s a surcharge that then goes to the community and that can only be used for travel and tourism,” Gist said. “We’ve been using some of that money to offset the cost of all of our festivals and to support different art projects throughout the town, so it’s good from that perspective.”

Although no official statements have been released, there

has been talk about the potential construction of a TargetExpress on West Franklin Street. Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger, while stating she could not confirm any rumors, expressed excitement about the idea.

“[A TargetExpress is] usually a two-level store that provides groceries and other types of things,” Hemminger said. “Wouldn’t that be fabulous for our downtown residents that live there in Northside and along Franklin Street and students to be able to have some grocery opportunities there?”

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School district, high school students voice opposition to House Bill 2

GILLIE WEEKS

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) district formally denounced House Bill 2 (HB2) at the school board meeting on April 7, stating that “the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education opposes House Bill 2 and reaffirms its support for protecting and advancing the rights and equitable treatment of all students and staff.”

HB2 is a recent North Carolina state law that prohibits municipalities from passing their own anti-discrimination uniform policies and instead creates a statewide policy.

The new policy has received backlash because it only discusses gender discrimination based on biological sex, and therefore allows for discrimination against those of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) community.

The North Carolina state legislature introduced the bill in response to the Charlotte Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, which allowed transgender people to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with.

“Local boards of education shall require every multiple occupancy bathroom or changing fa-

cility that is designated for student use to be designated for and used only by students based on their biological sex,” the bill states.

Many believe this section is limiting the rights of transgender people, and the law has been given the nickname: “The Bathroom Bill.”

Students from the CHCCS district have shown their opposition to HB2 by attending multiple protests taking place all over North Carolina. Junior Alexandra Barfield attended one of the first protests.

“It was truly an emotional experience, and, while it was inspiring to see all these people come together, it was also scary in a sense because there were some people who got arrested,” Barfield said.

The school district’s denouncement of HB2 came after much dissent and pressure for the school board to take action came from students and staff alike.

Before the official statement was made by the school board, freshman Tallulah Chen hoped that CHCCS would oppose HB2 in order to stand as an ally with LGBTQ+ members in the district.

“While our school has made some decent strides in creating a

more inclusive environment by installing gender-neutral bathrooms, a response directly addressing HB2 would be greatly appreciated and needed,” Chen said.

Carrboro student Ella Rockart turned her passion into action, by starting a petition to convince CHCCS to oppose the bill. The petition was made after a Carrboro High School teacher emailed the school board asking it to make a statement, and the school board said that it could not release a statement for only one teacher.

Although CHCCS released its statement against the bill before Rockart could show the petition to the CHCCS Board of Education chair James Barrett, the petition received over 675 signatures.

Barrett agrees that HB2 is very harmful to the school district.

“I think HB2 has many flaws. The ones that impact our district are the inability to require living wage of our contractors and the conflict with federal law on discrimination of transgender students in bathrooms,” Barrett said.

CHCCS is not the only district to formally oppose HB2. Durham Public Schools also released a statement against the bill.

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PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

Anti-HB2 protesters picket a “Rally to Support State Leaders” held by Christian leaders of North Carolina and their supporters on April 11 at the governor’s mansion.

HB2 FAQ’s: What you need to know

1) What effect will HB2 have on Chapel Hill High School?
Legally, Chapel Hill students are now required to use bathrooms and locker rooms depending on their birth gender. However, the high school recently opened two All-Gender Restrooms next to a teachers’ lounge in A-122 (see page 1).



2) Will the bill affect the rest of the country’s view of North Carolina?
It already has impacted the view of many out-of-state organizations very negatively, affecting not only North Carolina’s public image, but also its economy. Some organizations, including PayPal, have already pulled potential business out of the state because of the new law.

3) Will HB2 be reversed anytime soon?
While the North Carolina bill is not expected to be overturned soon, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a case ruling that a transgender boy could not use the men’s restroom, forcing McCrory to re-evaluate the law.

\$2 billion dollar bond “invests in our futures”

SAM NIELSEN

Voters in North Carolina passed a bill by referendum in March that would allow the state to borrow \$2 billion to improve infrastructure.

The Connect NC bond, which was supported by both Republican Governor Pat McCrory and Democratic legislators, allocated funds toward public higher education systems, sewage utilities, agriculture, parks and the National Guard.

Supporters of the bond assured voters that it would not require any tax increases and would not put the state's credit rating at risk. They also said that, with interest rates currently low, now is a good time to borrow money.

While they failed to gain enough traction to prevent the bond's approval, opponents of the bond argued that it would eventually lead to an increase in taxes. They also expressed concern with the lack of funds allocated toward transportation and K-12 education.

Part of the bond will be used to replace the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's (UNC-CH) medical education building. Several other universities in the state will receive their own build-

ing improvements and replacements.

The bond will also fund improvements to the Eno River State Park.

The last time North Carolina residents voted for a bond meant to improve state infrastructure was in 2000, when the state borrowed \$3.1 billion.

In a statement released after the bill's passage, UNC System President Margaret Spellings commended state residents for voting for the Connect NC bond.

“With their votes, [North Carolina residents] said that higher education must continue to help meet the needs of the state and to open the doors of economic opportunity for their children and grandchildren,” Spellings said.

The bond was initially intended to be valued at around \$3 billion—with some of the money going to transportation—but was reduced to \$2 billion after passing through the state legislature.

“North Carolina can be a role model for the rest of the nation in how we ran this bond campaign and how we developed [it],” McCrory said. “We did it together as a team.”

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Carrboro opens its streets for annual festival

CHLOE GRILL

The streets of Carrboro closed down for the fourth annual Carrboro Open Streets festival, which took place at the East and West Weaver St. Town Ordinance on April 10.

It was first held in 2013, by the Carrboro Bicycle Coalition to open the street to recreation and encourage community building.

Jeremy Poythress, an organizer of Carrboro Open Streets, said the goal of the event was to bring together the people of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

“We hoped to achieve getting as many people from the community together as we can, while [also] encouraging healthy and active recreation on car free roads in downtown,” Poythress said.

The event included many activities that got the community outside in a fun way.

Community members were invited to dance, do yoga, ride their bikes, food vendors climb a rock wall, make smoothies on a bike blender and participate in many other activities in a public space.

The event coordinators encouraged both individuals and businesses in the community to partake in the annual festival.

“This event welcomes the business community to participate as well, under the stipulation they



PHOTO CREDIT: CHLOE GRILL

Carrboro citizens and out-of-town visitors line West Main Street to participate in festivities at the annual Carrboro Open Street event. The festival offered many activities, including dancing, yoga, food vendors and a rock wall (pictured), among other things.

provide an activity for people to participate in,” Poythress said.

Junior Sarah Ferriter worked at the Carrboro Open Streets Festival as a part of Carrboro Youth Council, a group for high schoolers that volunteer in town. She ran a station that provided jump ropes, bouncy balls and sidewalk

chalk for anyone to enjoy.

“There was such a huge turnout and lots of people participated in the activities,” Ferriter said. “It was so fun getting to talk to younger kids who were all having a great time.”

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“All-Access Playground” in the works for children of Chapel Hill

Town selects Cedar Falls Park as the site for a new play structure, which will comprise features accessible for children with disabilities

GRACE NEWTON

The Town of Chapel Hill plans to build an “all-access playground” that will be open to all children—with or without disabilities.

Chapel Hill currently has nine playgrounds; the new one will include features usable by not only able children but also children with mental and physical disabilities.

WithersRavenel, a civil and environmental engineering company based in Cary, North Carolina, is an engineering consultant on the new project.

According to a consultant report published on the Town of Chapel Hill's website, the goals for the new playground will include “removing architectural barriers that may prevent newly constructed play areas from being accessible by wheelchairs, walkers or users with mobility impairments.”

