

The cover features a light beige background with a pattern of stylized autumn leaves in various colors including olive green, burnt orange, deep red, and mustard yellow. The leaves are scattered across the page, with some overlapping. The text is centered in the lower half of the page.

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CONTENTS

NINER TIMES

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NT PLAYLIST: FALL FEST 2023, P. 3

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL AT UNC CHARLOTTE, P. 4

SEVEN CHARLOTTE EVENTS TO ATTEND THIS FALL, P. 5

UPCOMING ALBUMS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN FALL 2023, P. 8

A GUIDE TO PUMPKIN SPICE IN THE QUEEN CITY, P. 9

FASHION TRENDS FROM MILAN SOON TO BE IN YOUR FALL CLOSET, P. 9

FIVE MUST-PLAY HORROR GAMES TO PLAY THIS HALLOWEEN, P. 10

CHARLOTTE'S SPOOKY TALES AND UNSOLVED MYSTERIES, P. 11

NT Playlist: Fall Fest 2023

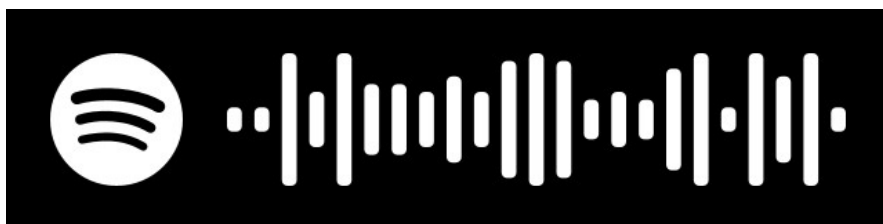
Kendall Maye | Niner Times Contributor

As temperatures drop and midterms arise, you might think you have everything you need to prepare for fall: a blanket, a warm cup of coffee and everything pumpkin spice flavored. Yet, it may feel like something is still missing. The perfect fall playlist might do the trick. The Niner Times has selected a cozy assortment of songs to get students into the fall mood.

This curated playlist includes a variety of songs, ranging from "Thriller" by Michael Jackson to "August" by Taylor

Swift. There is a song here for everyone, providing a mix of new hits, classics and hidden gems you may not know yet. Although not every song here directly relates to the season, many were chosen as they evoke the feelings of fall.

This autumnal soundtrack will be a comforting hug for students, whether preparing for exams or unwinding after a long day of classes. So, grab your favorite mug, curl up with a good book and enjoy this year's fall playlist.



What's happening this fall at UNG Charlotte?

Madison Hasley | Niner Times Contributor

As the summer heat fades into a crisp autumn breeze, UNC Charlotte is conjuring up a thrilling fall season. From the anticipated Haunted Union to our Observatory, here is a glimpse of the autumn activities on campus.

Niners vs. Zombies

Oct. 15-21 | UNC Charlotte Campus

Join Charlotte Outdoor Gaming for an exhilarating weeklong game of survival tag at UNC Charlotte, where you can be a human survivor or a zombie hunter. Engage in daytime missions, and when night falls, arm yourself with Nerf blasters to defend against the zombie horde. The organization's Discord server on Niner Engage lists the rules and other information.

Boo'd Up

Oct. 25 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Cone After Hours

In honor of Relationship Violence Awareness Month, the Center for Wellness Promotion invites you to an engaging trivia night. Win prizes, enjoy delicious food and deepen your understanding of the essential pieces that build healthy relationships.

Haunted Union

Oct. 26 | 7-10 p.m. | Student Union

Explore the transformed Student Union as it gets decked out for Halloween, with rooms and each floor filled with ghouls, spooky treats and giveaways. Visit the Campus Activity Board's socials for more spine-chilling details if you dare.

Starry Night: Costume Party

Oct. 28 | 8:15-11:45 p.m.

UNC Charlotte Observatory

The Society of Physics Students has made way for a spectacular costume party at Charlotte's Observatory. Bring a costume and look through numerous telescopes to view the night sky. The event page on Niner Engage lists specific location details and a backup date.

Lasers vs. Zombies

Oct. 30 | 7-10 p.m. | Student Union 340

Get ready for a showdown at Lasers vs. Zombies hosted by the Campus Activity Board. Become a survivor and engage in a heart-pounding laser tag battle against skilled zombie actors—no equipment required.

