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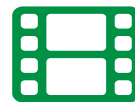
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POLICE BLOTTER

12/01: Communicating Threats

Officers took a report in reference to communicating threats.

12/03: Trespassing/Arrest

Officers responded to the light rail platform. One subject was transported to Mecklenburg County Intake for trespassing, and for possession of a knife on educational property.

12/04: Fraud

Officer responded to the Police Lobby, in reference to a fraud report.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

Testing for the holiday season



NEWS

More information regarding exit testing, post-Thanksgiving testing and Spring 2021 entry testing

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

COVID-19 Pre-Thanksgiving Testing

According to University officials, over 2,000 individuals were tested for COVID-19 at the on-campus clinic held in partnership with the county, 188 of whom were UNC Charlotte students and employees. The results were not integrated into the COVID-19 Dashboard.

The University sent out a NinerNotice on Oct. 12 with information regarding the ability to do exit testing before leaving for the Thanksgiving holidays. "This is part of an effort not only to keep our campus community safe, but to help protect our students' loved ones and the surrounding communities during holiday travel," it said.

In the notice, UNC Charlotte encouraged students and employees to register for testing before Nov. 13. They also encouraged students and employees to wear a mask when around others, especially when in a large group as well as follow the other six Ws indicated on the Niner Nation Cares website.

According to a University-issued notice on Nov. 6, pre-Thanksgiving testing was part of a university-wide effort to test students and employees before the Thanksgiving holiday. The University partnered with the Mecklenburg County Health Department to provide the free COVID-19 tests. The testing was not mandatory but was highly recommended.

The testing was conducted by eTrueNorth. Students and Employees were able to have their results within 72 hours of taking the test. The testing was limited to UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students.

COVID-19 Post-Thanksgiving Testing

According to the newly-instated Niner Insider on Nov. 30, post-Thanksgiving on-campus testing will be available to students and employees in UNC Charlotte who traveled for Thanksgiving break. The testing will take place at the Student Health Center on Tuesday, Dec. 1 through Friday, Dec. 4 from nine to four p.m. each day. There is no cost necessary. In order to be testing, individuals are required to make an appointment. If a student or employee gets post-Thanksgiving tested, they should note on their Niner Health Check that they are waiting for mitigation testing results.

"The University is making this testing available to help protect the community and prevent transmission of the virus."

COVID-19 Spring 2021 Re-entry Testing

According to the NinerNotice on Nov. 6, the University is requiring COVID-19 entry testing for students, faculty and staff who will be living, learning and working on campus at the beginning of the spring 2021 semester.

The University is doing this testing because they expect the COVID-19 cases to rise after winter break. People who will need to be testing includes but is not limited to students living on campus, taking on-campus classes, working on campus, individuals with a meal plan, all faculty teaching on-campus classes, and faculty and staff with jobs that require them to be regularly on campus.

On Friday, Dec. 18, students and faculty will receive an email to identify if they need to be tested before returning to campus in Spring 2021. This email will provide

information about testing options and how to report results if the student wishes to be tested off-campus.

Students and faculty have the opportunity to be tested on and off-campus if they so choose. If the student or employee is tested off-campus, they will need to provide proof of results "from a molecular, PCR test" within 72 hours.

The times and locations of on-campus testing will be released no later than Dec. 18 as the University is determining the need based on the "expected demand and housing move-in."

If a student or employee tests positive, they will follow the University protocol and isolate for ten days. As in the Fall 2020 semester, the University will provide on-campus isolation housing if the student or employee is not able to return to their off-campus residence.

All additional details and information will be finalized and shared with UNC Charlotte no later than Friday, Dec. 18.



Student wearing mask in a classroom. Photo courtesy of Pixabay

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Demand increases for Jamil Student Niner Pantry

Pandemic causes increased usage of student pantry

by Kathryn Caudill
Staff writer

As the holidays approach, the Jamil Niner Student Pantry is in high demand. In a video released on Dec. 1, the pantry stated that one in three college students are food insecure, about the same rate as UNC Charlotte.

In 2019, anthropology professor Dr. Nicole Peterson conducted research on food insecurity in the UNC Charlotte community and found that 32% of UNC Charlotte students were food insecure, which is average for a college campus. Food insecurity is defined by the USDA as a "lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life." Food insecurity is more common for college students than the average American household, and it can negatively impact studies, mental health and physical health.

