

The Daily Tar Heel

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DTH/CAMERON ROBERT

MAKING UP LOST TIME

One year later, LaMonte Armstrong is ready to move on from his wrongful conviction

By Jenny Surane
Editor-in-Chief

You want LaMonte Armstrong to be angry. You want him to scream and rail against the North Carolina justice system for days. You want him to hate.

He has every right to. It was the North Carolina justice system that put Armstrong, 64, behind bars for 17 years for a murder he didn't commit.

But Armstrong isn't angry. He doesn't scream. And he would never hate.

Ernestine Compton was found dead in her Greensboro home on July 12, 1988. She was 57 years old at the time. Compton, a beloved professor at N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University, had been stabbed in the chest four times and strangled with a cord.

Armstrong said he was at a friend's house when he saw reports about Compton's murder on the local news.

"I was sitting in the living room asking him, 'How do you work this remote of yours, man?'" Armstrong said. "That's when they had just started the 5 p.m. news. The first thing I see is Ms. Compton's white picket fence around her yard. This is in my neighborhood two blocks up the street."

"And when they said what happened, I

just started screaming. I just said, 'Oh no, oh no, oh hell no!'"

Initially, police couldn't mount a compelling case to file charges against anyone for Compton's murder. The investigation went cold for almost six years.

Police grew interested in the investigation again in 1994 when they reached out to Charles Blackwell, a police informant who was serving time in prison for an unrelated crime.

Blackwell was charged with Compton's murder after he changed his original statement. In his revised statement, Blackwell said he had been in Compton's house with Armstrong the day of her murder. Blackwell said he left the residence when Armstrong began struggling with Compton over a sum of money.

Blackwell was charged with being an accessory to murder on the condition that he testified that Armstrong committed the murder — a plea bargain he accepted.

Armstrong was arrested and charged with Compton's slaying on April 14, 1994. Prosecutors offered him deals of as few as 15 years in prison in exchange for pleading guilty — plea bargains he refused to accept. Armstrong never relented. He was innocent.

By the time Armstrong's trial came, Blackwell had already written to prosecu-

tors and a local civil rights agency admitting he had fabricated the statements about Armstrong's involvement in Compton's murder. During the trial, police never told the judge or prosecutors that they paid Blackwell \$200 for his testimony in the case.

Blackwell's recant didn't seem to matter. A jury convicted Armstrong on August 18, 1995. He was sentenced to life in prison.

It was during a phone conversation with his mother that Armstrong finally realized his biggest mistake during his original trial.

"I said, 'Listen, when you sent me into that courtroom ... you sent a dummy in there,'" he said. "The only thing I really went in with was the sure confidence that I was innocent."

Armstrong is very quick to say he's not a UNC fan.

He used to be. He loved the boys in blue. He believed in the Tar Heel spirit.

After his conviction, Armstrong said he begged students and professors at the UNC School of Law to help him get his sentence overturned.

When Armstrong's case made it to the Duke Wrongful Convictions Clinic more than 15 years later, a fire was finally lit.

"He just wrote," said Theresa Newman, a director at the clinic and one of the lawyers representing Armstrong during his second

trial. "He wrote to everyone in an effort to try and get released."

Armstrong said when Newman got involved with his case, he knew things would start looking up for him.

For one thing, no one had ever visited Armstrong in prison on his birthday.

No one, that is, until Newman came along.

"All I did was sing him 'Happy Birthday' — that's such a small gift," Newman said. "I would be bitter and angry and self-pity, and he's just not. He's just not."

Newman also came bearing gifts that day — She brought a tape recording of Blackwell recanting his original testimony. That recording would play a key role in exonerating Armstrong.

The Wrongful Convictions Clinic filed a motion to overturn Armstrong's original conviction in December 2011. The Guilford County District Attorney's Office agreed to a hearing of the clinic's case in March 2012.

The DNA evidence that prosecutors used to convict Armstrong during the first trial was the same DNA evidence lawyers at the clinic used to free him.

During the original investigation, police recovered a palm print from the door frame

SEE ARMSTRONG, PAGE 4



DTH/CAMERON ROBERT

Mebane resident LaMonte Armstrong, 64, was released from jail in 2012 after serving 17 years of a life sentence for a murder he did not commit.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Rape still ignored by law enforcement



DTH/HALLE SINNOTT

Carrboro resident Hjordis Blanchard speaks about her daughter's rape case, which prosecutors dismissed.

Forgotten rape leaves a broken mother

Hjordis Blanchard believes the criminal justice system is broken.

By Amanda Albright and
Jenny Surane
Senior Writers

In November 2004, Chelsea Barnes wrote a chilling poem.

"I was raped!," the poem said. "He has defeated me. The system has won, one more gets away.

There is no winning as a victim." Less than a year later, Chelsea Barnes was found dead in Chapel Hill from an apparent suicide.

Barnes initially tried to press charges against her rapist — but when conversations with the Orange County District Attorney's office ended with prosecutors deciding to dismiss all charges, she was distraught.

"I kept saying dismissal does not mean he's innocent," said Barnes' mother, Hjordis Blanchard. "She said 'Dismissal

sounds like they don't believe me. Like they think I'm lying.' And that's what she took away from the district attorney's office."

This situation isn't uncommon, said Amily McCool, who works with the N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She has worked on domestic violence cases and was not speaking about Barnes' case specifically.

"When victims weigh whether it's worth their while to go, even

SEE A MOTHER'S LOVE, PAGE 4

Data shows prosecutors ignore campus assault

Orange County declined to prosecute 11 percent of sexual assaults.

By Amanda Albright
Projects and Investigations Team Leader

Five sexual misconduct cases were sanctioned for violating the University's sexual assault and discrimination policy between August 2012 and August 2014.

According to public records obtained by The Daily Tar Heel, those students could have been punished with a written warning, a suspension for one or more semesters, a no-contact order, education course or probation for an indefinite time period. These sanctions were sometimes used together.

No students were expelled.

"We have these two systems in place and we have sort of the ad hoc that universities are doing in response to Title IX," said Jessica Luther, an author writing a book about sexual assault.

"It's really hard because we tell victims to seek out care from these institutions, but as we know, we know the criminal justice (system) doesn't do anything.

"(Universities are) just recreating the same kind of institutional issues that the criminal justice system has."

Many college women, discouraged by the criminal justice system's handling of sexual assault cases, have the opportunity to pursue justice through their university.

It's rare for survivors of sexual assault to report rape. UNC's latest campus safety report shows that in

2013, 19 students — about 0.1 percent of UNC's undergraduate population — reported that they had been a victim of a sexual offense on or off campus.

According to a 2007 study by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, between one in four and one in five college women will experience a completed or attempted raped during their time at college.

'Shifting treatment of the case'

From Columbia University to Florida State University, the mishandling of sexual assault is well-documented at colleges, which begs the question of how appropriate it is for a college to investigate a felony crime.

Title IX requires colleges to protect students from sex-based discrimination — which has led to colleges investigating and sanctioning sexual assault cases.

But some college rape cases aren't prosecuted at all by law enforcement.

In college rape cases, alcohol often impacts questioning, evidence collection and witnesses' testimony. Police play an integral role in whether a case can make it to court and whether it can render the rare guilty verdict.

Reports often start with Chapel Hill Police or UNC's Department of Public Safety.

Tracey Vitchers, spokeswoman for Students Active for Ending Rape, said many campus and local police lack the training to properly investigate sexual assault.