PUMP-kin Season with Charlotte Lifters

Oct. 31 | 6-8 p.m. | Belk Gym

On Halloween, Charlotte Lifters host their regular practice in spooky costumes. Expect tricks and treats to keep your energy up while lifting weights.

Spooky Basket Bonanza

Oct. 31 | 2-4 p.m. | Student Union 340 A-C

Join the Campus Activity Board for their Spooky Basket Bonanza, an easy way to lift your spooky spirit. Make sure to have your Charlotte ID readily available and

grab a Halloween basket full of surprises while on the go.

Trick or Treat in OUR

Oct. 31 | 1:30-3:30 p.m. | Barnard 109

Stop by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) for sweet treats and tricks to navigating research. Schedule an appointment or attend drop-in hours to learn about more opportunities.

Popp Martin Theater's Picks

Besides attending all the campus events throughout October, take some time over the weekend to watch a few spooky movies. Here's a list of Halloween classics and a selection of recent blockbusters:

- Oct. 12-15: "Us," "Scary Movie 2"
- Oct. 19-22: "American Psycho," "Oppenheimer"
- Oct. 26-29: "Barbie," "Hocus Pocus"

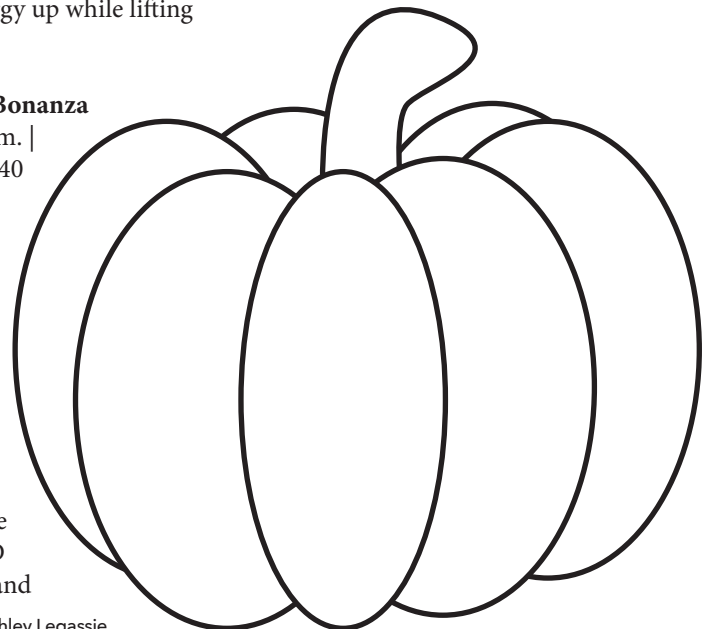


Illustration by Ashley Legassie

Seven Charlotte events to attend this fall

Lauren Simendinger | Niner Times Contributor

As fall officially starts, UNC Charlotte students have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the season all across the city with their friends.

Carolina Renaissance Festival

\$32 per person | Every Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 30 - Nov. 19

The Carolina Renaissance Festival lets you prepare for Halloween early with fun costumes, treats, rides and performances. The festival hosts many different shops that rent and sell costume pieces. For those who want to avoid dressing up, there are still plenty of opportunities for fun by watching the live jousts and other performances, riding the rides, touring special exhibits and enjoying the turkey legs.

SCarowinds

Approximately \$45 per person | Select Nights, Sept. 15 - Oct. 29

As the iconic Carolina theme park winds down for the summer, it transforms into an interactive haunted house. SCarowinds features haunted mazes, scare zones, live entertainment and, as expected, rides. Performers will be dressed in costume and scaring attendees, so be mindful if attending.

Amazing Maize Maze

\$9-\$18 | Sept. 16 - Oct. 28

The Amazing Maize Maze is one of the largest corn mazes in the Southeast. This maze is located up the road in Huntersville, N.C., and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They also offer night mazes from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. starting in October. With more than seven acres and on-site food trucks, hours of fun await.