It was also found that 35% of students were unaware of the pantry until this survey, but were interested in using it. However, it was found that 29% of students knew of the Jamil Niner Student Pantry but did not utilize it as they did not want anyone to know of their situation.

During the fall semester, 1,316 UNC Charlotte students' orders were filled by the pantry. According to the video, during this time of COVID-19 and the holiday season, the pantry has seen an increase in 200 students a week, and many being non-traditional students who have families.

The Jamil Niner Student Pantry provides assistance to both undergraduate and graduate students that are food insecure. The main mission of the pantry is to ensure that no UNC Charlotte student goes without food and has access to nutritious foods. The pantry has also assisted in feeding many UNC Charlotte student's families, as the students

may be the providers themselves.

The pantry helps to provide non-perishables and also utilizes a Food Recycling Program, where leftover food from UNC Charlotte campus dining halls is packaged and served as hot meals.

The pantry is always in need of donations, and on their official website is a list of needed items and instructions on what to buy and where to donate, as well as online money contributions.

However, after the #GivingTuesday campaign, the pantry is fully stocked for the first time. Food donations were collected as well as over \$56,000 for the pantry. The food donations were collected virtually from the pantry's Amazon wishlist. The virtual food

drive collected over 14,000 items for a grand total of \$19,629 worth of items.

The #GivingTuesday campaign also gathered alumni to compete in a cooking contest where they would prepare a meal with items commonly found in the pantry to demonstrate meals that could be made.

Another means of helping is there is a meal swipes donation plan where students can donate up to two swipes per semester to others in need.

The Jamil Student Niner Pantry is still open during the COVID-19 pandemic, and online orders can be made on the official website for pickup on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m..



Outside Jamil Niner Student Pantry. NT File Photo

COOPER'S GREEN THUMB

CLIMATE CHANGE IN NORTH CAROLINA



by Hiral Patel
Opinion Editor

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, North Carolina has few fossil fuel resources and does not have any oil, natural gas, or coal production. Although our state leads in the use of solar energy and has removed any drilling operations, we still consume almost four times as much energy as we produce. Major agricultural industries such as hog and poultry farms, financial companies, our lead in nuclear energy production and furniture and textile production in addition to the high population are the reasons why our go-green methods aren't necessarily working. North Carolina may be one of the most efficient states, but consumer and industrial habits up until now have made environmental policies look like temporary relievers instead of preventatives.

Cooper hasn't received enough credit for his activism regarding renewable energy in this state. Ever since his first term in 2017, Governor Cooper has climate change at the top of his priority list. The previous governor questioned climate change and

believed that humans had nothing to do with it, so clearly, Cooper had a lot to work with. He joined 24 other governors in the U.S. Climate Alliance meant to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement's goals. This is a huge step in the right direction as the Trump administration has been known for deregulating many environmental policies, leaving the Paris Climate Agreement and hiring staff known to contribute to global warming.

With the initiation of his executive order, The Clean Energy Plan, Governor Cooper has been making a lot of progress. According to the N.C. Department of Quality, The Clean Energy Plan's main objectives include: "Reducing electric power sector greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and attain carbon neutrality by 2050, fostering long-term energy affordability and price stability for North Carolina's residents and businesses by modernizing regulatory and planning processes, and accelerating clean energy innovation, development, and deployment to create

economic opportunities for both rural and urban areas of the state."

Cooper's steps in the right direction are not noticed nearly as much as I think they should be. He went to Capitol Hill in 2019 to testify against the government's anti-environmental actions. I want everyone to understand why it's so important. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report in 2018 stating that the Earth must start dropping CO2 emissions well before 2030 to make sure the planet does not change in temperature by at least 1.5 degrees Celsius. This increase may seem small and ineffective, and yes humans will be able to bear the conditions to some extent, however, The Climate Reality Project explains that natural systems will reach a point of no return. And that we should start focusing on and moving towards renewable energy sources. Cooper has definitely been making decisions catered to this issue that have made drastic results.

North Carolina has been able to drop its GHG levels by 10.2% below 2005 levels in 2018 according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Cooper was able to provide results by using a good portion of the state budget to fund alternative energy research and projects, and at the same time, enforce many regulations regarding the amount of emissions from corporations through his executive order.

Back in September, Cooper and Senator Thom Tillis joined forces convincing President Trump to include North Carolina on a ten year offshore natural gas and oil drilling moratorium that will go into effect in 2022 and will end in 2032. South Carolina, Georgia and Florida were included in this ban. Not only will this

save the fisheries and tourism industry in our state, but it will also save a lot of aquatic ecosystems on our coast.