In Orange County, there are 21,209 children between the ages of five and 17 years old. 895 of whom have some sort of disability, according to the 2014 United States census.

The Chapel Hill Town Coun-

cil has selected Cedar Falls Park as the site for the playground. It has also authorized funding for the design services, Chapel Hill assistant Parks and Recreation director Bill Webster said.

“Design will likely take the rest of 2016,” Webster said. “The last steps will be to find funding to build it and then start construction. I suspect that we'll build in stages.”

Currently, Chapel Hill playgrounds have major structures that are not accessible to children with certain disabilities. The Parks and Recreation department does not yet know what new equipment will be included.

“The major theme will be that all children should be able to access all of the playground's elements and that all elements should be fun, regardless of a person's mental or physical condition,” Webster said.

The Kids Together Playground in Cary is one of the few inclusive playgrounds near Chapel Hill. The park includes wheelchair accessible swings, climbing structures with varying levels of difficulty and more inclusions that are accessible to children with

disabilities.

Chapel Hill senior Grace Baldauf runs Chapel Hill High School's Special Olympics: Project UNIFY, a club for students with and without disabilities that focuses on inclusion and acceptance within the school and surrounding community.

“I have always noticed that the students in the Exceptional Children's program are largely cut off from the mainstream population of students and teachers. We aren't really being given the opportunity to form the relationships needed to develop friendships and promote acceptance,” Baldauf said.

Baldauf thinks that the new playground will give young people the chance to create connections with each other and dispel stereotypes.

Roberto Aponte, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) Adaptive Physical Education Specialist, believes that the addition of an inclusive playground to the community will be beneficial to a wide range of children.

“After school, it's nice to go to the park and have some time off; kids with disabilities don't usual-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYKATE CUNNINGHAM

The Kids Together Playground in Cary has equipment available for use by disabled children. Wheelchair accessible swings and diverse climbing structures are among the options that make participation possible for everyone.

ly have that opportunity,” Aponte said. “The surfaces [will be] different, the apparatuses [will be] bigger, and they really will have more opportunities to move.”

Aponte also feels that the playground will give the community's able children a chance to bond with other children they would not meet at a standard park.

“I think the kids without disabilities from the community will have a chance to spend time with

the kids with disabilities. They're going to be more aware of the issues and how they move and maybe be more aware of how to help them go along the playground,” Aponte said.

Aponte cannot wait for the playground to give kids of all abilities a chance to interact and play in the community.

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State speeding program misinterpreted

DAN KLEISSLER

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) began a two-week program March 24 aimed at reducing the number of drivers driving above the speed limit.

The program, advertised as “Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine,” was in effect from March 24 until April 3. State troopers looked for distinct and clear-cut traffic violations, hoping to ensure safety and reduce accidents.

Many believed that the program was designed to punish drivers going only slightly above the speed limit.

It is a common misconception that there exists a “buffer zone” in which drivers can safely travel above the speed limit in North Carolina.

Senior Anna Grace Kelly agreed with the safety standards that the NCDOT’s policy promoted. However, as someone who believes in the unwritten “seven above” rule, she was wary that she might be pulled over for driving “just one mile over the speed limit.”

“I would argue that it’s not legitimate. If everyone else around you is going 55 in a 45, then going 45 would cause problems and make you more likely to get into an accident,” Kelley said.

In reality, there has been no change in policy. North Carolina drivers have always been subject to an absolute speed limit. The recent program was only an attempt to educate the public on the dangers of speeding—not, as many claimed, an effort to change policy.

Senior Neyha Shankar, who has been driving for three years, said, “I completely agree with the law and think it’s obviously a very reasonable one.”

She stated that, while it might be hard to stop everyone from speeding, the policy should stop people from driving recklessly above the speed limit.

Junior Juan Gasca agreed, saying that getting people to drive slower couldn’t make the roads any more dangerous.

“There are speed limits for a reason—to be safe,” Gasca said. “This is a good start.”

According to the NCDOT, there was a 3.1 percent increase in traffic collisions from 2012 to 2013 in North Carolina. More than 1,200 total people were killed in the crashes.

Speeding caused 37 percent of the total accidents, reported the NCDOT.

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PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY
California-based Mexican restaurant chain Chronic Tacos will open in Meadowmont Village in late April.

Chronic Tacos comes to Meadowmont

MIGUEL RIVERA-TORRES

The first of three Chronic Tacos locations expected to come to North Carolina will open in Chapel Hill’s Meadowmont Village in late April.

Chronic Tacos was founded by Randy Wyner in 2002 in California. The chain now has 30 locations around North America, with plans to have 100 stores by 2018.

The franchise plans to open the other two North Carolina locations in Wake Forest and Raleigh in the coming year.

The upcoming franchises will be owned by Sean O’Neill and his operating partners.

“My owner group and I have all lived here for over ten years,” O’Neill said.

O’Neill, who grew up in Pittsboro, attended Northwood High School and hung out on Franklin Street during his teenage years.

O’Neill made the decision to open a business in Chapel Hill based off his prior experiences in town.

“[Chapel Hill] is a unique town with its own character,” O’Neill said. “We are edgy; Chapel Hill is often the trendy city with a young population, so our concept particularly works here.”

O’Neill chose Meadowmont Village as the location because of the absence of a Mexican restaurant in the mixed-use community. It is also less than two miles from UNC campus, making it readily available for student traffic as well.

Chronic Tacos restaurants cater to all major dietary restrictions and feature an assembly line ordering style that makes it easy to customize meals.

Chronic Tacos CEO and president Michael Mohammed feels that the business will fit in with the state’s restaurant scene.

“The addition of Chronic Tacos locations in North Carolina is a testament to the [widespread appeal] of the food we serve, and we’re excited to share the ‘taco life’ across North America,” Mohammed said.

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“Benny” opens pizzeria on Franklin Street

BERRY RIGDON

A pizzeria chain with Virginia roots has moved into a vacancy on the busiest corner of Franklin Street.

Benny Cappella’s, a spin-off of the original restaurant, Benny’s Home of the Virginia Slice, extended its chain to Chapel Hill for a grand opening on March 24.

The store brings its long operating hours to an already crowded pizza scene in Chapel Hill, as Italian Pizzeria 3, Mellow Mushroom, Topper’s Pizza and I ♥ NY Pizza all present immediate competition.

Despite the competition, Benny Cappella’s manager Shane Brady feels that sporting events will help bring in customers.

“It is a great spot for watching basketball games, and our late nights are when we’re the busiest,” Brady said. “We’ve got the best seats in town.”

Benny’s Home of the Virginia Slice is a Virginia-

based restaurant founded by a fabled Brooklyn pizza chef named Benedito, also known as “Benny.”

His last name has been intentionally kept a secret by the company, per request.

The Chapel Hill restaurant is called “Benny Cappella’s,” as “Cappella” means “Chapel” in Italian.

Chapel Hill senior Jose Escobedo decided to incorporate the new pizzeria’s large pizzas—28”, to be exact—into his promposal. He spelled out “PROM” using pepperonis on a pie.

“The pizza was extremely good and huge, made just how I wanted it,” Escobedo said.

He added that the restaurant’s “service [was] great,” and the location was “very cool-looking with lots of space and colors.”