Pumpkin patches and farms

There are multiple pumpkin patches around Charlotte, many allowing visitors to pick pumpkins and enjoy hayrides and petting zoos. In Uptown, Truist Field turns into a pumpkin patch on Saturday, Oct. 7. Some of the patches in Charlotte include:

- Hodges Family Farm: 3780 Rocky River Rd., Charlotte, N.C.
- Carrigan Farms: 1261 Oak Ridge Farm Highway, Mooresville, N.C.
- Wise Acres Organic Farm: 4701 Hartis Rd., Indian Trail, N.C.

Crossroads Cinema Series at Camp North End

Free | Sept. 14 - Oct. 26, 8 p.m.

Located near the Ford Building, the outdoor cinema shows 1980s and 90s movies every Thursday at 8 p.m. From Sept. 14 to Oct. 26, they will show classics and seasonal films like "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (Oct. 12) and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Oct. 26).

Great Elizabeth Pumpkin Wall

Free | The week before Halloween

This Charlotte Halloween tradition gathers community volunteers as they line a wall with creatively carved pumpkins. The wall stands sixty feet tall and is located on a different street in the Elizabeth neighborhood each year. It normally occurs the week leading to Halloween.

Thanksgiving Eve Parade

Free | Wednesday, Nov. 22

The annual Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade returns for another year. Held on Thanksgiving Eve this year, the parade features floats, food

and other activities. The route will start at 9th Street and continue along Tryon Street, ending on Good Samaritan Way. Vendors will offer hot and cold beverages that evening as well.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Aiden McColick
Midas Magazine Staff Writer



John Mayer SOLO Acoustic Fall Tour with JP Saxe

Saturday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Spectrum Center



Spooky SZN 21+ Halloween Crawl

Saturday, Oct. 28 from 5 - 11 p.m. 200 East Bland Street Tickets: \$10-\$20



Noughties Market's 'Nightmare on Noughties Street'

Saturday, Oct. 28 from 1 - 7 p.m. Petty Thieves Brewery 413 Dalton Ave.



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Upcoming albums to look out for in fall 2023

Nick Caceres | Niner Times Staff Writer

From acoustic singer-songwriter ballads to hip-hop milestones, the fall of 2023 will not disappoint when it comes to fresh albums.

Westside Gunn - 'And Then You Pray for Me' (Oct. 13)

Westside Gunn has been working this past year for one of the biggest hip-hop drops of 2023 on Friday the 13th. It will serve as a sequel to his breakthrough LP, "Pray for Paris" (2020). This will be his final album, as he announced he will retire from rapping by the end of 2023. The album will feature the Griselda style of effortless boom bap and features with artists like Boldy James, Denzel Curry, JID, Ty Dolla \$ign, Conway the Machine, Rick Ross, Conductor Williams, Benny the Butcher and Stove God Cooks.

boygenius - 'The Rest' (Oct. 13)

Back in March, the indie rock trio of Lucy Dacus, Julien Baker and Phoebe Bridgers reformed after five years to release their first full-length LP, "The Record." When fans thought another wait was ahead, boygenius announced an additional EP with four fresh tracks.

Jane Remover - 'Census Designated' (Oct. 20)

With the self-titled single being recently released along with a video filmed by rapper, producer and musician Quadecca, Jane Remover has been climbing the ladder of fifth-wave emo, bringing their signature style of hyperpop and indietronica. This album will

depart from the electronic elements that defined their last album, "Frailty," in 2021, embracing lush shoegaze.

DJ Shadow - 'ACTION ADVENTURE' (Oct. 27)

Known for his iconic decade-defining album "Entroducing..." in 1996, San Francisco-based veteran hip hop and plunderphonics producer DJ Shadow is returning with his seventh studio album. This upcoming release will depart from the feature-heavy "Our Pathetic Age" (2019) with a primarily instrumental approach, focusing on better representing DJ Shadow's love for making music.

Matmos - 'Return to Archive' (Nov. 3)

Baltimore-based experimental duo Matmos will be returning with one of their most ambitious projects. The duo has been around for nearly 30 years, innovating IDM and post-industrial. Their 14th studio album will be released through Folkway Records, which houses a vast collection of LP recordings of almost every sound imaginable. Matmos will be manipulating this extensive sound archive to create the album, hence the name. The single "Mud-Dauber Wasp" already showcases an onslaught of telephones, strained human vocals and the buzzing of a wasp's wings.