"We heard of a girl who was raped, went to campus security and they told

SEE SEXUAL ASSAULT, PAGE 7

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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- Contact Managing Editor Katie Reilly at managing.editor@dailytarheel.com with issues about this policy.

‘NO PROBABLE CAUSE’



TNS/CRISTINA FLETES-BOUTTE

Prosecutor Robert McCulloch announces the grand jury’s decision not to indict Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson on Monday night. Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown in August.

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POLICE LOG

- Someone stole from a gas station at 1213 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on Sunday between 5:59 p.m. and 6:10 p.m., according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone reported a stolen vehicle on the 100 block of Pinegate Circle Sunday at 6:42 a.m., according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone reported loud noise coming from a restaurant at 1813 Fordham Blvd. on Saturday at 11:49 p.m., according to Chapel Hill police reports.
The person complained about the sound of power washing, the report states.
- Someone reported a stolen mailbox on the 600 block of Bolin Creek Drive Sunday at 2:41 p.m., according to Carrboro police reports.
The person said he would ask his daughter if she had any friends who could’ve stolen it as a prank, the report states.

THIS HOLIDAY

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THANKSGIVING FIRSTS

Exchange students make plans for the American holiday

By Ashlen Renner
Staff Writer

Growing up in Glasgow, Scotland, junior Lucy Deeny learned everything she knows about Thanksgiving from American TV shows. “Hopefully it will be like that because it looks amazing, but if not, it’ll still be great,” she said.

Deeny is one of about 600 undergraduate international and exchange students living in dorms who will have to make other arrangements as the dorms close for the break.

Rick Bradley, associate director of housing, said the dorms might remain open for Thanksgiving break next year.

“There are more and more international students coming to UNC each year,” he said. “We want to make sure we can accommodate them.”

Deeny plans to stay with her roommate’s family in Charlotte while her suitemates, also international students, travel to New York City.

“I’m having a real American experience,” she said.

Some international students spend Thanksgiving with host families through the UNC International Friendship Program.

The program has 75 host families and admits about 50 students a year. Jane Rosenberg, assistant director for international student services, said staying with hosts is a valuable learning experience.

“Very often, if the student has a host, the host family invites them over for Thanksgiving,” Rosenberg said. “Often, it’s the main event of the year. Many of them have never had a Thanksgiving dinner before and don’t know exactly what it means.”

Jan Hoyle, an International Friendship host of 10 years, has allowed international students to say at her house during Thanksgiving break, but most of her students travel.

Hoyle has hosted students from China, Japan, Germany and Australia, and keeps in touch with most of them.

“They’re like family to us,” Hoyle said. “They’re trying to share their culture, but they fit into campus life great.”

Other international students will be spending the break with friends. Freshman Chenjian Yang from Fuzhou, China will stay with his friend’s family in Kannapolis, North Carolina and is looking forward to experiencing his first Thanksgiving.

“I think it’s very important to be thankful for everything,” he said. “It’s really good for the United States to have a holiday like this.”

Easing Abroad Students’ Entry — a student-run program designed to help students get accustomed to American culture



DTH/CATHERINE HEMMER
Lucy Deeny, an exchange student from Scotland, will spend Thanksgiving with her roommate.

by pairing international students with an American counterpart — can help international students make traveling plans and get accustomed to American transportation.

Sophomore Katarina Terentieva, public relations chairwoman of EASE and Deeny’s mentor, said taking an international student into an American home can be beneficial to both the student and the host family.

“It’s a rewarding experience,” she said. “Not everyone can afford to travel, but being a mentor broadens your horizons without traveling.”

Some dorms will remain open for students who choose to stay on campus during the

break. Bradley said most students who stay during the break are international students.

“We’re trying to provide more activities they can do during that period,” Bradley said. “That way, the students don’t feel quite as isolated.”

The Office of Student Affairs is inviting students to a Tar Heel Thanksgiving, a free dinner at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center.

No matter where she celebrates, Deeny said she is excited about her first Thanksgiving.

“I’m excited just to hang out, eat a lot of food and have a breather.”

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No indictment for Ferguson officer

Students held a vigil in response on Monday.

By Sarah Brown
State & National Editor

Eight hundred miles away from Ferguson, Mo., UNC students felt the heavy weight of a grand jury decision not to indict officer Darren Wilson in the August shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

“My heart and my soul are literally crying right now,” said Destiny Planter, vice president of UNC’s Black Student Movement.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCullough gave the verdict just after 9 p.m., saying that there was no probable cause to charge Wilson with murder.

More than 150 students gathered Monday night at the Peace and Justice Plaza, holding candles in solidarity with Brown.

Members of the Black Student Movement were encouraged to wear black today to raise awareness, Planter said. She said she had hoped justice would be served.

“I kept my faith alive, and I was seriously disappointed,” she said.

Resita Cox, president of spoken word group EROT, said she expected a no-indictment decision.

“It has happened time and time again,” she said.

Senior Mark Kinney, a member of Zeta Beta Tau, said regardless of whether Wilson was within his legal rights, it’s important to acknowledge the reality of racism.

Junior Cameron Bynum said the testimony given by different witnesses to the grand jury reflected clear racial divides.

“Things like that show that, fundamentally speaking, black and white people live in a different world,” he said.

Alyssa Townsend, president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, said she’s witnessed police brutality in the Chapel Hill and Raleigh area firsthand.

“I completely support the police department, but how many times is this going to happen before I don’t feel safe around police?”

Protests in the streets of Ferguson have carried on for more than 100 consecutive days in the aftermath of the shooting.

Michael Brown’s family called for four and a half minutes of silence after the verdict — in



DTH/CAMERON ROBERT
More than 150 people, most of whom were UNC students, gathered to honor Michael Brown, who was shot by police in Ferguson, Mo. in August.

remembrance of the four and a half hours that Brown’s body lay in the street after being shot.

Cox said she hopes Brown’s case will serve as a wake-up call.

“A lot of times in our age, our generation, these things happen — we’re angry, we’re hurt, we’re upset for a few days, then we go back into this room of silence until it happens again,” she said. “We can never be silent.”

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The fact that the no-indictment decision had been largely expected was painful, Cox said.

“It’s just really hurtful that some people don’t value African Americans’ lives,” she said.

“No matter which way this case fell, it is a signal that we live in a world where a police officer can shoot an unarmed black teenager.”

News groups suing UNC for records

The media organizations and UNC are at odds over personnel files.

By Jane Wester
Assistant University Editor

The Daily Tar Heel and nine other media organizations filed a suit against the University Monday for the release of personnel records for employees facing disciplinary action after they were named in the Wainstein report.

Media law professor Cathy Packer said the law gives Chancellor Carol Folt the discretion to release the names, an opportunity she thinks Folt should have taken.

“When I was watching the press conference on television in my living room — when the chancellor got to the part where she said she couldn’t release the names of those people because of state personnel records — I started jumping up and down in the middle of my living room, yelling at the television,” she said.

“Yes, she absolutely could reveal the names of those people, there is the provision in the law that says that these types of records can be made available if it’s essential to maintain the integrity of a government department.”

Rick White, a University spokesman, declined to comment for this story.

Packer, who is the co-director of the Center for Media Law and Policy, said keeping the names private creates more bad publicity for UNC.

“Clearly our integrity is on the line. I mean, there’s never been a clearer case,” she said.

Jenny Surane, editor-in-chief of The Daily Tar Heel, said she thinks UNC would be acting to protect its integrity by releasing the names.

“Obviously, people undergoing disciplinary action because they were implicated in the Wainstein report aren’t doing wonders for the University’s integrity,” she said.