Benny Cappella’s is open from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays. Every other day of the week, the pizzeria operates from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

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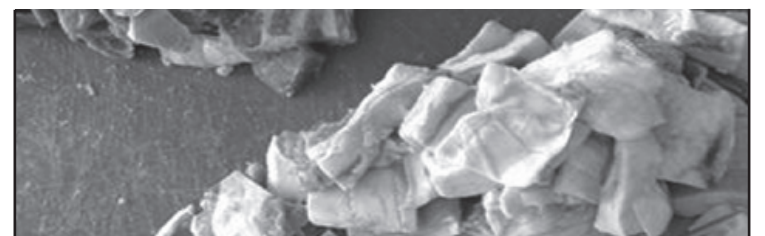
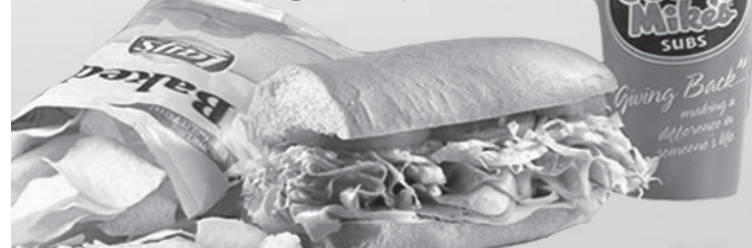
PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

A UNC-Chapel Hill student bites into a slice of pizza at Benny Cappella’s. The new pizzeria opened March 24 on Franklin Street, in place of Subway.



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Seal the Seasons keeps local produce fresh



PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

Seal the Seasons, a local frozen produce company run by Chapel Hill class of 2012 alumnus Patrick Mateer, now has products available at Weaver Street Market.

MILLY AMES

Based in the Triangle, local frozen produce company Seal the Seasons hopes to expand its service to the entire state of North Carolina in the coming year.

The company, headed by Chapel Hill High School class of 2012 alumnus, CEO and co-founder Patrick Mateer, works to provide affordable and nutritious produce to North Carolina communities year round while benefiting local farmers.

"The mission is to make [locally] grown fruits and vegetables available throughout the year, while at the same time helping small farmers across North Carolina grow more food," Mateer, who studies political science and economics at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, said.

The locally grown produce is washed, chopped, frozen with liquid nitrogen and then packaged to be stored and later distributed.

"Most of our product is grade A, and would be normally sold in grocery stores, but we [also] take some surplus product that may have a little water damage," Mateer said. "When you freeze a product, you don't need it to be as high in original quality—the nutrition is still there and it's still delicious, North Carolina food."

Seal the Seasons products are distributed to most local grocery stores, including Harris Teeter, Whole Foods and some co-ops.

Mateer said the product is "more expensive than Harris Teeter brand but cheaper than your other private-label brands."

He hopes to see the company expand across the state and introduce the same model to other states in the future.

"This past year, we've been in about 10 locations; this coming year, we plan to be in about 200 to about 300 or 350 locations," Mateer said. "This year, we will be going statewide and bringing the product to all corners of North Carolina."

A former Chapel Hill classmate of Mateer, Daniel Woldorff, is the marketing and sales coordinator for the company.

Woldorff, who is currently taking a gap year from Duke University, was offered the job after running into Mateer at Weaver Street Market. The pair had shared a common interest in food activism while in high school.

"[Mateer] and I, together, started the community garden at Chapel Hill with a few people including [English teacher] Michael Irwin, [former science teacher] Rob Greenberg, [fellow alumnus] Kristen Powers and the Green Tigers," Woldorff said. "So, we had been involved with food activism before this whole project, but I think that started both of our paths with sustainable food and growing things."

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Local bagel shop expands to Durham



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Chapel Hill class of 2004 graduate Jon Collins prepares to take customer orders behind the counter of The Bagel Bar's original location on Weaver Dairy Road in Chapel Hill. The breakfast restaurant opened a downtown Durham store in late April.

JARED WEBER

As they prepared to inherit Chapel Hill bakery Bagels on the Hill in 2012, Bagel Bar co-owners Jon Collins and Karra Pate knew one thing was for certain: the product—a crispy, New York-style bagel—was already there.

"We knew that the product was solid and customers really liked it," Pate said. "It was just a matter of that they wouldn't come in the store because it was so dirty."

Several aspects of the business, in particular the bakery's 84/100 sanitation inspection grade, had earned it the reputation of a place, as Collins put it, "that should have been shut down a long time ago."

However, after months of constant cleaning and renovations, the business duo were able to rebrand the store as The Bagel Bar—a cleaner restaurant serving the same beloved product.

Four years later, the business is prepared to expand across the Triangle.

Collins—a Chapel Hill class of 2004 graduate—and Pate opened The Bagel Bar's second location in downtown Durham

this April, deciding on a location at City Hall Plaza.

For Collins, a current Durham resident, opening a store in the city was the logical next move for a business that has become increasingly more profitable in recent years.

"Seeing how quickly Durham is developing and how much of a food scene there is there, it seemed like it was the right time to jump into that," Collins said.

The new store will feature all of the same bagel, cream cheese and coffee options that have made the current Weaver Dairy Road location popular, while also adding several new bagels and an espresso bar to boot.

Collins and Pate are committed to introducing an affordable, delicious product to the high-end food scene of Durham.

"Seeing what's becoming available in downtown Durham, a lot of it just has a slightly higher price tag on it as well," Collins said. "We want to be able to stay affordable, because there is a general absence of that [in the area]."

Collins and Pate first began working together in 2010, the same year Collins returned from

teaching English in South Korea, at Merritt's Store and Grill in Chapel Hill.

They immediately realized they had solid chemistry in the workplace.

"[Pate] and I have always worked really well together, like back at Merritt's, there was always a good balance between her skills and mine," Collins said. "We've never had one of those big knockdown, drag out fights you hear about people having."

"We work well together because we feed off each other," Pate added. "We can kind of read each other in a way we know what the other might need, even if the other might not realize it."

After leaving Merritt's, the two were six months into helping manage Bagels on the Hill when they were met with an irresistible business opportunity.

"The owner realized that he didn't want to keep [owning the restaurant], so he gave us the first option to buy the business from him," Collins said. "I was 25 at the time and it just seemed like too good of an opportunity to pass up."

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Alumnus fights preventable blindness by selling mismatched socks

JENNA NICOTRA

Thanks to two Chapel Hill alumni, fashionable socks now serve a greater purpose than providing style and warmth to our toes.

Roger Nahum, class of 2009, and Match du Toit, class of 2008, are the CEO and president of Socks With a Purpose, or SWAP Socks. They founded the organization in 2014 with Cole Page, the company's CTO.

According to the company's website, the trio's mission is to "[break] the conventional mold of matching socks, while raising awareness and aid for the global eye health epidemic."

The socks are sold in packs of four, with the option to swap the socks around and create up to six different pairs.

After being inspired by someone who had a vision impairment, Nahum began working for Pre-

vent Blindness, an American eye health and safety group. While volunteering, he thought of his own method to spread awareness: SWAP Socks.

Blind people do not have the ability to distinguish, or even see, socks.

"I told myself that if I could find a way to create something of my own with substance that provides value in a lot of areas, I was going to do it," Nahum said.

80 percent of all sales go directly toward providing eye care to an individual in need.

The company hopes to expand its enterprise and, eventually, create more products that give meaning to popular fashion.

"We think that there is a lot of power in what we are creating, so, why stop at just socks and vision?" Nahum said.

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PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

Senior Nick Soluri wears mismatched socks to school most weekdays.

SPAMALOT

A LOOK INTO THE MAKING OF THE MONTY PYTHON PARODY

“I didn’t expect the audience to ever stop laughing.”
—senior Zack Weiss

“This year’s *Spamalot* offered an evening of explosive comedy, bodily antics and great music!”
—junior Weston Barker

“It is a kind of humor that you wouldn’t be able to see anywhere else but in a Monty Python production.”
—senior Anna Zurliene

SARAH TAEKMAN

“We eat ham, and jam and Spam a lot”: a subtle line from iconic British comedy film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* is the inspiration for the seemingly random title of *Spamalot*, a Broadway musical “lovingly ripped off” from the film, which played late last month at Hanes Theatre.

The show contained a mixture of the old film supplemented with new songs and gags. Attendees experienced familiar jokes, such as European swallows and bloodthirsty bunnies, as well as new ones like the “Fisch Schlapping Song.”