Since May, Governor Cooper has gathered professionals to work on offshore wind energy research and projects, and in October, the News and Observer reported that "North Carolina will join Maryland and Virginia in the 'Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Resources,' which they are calling SMART-POWER for short." These were the same winds that powered the aircraft made by the Wright brothers and these winds are even stronger today. According to the Department of Energy, "offshore wind has the potential to generate more than 2,000 GW of capacity per year, nearly double the nation's current electricity use. Even if only 1% of that potential is captured, nearly 6.5 million homes could be powered by offshore wind energy within the next decade." That could power a large majority of the state and have benefits such as weaning off of nuclear energy and having a reduction of nuclear waste that can harm the environment.

The understanding that our governor has about future generations and the economy in regards to climate change compared to more than half the republicans in congress really worries me. It's obvious that the longer we wait on trying to protect the environment, the more damage will be done, meaning that when these old men leave office, the weight of the damage will be heavier on our shoulders. Cooper's efforts are advantageous for the next generations. And with the work he has been doing over the past two to three years, I am beyond doubt that the Clean Energy Plan will fail or do our state harm.



UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens. Photo by Chris Crews



UNTIL THE FINAL HORN SOUNDS



by Miles Ruder
Asst. Sports Editor

Despite turbulent season, Charlotte will pursue every avenue to continue their season

Charlotte's football lines up before a game.
Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

This year's football season has been more disappointing than what anyone hoped it would be for the Charlotte 49ers. For a team that just came off their first bowl appearance and first winning season in program history, there was a lot to be excited about for the 2020-21 season.

However, the 2020 season hasn't exactly panned out the way anyone in the program hoped it would with the limited number of games played, numerous game cancellations and postponements.

Head Coach Will Healy will be the first to tell anyone that this football season was going to be way different and unlike any other.

"You knew it was going to be a crazy year but you never think we're gonna have seven or eight games cancelled," said Healy. "It's been unlucky in some ways."

So far this season, Charlotte was scheduled to play in 12 games. Out of those 12 games, seven have been cancelled and only five have been played. Out of the seven games cancelled, four have been cancelled due to COVID-19 issues within the 49er program while three have been cancelled by the opponents.

Regardless of how many games have been cancelled this season, Healy never considered cancelling the season.

"Hell no. I don't regret playing," said Healy. "These guys need this. These guys need each other."

Going into their Dec. 6 game against Western Kentucky, the last game Charlotte suited up for was on Halloween night against Duke. With 36 days of no games, the 49ers shook off rust in what was a tough loss.

"We know how difficult the past few weeks have been," said Athletic Director Mike Hill. "No one understands the pain and frustration of cancelling games more than our student athletes, our coaches and our administration. We live it every single day."

This season has been extremely difficult for the players

and coaches as scheduling changes have happened at the last minute. So far out of the seven games cancelled, four have been on the Friday before the Saturday kickoff.

Even though the team has not experienced a Club Lit session since Charlotte's win over UTEP on Oct. 24, the team as a whole continues to grow together. For the players and coaches, it's appreciating every opportunity to play football and not taking it for granted.

"If we ever get an opportunity to play again, it better look like Club Lit on the sidelines because we are so excited just to get a chance to get out there," said Healy before the WKU matchup. "It's a victory in itself to go lineup and play a football game again."

One of the reasons why Hill, Coach Healy and the rest of the team have a positive mindset on this difficult season is because of the strong culture Charlotte has created over the past two years. Since coming to Charlotte, Coach Healy has emphasized the importance of having a sustainable and strong culture especially during tough times like the 2020 season has been.

Although the team hasn't had a season they were looking for, Healy has remained grateful for the handful of opportunities the team has had to go play football.

"Our guys would be a heck of a lot more unhappy if they were sitting on their couch for the last eight months," said Coach Healy. "It's been a challenge but there's been so much good that's come out of it."

As for the players, the seniors are the ones most affected by this difficult season as it is their last and likely won't be returning next year. Players like Tyriq Harris and Ben DeLuca had a lot to prove this season. Hill said they deserve every last possibility in order to close out this season on their terms.

"This is their last chance. They deserve every opportunity that they want," said Hill.

Over the summer and during the earlier part of the season, the football team experienced very few cases of COVID-19, which is why the season ran more smoothly in September and October. Once the flu season hit, however, things became more difficult to control. Charlotte athletics also noticed an increase in positive COVID-19 cases post-Thanksgiving, which is what led to the multiple postponements for their matchup against Western Kentucky and FIU.