Surane said the lawsuit represents an effort to keep the University in check.

“We feel like the University is fully within its rights to release these names,” she said. “The argument that they want to protect their privacy is valuable, but not really plausible, given the fact that all of these people have been named in the Wainstein report.”

The Daily Tar Heel is working with the other organizations because the cost of suing the University would otherwise be out of reach.

“A media organization is not in a position to file expensive lawsuits and unfortunately, the University is in the perfect position to defend itself against potential lawsuits,” Surane said.

As part of her media law curriculum, Packer lectures her graduate and undergraduate classes about recent cases in which the University has refused to release records.

“I’ve been here more than 25 years and I’ve been watching this the whole time — the University saying no,” she said.

She said she cannot predict the results of the case, but she thinks greater transparency would help the University’s public image.

“It’s a public university,” she said. “We ought to be more open, and (if when) we’re open shows that we’ve done something wrong, then we just need to fix it. And it all comes out anyway.”

Michael Tadych, a lawyer with Stevens Martin Vaughn & Tadych, PLLC, the Raleigh firm that filed the suit and that represents The Daily Tar Heel, said he expects a hearing on the issue within the next couple of weeks.

He reiterated Packer’s point about UNC’s right to release information to protect its integrity.

“They can exercise that statutory provision and not worry about it at all,” he said.

He said this provision is applicable here.

“What I’ve heard and read out of the transcript of the press conference, the integrity was the overarching issue,” Tadych said.

He said this case is simpler than when The Daily Tar Heel and seven other organizations sued the University for parking tickets issued to football players and other records in 2010.

“This is basically just an issue of law,” he said. “Can the University’s HR policies override state law?”

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County Commissioner Gordon hopes to return to research

Alice Gordon is known for her environmental efforts.

By Meg Garner
Staff Writer

She hasn’t run her own lab in years, but not even time can keep Alice Gordon from her roots as a researcher.

During her tenure on the Orange County Board of Commissioners, Gordon was recognized for her dedication to her own issues, like environmental protection and education, and for her ability to take all her available resources and put them to their best use, like a true researcher.

“I always analyzed all the data,” Gordon said. “I tried to always find a way to use our resources to the maximum effect, but I’ve always done that. I am a researcher after all.”

After 24 years of public service, Gordon is retiring from the Board, effective Monday.

Board Chair Barry Jacobs said Gordon’s meticulous nature is what she will be most remembered for after she departs the Board.

“I think her legacy will be working on

schools, transportation and environmental issues,” Jacobs said. “It will be on paying attention to minute details.”

“She’s a good-hearted person who works very hard, and she’s been very consistent in what she wants to accomplish.”

A champion of the environment and education, Gordon said she looks back on her time as a commissioner and feels satisfied.

“I had goals that I set my sights on 24 years ago, and now I think they have either been completed or are in the process of coming to fruition,” Gordon said. “I thought about what I was passionate about and what I was able to accomplish and thought, I have done all I can do.”

From the expansion of local schools and a county conservation program to an award-winning transportation plan, Gordon leaves behind a lasting legacy on Orange County.

But Gordon’s imminent retirement is not stopping her from celebrating her last major victory — the new science wing at Culbreth Middle School.

“I had been advocating for a long time, about ten years, to renovate the older schools, but there was never really the money or

resources in plan but now most school systems are on board with that,” Gordon said.

“The ribbon cutting is Dec. 11, and it’s going to be an example of what you can do when you tackle the renovations of older schools.”

Fellow Commissioner Penny Rich said the new science wing will be a major part of Gordon’s legacy.

“She had been working on that for years to bring that school up to the level of other schools in Orange County,” Rich said. “She started that when she got here and we just broke ground on that last year, so that will really be her legacy.”

Gordon said the waiting game that comes with government procedures has been the most frustrating part of her tenure in public service.

“The biggest thing you have to remember is that it takes a long time to do anything, and you have to be very patient,” Gordon said. “You have to wait until the time is right. So I think my biggest frustration was always the pace of progress.”

She said her passion for the issues she fought for helped her ignore the wait time and instead focus on the big picture, like the Lands

Legacy Program, which won the Excellence in County Planning Award from the National Association of County Planners.

“I proposed a land acquisition program, which turned out to be the first comprehensive county land acquisition program in North Carolina,” Gordon said. “We have managed to protect more than 3,000 acres of the land’s natural and cultural resources. It was established in 2000 and has been a great success.”

Gordon said the conservation program will be one of her biggest accomplishments, and one she hopes the future commissioners continue to strengthen.

As far as her own future is concerned, Gordon is not yet ready to give up fighting for education and the environment in Orange County, but she has yet to determine what role she hopes to take on next.

“I plan on being an active part of the community, but I haven’t decided yet what that new role will be and what I will pursue,” Gordon said. “It will probably be in one of my main interests.”

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ARMSTRONG

FROM PAGE 1

above where Compton was found dead. No lawyers from either side ever brought up this print during Armstrong's original trial.

With newer, sophisticated technology, the lawyers at the Duke Wrongful Convictions Clinic were able to prove that the palm print matched to Christopher Bernard Caviness, a man police had considered a suspect during the original investigation.

The court granted Armstrong a new trial on June 29, 2012 — a move that allowed him to be released from prison.

Armstrong was sitting in the same courtroom in which he had been convicted when Superior Court Judge Joe Turner turned over his conviction. It felt like he had come full circle.

"(Armstrong's case is the) closest to knowing I'm doing justice in my career I will ever experience," Turner said during the trial.

On March 18, 2013, the prosecution finally dismissed the charge after new DNA testing failed to indicate Armstrong's involvement.

There is no method to the cases the Wrongful Convictions Clinic wins, Newman said.

"We don't make judgments when we first start," she said. "We just start, and we see it where it takes us. And we were right with this one."

Nine months later, Gov. Pat McCrory signed Armstrong's pardon of innocence.

Freedom and innocence

Armstrong will be the first to tell you that just because you're free doesn't make you innocent.

See, to qualify for state reimbursement funds of up to \$750,000, Armstrong needed McCrory to sign that pardon.

"I don't know if it's a lot of money or what, or how you want to consider it," Armstrong said. "There's no way they would attempt to really try to make up for what they have done. And then you know what? They can't."

"Money is not the issue. Money does not put back those years I lost with my daughter or my son, where my granddaughter was born. Or the fact I lost Mom and Dad both. You can't put me back at the bedside at the hospital."

For every year Armstrong wrongfully sat in prison, he was entitled to \$50,000 from the state. The compensation is capped at \$750,000.

"What they're saying is if you were in the street today, how much are you worth — at least fifty grand," Armstrong said. "Who was to know I'd be fifty grand?"

In March, Armstrong went before the N.C. Industrial Commission to request the full \$750,000 in compensation from the state.

The commission granted Armstrong the full monetary compensation with little discussion. The commission has adjudicated 25 erroneous conviction claims since 1997, said Sumit Gupta, general counsel for the commission.

"The reason I'm not excited or ecstatic — this is some-

thing I should have had 20 years ago," Armstrong said.

Armstrong also qualified for a program that allowed him to go back to school for free.

This summer, he finished a certification program to become a counselor to work with patients who struggle with addiction. The certificate complements the bachelor's he had before imprisonment, and he's now considering getting his master's.

A prisoner's hands

Armstrong is sitting at a table in the back of a Bob Evans diner — the same diner where he first received the call from McCrory about his signed pardon.