Chris Stapleton - 'Higher' (Nov. 10)

After the massive success of "Starting Over" (2020), which received a trio of Grammy Awards for the best

country album, Kentucky native Chris Stapleton will return with his fifth studio album. This time, Stapleton will have no collaborations or covers. He will have contributions from Morgane Stapleton on synthesizer, tambourine and backup vocals. Stapleton will also be performing in Charlotte on June 1.

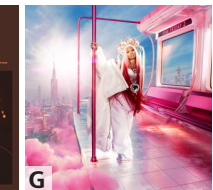
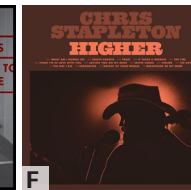
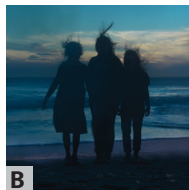
Nicki Minaj - 'Pink Friday 2' (Nov. 17)

A release that has been teased since 2019, grammy-nominated rapper Nicki Minaj will finally be releasing the long-awaited sequel to "Pink Friday" (2010). This will be her first album since her 2018 release, "Queen." With the lead single being dropped over a year ago, "Super Freaky Girl" showcasing a direct sample from Rick James' "Super Freak," Minaj fans are in for a treat with the classic hip-hop, pop and EDM blend that the female rapper is known for.

Honorable mentions

This fall has already seen some great releases. Be sure to check these albums out if you missed them.

- Slauson Malone 1 - "EXCELSIOR" (Oct. 6)
- Sufjan Stevens - "Javelin" (Oct. 6)
- Armand Hammer - "We Buy Diabetic Test Strips" (Sept. 29)
- Oneohtrix Point Never - "Again" (Sept. 29)
- Code Orange - "The Above" (Sept. 29)



(A) Photo courtesy of Westside Gunn (B) Photo courtesy of boygenius (C) Photo courtesy of Jane Remover (D) Photo courtesy of DJ Shadow (E) Photo courtesy of Matmos (F) Photo courtesy of Chris Stapleton (G) Photo courtesy of Nicki Minaj

A guide to pumpkin spice in the Queen City

Lexi Shon | Midas Magazine Staff

Fall has officially landed in the Queen City, along with a plethora of pumpkin spice. Charlotte offers many fall favorites, including new items, beautiful scenery and changing leaves.

Nestled near SouthPark, Mug's Coffee beckons customers in with its iconic pumpkin spice latte. They invite you to add pumpkin spice to any beverage on their menu for an extra autumnal kick. Also in SouthPark, Dilworth Tasting Room offers a delectable pumpkin spice creme brulee, a must-try dessert for those seeking rich, seasonal flavors.

At the Corkbuzz Restaurant and

Wine Bar, they have started selling pumpkin ricotta donuts during this cozy season. Wine paired with a pumpkin donut, what could be better?

Not into the sweeter items? Inizio Pizza, located in the heart of Charlotte, has pumpkin pizza with pumpkin puree, mozzarella and various toppings. Venture just outside the city to indulge in braised short ribs paired with pumpkin sage polenta — an exquisite twist on comforting autumn fare.

Looking for a breakfast treat to try with friends? In the city's south, Belgian restaurant Cast Iron Waffles has pumpkin pie waffles. There is some-

thing in Charlotte for every breakfast lover, as the Original Pancake House locations in Midtown and Southpark are dishing up pumpkin pancakes and pumpkin pecan pancakes.

For those wanting something healthier, Clean Juice has various locations throughout the city and has launched pumpkin acai bowls and pumpkin smoothies.

The Blossom Shop even has pumpkin spice flower arrangements. Make someone's day with a bouquet of beautiful fall colors from this Charlotte florist shop.

Ready to wear: Fashion trends from Milan soon to be in your fall closet

Griffin Gross | Midas Magazine Staff Writer

With summer coming to a close, we open the door to the newest and hottest trends of fall 2023.

Past fall trends have shown that earthy tones ruled the scene, but red is taking the forefront this season. Red is seen as bold and unexpected and is used in most outfits as a statement. A simple way to incorporate red into your autumn look is to pair it with neutral colors like olive, beige, stone or ivory. You can also tie red into your outfit with a single accessory. For example, you can accessorize with a red bow, pair of earrings or handbag.

