

**Subject:** Carolina Football players on campus behavior is an embarrassment to UNC and to Carolina Athletics

Mr. Cunningham: Please read and also pass on to Coach Belichick and Mr. Lombardi as their emails are not available

Dear Mr. Belichick, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Lombardi

I have been a professor at Carolina for almost 34 years. Like most here, I and my family (including two Tarheel daughters) are Carolina fans, in our case particularly women's soccer and basketball. UNC has built a remarkable reputation for making sure its athletes were role models on and off the court—in looking for contact information I noticed the current banner at the bottom of the page: "We educate and inspire through athletics". This was exemplified by the attitudes and actions of Coach Smith, Coach Williams, and now Coach Davis, but also extended to the non-revenue sports. I have had the good fortune to get to know Eric Montross and Tom LaGarde through my church and neighborhood and saw how they carried their dedication to their communities into their lives after Carolina. Likewise, I have gotten to know many student athletes, most from non-revenue sports, in my classrooms and lab, and all have been polite, serious young people who uphold this tradition.

It thus was a surprise to me and many of my colleagues who park in the Bell Tower Deck to see the quite different behavior exhibited by many members of this year's football team. As I told Mr. Cunningham in an email in the Fall, we all noticed a sudden new set of vehicles parked in the deck, mostly very large pickup trucks or SUVs (by also including Mr. House's Dodge Charger, made famous by the WRAL coverage of reckless driving by team members). They stood out because it was clear that most of them didn't think they had to follow the rules adhered to by the rest of us parking there. They ignored the rule to park head in, often left their vehicles protruding into the traffic lane, but, most disappointing, commonly parked in the handicapped spaces near Kenan stadium. Despite several of us contacting parking, asking for enforcement, nothing changed, and we realized our protests were in vain.

However, this week I was once again pushed into contacting you. I was on campus Saturday for an event near the Genome Science Building, and was inventorying handicapped spaces nearby. Both handicapped spaces on Stone Center Drive were occupied by folks without handicapped placards—once again likely football players. I thus went to speak with the parking official by the Bell Tower Deck who was handling folks arriving for Admitted Student day. I asked him to contact parking and have those cars cited. He just sighed and said: "I have to deal with those folks every day. It's pointless to give them tickets because they simply ignore them." Then, this week, the players behaviors escalated. They must have some sort of meeting that ends at 5 PM because, each day when we are leaving work, they are getting in their vehicles, revving the motors so loud you probably could hear it in South Building, and then racing one another at literally 40 mph down the narrow lanes of the deck. This further escalated yesterday when I told one the students to slow down. He pulled forward, and revved his engine in a way that flames literally came out of the dual tailpipes, and then cursed me out as he left.

Is this the behavior we want from Carolina athletes? The WRAL story suggests this extends off campus as well. I am confident that if a basketball player was behaving this way they would rapidly be put into line by Coach Davis. We didn't see this behavior from football players in the Mack Brown era. I know some of them now have NIL revenue that dwarfs my salary, but this does not give them the privilege to act out in this way. Or does it? That seems to be the question of the moment. I hope this time this message can reach beyond Mr. Cunningham and get the football program to take action, and that it does not take another story in the news.

Sincerely

Mark Peifer