Every few minutes, his smartphone vibrates or rings. He stares at the phone and whispers that it must be someone else's phone going off. He doesn't recognize the different ringtones.

"It's been a trip trying to adjust to all this crap right here," Armstrong says, pushing down too hard on the touch screen, trying to get the phone to respond to his confusion.

Getting his master's is something Armstrong wants, but he's not sure he can handle the commitment just yet.

"I never could type well," he said, mimicking the motions typists used on traditional typewriters instead of the laptops and tablets of today.

"I've had all these sports injuries," he said, turning over his hands and examining his fingers. They're rough and mangled. A working man's hands. An athlete's hands. A prisoner's hands. "The ball

has done everything to me but broke my neck."

But Armstrong isn't one to let things beat him. In fact, addiction is something Armstrong knows well.

As a counselor at Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities in the Coastal Horizons Center in Durham, he sees the pain of addiction in his clients everyday.

Before his wrongful conviction, Armstrong had been arrested for smaller crimes like larceny and shoplifting, possession of narcotics, assault and resisting arrest by a law enforcement officer. Armstrong said these convictions were related to drug abuse.

"About seven months before I went to prison, I got clean, hopefully for the last time," Armstrong said. "The thought of drinking or drugging really doesn't even go across the way ever since I've been home."

But resisting the allure of addiction isn't always easy for Armstrong.

"One time, I said to myself, 'I ought to do this and do this and get blasted. So what? Who could really say anything?' And then I thought about, would that answer my question? Would that solve my problem?"

Taking his 'hops'

When the governor asked Armstrong what it was that prison took from him, Armstrong immediately knew.

"They took my hops."

For a lifelong basketball player, hops are everything. They are the reason people get out of their seats at games. They are the reason a dunk is



DTH/CLAIRE COLLINS

Theresa Newman, director of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic at Duke University, represented Armstrong during his second trial.

infinitely cooler than a lay-up. They are a symbol of absolute freedom — a freedom that not even gravity can contain.

"I told the governor," Armstrong said. "When I walked in there, I could stand up under the basketball goal, inside the lane, take two steps — one, two — and jump straight up under the rim and grab the rim and do a couple of pullups. At 45, I could still do this. But guess what? I can't do it today. I can still shoot the ball, and I shoot it well. But no hops."

By the end, you still want

Armstrong to be angry. He has told you his story, but he never really railed against the North Carolina justice system. It hasn't taken days; it took just a few hours.

You want him to hate his story.

But Armstrong wants to rebuild relationships. North Carolina already took so much from him. Armstrong said he won't let it take anything else.

Because Armstrong isn't angry. He doesn't scream. And he would never hate.

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A MOTHER'S LOVE

FROM PAGE 1

victims who want to participate in the process get frustrated by the process," McCool said. "It's not set up for the victim, it's set up for due process for the accused."

Embarrassing response

A similar rhetoric around sexual assault cases on college campuses has disappointed Blanchard.

"The rapists are totally

protected by the law and the victim really isn't equipped to fight that," Blanchard said.

For years, Blanchard said she couldn't confront her daughter's suicide. It was the ongoing controversy about the University's failure to properly handle sexual assault that drew her back into the conversation.

"I'm a Carolina graduate. I'm so embarrassed by the administration and how they handle rape cases," Blanchard said. "I just see it getting worse."

Sitting on a park bench

"We don't want parents to know girls are getting raped on campus and they are."

Hjordis Blanchard,
a Carrboro resident

at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, Blanchard exudes the kind of peace a person can only achieve when they've come to terms with tragedy.

"It's not so much that there were more rapes than there were, it's the fact that the cover-up still seems to be happening. And not like a cover-up, we just don't want to talk about this. We don't want parents to know girls are getting raped on campus and they are."

Blanchard echoed some experts' calls for colleges to review the processes in place for handling sexual assault. UNC released its own revisions to its sexual misconduct policies in August.

"(Universities) really don't have the money or the manpower to set up a system, a process where people on campus who are victims can

go where they know they're going to be taken care of and not treated like they're the guilty one," she said.

'The beginning of time'

About two-thirds of rapes are committed by someone who knows the rapist — a problem especially prevalent on college campuses. Blanchard said her daughter was raped by a family friend. "Since women were getting raped from the beginning of time they have known that," Blanchard said, her voice rising in anger.

"So why all these years, these decades, these centuries, where everybody knows that the woman is more than likely going to know her rapist, why hasn't the justice system figured out a way around that instead of using this as

an excuse to let (66) percent of them go."

Sabrina Garcia, a crisis counselor with the Chapel Hill Police Department, said her department is trying to be more responsible about evidence collection for particularly sensitive sexual assault cases to improve the cases' viability.

"In the role of law enforcement, you're there to find out the truth — you're fact finders," said Garcia, who was not speaking about Barnes' case specifically.

"As fact finders, you have to ask some very uncomfortable questions ... It's a way of how you present that question."

Garcia said better training for law enforcement means officers can now treat sexual assault victims with the sensitivity they deserve.

"When law enforcement begins to understand the counterintuitive types of behaviors, you have empathy," Garcia said. "Your understanding ... becomes clearer. You understand why the (victim) might not want to fully report or fully charge. Understanding that many victims self-blame, try to minimize or deny initially."

The good fight

For Blanchard, her disillusion with the criminal justice system won't ever go away. She said she is convinced the wily and broken system took away her creative, beautiful daughter.

Blanchard began blogging about her experience

RAPE CRISIS HOTLINE

Time: A 24/7 hotline

Location: Orange County Rape Crisis Center

Info: 866-935-4783 and <http://ocrcc.org>

with the Orange County District Attorney's office in 2010. Though she's begun to process her daughter's tragic death, she's still not sure how much help she'll be when advocating for better prosecution of rape cases.

"We fought the good fight, someone else is going to help move things on," Blanchard said.

Blanchard said there were many times when she and her daughter tried to press charges and she felt as though they were caught up in senseless bureaucracy.

"Basically, that's what we came away with," Blanchard said. "This is what irks me more than anything in the world."

Going forward, Blanchard is committed to helping who she can, when she can.

There were five words carved in a railing where Chelsea was found dead. They were rape, terror, peace, freedom and goodbye.

And Blanchard sees that as Chelsea's final message to her mom.

"Alright," Blanchard says with a heavy heart. "She just had to stop the terror."

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NC State talk won't bother Williams

By Grace Raynor
Sports Editor

By now Marquise Williams knows. He has to.

An eager Larry Fedora couldn't wait to tell the red-shirt junior quarterback what he just learned at his weekly Monday press conference — so much so that he was tempted to give Williams a call the second the conference ended.

"Larry, N.C. State had some player say that when you hit Marquise Williams a few times, he just quits," the voice from the front row informed Fedora. "Really?" the dumbfounded coach asked. "When was that said? Just recently?"

"Like the last half hour."

"The last half hour? OK. Marquise will love hearing that," Fedora said. "Let me tell you what, I wouldn't question Marquise's toughness. Y'all have seen all of our games, you've seen how he gets hit and what he does. I haven't looked at a game and thought he laid down for any reason."

That's because Williams hasn't. And though N.C. State redshirt junior safety Hakim Jones will say he has, the numbers suggest otherwise. Williams anchors the No.

2 total offense in the ACC — only behind Georgia Tech — and, as of Thursday, is the UNC single-season record holder for total offense and touchdowns accounted for.

UNC has the most passing touchdowns in the conference, and Williams' 32 offensive touchdowns is a conference best by a long shot. Reigning Heisman winner Jameis Winston has 22.