Throughout the season, there have been so many unknowns about what the future holds and how many opportunities are left to play football this season. Nevertheless, Coach Healy commended his players for their perseverance and strength to keep moving forward.

"I've never been more proud of a group," said Healy. "These players have sacrificed so much and obviously we haven't gotten the results we want but this is a really good life lesson for our players and they've handled it like champions."

With limited weekends remaining to schedule football games, Hill has been actively working with the Conference USA in order to schedule a game the following weekend and have since agreed to play the Marshall Thundering Herd on Friday, Dec. 11.

"The young men who have worked so hard (and) have absolutely refused to quit and desperately want to play. They deserve nothing less from us," said Hill.

Despite every game in November being cancelled, Hill and Healy refuse to quit on this already difficult season.

"Until the final horn sounds on the 2020 season, we're gonna fight the good fight together with our football team's health, safety and dreams as our top priorities. They are why we do what we do," said Hill.

Five takeaways from Charlotte's loss against Western Kentucky

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49ers suffer 37-19 loss against Hilltoppers

by Sam Perry
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the Charlotte 49ers hosted the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers at noon. After over a month off from playing, Charlotte came out sluggish and fell to the Hilltoppers, 37-19.

This was the 49ers first game since Oct. 31 and was also senior day after the senior ceremony. Although the team came up short, they fought hard and played hard for 60 minutes.

Here are five takeaways from Sunday's defeat.

The offense came out rusty after a month off of playing

The 49er offense was struggling in their first game since October especially in the first half producing only 34 yards of offense. The Niners were held scoreless in the first half for the first time since their appearance in the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl last year against Buffalo, where the Niners also lost by double-digits. Charlotte was finally able to crack the scoreboard in the opening drive of the second half shaking off the rust after not playing since Halloween night against Duke. Despite being shutout in the first half, the 49ers were able to put up 19 points in the game but two touchdowns came on the final two possessions for the Niners when the game was already decided.

Quarterback Chris Reynolds looked uneasy in the pocket

Throughout the game, it looked like Chris Reynolds was running for his life. Western Kentucky's defense combined for nine hurries in addition to one sack on the day. Due to the constant collapse of the offensive line, Reynolds was never able to get into a rhythm. The one time it looked like he might get in a rhythm, two deep passes were negated by the referees as the players were out of bounds. Reynolds went 5-for-15 in the first half but was able to bounce back to 14-for-34 for 205 yards. Reynolds also threw for two touchdowns in the second half and finished the day with a 31.1 Quarterback Rating.

Hilltoppers ran over the 49ers defense

Since the opening drive of the game, Western Kentucky was having their way with the 49ers defense before being stopped within the one yard line on the opening

drive. The Hilltoppers' offense had 436 total offensive yards, getting 218 rushing yards and 218 passing yards. It seemed anytime Charlotte would score to show signs of hope, the Hilltoppers would answer right back, putting out any spark of hope for the Niners. Western Kentucky scored two rushing touchdowns and also threw for one touchdown. The Niners defense did seem to step up later in the second half making the job harder for the Hilltoppers' quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome causing him to end with a 69.1 Quarterback Rating.

Juniors achieved career milestone

Quarterback Chris Reynolds and Wide Receiver Victor Tucker both met some major milestones in their careers at Charlotte. Reynolds, despite struggling most of the game, was able to throw for his 5,000th career passing yard, ending the game at 5,042 yards. The redshirt junior quarterback is now only 363 yards from tying former Niners quarterback Matt Johnson for the most passing yards in Charlotte history.