The story follows King Arthur, played by senior May Burgard, and his coconut-banging sidekick Patsy, portrayed by senior Zack Weiss, as they recruit knights to join the Round Table. Upon the group’s arrival in Camelot, God charges the knights with a quest to find the Holy Grail. Burgard and Weiss will be joined by juniors Bram Raets, Austin Mejia and Weston Barker, sophomore Maddie Wasson and senior Anna Zurliene as leads.

Theater director Thomas Drago assured that, despite the musical additions, *Spamalot*’s humor stays true to the original *Holy Grail*—which many consider offensive.

“The musical has singing, dancing, physical comedy, witty lines and amazing spectacle.”
D r a g o

said. “It’s not for those who are politically correct or easily offended.”

The students agreed that the play leans towards being risqué.

“It’s vulgar and raw, but it also reaches a broad audience,” Zurliene said. “There were quite a few jokes that [people] knew they shouldn’t laugh at, but did.”

Whereas the theater department focused more on serious plays earlier in the year, *Spamalot* provided a contrast with its crude humor and constant jokes.

“The musical was a lot funnier and more vulgar than the other plays I have acted in,” Weiss said.

There was also a difference in the size of the production: according to Drago, *Spamalot* is the largest play the theater department has put on since 2014’s *Legally Blonde*.

“The biggest difference between this musical and the ones we’ve done in the past few years was the scope of the technical elements,” Drago said. “Our new tech director, [Andrew] Way, built an incredible show. It was spectacular.”

The students also felt a difference in the size of the play.

“It felt bigger than normal to me,” Weiss said. “We had lots of people, a cool set and lots of props.”

For playgoers worried that the original movie’s charm will be lost in translation to the stage, Weiss said not to worry.

“It brought the good bits from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and added some hilarious songs,”

Weiss said. “I didn’t expect the audience to ever stop laughing.”

The play showed on April 28, 29 and 30, with curtains opening at 7:30 p.m. Students were given discounted ticket pricing.

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PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

The cast of *Spamalot* runs through a scene at a rehearsal on April 18. The musical, which is currently playing at Hanes Theatre, has been in the works since auditions were held in late February.



PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

(From left to right) Juniors Austin Mejia, Bram Raets, Weston Barker and senior May Burgard all portray knights of the Court of Camelot in *Spamalot*, currently playing at Hanes Theatre.

AP Art History alumni tutor classes



PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

Advance Placement Art History students discuss former essay prompts during a lunch time tutoring session in preparation for the exam.

PAUL MCLAUGHLIN

Current and former students alike were caught off guard when they first heard that Chapel Hill Advanced Placement Art History (APAH) teacher Jack Watson would be leaving the high school in March to take a job at Durham School of the Arts (DSA).

"I was really upset because he's been my mentor through my artistic process for almost two years now, and, without him, I knew we wouldn't have anybody to get us through AP exams," APAH student and Chapel Hill sophomore Kate Nelson said. "Not to mention that any other art teacher we [would] get wouldn't be nearly as cool as him, just as a person."

Substitute teacher Robert Linde was hired in March as Watson's replacement for the remainder of the school year. However, since his background is in visual arts—not art history—former students have stepped in to fill in any gaps in instruction.

"I was [not only] sad because Mr. Watson [was] one of my favorite teachers, but also because I knew the APAH class would suffer," junior Maeve Gualtieri-Reed said. "The class is basically Mr.

Watson talking about art, and you can't get the same effect reading out of a textbook."

Former APAH students have been coming to classes to tutor current students a few days during the week, with senior Milly Ames and juniors Gualtieri-Reed, Sarah Ferriter and Maddie Wiener heading the tutoring efforts.

"[Ferriter, Ames] and I had started an art history club at the beginning of the year," Gualtieri-Reed said. "When we found out Mr. Watson was leaving, we decided that we wanted to help the class and adjust the club to help the current art history class."

The idea was spurred on partially by their own memories of preparing for the APAH exam.

"[Ames, Gualtieri-Reed] and I came up with the idea [to tutor current students] after we found out that Mr. Watson would be leaving," Ferriter said. "We thought it would be a good idea, because I know personally [that] I was really nervous for the exam, and I know some of the students in the class now are in that same situation."

Current APAH students are grateful for the help.

"They're all APAH alumni

and know the content area really well, so they're planning study sessions and they sit in through our classes to review with us," Nelson said.

Study sessions normally entail going through the review book, holding discussions concerning essay questions, brainstorming pieces of artwork to talk about and familiarizing with them.

"I really appreciate how much effort they've put into helping us, and they're extremely knowledgeable," sophomore Laura Chaney said. "I think it's a little bit hard, because the new exam is different from the previous versions, but they've been super helpful."

With the AP exam coming up on May 3, tutoring efforts are ramping up. However, permanent substitute Robert Linde believes that the students will be well prepared.

"Taking over the AP Art History class from Mr. Watson has been a pleasure," Linde said. "He prepared them so well up to that point, that along with the tutoring and the student's intense self motivation, I am but a rarely needed resource."

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Students get loud for Sophie



PHOTO CREDIT: GILLIE WEEKS

Chapel Hill High School's all-female a Cappella group, Lucky 13, performs at the Get Your Be Loud! On concert at Cat's Cradle.

GILLIE WEEKS

"Be loud and move with grace. Explode with light and have no fear."

The words of Sophie Steiner, a former East Chapel Hill student whose life was taken by cancer, continue to inspire many two years after her passing.

The Be Loud! Sophie Foundation, created in Steiner's honor at East Chapel Hill High School, put on its second annual "Get Your Be Loud! On" showcase at Cat's Cradle on April 10.

The Be Loud! Sophie Foundation is a local organization that works to provide support for adolescent and young adult cancer patients at University of North Carolina hospitals, as well as raise money for cancer research.

The showcase, which is one of the organization's main awareness events, featured musical acts performed by local students.

"It's just a fun, amazing way to let normal kids be who they want, while raising money for kids with cancer to help them be who *they* want," East Chapel Hill junior Leah Steiner, Sophie Steiner's cousin, said.

The concert was organized by East Chapel Hill High School's

Be Loud! Sophie Foundation Club, run by senior and president Mia Colloredo-Mansfeld.

"Being able to devote myself to the cause has kept me connected to the Steiners and Sophie's memory," she said.

Organizing such a large event was an extensive task, but, with lots of motivation to support such a meaningful cause, it was executed successfully.

"The planning feels slightly chaotic until the very last minute, when it all comes together," Colloredo-Mansfeld said.

Leah Steiner was also involved in the planning process.

"Trying to find people who want to perform is not too hard, because we have so many people willing to help out," Steiner said.

Chapel Hill students performing included all-female a cappella group Lucky 13 and country rock sextet Half Moon Band.

"We're performing for a cause that we all believe in, and being up on that stage means that we are helping raise money for the foundation that fuels our passions for singing and brings the community together," junior Kiri Morrison, a member of Lucky 13, said.

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Chapel Hill High School improv team keeps the laughs coming

GRACE NEWTON AND ALLIE VAUGHN

From impromptu puns to an elaborate quest for ice cream, you never know what to expect from the Chapel Hill improv comedy team.

The team is a blend of all grade levels and interests; senior Lisa Mercer noted that improv allows its team members to branch out from their usual social spheres.

"Everyone on the team is so different from each other," Mercer said. "Improv is a great opportunity to make friends and interact with people you wouldn't usually have the chance to get to know."

The troupe has two major school events each year: hosting Junior Follies, the district-wide talent show, and performing its annual Week of Shows, in which the group performs every day dur-



PHOTO CREDIT: GILLIE WEEKS

The Chapel Hill improv comedy team, which performs year-round, is comprised of students from all grade levels.

ing lunch, throughout the week before finals, in the chorus room, hoping to lower exam stress levels.

Throughout the year, the group practices every Wednesday

in preparation for its events and monthly shows.