"I'd like for him to go down (and slide) more than he

does, actually," Fedora said. "A whole lot more. But that's not who he is. That's not in his makeup, it's not in his DNA. He likes delivering blows."

Williams will face Jones and a N.C. State defense that ranks No. 60 of 125 in the country, while the UNC defense will face an offense that ranks 65th.

"In this part of the season, this is where guys seem to grab onto things a little bit better," senior bandit Norkeithus Otis said. "I think that now we have

it, we're moving forward."

With the Tar Heels now bowl eligible and with a chance to go 7-5 overall with a Saturday win, Fedora offered a bit of extra motivation for his players when they entered the locker room Sunday — a room covered in bright red N.C. State symbols to ignite a fire.

But for Williams, who wasn't at Monday's press conference, he likely won't need that extra motivation. Jones has said what he's said, and Fedora has faith his leader will handle it effortlessly.

"Oh, I think he'll laugh. I think he'll laugh, he'll smile," Fedora said. "But it'll be good for him. He'll like it."

And for Otis, there's no stopping Williams.

"I've seen Marquise get hit a lot this year," he said. "If (Jones) can hit Marquise and take him out of the game then hey — I'll shake his hand."

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DTH FILE/CHRIS CONWAY

Redshirt junior quarterback Marquise Williams works his way through a gap in the 27-19 victory over N.C. State on Nov. 2, 2013.

DTH PICKS OF THE WEEK

The DTH sports staff and one celebrity guest compete to pick the winners.

'Tis the season for giving thanks, but not everyone here at the DTH office understands quite what that means.

Sports editor and office tyrant Grace Raynor celebrated Thanksgiving early this weekend in the only way she knows how.

To assistant sports editor Brendan Marks, who is (as always) in last place: "Thanks for always being a failure, loser!"

Or to senior writer Aaron "PG1" Dodson: "Hey Ron, thanks for always eating my dust! I knew I could count on you to choke."

Not exactly the Thanksgiving spirit we were looking for, Goosie.

Holiday spirit aside, we're getting down to crunch time with picks, and Raynor is still in the lead. But coming off a 5-4 week, that lead has never looked more vulnerable.

Senior writer Daniel Wilco, who finished last in 2013-14, is just one game back in the standings. Wilco's going for gold this week, picking multiple upsets: Syracuse, Pitt, Georgia Tech and Minnesota. We trust you Daniel — if you can topple the titan and



Chris Moore is this week's guest picker. He is a staff writer for ACC Sports Journal and is a former DTH assistant sports editor.

end her yearlong reign of terror, then we'll all be truly thankful.

This week's guest picker is Chris Moore, who writes for ACC Sports Journal. Moore used to be an assistant sports editor at the DTH.

	Grace Raynor	Aaron Dodson	Daniel Wilco	Carlos Collazo	Pat James	Brendan Marks	Chris Moore
Record to date	75-30	73-32	74-31	70-35	73-32	63-42	65-40
N.C. State at UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC
Virginia at Virginia Tech	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia Tech	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia Tech
Syracuse at BC	BC	Syracuse	Syracuse	BC	BC	BC	BC
Pitt at Miami	Miami	Miami	Pitt	Miami	Miami	Miami	Pitt
Georgia Tech at Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia Tech	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Auburn at Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Minnesota at Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Minnesota	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
ASU at Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	ASU	ASU	ASU	ASU	ASU
Miss State at Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Miss State	Miss State	Miss State	Miss State	Miss State	Ole Miss

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Film screening highlights farmworker injustice

The screening aimed to raise awareness of poor work conditions.

By Bri Cotton
Staff Writer

National advocacy group Student Action with Farmworkers joined with UNC student organization Fair Local Organic Food Monday night for a screening of “Harvest of Dignity” followed by intimate discussions about the state of farmworkers.

“Harvest of Dignity” is a 30-minute documentary created by Student Action with Farmworkers in 2011 that illustrates the difficulties faced by modern-day farmworkers — showing everything from their poor living conditions, with too few beds and poor plumbing, to their demanding workloads, gathering nearly two tons of sweet potatoes to earn \$50.

Images from the documentary were compared to images from “Harvest of Shame,” a documentary created in 1960 to expose the plight of America’s farmworkers.

“The conditions remain the same,” said Ramon Zepeda, program director for Student Action with Farmworkers.

Zepeda has seen the dangers of farm work up close.

“I took many pictures of many fingers and cuts,” he said, referring to the dangers of poultry work.

Sophomore Caitlin Seyfried found the issue of child labor particularly problematic.

Many farmworkers, primarily immigrants, have entire



Jazmin Posas (left) and Ramon Zepeda joined FLO and hosted a film screening and potluck Monday.

families working in the fields, regardless of age, because of the low pay for farm work. Children work mostly during the summer, but also balance schoolwork with farm work.

“It’s something we focus on in other countries, but it’s happening here,” she said.

Senior Rachel Atkinson said the Department of Labor is not necessarily to blame.

“They can’t raise their prices because consumers in America won’t pay the real price for food,” she said.

Zepeda agreed that the Department of Labor is not the main problem.

“I’ve seen a lot of campaigns to push our government agencies to do more,”

he said. “I’ve seen how easily companies can go from place-to-place without being punished for their wrongdoings.”

Junior Catherine Crowe, an intern with Student Action with Farmworkers, said part of the problem is a lack of knowledge about working conditions for farmworkers, which someone in attendance noted was evident in the low attendance.

Jazmin Posas, program coordinator for Student Action with Farmworkers, said experience with farmwork is the best way to become informed.

“Until I saw it firsthand, I didn’t realize what the situation was,” Posas said. “I think the living and working conditions are the most impactful.”

The biggest problem, Zepeda said, is the disposability of farmworkers.

“The law doesn’t change because the pool of workers have been replaced,” he said. “Workers have been replaced and, therefore, the conditions don’t have to be changed.”

The question of what can be done has several answers, but sophomore Alexandria Huber has an idea of where to start.

“People will say America used to and now we’re so equal, and we used to have slavery and that’s what it used to be,” she said. “Things aren’t as changed as we seem to think they are.”

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Council addresses Fordham flooding

By Cici Du
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council approved a rebate program Monday that will provide incentives for developers to create sustainable building designs in the Ephesus/Fordham District.

Council member Maria Palmer said this program would help with the energy efficiency and flooding in the area.

“I believe it’s a step in the right direction,” she said.

John Richardson, the town’s sustainability officer, proposed a pilot rebate program that would reward developers for better building design and higher resource performance in terms of energy and water consumption in the Ephesus/Fordham development.

The council approved the proposal unanimously.

Development projects’ eligibility for the rebate will be determined by several criteria, including how the project scores on a benchmark scale for energy use prior to construction.

Eligible projects can receive up to a 35 percent rebate on their construction permit fees, Richardson said.

Richardson also said if developers do not specifically opt out of the program, they will automatically be considered for the rebate.

The council also agreed to take the next step in developing additional uses for the Southern Village Park and Ride Lot as part of the Chapel Hill 2020 planning initiative.

Mary Jane Nirdlinger, executive director of planning and sustainability for

the town, proposed bringing in a site planning consultant to develop a plan and identify possible scenarios before meeting with the Federal Transit Administration.

She also suggested that part of the council’s discussion should consider whether the council will buy out the Federal Transit Administration’s interest in the land.

Several council members expressed their interest in keeping their options open rather than limiting them to a narrow range of possible development strategies.