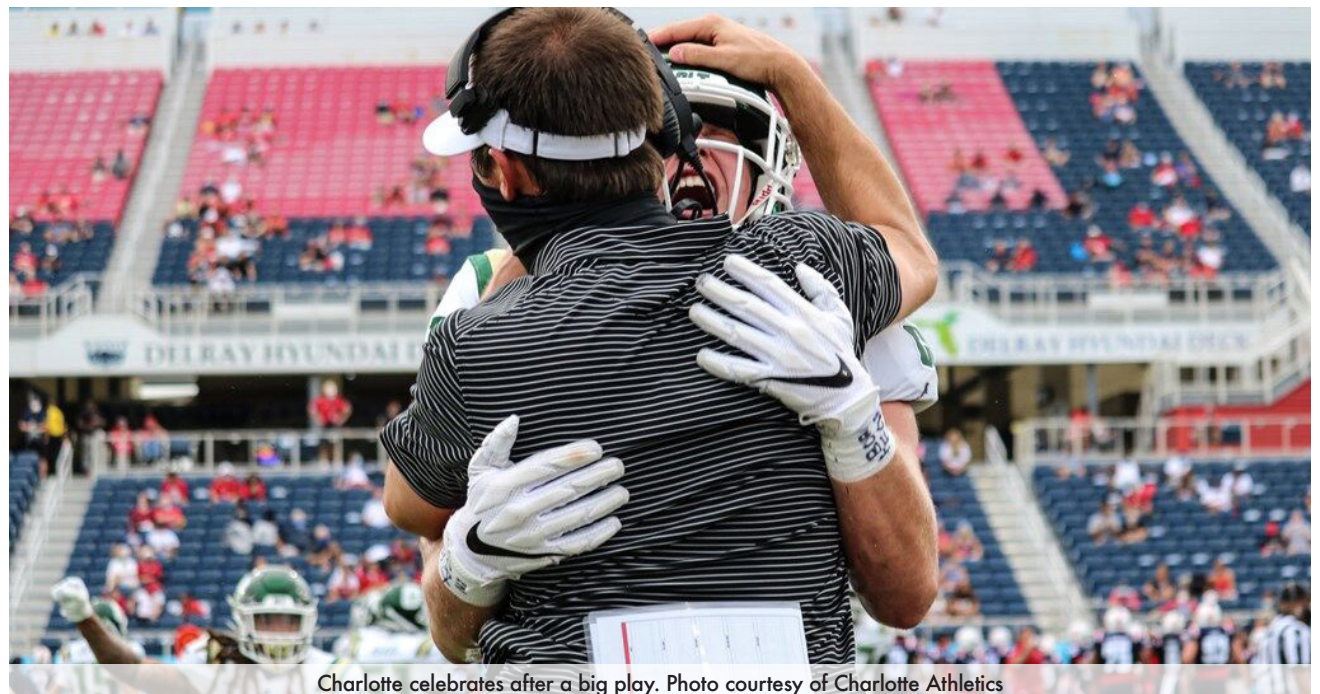
Tucker also reached a milestone of 2,000 receiving

yards in his career with the 49ers. He is currently in second place all-time for receiving yards, only trailing Austin Duke by 1,416 yards. Despite the rough game for the offense, Tucker was able to stand out as the receiver finished the day with 111 yards on eight catches. Tucker has been the go-to guy for Reynolds the entire season and continued that trend on Sunday.

Ben DeLuca cements his legacy in Niners lore

On the opening drive of the game, Senior Safety Ben DeLuca set the program record for most tackles, which was 306 previously held by Jeff Gemmell. DeLuca set the record on the opening drive tackling the Western Kentucky player at the goal line on fourth down, giving the 49ers a key stop on defense. The new program tackle record is 313 after DeLuca made seven tackles in the game against the Hilltoppers.

This will not be Charlotte's last game of the season as the Niners play will travel to Marshall to take on the Thundering Herd on Friday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.



Charlotte celebrates after a big play. Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics



INTERVIEW: THE COR

Director Dr. Andrew Hartley explores Shakespeare through

by Tyler Trudeau
Community Editor

Much like everything else this year, theater productions were not spared from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. For the UNC Charlotte Theater Department and Professor of Shakespeare Studies Dr. Andrew Hartley, the task of bringing the department's fall production of "Julius Caesar" presented a new challenge, as the production shifted from a staged production of the classic William Shakespeare play to an audio podcast. Taking on a new format required a new perspective for the production, with our current political state and the pandemic featured at the center of it. I spoke with Dr. Hartley, the show's director, about how the production evolved through this contemporary perspective and the inherent political roots of the Shakespeare play.

"Julius Caesar" follows a conspiracy led by Roman senators Cassius and Brutus to assassinate Caesar and prevent him from becoming the ruler of Rome. Ultimately, the plot brings more chaos than good as Rome is eventually thrown into a civil war, and the general public's perception of its political leaders is tested. What were some of your inspirations for telling the story of "Julius Caesar" through the lens of the coronavirus pandemic?