Another striking trend that recently hit the runway of Milan Fashion Week is incorporating business attire into your everyday outfit. This trend's purpose is not to dress like you're going into the office but to use the workplace staples and spin it on its head. For example, you could wear an oversized blazer with exaggerated shoulder padding instead of a regular fitted blazer. One might also wear an untucked button-down shirt, a loose tie and dress pants. These exaggerated versions of "typical" workplace clothing juxtapose one another, leaving the creative freedom to the individual.

The final fall fashion trend is the long black coat. This clothing item is a prominent part of a person's outfit and a versatile piece in an individual's wardrobe. The long black coat makes an outfit look sharp and adds another layer to your clothing and the eye. It goes with virtually anything, ranging from turtlenecks to crop tops. Not only does this item look good with most dress, but it also goes well with muted colors, neons and neutrals. It is a timeless essential in one's closet, allowing for a seamless transition into the fall season.

Five must-play horror games to play this Halloween

Joey Ellsworth | Niner Times Sports Editor

As Halloween approaches, now is an excellent time to immerse yourself in the season with these spine-chilling experiences that will leave gamers haunted well after the season is over.

5. 'Fears to Fathom'

The indie episodic psychological horror game "Fears of Fathom" is a phenomenal experience created by just one person, Mukul Negi, who goes by Rayll.

Rayll wanted to make a game with realistic horror elements, saying, "I doubt you'll ever see some monsters chasing you in a Fears to Fathom game, as I feel it breaks the reality factor of the game, and it's something I wouldn't personally enjoy," in an interview in 2022.

Three of the five episodes are currently out, and the fourth will be released on Oct. 27, 2023.

The VHS film aesthetic and eerie atmosphere are the building blocks for the fear the game brings to its players. "Fears to Fathom" does an outstanding job of laying the groundwork early in its episodes. While things may feel initially slow, the terror comes at you hard with well-placed jump scares and realistic horror that players alone in the dark dread to even think about.

While the first episode was frightening and well-made, improvements and new features were added to the second and third to make the experience even more terrifying. This includes a lengthier episode, interactive NPCs and your voice being heard by those who lurk in the shadows when you hide.

Episodes one to three are the only ones available on Steam currently. Episode one is free to play, the second is \$2.99, and the third is \$3.99.

4. 'Alien Isolation'

"Alien Isolation" is a stressful and anxiety-inducing game that builds off the tone and atmosphere of Ridley Scott's cinematic masterpiece "Alien."

In "Alien Isolation," you will travel through claustrophobic corridors and hide to survive the titular Xenomorph while finding yourself primarily defenseless.

You can purchase "Alien Isolation" on Steam or the Xbox store for \$39.99, while it is just \$29.99 on the PlayStation store.

3. 'SOMA'

"SOMA" is a horror game that utilizes a suffocating underwater setting, existential themes and minimal combat to create a frightening sense of vulnerability.

Frictional Games built off the horror success they found in Amnesia, one of the most well-known horror games of all time, and while carrying over many features from the Amnesia games, placed an extra emphasis on narrative for "SOMA."

The narrative combined artificial intelligence themes, inspired by works such as "2001: A Space Odyssey" with moral and thought-provoking dilemmas that engage players psychologically.

"SOMA" stands out for its ability to induce fear through not only traditional horror elements but also by delving

into the depths of human consciousness and the unknown.

You can buy "SOMA" on Steam, the PlayStation store or the Xbox store for \$29.99.

2. 'Outlast Trinity' and 'Outlast Trials'

"Outlast Trinity" is a bundle of "Outlast," "Outlast: Whistleblower DLC" and "Outlast 2." The first and second Outlasts are very different experiences, but either is guaranteed to fill you with genuine fear.

The games have much to offer, from playing a journalist investigating horrific and mysterious events at a run-down psychiatric hospital to a different journalist stranded in a cultist mountain village trying to save his wife.

The Outlast series is one of, if not the most terrifying experiences a gamer can have. And for fans of the franchise, Red Barrels, the development company behind Outlast, released a multi-player experience for the franchise.

"Outlast Trials" is a multi-player prequel to the first two games and features test subjects in a mysterious Cold War experiment. The game was released on May 18, 2023, with positive reviews.