“I would like to see the potential of creativity here,” said Councilman George Cianciolo.

Nirdlinger said talking to the Federal Transit Administration with several scenarios in mind doesn’t mean they have to limit their options.

“The first part is really the envisioning process,” said Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt.

Further discussion on plans for the lot, as well as the development of the Obey Creek development, are scheduled for the Dec. 8 council meeting.

The council also voted unanimously to authorize the mayor to issue a memorandum of understanding with the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness.

Issuing the memorandum will allow the town to continue to support the partnership’s programs.

“We need leaders, we need decision-makers, we need policy-makers,” said Jamie Rohe, homeless programs coordinator for the partnership.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

her to bring her clothing to local police. She texted a friend and asked her to bring the clothes — it had changed hands and the clothes became inadmissible in a court of law,” she said.

Randy Young, a spokesman for DPS, said campus police began offering intensive sexual assault training in 2012, the same year that criticism over UNC’s handling of sexual assault became public. Now, all officers are trained on how to handle these cases, he said.

A victim’s cooperation

In many domestic violence and rape cases, police don’t conduct a full investigation, said Amily McCool, who works with the N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

“Law enforcement relies too heavily on that the victim will testify,” she said, saying the police often rely on the victim’s report, which can be enough to charge the suspect.

If a victim decides not to participate in the prosecution of the case — which is common with domestic violence and sexual assault cases — then a significant portion of the evidence is lost and the district attorney’s case could be lost.

“If law enforcement does a thorough investigation, if they take pictures of the scene, talk to witnesses, get the 911 call — you still have a case,” she said. “We need to be shifting our treatment of the case.”

Between 2009 and 2014, a similar DTH analysis found the Orange County District Attorney’s Office declined to prosecute 11 percent of cases forwarded to its office from the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2013, 18 sex offenses reported to DPS closed because the “victim refused to cooperate,” a term which means that the reporting party did not want to proceed with an investigation. In total, there were 44 sex offenses reported to DPS in four years, according to records obtained by the DTH.

Every DPS case in which the victim did not cooperate is listed as “closed” or “cleared,” but no arrests were made in those cases.

Chapel Hill Police require all officers to undergo an eight-hour, victim-centered training, said Sabrina Garcia, a crisis counselor for Chapel Hill Police who also trains DPS officers.

“Law enforcement has focused on the victim and the credibility of the victim — it’s important, that’s not to be negated,” she said. “What we’ve done less of is doing a good investigation in regards to the alleged suspect.”

For district attorneys who receive sexual assault cases, the challenge can be encapsulated in one word, said Orange County Assistant District Attorney Michelle Hamilton.

“Alcohol, alcohol, alcohol — honestly,” she said. “Alcohol. Those are the cases that frustrate the heck out of me. It makes it so hard, under North Carolina law, when everybody is inebriated.”

Hamilton said she couldn’t think of a college case that didn’t involve alcohol.

“That’s my barrier,” she said. “We have to prove that there was not consent, or it was by force against that person’s will, or that person was unconscious.”

When Hamilton evaluates a case, she considers whether alcohol will make certain elements of the case impossible to prove. Then she tells her client the line of questioning will be uncomfortable.

“One time a young lady said she took her shoes off and went to the back room. I said, ‘Well how did you get to the back room? Was it cold on the floor? Were you on your back? Was it hot in there or cold in there?’ In those cases, everything matters.”

Another element Hamilton must prove is that the victim resisted the advance — and it has to be enough resistance that the rapist overcomes the victim’s actions.

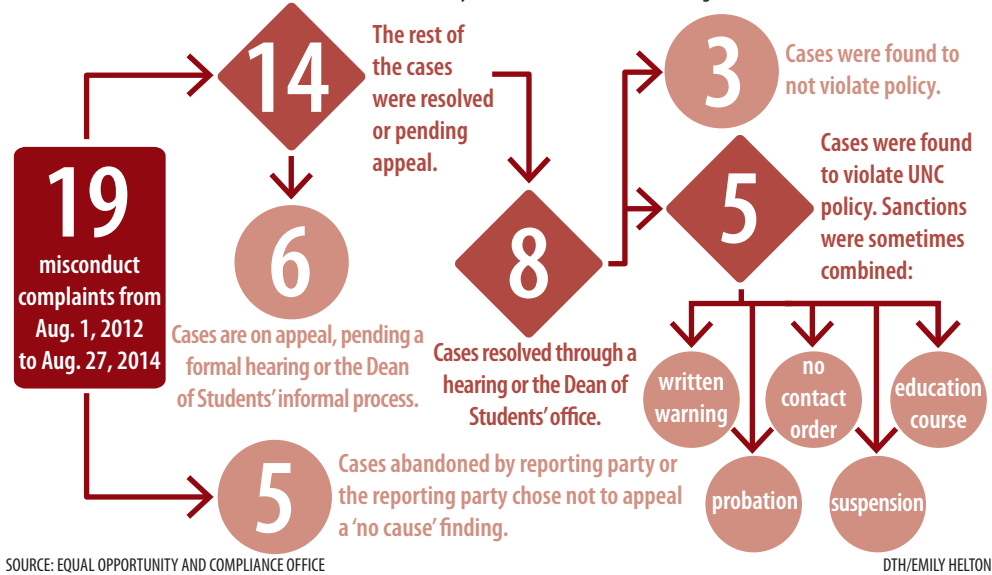
“Some people, admittedly, are absolutely terrified,” she said. “They freeze. There’s a school of thought that women freeze and don’t want to get hurt. It’s a survival tactic. There are some cases where she says, ‘I pushed him away,’ and I’ll say, ‘Fabulous!’ and take it.”

Punishing assailants

Juries and justices sometimes understand that vic-

The fate of UNC’s sexual misconduct complaints

After months of emails with UNC’s Public Records Office, The Daily Tar Heel received records showing how UNC sanctions sexual misconduct.



SOURCE: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICE

“What we really need to do is find a process that convicts only guilty people.”

Bernard Burk,
a UNC law professor

tics can’t outright resist an advance, whether it’s due to a history of abuse or a visible weapon. But overall, this standard is murky, Hamilton said.

“That’s where the law doesn’t understand that that’s what sexual assault looks like,” she said. “Do I think that will change? I don’t know.”

McCool said the challenge with punishing assailants isn’t only up to people with law degrees — it needs to be a societal change.

“Even if this goes to district court ... a defendant is going to appeal and have the case heard in front of a jury. This is 12 people from the community who have their own perceptions and misperceptions about rape.

“How do we educate the public so we have more informed juries?”

Vitchers said not every student feels comfortable with law enforcement — and universities’ adjudication processes are supposed to represent an alternative.

“Many survivors don’t know or trust law enforcement and their treatment of survivors — many don’t want to go through one, two or three criminal proceedings. It’s more supportive to go through their schools.”

But colleges, including UNC, also have their own failings.

UNC student Landen Gambill, who filed a Title IX complaint in 2013 alleging the University mishandled her sexual assault case, said not every survivor wants to turn to the courts.

“So few cases actually end up going to trial and end up in convictions because police and prosecutors for whatever reason — whether it be because of institutional sexism or the law not being good enough.

There’s not a good outlook for justice for folks,” she said.

“When your concern is your immediate safety and immediate health, it’s a better option in some ways — if the university were able to hear these cases and get the perpetrator out of your vicinity. That would be a good option for a lot of survivors.”

Colleges’ handling

When survivors come to Cassidy Johnson for counseling, she never tells them what to do. As UNC’s gender violence services coordinator, she presents them with options.