In March, when we were all moved online we didn't know what was going to happen at the time. Over the summer, before we ever committed to audio, we were trying to figure out if this would remain a theatrical production or some sort of broadcast without a live audience. From the get-go, the coronavirus became very much a part of the show itself. We were always going to do a contemporary show and for it to feel very present, we wanted to show the conditions in which we are all having to operate. Within William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" there is actually quite a lot of sickness in it. So we thought if we're talking about the way political leaders manipulate the general populace, how does something like the virus play into that? Of course back in March and April, we were seeing protests all over Charlotte and all over the country with some people believing that the virus was some kind of hoax, and others protesting the lockdown and the closing of businesses. Maybe that's what we should build into the show, the idea that part of the general public's concern is on one hand fear of getting infected and on the other hand fear that this whole thing is a political ploy.

In the very first scene of the play, before we even meet any of the main characters, we see a demonstration in the street. People are celebrating but also protesting Caesar's victory over his rival Pompey. Interpreting this for a modern audience, the celebration and/or



Photo of Dr. Hartley, courtesy of Dr. Hartley

protest can be very confusing, and in the nature of audio production, we can't use signs, we can't use masks or costumes or sets to help make a production feel like it is in a particular moment. We would need to use the text in order to do that. So the first scene isn't even about Pompey, it is instead an anti-mask protest with a crowd shouting "Reopen Rome." The thing about the play is that it doesn't have a strict political agenda. Shakespeare is more interested in the dynamic of what is going on between the characters. It works with something like the virus because we are using something that is politically charged, but the production itself is not taking a stance on either side.

What elements from the play offered something to be explored from a contemporary political perspective?

We committed to doing "Julius Caesar" for the fall semester about 18 months ago, and initially we had no idea the coronavirus would be a thing. We knew, however, that we would be looking at a presidential election, and I wanted to do a Shakespeare play that really investigated political power and the representation of someone manipulating the general public. Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century, productions of this play have always had the tendency to create direct analogues to recognizable public figures. For example, in New York a couple of years ago, there was a famous production with a "Trump Caesar," and he was clearly supposed to be Donald Trump. Of course, people lost their minds and got upset and angry. On the conservative side, they were calling to boycott the theater company and a number of their corporate sponsors pulled out. In some ways, that is a massive misreading of the play because it doesn't come out and say anything against Trump specifically. There were similar productions during the Obama administration with an "Obama Caesar" as well. The thing is that this is what has always been done with this play. We aren't doing a "Trump Caesar," but we are locating the story in present-day conditions. Whenever you're doing theater, particularly student theater, you are always talking about a particular moment. The production has to have urgency, it has to feel like it is doing something important and relevant.

Were there any concerns about how the audience would react to the subject matter of political manipulation and the coronavirus?

We talked about it a lot within the cast and crew, and the consensus was that no one would really be truly upset by this. We have lived the past six months or so within a pandemic that has been politicized by both sides in different ways, and that's just the nature of our reality. For this production to do something similar, I think if people are going to be upset or offended by that, they are just going to be upset with the world. As I said, there isn't a clear agenda within the play or the production. The real focus of the play is how the politicians use the public outcry over the shutting-down of businesses or the belief that the pandemic is a hoax for their own advantage. The most interesting figure in the play becomes Mark Antony instead of Julius Caesar, because of how the character rides that public outcry and uses it to put him in control. The play is about the exploitation of specific circumstances and the manipulation of the public.

THE CORONA CAESAR PODCAST

audio in the UNC Charlotte Department of Theatre's latest production

What challenges did you and the crew face when adapting the show to a podcast format?

It became increasingly apparent that we would not have the resources to perform the play on video. For a while we talked about doing a Zoom production, but I watched a lot of those Zoom productions done by theater companies in the late spring and early summer, and most of them were just unwatchable. Every scene just looked like a boardroom meeting, with people facing the camera and talking. For ten minutes or so, that might be interesting, but for Shakespeare, it doesn't work. You need that sense of people in the same space talking to each other, so we asked how we could simulate that without a live production.

What drew you to a podcast format?

I grew up in the United Kingdom, and radio dramas are still as big a thing today as they were back then. Growing up, I remember listening to a 26-part adaptation of Lord of the Rings and it was fantastic. If they are done well, radio dramas can be completely immersive and it becomes very personal. So we thought if we did the video production, it would look very crappy. An audio production on the other hand can be made to be quite professional. We could then focus on the voices of the actors with the inclusion of sound effects and soundscapes and produce something decent. The challenge became how to get the cast together and actually record this thing. We had to audition through Zoom, and then figure out a way for the cast to rehearse and record wherever they were. Our budget for costumes and set design ultimately went to sound equipment like microphones that could then be shipped to each student who was cast.