"Whenever we do shows, we plan what games we are going to do and we play those games at practice so that we have an idea

of how the show will look," senior Anna Zurliene said. "But the content and ideas involved in the games are always different during the actual showtime."

Part of improv is getting com-

fortable with being uncomfortable through experience and practice, Mercer said.

"For me, the hardest part of improv was breaking out of my comfort zone. It was difficult to perform in front of my peers. I like to plan and be in control, but the spontaneity of improv allows for neither of those things," Mercer said. "But I've definitely become more comfortable in front of an audience, and I think it's been beneficial to me to challenge myself."

Many of the performers agreed that the best part of the improv team is its members.

"I absolutely love all the people that make up the group," sophomore Avery White said. "We aren't just a club; we're all friends."

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McCrory makes peeing the priority with new transphobic bathroom bill

SARAH TAEKMAN

What do you think is the most pressing issue North Carolina faces today? Poverty? Energy? The job market?

North Carolina's governor feels it is where people pee.

In an "emergency" session of Congress costing \$42,000, State lawmakers read and debated House Bill 2 (HB2), rushing it through the legislative process and giving Democratic opponents merely minutes to counter it. The bill passed the House and then the Senate after the Democrats walked out in protest, claiming they had not been allowed to participate in the process. Despite having 30 days to either sign or veto it, governor Pat McCrory signed it into North Carolina law later that day.

"We witnessed an affront to democracy," Democratic senator minority leader Dan Blue said. "We will not be silent."

HB2 packs two punches: it

nullifies any local laws that ban discrimination against LGBTQ+ people—essentially making it legal to discriminate against them in the workplace—and allows people to deny them services; it also forces transgender people to use the bathroom designated for the sex listed on their birth certificate—not the one they identify as.

Because the law negates any local protective laws for LGBTQ people, it is now fully legal to discriminate against them when hiring and providing services. In order to sue against discrimination in the workplace, plaintiffs must take their cases to the federal level.

The better-known part of the bill is the bathroom aspect, which states that the

only transgender people who will be allowed to enter the bathroom corresponding to their gender identity are the ones that have legally changed the sex listed on their birth certificate—which, in North Carolina, means they have undergone the extensive sex reassignment surgeries and hormone therapies to "pass."

Many transgender people simply do not have the money for the surgery—the whole undertaking can cost up to \$30,000 for

male-to-female transitions and \$25,000 for female-to-male transitions. Some just choose not to have it done. Regardless, the provision works against the vast majority of the trans population and traps them in bathrooms they do not feel comfortable in.

The bill garnered national attention and exploded on social

media, spurring hashtags like "#WeAreNotThis" and "#BoycottNC." There have also been rallies across the state, and a federal lawsuit has been filed to fight the new law.

The McCrory Administration is also feeling the heat from businesses. Multiple companies—Bank of America and Google, just to name a few—have voiced their disapproval of HB2.

Online payment company PayPal revoked plans for a new global operations center which had been predicted to bring a \$20.4 million payroll impact annually to Mecklenburg county and the surrounding area.

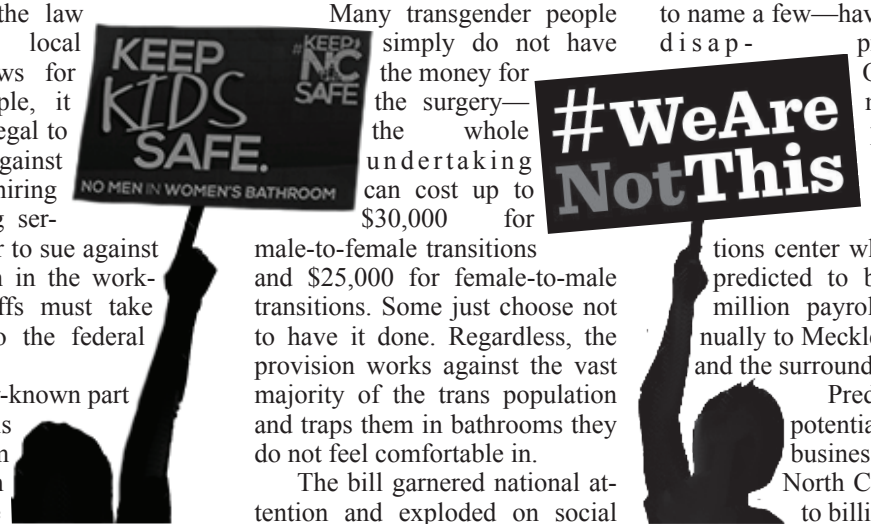
Predictions of potential losses in business revenue in North Carolina are up to billions of dollars.

"I signed bipartisan legislation to stop the breach of basic privacy and etiquette, [and] ensure privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms," McCrory said on Twitter.

In addition to the fact that McCrory clearly does not know what a bathroom stall is, a lot of his defense is centered around the "bathroom myth," which states that, given the chance, a biological male would enter a women's restroom and harass the women in there. Key word: "myth." There are exactly zero reported cases of this happening in the U.S. Thus, McCrory passed the bill on an entirely hypothetical event. Is that mere possibility actually worth the comfort of thousands of transgender North Carolinians?

With all the outrage and discomfort that HB2 has spurred, can McCrory truly claim he acted in the people's best interest? By forcing out jobs? By legalizing discrimination?

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Traditional gender roles have muted the voices of male body positivity movement

MILLY AMES

Contemporary media bombards us every day with unrealistic depictions of the human body. Regardless of where you find them, the images can be detrimental to the way we view ourselves and influence the way we treat each other.

Chances are that as you scroll through your Facebook feed, you will also encounter an article or status either celebrating women's natural bodies or condemning the ideal standard of beauty. However, when was the last time you saw a post that did the same for men?

The positive body image movement appears disproportionately centered around the female body, leaving us to question why

men get left behind.

Throughout history, visual culture has paid greater attention to depicting the female body. Eroticized depictions of the female body in art can be linked to traditional gender roles, which have put an overwhelming emphasis on a woman's beauty and sexuality rather than other more valuable traits. From Renaissance nude portraiture to the pin-up girls of the 1940s, society has continuously tried to tailor the female body to satisfy the male gaze.

Yet, over time, we have come to overlook the unrealistic standards that the media now imposes upon men. Unlike the case with women, traditional gender roles have afforded men the ability to

make up for what they may lack physically with other attributes, such as humor, assertiveness or intelligence. Today's social media has created the basis for a much more superficial world.

A result of traditional male gender roles is the "macho effect," which I believe is partially responsible for the lack of a positive male body image culture.

Traditional masculinity emphasizes both emotional and physical strength. It has played a part in both defining the male idealized beauty standard and hindering men who do not, or physically cannot, meet society's standards from speaking out against them.

The male bodies that dominate today's movie industry or

grace the pages of *People* magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive" issues are typically over six feet tall and relatively lean, with high muscular definition. Like the idealized female bodies, they are unobtainable for most men, as in contrast the average American male stands at approximately five feet nine inches and weighs about 195.5 pounds. Male body shaming is increasingly becoming a part of contemporary culture, especially on the internet.

Body dysmorphia, a mental illness causing the afflicted to obsess over minor or imaginary physical flaws, and eating disorders are no longer decidedly female issues. Although the disorders are more common among

teenage girls, they are becoming increasingly prevalent in young men. Today, most studies estimate the number of males struggling with some form of eating disorder is between 26% to 36%, with men altering healthy eating habits in attempts to either slim down or bulk up.

While women continue to feel the effects of unattainable body standards, the impact the media has on male body standards is growing. As a society, we need to ensure that we are accommodating to the change and taking steps toward creating an accepting society for people of all genders.

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Congrats, Self—The dilemma of posting college acceptances on social media



PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

JARED WEBER

When my dad was a high school senior, he and his classmates all received their college acceptance letters on Tax Day, April 15 directly from the mailman.