"Outlast Trinity" and "Outlast Trials" are currently on Steam, the PlayStation Store and the Xbox Games Store.

1. 'Until Dawn'

The 2016 BAFTA Games Award winner for "Best Original Property," "Until Dawn" may not be the scariest on the list, but its storytelling and unique

features make it shine as one of the best horror games of all time.

Players control the fate of eight friends who have gathered at a remote mountain lodge, and their decisions directly impact the course of the story. The butterfly effect system ensures that even seemingly minor choices can lead

to significant consequences, adding a layer of tension and replayability. The games branching paths and multiple endings is a feature that stands out among most games.

The game skillfully incorporates various horror subgenres, including supernatural elements, psychological

horror and slasher horror. This diversity keeps players engaged and constantly guessing about what will happen next.

“Until Dawn” is, unfortunately, a PlayStation exclusive, so Xbox and PC users are unable to play.

Charlotte's spooky tales and unsolved mysteries

Ruhshona Soledjonova | Niner Times Opinion Editor

As spooky season creeps up, many untold and unknown mysteries about Charlotte exist. Tales of lurking figures, abandoned huts and the closed-off tunnels under the College of Health and Human Services make up some of Charlotte's thrilling charm. Here are three unsettling tales.

Haunted Sanford

Sanford Hall is Charlotte's oldest standing residence building, opened in 1969. Some say they get an eerie feeling when walking past it. This dorm is known for its shaky elevators, rattling air vents and prison-like structure. However, a rumor that many may not know is the case of the Sanford “Creep-er” in 2008, covered by WBTV. A man reportedly crept into the dorm

room of Sanford residents Hannah Roberts and Ania Spytkowski. One night, they had gone to bed and felt something poking at their legs. As the Creeper tried to hide, they sprung up to turn on the lights.

When they screamed to ask who he was and what he was doing there, he left the room, leaving the girls petrified. Neighbors from other floors had

similar experiences, but the man was never seen again. There was no way of telling if the Creeper was a student or not, and authorities received a couple of tips. To this day, there have not been any follow-up reports on a suspect.

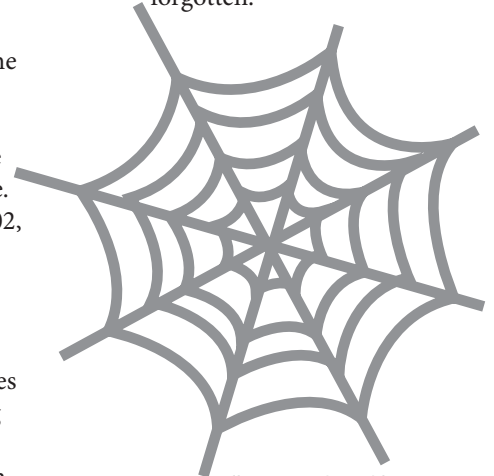
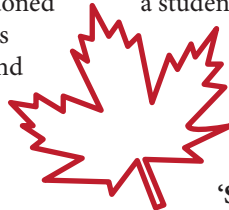
‘Stormie Normie’ - Lake Monster

Want to spend a day at the largest man-made lake in North Carolina? Around 40 miles north of Charlotte, Lake Norman is visited by residents, travelers and UNC Charlotte students. You might want to rethink your visit to Lake Norman, home of ‘Normie,’ the mysterious lake monster. Fishermen and boaters recall looking into the water and seeing a lurking creature, often emitting a ghostly white light. Decades of sightings describe Normie as a ten-foot-long dinosaur-like figure. This urban legend formed around 2002, and hundreds of sightings have been recorded ever since.

Car break-ins

One of the most unsolved mysteries on Charlotte's campus is the alarming incident of numerous car break-ins. Just last spring, eight cars were broken

into without a suspect. Unfortunately, this was not the first occurrence. In the spring semester of 2022, dozens of students approached their cars to see a shattered window and random knick knacks stolen from their vehicles. Some students said that nothing was taken and this must have been an act of protest or hazing. Many residents of South Village were frustrated and confused with the string of similar incidents and worried for their safety. The break-ins are another cold case that still haunts and frightens students and has not been forgotten.



Illustrations by Ashley Legassie

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