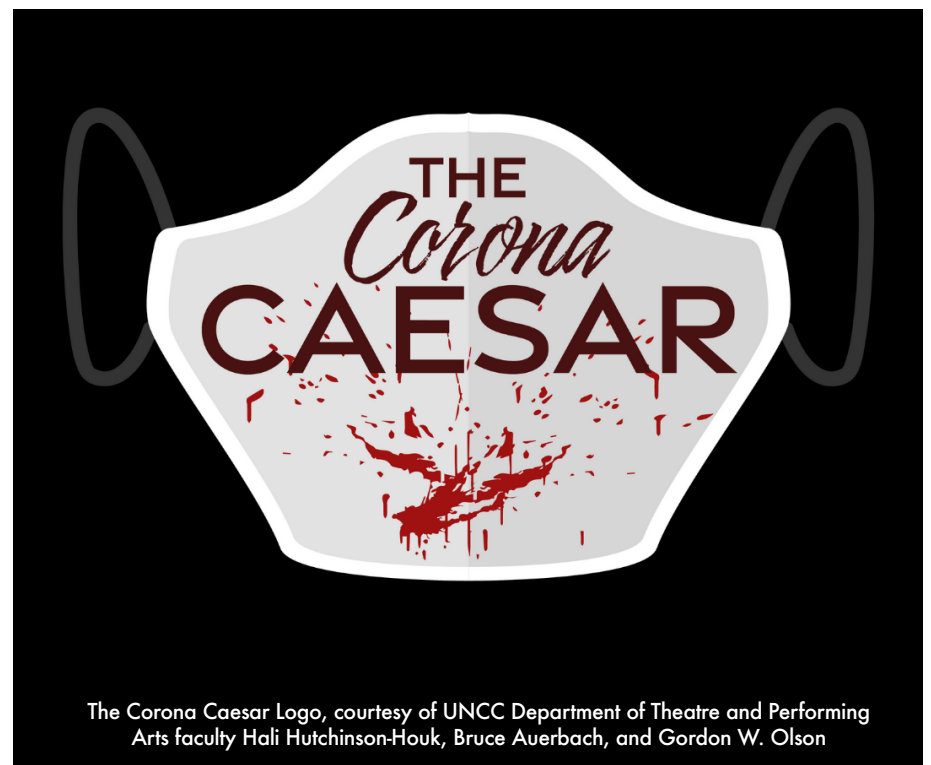
How much did sound design play into the storytelling?

Once we committed to doing an audio podcast, I did a new cutting of the script in order to adjust it to that format. Certain things needed to be considered like where scenes were taking place, what we wanted to be going on in the background, where the sounds of a door opening or people moving would take place. Even shifting the tone of a crowd between anger, confusion and enthusiasm became a challenge. In an audio-only production, actors are not able to perform through gestures or facial expressions, it must be conveyed through their voice. We take things like costumes and sets for granted because we think of them as aesthetic elements. They're not just aesthetic elements, but semantic elements about meaning. The moment someone walks on stage dressed a certain way, you know roughly where and when they are. With audio production, you have to find another way to do that. So we had a sound mixer and a sound designer, and the sound designer created a lot of those effects and built those soundscapes. The mixer or sound engineer was the one smoothing it all out and making it feel cohesive. The whole thing becomes very collaborative between the cast recording their audio and then the sound designer and mixer putting that audio into a final product.

You have adapted Shakespeare many times in your career and continue to teach it to students. What challenges have you faced in teaching students to read and perform it?

We do Shakespeare because I think Shakespeare is extraordinary. It is a mix of fascinating character work and fascinating text. Of course, you have to make the text appeal to the general public, but you don't have to know the play to understand the production. Clarity is everything when adapting Shakespeare, meaning if the cast doesn't understand the text, neither will the audience. I embraced the idea that our first duty is to tell a story that people will understand. If they don't understand it, to a certain extent that's our fault. So we spent a lot of time working with the actors and unpacking every word. Getting the gist of the text isn't good enough because you can't play gist. The actors need to understand every single word, and they have to own it.

Dr. Andrew Hartley is the Robinson Distinguished Professor of Shakespeare Studies at UNC Charlotte. He is also a best-selling author of over 23 novels and has written numerous adaptations of William Shakespeare's work. 'The Corona Caesar' was directed by Hartley and produced and performed by the undergraduate students of the UNC Charlotte Theater Department. All five episodes of the 'The Corona Caesar' are available to listen to on Soundcloud.