The only way he was able to learn where his classmates would be undergraduates was through word of mouth or the school's yearbook, where students had the

option to accompany their senior portrait with the name of their college of choice. Although students were not obligated to disclose the information to the yearbook staff, it was many of his classmates' only method of keeping up with each other after graduation.

Interestingly enough, the yearbook was sent to press every year before actual college acceptance, or rejection, letters were received. Many of my dad's high school friends probably still think he went to Yale University.

Many things in our society, technologically and socially, have changed since Tom Weber's senior year. Arguably, none of them impact the way we interact with each other more than the emergence of social media. Facebook,

Twitter and Instagram now allow us to keep tabs on each other long after we toss our caps in the air at the Dean Dome.

The social media college announcement has become the standard for platform for seniors to announce their decisions. "ABC University Class of 2020!!!" many of them said this year. The annual posting has become a festive experience for many, but, being able to post more, does not necessarily mean that we should.

For every student who proclaims his or her acceptance to a highly selective college over Facebook, there is at least a handful of rejections as well. The latter often include several of our peers and, sometimes, ourselves. Moreover, Every college does not

release its decisions at the same time anymore, leading to a lengthy waiting period for many students after their peers already announce where they have been accepted. While posts will receive a gross number of likes and congratulatory comments from friends, other acquaintances might sit at their computer contemplating it all and comparing themselves to the accepted.

In the past couple months, I have scrolled past several posts that touted exceptional achievements, but flaunted them in a less than noble way. The competitive nature of the Triangle academic community is partly to blame for the perceived arrogance, as high-achieving students simply want to let their happiness be known after

finally passing the finish line. For students who are smart enough to be accepted into highly selective universities, though, I would ask you to consider whether it is necessary to broadcast each acceptance letter you received.

I will be the first to admit that I lost track of the complications of posting, too. I published my college decision earlier this month after making an enrollment deposit, mostly because I was just relieved to finally have reached the point where I had the option to post.

But when Facebook will largely be what sustains our new, long-distance friendships with each other for the rest of our lives, I regret my first impression was self-congratulatory.

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Should we embrace the development of Chapel Hill-Carrboro?



ARTWORK BY MILLY AMES

FOR DEVELOPMENT

GRACE NEWTON

The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro are well known for being full of local stores and restaurants. When town officials announced plans to begin construction of chain businesses throughout the area, citizens began debating whether the plan would be beneficial to the towns.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen recently decided on plans for the construction of a Hilton Garden Inn in the downtown area, the second hotel built in town history.

While Carrboro will be receiving a new hotel, Chapel Hill may potentially see the development of a five-story Carolina Square building in upcoming years. The development is expected to have apartment spaces for students on the top four floors, while the bottom floor is rumored to be a TargetExpress.

Although many Chapel Hill-Carrboro locals may argue that the new development is bad news for the area, I believe the addition of large chain companies could

benefit the community in several ways.

Having chain stores and restaurants added to the town will open up multiple job opportunities for local citizens.

In addition, companies such as Target and Hilton will generate both retail and property taxes, which will increase the tax base of the city.

A larger tax base will be especially beneficial to the town of Chapel Hill because of the university. The university does not pay property tax, causing the town to force increased taxes on residents to make up for it.

“The straight up property tax values on [the new Hilton Garden Inn] are healthy and [will] help to keep individual homeowners property taxes down,” Carrboro Board of Aldermen member Jacquelyn Gist said.

The new developments will breathe new life and prosperity into the downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro area without detracting from the unique small town feel.

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AGAINST DEVELOPMENT

GILLIE WEEKS

Take a walk down Weaver Street in downtown Carrboro and you are sure to experience the eccentric, small-town color. Local, one-of-a-kind businesses fill brick buildings that remain from the historic Carr Mill, the namesake of Carrboro.

However, the illusion is broken when you see the Hampton Inn and Suites and its accompanying parking deck towering over the entire downtown. The hotel is just the beginning of development of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

Carrboro was a hotel-less town for over 100 years until 2013, when its first hotel was built on Main Street. The new Hilton Garden Inn will be built next to the current Hampton Hotel behind the ArtsCenter.

While a few Aldermen members have made comments on how the construction of the hotel will be beneficial, little concern has been expressed about the effects of a second hotel on the business of both establishments. Carrboro

is a small town and will have trouble supporting two hotels in such close proximity to one another.

“I think this is a really good opportunity for us to capture some jobs, for us to capture some income, for us to capture some good foot traffic,” Alderman Bethany Chaney said.

Although increasing jobs in Carrboro is important and would benefit local residents, there is no need for a hotel to be located in the heart of our town to produce job opportunities. Hotels in Carrboro could be beneficial, but, when they diminish the local feel of the town, their disadvantages far outweigh their advantages.

Furthermore, Carrboro has never had an issue with generating foot traffic, and anyone who has walked downtown on a weekend can attest to that.

Both the Hilton Garden Inn and a Target would make money, but their location in the center of town is harming the local environment that is so admired by citizens. They should instead

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Value teachers, old and new alike

SAM NIELSEN

Is the loss of veteran teachers one of the state’s primary issues concerning education?

After being reelected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners in March, board member Penny Rich told Chapelboro.com, that “public education is the number one hit for [the North Carolina] General Assembly, and we need to collaborate with the school board more and figure out how we can keep the teachers that we have here. Our veteran teachers are amazing.”

I agree with much of Rich’s statement, but it does not fully address the problems North Carolina faces regarding education. The loss of veteran teachers is one of many symptoms caused by flaws in the state’s educational system.

According to a report published by the state Board of Education, the teacher turnover rate between 2014 and 2015 was 14.84 percent, the highest it has ever been.

When separated into different categories, the turnover rate was even more informative. Career status teachers—those who are “not subjected to the requirement of annual appointment”—had a turnover rate of 13.37 percent. First-year teachers had a turnover

rate of 20.81 percent.

It makes sense that first-year teachers would have higher attrition rates than older ones. Some may find that they do not enjoy the profession; teachers attempting to start a family might follow their spouses to another location; others may just not be rehired due to poor job performance.

However, as a high school student, I have been exposed to the sentiment that joining the profession is a challenging process. Perhaps the main issue is not that veteran teachers are leaving, but that the state is making it too difficult for newer teachers to become veterans in the first place.

One of my old teachers used the analogy that public education treats new teachers like tubes of toothpaste. It attempts to squeeze as much value out of them as it can, before “discarding” them. By doing so, a school avoids retaining a significant amount of older teachers and thus avoids having to provide the benefits that they require.

While the analogy clearly does not apply to all schools in North Carolina, it has some merit. Teaching is hard, and lately our educational system has not been making it any easier.

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Grumble Jumble

Have a complaint? Send it to the Grumble Jumble at proconian@gmail.com or Tweet us @proconian

“Students should bring their [bleeping] IDs to open doors.”

“We’re the only high school in the district that isn’t rated [as one] the top schools of the nation.”

“The handsoap things in the bathrooms are always broken.”

“The A building is always really warm — except for Cooper’s room.”

“Getting stuck behind slow walkers in the hallway and wanting to put your backpack on your head and run over them all.”

“When your parents ask you every day where you want to go to [college].”

“Seniors should be able to get more than 30 absences. I’m slowly dying.”

“Thanks to school, I don’t get to spend enough time with my cats.”

“Teachers should not assign homework while AP exams are going on.”

“If this is spring, then summer is going to be infernal.”

“I changed the language on my phone and now all the text looks different.”

“My allergies feel like there is a small pollen animal living in my throat.”

“I hate how I get sun burnt every time I go outside.”

“Clubs that don’t take down their fliers after the date passed ... SMH.”

“Whether or not to use the math hallway bathrooms is a dilemma every day.”