Due to confidentiality reasons, she can’t say whether a survivor has ever expressed concern with reporting due to the publicity surrounding UNC’s handling of sexual assault. But holding UNC accountable is important, she said.

“There’s like a sense of distrust in a lot of ways ... More in the sense of confusion and not knowing what could happen — it could keep people from coming forward,” Johnson said.

Survivors have anxiety about whether or not their case is a “good case” — meaning whether or not it is viable for prosecution and punishment — compared to cases publicized in the news, Johnson said.

“They’re terrified the person is going to get away with it,” she said. “When you read about a survivor who has tried to report these crimes to multiple offices, it can be really disappointing and confusing.”

When UNC students pursue a report through the University, it can go through several stages — reporting, the investigation, the hearing

process and appeals.

After investigators make a preliminary finding, which can be appealed or accepted by the victim and the accused, the cases can then go to a student grievance hearing, which consists of three trained panelists.

The same data that showed no students were expelled after violating the University’s sexual misconduct policy shows that in the two years before UNC’s new policy was unveiled, 19 sexual misconduct complaints were filed. Because the reporting party abandoned the complaint or chose not to appeal a “no cause” finding at the investigation stage, five cases of the 19 did not move forward. Of the 14 remaining complaints, eight were resolved through a formal hearing or the Dean of Students’ office. Of the eight resolved cases, five violated the policy.

Six remaining cases are on appeal, pending formal hearing or the informal process. They will be heard under the rules and procedures of the 2012 policy rather than the new policy unveiled in August 2014.

A hard case to mount

UNC law professor Bernard Burk, who currently serves as a panelist, said adjudicating cases that reach this stage is difficult because the two parties often fundamentally disagree about what happened.

Confidentiality means he can’t say how often a student is found to violate UNC’s sexual

assault policies, Burk said.

The evidence differs by case: sometimes the parties’ don’t have a clear memory of what happened, in other cases there is medical evidence or witnesses, he said.

“The problem is that in a lot of the situations, figuring out what happened is terrifically hard,” Burk said.

The panel uses a lower standard of evidence — a preponderance of evidence — which means victims have to prove a policy violation happened “more likely than not.” Burk said this standard couldn’t be applied to the criminal justice system because of the seriousness of the penalties in addition to it changing constitutional standards.

‘Breaking the law’

Sen. Earline Parmon, D-Forsyth, said she hopes the N.C. General Assembly will take on campus sexual assault during its next session, through a special committee or legislation.

“It is something that we must address in terms of protecting the victim,

in terms of ensuring they get all their rights and can pursue criminal charges ... (making) sure the perpetrators are caught and prosecuted,” she said.

Presented with UNC’s sanctioning data, Gambill said UNC is too concerned with its reputation but needs prioritize student safety.

“Colleges are legally required to investigate these cases,” Gambill said. “There’s no room to argue about that. When colleges are failing to properly investigate these cases and failing to punish and expel rapists, they’re breaking the law.”

Universities have a role in adjudicating sexual assault, Burk said.

“Sex is a deeply fraught and complicated set of ideas in our culture,” he said.

“The fact of the matter is that at the beginning of any one of these processes we don’t know what happened and we have to hear what happened. What we really need to do is find a process that convicts only guilty people. It’s very difficult to do.”

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SUDOKU

THE TAKING OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to Monday's puzzle

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

International students celebrate Thanksgiving for the first time in different ways. See pg. 3 for story.

Media file lawsuit

The Daily Tar Heel is one of 10 media organizations suing UNC for public records. See pg. 3 for story.

Farmworkers film

Fair Local Organic Food hosted a documentary screening about farmworkers. See pg. 6 for story.

N.C. State in football

UNC prepares to take on the Wolfpack at home for the last game of the season. See pg. 5 for story.

The Daily Tar Heel

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AWARD-WINNING STUDENT JOURNALISM SINCE 1893

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Japanese yes
4 "Get lost, kitty!"
8 "The Taking of ___ 1 2 3"
14 Suffix with heir
15 Word after "take it" or before "does it"
16 Bring into being
17 Org. with Red Wings and Blue Jackets
18 1967 song that asks, "Where have you gone, 60-Across?"
20 Some HDTVs
22 When repeated, belittle
23 Dutch cheeses
24 Nickname for 60-Across, with "The"
27 Obligated to pay
28 Industry leaders
31 Egg-hiding times
35 Heavy Brit. reference set
36 With 39- and 40-Across, length of 60-Across' record hitting streak
39 See
36-Across
40 See
36-Across
42 Man-mouse connector
43 Solar phenomenon
45 Ice cream seller
48 Freeway no-nos
52 60-Across eloped with her in 1954
56 Rep. and

Dem., e.g.
58 Sticky substance
59 Whence an icicle may hang
60 Sports great born 11/25/1914
63 Pro __; for now
64 Actress Dahl
65 New Rochelle college
66 Dir. from Fort Worth, Tex. to Fort Lee, N.J.
67 Undergrounds
68 NCO rank
69 Allowance dispenser, often

DOWN
1 12th-century English king
2 Rubbish barrel
3 Cuba, for one
4 Sch. term
5 Completely covers
6 Part of NCAA: Abbr.
7 Innsbruck's state
8 Banned chem.

contaminant
9 Port SW of Buffalo, N.Y.
10 Mortgage provider
11 Is staying overnight (at)
12 Bit of matter
13 Clothing department
19 "___ wouldn't say that!"
21 Sport invented by hunters
25 Site for cyberbidders
26 "Downton Abbey" ailer
29 Originally named
30 Radical '60s gp.
32 Volunteer State sch.
33 "Ich bin ___ Berliner": JFK
34 MD's orders
36 Dandy

37 401(k) kin, briefly
38 Agricultural region
40 Attend
41 Carry __; sing on key
43 Hindu honorific
44 Action at a well
46 Refrigerator predecessor
47 "Twelfth Night" duke
49 Not for kids, filmwise
50 Nine-day prayer ritual
51 Appeared to be
53 NYC airport
54 Bear and Berra
55 Scrapped missions
56 In __; stuck
57 Tiresome sort
61 Month, in Madrid
62 __ bran

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The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 121 years of editorial freedom

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Don't take the light rail lightly

In 2011, I joined voters in Durham and enthusiastically approved the half-cent tax ballot to raise funds for light rail transportation. The following November, Orange County voters approved funding, and plans were drawn for a 17-mile rail from UNC Hospitals to East Durham. Spearheaded by Triangle Transit, the project is expected to be completed in 2025.

The plan looks great on paper. Transport experts say a light rail system in the Triangle will relieve congestion in a metropolitan area set to add a million people in the next 20 or so years, and provide a desperately needed and environmentally friendly alternative to automobile travel.

Without proper planning, though, the benefits of light rail could come with significant negative trade-offs.

Massive urban transportation systems in the Triangle have a history of destroying communities in the name of efficiency. As part of the process of urban renewal, Durham pushed to destroy sections of the city deemed obstacles to economic progression. A major part of this process was construction of highway N.C. 147, connecting downtown Durham to the burgeoning Research Triangle Park and downtown Raleigh.

The Hayti neighborhood was cut in half by the freeway. With its network of thriving businesses and residents, it was one of the most vibrant historically black communities in the South. After it was destroyed to make room for the freeway, the area struggled to recover its vitality.

Light rail, and the gentrification it accelerates, threatens to become the modern equivalent of the Durham freeway.