What is NT listening to?

Hello everyone, my name is Max Young and I am the Copy Editor for the Niner Times. My music taste consists of older rock, but I am too hipster to call it “classic.” Just kidding, but I am often called an old soul based on my interests and the music that I listen to. The playlist that I made consists of 60s/70s rock with a majority of indie and alt-rock. I named it “I’m not old, you are” because I get called a 60-year-old in a 20-year-old’s body, and I think my music taste reflects that sentiment. Weirdly enough, it’s true. I am 60 years old and I have been trapped in a Benjamin Button type situation where I am aging backwards. Although this is a fact, I do have some pop music sprinkled in for you youngsters. As weird as it may sound, this playlist is best listened to in the shower in the dark. I frankly needed a fun playlist to listen to in the shower, and the dark makes it a real vibe. I think that the tracks in this playlist are chill and can help anyone relax and enjoy a break from reality.





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LIFESTYLE

BOOK REVIEW: NEW EROTICA FOR FEMINISTS

Julianna Peres
Lifestyle Editor

Photo of Butterfly Bouquet
courtesy of Pikrepo

WARNING: This book contains mature content.

Written by several incredible activists, Caitlin Kunkel, Brooke Preston, Fiona Taylor, and Carrie Wittmer, this is the funniest book I've read all year. It's all about taking negative social narratives and turning them on their heads. Without a basic understanding of how and why American cultural values are in place, this book wouldn't make an ounce of sense. But, for anyone who's ever watched a movie and wished that there were more female characters or that the story was less about "will they won't they" and more about "they complement one another for more than just how hot they both are".

The 18+ aspect of this book was new to me. Erotic books have never really been my thing. Sure, I'll read some sensual poetry or a PG-13 YA book once in a while, but saucy stories... meh. This book though. WOW. It's funny, accurate, inclusive, and it gave me butterflies. There are plenty of pop culture references to singers, actors, and films. Of course, there are the bigger names like Oprah or Beyoncé, but there are plenty of niche mentions too.

I would definitely recommend this to anyone in the Women's and Gender Studies Department at UNC Charlotte. But I would also recommend this to anyone who's ever cried at the oppression enacted against every person from every walk of life. There are conversations concerning things like breast-feeding in public, sexual

revolutions, plus-size shaming, and racial inclusivity. It should, however, be noted that all four of these authors are white, cisgender women. Fortunately, they do take the time to acknowledge this privilege. Most of the pieces in this book are targeted towards genderless readers with genderless/unspecific pronouns scattered throughout. This makes it easier to put oneself in the story without feeling any sort of dysphoria or disconnect.

The subtitle of this work really says it all: "satirical fantasies of love, lust, and equal pay". I found this book both racy and absolutely hilarious. There are so many nuances, wordplay, and puns in every short story.

Here are some excerpts that had me crying, crying-laughing, and texting my sister to tell her about the complete Twitter-esque gold-mine that is this book:

1. Ed Sheeran releases a new single called "I'm in Love with Your Body of Work" about Agatha Christie. It sells nine billion copies (more than there are people on the earth).

2. "I'm here for you, Rose! Here's a giant door you can float on so you won't die of hypothermia." "Let's share it, Jack! Based on my intimate knowledge of your body and my fairly advanced understanding of physics, I can tell that the cubic space available to us on this door would more than support our combined body weight when contrasted with the incredible buoyancy of salt water." "Rose, I wish I had a good education

like you," Jack says, climbing on. They both live.

3. "She's such a MILF," the venture capitalist says, staring longingly at the woman striding confidently out of the conference room. "Seriously?" Our CFO gives a low, drawn-out whistle of approval. "Now that is a Mom I'd Like to Fund. Her use-acquisition and retention rates are simply unparalleled."

4. During our daily FaceTime, I mentioned I was having a bad day. An hour later, my doorbell rang. And there he was, flowers in hand, with just the tip of a firm baguette rising from his Whole Foods bag. "I'm making you homemade spaghetti," says my friend and the internet's boyfriend Jeff Goldblum. "Ummmm, Jeff... This is really sweet, but just so you know, I have a partner." "I know! Of course I know that! This is for both of you amazing humans! We must embrace the ephemeral beauty of each day, of each, ah, ah, fleeting, ah, moment! Now is it okay if I also clean your bathroom while quoting your favorite lines from Jurassic Park and The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou?"

RATING:

5/5