PROCONIAN

The Pros and Cons of Chapel Hill

High School – Volume 81, Issue 4

proconian@gmail.com

www.proconian.org

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Highlanders Rugby sustains winning ways and growth

BRENDAN HOLLY

The ancient Romans started it, the English perfected it and now it is spreading to the United States.

Rugby, alongside Ultimate Frisbee and lacrosse, is one of the fastest growing sports in America. The game was brought to Chapel Hill, when, in 2003, East Chapel Hill High School's International Day sparked interest in forming a team: Highlanders Rugby was born.

The name "Highlanders" originated from one of the original players whose family had Scottish ties.

A year later, the Highlanders played their first game. They went on to reach the North Carolina state championship later that season, establishing the roots of a soon-to-be prestigious rugby program.

Since then, the team has grown in size, recruiting players from across the Chapel Hill area. The team also holds an impressive five state championships to its name.

Rugby consists of two teams with 15 players each. The objective of the game is to score as many points as possible by pass-



PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

The Highlanders Rugby team, composed primarily of high school students from the triangle, has found success in state competitions. Since being founded in 2003, the team has earned five state championships and developed a reputation as an accomplished club.

ing, carrying, kicking and grounding the ball into the end zone.

Seniors Jose Escobedo, Lonnie Baldwin and Ricki McDowell, freshman Henry Stanley and

sophomore Ian Hirsch are the current team members from Chapel Hill High School. Chapel Hill High School alumni who played include Logan Tisch, JaSeth Fike,

and Tim Schleich.

"You don't have pads or helmets, so it's very intense when you tackle," Escobedo said.

Escobedo transitioned from

football to rugby last year and has fallen in love with the sport since.

"To play on the Highlander rugby team is very exciting," he said.

Highlanders coach Robert Joseph says Escobedo is a very good example of a player who has made a great transition.

"[Escobedo] is a very good runner with great footwork" Joseph said.

Escobedo marvels at the camaraderie especially considering the team's great diversity.

"We have people all around the world playing with us. People from South Africa and Italy and much more" he said. "They are all so fun and they motivate me to keep playing right beside them."

Hirsch began playing this year after hearing about the team from a friend.

"I play rugby because I crave the thrill for the game," Hirsch said. "It is different from other sports because it is a gentlemen's game. We are there to play rugby and we respect each other."

This year's Highlanders team finished their season 6-0 in season play, securing the first seed in the playoffs, which will begin May 7.

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Railhawks' Walden takes talents to Elon

KRISTINA KIM

Senior John Walden has loved soccer since the age of three and has continued to stand out in the sport.

Through Chapel Hill High School and Capital Area Railhawks Development Academy soccer, Walden has developed into a well-rounded soccer player.

He committed to play college soccer for Elon University in February.

Before the Railhawks Academy, Walden played varsity soccer for three years at Chapel Hill High School. He said there was never a dull moment on the team.

"I loved getting to play for and represent my school and having fans and friends in the stands cheering me on," Walden said. "Sometimes the amount of soccer I play can burn a player out and make them lose the fun, but the high school team was always a blast."

Walden said that Chapel Hill coach Jason Curtis had a massive impact on where he is now. Curtis described Walden as a "strong player from the start."

"He'd get this look, and then he was going to take it—and, if not score, get at least a decent chance on goal," Curtis said. "Sometimes we'd have to tell



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN WALDEN

Senior John Walden committed to play soccer at Elon University over UNCW, High Point University and others.

the players not to watch him and keep moving forward because he wasn't selfish either."

Senior year, instead of continuing to play on the Chapel Hill High School soccer team, Walden joined the Railhawks Academy team, which he considers the greatest opportunity he has been

offered for soccer.

"I am lucky enough to travel all over the country to train and play, in a professional environment, with the best players in the country," Walden said. "My Railhawks team is currently ranked number one in our Southeast Division and the fifth best team in the country."

Walden knew he wanted to play in college. Although the process of recruiting was difficult, Walden believes he made the right choice in committing to Elon University.

It was his final choice for its balance as a school, since it not only has an top-20 ranked soccer program, but it also has a strong academic reputation as well.

"Now that I am committed, I have a weight off of my shoulders and I can't wait to be a phoenix," Walden said.

Walden's teammates expressed pride in his college commitment.

Senior Nick Hebert recalls playing with Walden on the Chapel Hill soccer team as fun.

"I've never seen someone work so hard at a game they love like [Walden] does," Hebert said. "He will, for sure, excel in college."

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Tigers toss three no-hitters



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN STOUGH

Senior Nick Elston pitched a perfect game against Oxford Preparatory High School on April 14.

JARED WEBER

Baseball players have a lengthy history of following superstitions, and almost no element of the sport is more taboo than the elusive no-hitter.

Over the last couple weeks though, conventional superstitions have meant nothing to the Chapel Hill pitching staff.

The Tigers pitched three no-hitters in nine days, one of which was a perfect game by senior

right-hander Nick Elston, to help the team bring its record to 18-5.

"It really only takes one mistake for a perfect game or no-hitter to be lost," manager Lee Land said. "These guys were on."

Elston kicked off the improbable run in style, striking out 10 batters while shutting out Oxford Preparatory High School 10-0 April 14 at Tiger Stadium. He only faced 15 batters total, as Chapel Hill mercy-ruled the visitors in five innings.

"Honestly, I wasn't thinking about it that much during the game," Elston said of the perfect game. "I knew I at least had a no-hitter, and I didn't want to distract myself or think about it too much while it was happening."

Junior Jackson Pettee followed up Elston's perfect game with a no-no in another 10-0 five-inning win six days later against Southern Durham.

Pettee was nearly flawless, striking out 14 of the 15 batters he faced and allowing just one walk.

The final gem came April 15, as senior Justin Anthony and sophomore Tyler Hansen combined for another no-hitter of Southern Durham, 15-1—the lone run came unearned off of a fielding error.

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Former athletes become track and field coaches

Three former Chapel Hill High School track and field athletes have taken positions as assistant coaches for the team's 2016 season. Proconian's Grace Newton caught up with the Molly Nicholson, Daniel Margolis and Adam Sutter to talk about where they are currently working, what they are studying and what it is like to be back at Chapel Hill as coaches.



Adam Sutter

When did you graduate?

I graduated Chapel Hill in 2013 and have been coaching every year since.

Did you run in high school, if so what events?

I ran the 1,600 meter and the 3,200 meter consistently, and various other events once or twice. I also competed in pole vault and triple jump my senior year.

What caused you to have an interest in coaching?

My coach for pole vaulting left the year I graduated. I was concerned for the program and wanted to make sure other athletes in the pole vaulting event were given the same guidance I received when I was there.

Are you currently still in school?

I dropped out of college in 2014 and have been working at the Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center as a supervisor in the food and beverage department since.



Daniel Margolis

When did you graduate?

I graduated Chapel Hill last year, class of 2015.

How long have you been coaching?

This is my first season coaching.

Did you run in high school; if so, what events?

I ran cross country in the fall and pole vaulted in the spring.

How has it been working with Adam Sutter?

I believe the team has benefited greatly from the work [Sutter] and I have done. I've enjoyed working with him and the team, and I'm sure he feels the same.

Are you currently still in school?

I am finishing up my second semester as a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Are you currently working any other jobs?

I don't have another job, [I am] just doing my best as a full-time student.



Molly Nicholson

When did you graduate?

I graduated high school in 2015. This is my first year coaching.

Did you run in high school; if so, what events?

In high school, I threw shot-put and discus.

What caused you to have an interest in coaching?

It started during my senior year of high school, when I was the captain of the women's shot-put and discus team. I enjoyed helping the new track members learn the basics of throwing.

Are you currently still in school?

I currently attend Alamance Community College and will be transferring to NC State to pursue biology.

Are you currently working any other jobs?