According to Indy Week, land values near light rail stations could rise between 700 and 900 percent. The final station on the line is proposed to be built in East Durham. Most residents would be forced out of their homes by the rent hikes. Such has been the case in Charlotte, where there is almost no affordable housing along the light rail transit line.

Fortunately, Triangle light rail is not doomed to the same fate. Activists have been organizing around the issue, and the Durham City Council has ensured that 15 percent of housing half a mile away from each station must be affordable. Although this policy does not go nearly far enough to protect communities, it proves that citizens can still assert their influence.

On Thursday, Our Transit Future held a forum in the Hayti Heritage Center, the most prominent remnant of the historic Durham community. The stated purpose of the forum was for "the public to understand the elements of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement." Instead of informing East Durham about the environmental benefits of the project, Our Transit Future should be listening to the concerns of residents.

It is clear that the massive population growth in the Triangle demands sustainable transportation systems. The story of the Durham Freeway cautions that without careful vigilance, the light rail project's efficiency will come at the expense of black communities.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Jamal Rogers, jmlrgs@gmail.com



EDITORIAL

True blue generosity

Tar Heels should follow Jason Brown's example.

As Thanksgiving approaches, few Tar Heel stories are as moving or as relevant as that of Jason Brown, a former UNC and NFL football player who has rededicated himself to farming.

Brown has gained national attention over the last week for his commitment to helping those less fortunate than himself. His dedication to altruism, and in a larger context, food security, should be an inspiration to all.

Ask typical UNC students what they most look forward to over Thanksgiving break and one motif will appear over and over: the food.

Many of us are privileged enough to have a home to go to, have an intact family and have a family that is willing and able to prepare us more food than we could possibly consume.

Many of us are also willing to forget that this practice is certainly not the norm for the sake of a conscious-free, and thereby stress-free, Thanksgiving break.

If anything is going to remind us of the meaning of this holiday, it's the example set by Jason Brown. Brown quit a successful — and obviously lucrative — career as an offensive lineman in the NFL to grow crops in North Carolina, giving much of what he makes to the less fortunate in his community.

No one expected or asked Brown to do this — he did so out of a personal sense of responsibility toward the less fortunate members of our society.

So, Tar Heels and others, hark the sound of selflessness and consider what you can do to help the members of your home communities left hungry this Thursday.

EDITORIAL

Soldiers deserve better

Budget cuts have hit exactly the wrong targets.

After risking their lives and serving their country, soldiers do not deserve to be the subjects of cuts to a defense budget inflated by unnecessary expenditures elsewhere. It is therefore disheartening to learn of reductions in Army officers' retirement benefits.

When \$6 billion in cuts were announced as part of the bipartisan congressional budget deal in December 2013, the effect

was supposed to be a one percentage point reduction in the annual cost of living increase. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), a co-author of the bill, said this would mean a loss of \$100,000 or less over the lifetime of a soldier who enlisted at 18 and retired at 38.

But as the cuts have begun to take effect, officers seem to be forced to retire early, meaning they would not receive the benefits they'd anticipated.

A soldier who served as a captain for less than eight years upon retirement would revert to a lower rank, which means a 50

percent loss of benefits for some soldiers. Those affected who hoped to financially support themselves and their families are now unable to do so.

The New York Times reported these cuts are three times as likely to affect officers who joined as enlisted soldiers rather than commissioned officers and that most of them had good records.

Our nation has spent enough on war. Let's invest in those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf and stop paying back the bravery they have shown with neglect.

COLUMN

You Asked for It

In which we come to truly appreciate N.C. State's charms

Drew Goins (engineering major — fingers crossed!) and Kelsey Weekman (poultry science major with a minor in professional golf management) are the advice columnists of "You Asked for It." Results may vary.

You: My best friend goes to N.C. State University. How do I react to his aggressive smack talk before the game this week?

You Asked for It: It's hard out there for us Carowhiners. We might be 65-32-6 against them in football, but State fans are 9,649-1 against us in being straight-up relentless.

With all our UNCheating, we don't have time to work up the kind of high-class defenses that spew from PackPride. Sights like "Tarhole," "Y'all suck" and, well, "Tarhole" again require years of intensive study.

Our cheating scandal might have ended in 2011, but they still have a powerful weapon to use against us — photoshopping pictures of Roy Williams to



Kelsey Weekman and Drew Goins

Assistant online editor and assistant copy editor
To submit your own questions: bitly.com/dthyafi

look like Hitler.

Our advice for you is this: Stick with making a farming joke. It's the low fruit, we know. We also know that's a farming joke in itself. We don't go to class, so give us a break.

You: I think I'm starting to fall for a Wolfpack fan, but I have no idea how to connect with her or what to do for dates.

YAFI: If you're nervous, start out with what you know. Invite her to campus here. When she comes to UNC, put her at ease and help her transition by swinging

by Phillips Hall. In addition to lining up with State's architectural flair, it shares the same air of desperation.

Eventually, though, you will have to visit North Carolina State University: Where the State Fair Never Ends™.

One important first step is to become acquainted with the school's campus, because she'll want to show off the ol' ranch. Prepare by learning about all the romantic couples spots on State's campus — like the Brickyard, the Bricklawn, the Brickbricks or Brixx Wood Fired Pizza.

As for dates, you've got to be creative. This won't be her first rodeo.

Go to a drive-in theater with her; show up early, though, so you can share some time together before other students start pulling up in their pickups, tractors and combines for the evening's screening of "Dumb and Dumber To," probably.

If it all goes smoothly, you could go for a roll in the literal hay.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think it's very important to be thankful for everything. It's really good for the United States to have a holiday like this."

Chenjian Yang, a UNC freshman from Fuzhou, China

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

"When is this administration going to open up and be more transparent and spill their guts?"

Brody, on a letter detailing UNC's risk of losing its accreditation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Choice compromised by district boundaries

TO THE EDITOR:

It is well acknowledged that the right to vote is the basis of American democracy. But do we really have the right to elect a representative government when given no choice in candidates?

In the 2014 election, 47.06 percent, or nearly half, of the N.C. General Assembly body ran completely unopposed — the only steps these members had to take to secure their seat were to file paperwork and pay the filing fee. Even worse, an additional 40 percent of the N.C. General Assembly members ran in uncompetitive elections, in which they won their race by a double-digit margin. Normally, the factors behind state legislators running unopposed and in uncompetitive races are things like voter apathy and disinterest in local elections, but these statistics are too high to attribute solely to indifference.

Gerrymandering, redrawing voter district lines in order to ensure that the political party in power will stay in power, is the culprit robbing North Carolinians of their right to elect a representative legislature. By drawing voter district lines to lump citizens that usually vote together for the party in power, gerrymandering makes some votes count more than others (or not at all).

It is for this reason that we need redistricting reform now; we cannot allow the continuation of uncompetitive, unfair elections in which some votes count more than others. North Carolinians deserve a choice in their elections.

Kaitlyn Oakley
Junior
Public policy, Spanish

Self-governance must be protected

TO THE EDITOR:

I was incredibly disappointed by the editorial Monday calling for Congress to end UNC's long history of entirely student-run self-governance.

There have always been those who thought that students were not up to the task, but time and time again, they have been proven wrong. Now, however, it seems that the fox has been invited into the hen house as the largest student media source and the student body president have announced their opposition to this tradition.

As I was asked to preside over the meeting, I was unable to voice my strong opposition to this bill in committee; however, let me say now that to compromise student self-governance in any way would be an absolute folly.

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES

- Please type. Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- Sign and date. No more than two people should sign letters.
- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

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