When I am not coaching, I am teaching horseback riding lessons at Spence's Farm.

PHOTO CREDITS: GRACE NEWTON

Van Ord continues success

CHLOE GRILL

Of all the Tiger athletes that continued on to college sports, one stands out in particular for her accomplishments.

Appalachian State University Junior Tristin Van Ord, a class of 2013 Chapel Hill High School graduate, continued her successful running career as a mountaineer, winning numerous events for indoor track, outdoor track and cross country.

Van Ord believes she grew as a runner in high school.

"The community of runners at the high school was amazing, and I learned that, to be good at something, you really have to love it," Van Ord said. "I learned to love running while I was at Chapel Hill High School, and that is what has helped me succeed throughout my running career."

She then went on to run for App State, recently winning the Sun Belt conference Indoor Track Athlete of the Year for women. After this season, Van Ord will have five first place wins for conference championships.

Although she is proud of her personal accomplishments, Van Ord thinks her biggest accomplishments are with her team. The women's track team is the first Appalachian State team to win a Sun Belt championship after joining the conference last year.

"This individual success is

rewarding, but I think that my most proud accomplishment thus far has been winning as a team this year at the indoor conference championship," Van Ord said.

Van Ord's best event is the 10K, and she was able to qualify for the NCAA East Regionals with a time of 34:23. She also runs the 3K and 5K for indoor track and runs the 5K, along with the 10K, for outdoors.

Van Ord believes that, although college running has taken some sacrifices, it has been worth it.

"A lot of weekends we have races, so we miss a lot of things that go on during the weekend, but it's all worth it in the end," Van Ord said. "Racing is so exciting, and you transcend into a different world when you're pushing your body to the limit."

Van Ord's coaches, John Weaver and Michael Curcio, are excited for her success.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRISTIN VAN ORD

"She is a very dedicated and motivated young lady with a positive attitude and a great sense of humor," Curcio said.

Current Chapel Hill runners who were teammates with Van Ord, like senior Marija Crook, remember her as an inspiration to the freshmen.

"[Van Ord] was such an amazing role model for the younger girls on the team because of her dedication to the sport and the joy she brought to the practice everyday," Crook said.

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Sports Briefs

Accurate as of April 29, 2016

Baseball

The Chapel Hill varsity baseball team finished its regular season with a 19-5 overall record, sitting at second place in the Big Eight with a 9-3 conference mark. The Tigers, led by manager Lee Land, have recorded major victories against rivals Orange and Carrboro High Schools. Senior captains Blake Rasnake and Nick Hebert lead the team with batting averages of .391 and .394 respectively. Pitchers Nick Elston and Justin Anthony lead the Tigers with ERAs of 1.68 and 1.42 respectively.

Men's Golf

The men's golf team finished its regular season in second place in the conference, heading into the regional tournament on May 2. The team is led by its three cap-

tains: sophomore Kevin Zhang and seniors Matt Cadena and William Babcock. The team's top four starting players are Zhang, senior Nathan Guskiewicz, freshman Ryan Rosamond and sophomore Jackson Paul. The top five players will automatically advance to the regional tournament.

Men's Lacrosse

The Chapel Hill men's lacrosse team wrapped up its regular season with a home victory over Northwood on April 25 to finish its regular season with an 8-9 record—5-2 in the Big Eight conference. Led by head coach Brent Voelkel, they finished third in the conference. The team has recorded key victories over Jordan and Orange, while nearly playing Northwest Guilford, the state's number two team, to a tightly contested first half before losing 17-6.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team

finished its regular season 13-3 with a 8-2 record in Conference Five. Led by four captains—seniors Paige Haskins, Morgan Walton and Jane McMurry and junior Lundy Fine—the team is currently ranked tenth overall in the state. They defeated rival East Chapel Hill on April 19 for the second time this season, thanks to two goals in the final 25 seconds by Haskins.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team clinched the Big Eight conference championship with two games to go and currently sits in first place with a 10-0 conference record and an overall record of 12-2-2. The team is led by senior captains Kaitlin Hendershot, Morgan Brandewie and Emily Ball. The team's senior night was held May 2 as the team takes on Northern Vance.

Softball

The softball team, coached by Emily Boykin, finished up

its season with a 6-11 overall record and a 2-8 Big Eight Conference record. Seniors Anna Grace Kelly and Anna Castellano led the team as senior captains. Kelly holds the team's record for most runs scored.

Men's Tennis

The Chapel Hill men's tennis team finished its regular season 12-2, as Big Eight regular season champions. The Tigers compiled a perfect 8-0 conference record. The team also swept the individual conference championships, with junior David Mirzoyan winning the singles title and freshman Jerry Cai and senior Jared Weber taking doubles. The team, which looks to four underclassmen in its starting lineup, is ranked second in the NCHSAA 3A coaches' poll. The Tigers will host their first round dual-team playoff match May 3.

Men's Track and Field

Men's track and field, coached by Joan Nesbit Mabe, is

undefeated in all dual meets and ranked among North Carolina's top 3A teams. The team's top performers are seniors Max Blackburn and Dan Kleissler in long distance, senior Harrison Young in middle distance, senior Albert Nyamayaro in sprints, senior Dillon Kopec in pole vault and junior Jasiah King in jumps.

Women's Track and Field

Women's track and field is undefeated in the 3A division and has only one loss this season, coming to 4A Heartland at the J.J. Knox Track and Field Classic on March 19. The 4x800 relay team—consisting of seniors Anna Passannante and Marija Crook, junior Claire Macnara and sophomore Katharine Dokhoylan—has clocked the top time in the state for the 2016 outdoor season, coming in at 9:22:05. The team will compete in the conference championships May 5, with plans to qualify for regionals and, eventually, the state championship.



Do I Have Senioritis?

1. When you walk into the attendance office, Ms. Hanner...

- A+** Treats you like any other student and asks for your grade level when filling out your note.
- B** Gives you a suspecting glance.
- F** Greet's you by nickname and high-fives you.



2. You've missed school...

- A+** Only for college tours and the occasional medical appointment.
- B** For being "sick" every so often. And for having an unusually high number of dental appointments
- F** You have definitely already surpassed 30 absences. You're going to figure that one out at some point.

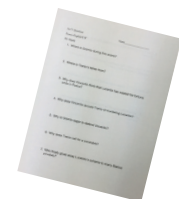
3. You use textbooks...

- A+** To study and practice course materials.
- B** The night before tests, to learn everything you missed while zoning out in class.
- F** Never. They've been sitting in your car for the entire school year.



4. You turn in your homework...

- A+** On time, every time.
- B** Almost always... pretty much.
- F** Homework? You're too busy rewatching all four seasons of *House of Cards* on Netflix.



5. Your phone...

- A+** Stays in your bag for most of the day.
- B** Gets you through some boring lectures.
- F** Is always dead by the time school's out.



6. You typically sleep...

- A+** At home, for at least eight hours a night.
- B** Right after school, on your couch.
- F** At home, in class, in your car... what's the difference?



PHOTO CREDITS AND GRAPHIC DESIGN: SAM NIELSEN AND JARED WEBER

The Doctor's Diagnosis

Mostly A+'s

Congratulations! The results indicate that you do not have senioritis. Remember: illness can strike at any time, so be diligent about your continued performance. Now, go ahead and finish up high school like the dedicated student you are. Well done; your consistency is commendable.

Mostly B's

Good news? You have reached the home stretch of senior year. Bad news? You seem to be exhibiting some of the early symptoms of senioritis. Though you have not yet reached the point of no return, now is a critical time if you wish to preserve your health. Good luck.

Mostly F's

I would read you your diagnosis, but you are likely too busy shouting "SENIORS!!!" and "TOO LIT!" at the top of your lungs to hear it. Senioritis looks to have gotten the best of you. Enjoy your off-campus excursions and in-class naps. You only have another month to go.

