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NINERTIMES

Vol. 35, Issue 21

April 18, 2023

NINERTIMES.COM

HOW CHARLOTTE DESTROYED AND REVIVED THE BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD

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Abel Jackson's mural on the side of Studio 229.

Photo courtesy of The Brooklyn Collective
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UNC Charlotte student exposes East Village off-campus apartments through Instagram account

by Jenny Kase
Staff Writer

Third-year UNC Charlotte student Taitum James created an Instagram account in the spring of 2023 to expose the off-campus apartment complex, East Village, for poor management and false advertising.

According to their website, East Village claims to be “A village that welcomes, energizes and inspires.” The website also claims to have “enviable, fully-furnished interiors and all-inclusive amenities that will have you living your #bestlife.”

They did inspire first-year resident James, but in a different light than anticipated.

On April 3, 2023, James discussed a series of problems occurring within the East Village apartment complex since her arrival that has led to significant frustrations.

“I have been having issues since we moved in. The first week we moved in, my room flooded, my tire got a hole from construction nails and there were break-ins. That’s pretty much where the issues arose for me,” James said.

James and her roommates continuously contacted management for help but felt their

concerns were never properly addressed or acted upon. She finally reached a breaking point.

“The night we got the text from management about how everyone is going to be charged for pet waste on the floor is why I created the page. It’s pretty much to showcase everything going on in the apartment complex because management wasn’t doing anything about it,” James said. “I felt like I had to take it to that extreme because I had done as much as I could within the complex.”

According to James, the motivation behind creating her Instagram page was to get East Villages’ attention so they could make changes and make others aware of what is happening within the complex.

“It seems like problems get solved a little bit quicker around here since the creation of the page,” said James.

Despite these slight improvements, East Village has taken legal action to remove the page.

“East Village as a company doesn’t like it. They have told me to take it down and that they

will fix everything,” James said. “I can see how much it affected them to the extent that they felt they needed to send out a cease and desist letter to me because of how I made them look.”

The Niner Times contacted East Village management, but they declined to comment.

East Village is threatening to sue James for defamation of character and monetary compensation. James took up this issue with legal aid at Charlotte.

“Legal aid at the school explained to me that it could be defamation because I used the same logo and posed as them in some of the captions. They don’t like the page being up because it makes them look bad, and it’s throwing business away,” James said.

On the other hand, residents have been reacting in a very positive light.

“People have been thanking me for posting about this,” James said. “I’ve received a lot of overall support from people who know the page’s purpose is for a good cause and positive outcome.”

James feels content with this response and assures fellow residents that they are not the only ones experiencing problems.

“You’re not alone in management not taking you seriously with issues like health and wellness. It’s okay to not be okay with that and get that out there. It shouldn’t be a guarded topic,” James said.

James is unhappy with the response from East Village and said that she shared nothing but the truth.

“Having this page and running it is in my First Amendment right. Having it taken away from me in a legal way is a very weird and out-of-body experience because I would never have thought that my freedom of speech would be labeled as defamation. Nothing was a lie; they just don’t like it,” James said.

James’s Instagram account has since been removed to avoid legal troubles. An anonymous resident has created a new account, @therealeastvillage, to continue exposing these complex-wide issues.

UNC Charlotte students win Public Anthropology Award

by James Kmosko
Staff Writer

Fourteen UNC Charlotte students won the Public Anthropology Award, a writing competition involving over 3,000 students from 20 colleges and universities nationwide.

The competition is hosted by the Center for a Public Anthropology, a nonprofit organization that encourages professors and students to address problems relating to anthropology. Each semester, the organization partners with professors nationwide and internationally to assign students a writing prompt.

“Until pretty recently, students wrote an opinion letter on an issue that was important to anthropology,” said Catherine Fuentes, the Charlotte anthropology professor whose students won the award. “The idea was to let students have a better idea of what you can do with anthropology in the real world, outside of academia and textbooks.”

The prompt differs yearly but always involves

an issue the organization sees as contentious.

“Most recently, we’ve had debates on things such as racism and inequality with law enforcement,” said Fuentes. “[Climate change] was one we worked on for quite a few semesters. Now the students are doing a new piece where they write a story. It’s still an opinion piece, but it’s from their own unique perspective.”

This semester, the prompt dealt with issues of race and working together through disagreements.

“The prompt was dealing with the racial injustice and policing in the United States and how that is a hot-button topic,” said third-year student Brodie Hilton, one of the 14 winners. “The prompt was to write a story about two people [who disagree] coming together and working together. Ultimately, my paper became about understanding and seeing the differences and helping others to see that as well.”

Each submission to the competition is graded by another student. The submissions that receive the highest grades are then voted on by the students participating in the competition. Those that receive the most votes receive the award.

“The students are in control of it all,” said Fuentes. “We usually get quite a few at UNC Charlotte each semester that receive this award.”

The Charlotte students who won the award expressed their appreciation to those of the 3,000 participating students who voted for their stories.

“I’m still honored that my colleagues who worked on the project saw my papers being fit,” said Hilton.

All 14 winners’ names and stories are available on the Public Anthropology website.



University City to remodel neighboring shopping center into Main Street for UNC Charlotte students

by Chas McCrary
Contributor

University City Partners (UCP) plans to redevelop the Mallard Pointe Shopping Center off North Tryon Street into a student main street for UNC Charlotte students and alumni.

Over March 27-30, Tobe Holmes, vice president of economic development for UCP, met with community members to gather ideas and discuss plans for the coming development.

“There is a need in the community for a space like this,” said Holmes. “It’s Harden Street in Columbia, Franklin Street in Chapel Hill and Hillsboro Street in Raleigh. Every great university has a place for its community to come together.”

An exact completion date for redevelopment is currently unclear, but students can expect to see large changes in the area over the next few years. UCP teamed up with Mike Lyden, principle of street plans collaborative, to draft short and long-term plans for the area. Lyden’s

proposed “phase zero” of development involves renovating the parking lot in front of the abandoned Kohls.

“If you walk over there, there’s no need for the parking lot, and it leaves a gaping footprint because that business [Kohls] is not currently active,” said Lyden. “So the key of this idea, to think about a square, a public space, something that could be programmed differently at different times of the day, different uses for different people going about their daily lives in different ways.”

Lyden used student feedback collected during the week to guide the development process, focusing on socialization and flexibility.

“We heard a lot from students about the need for things that are not just food and beverage,” said Lyden, “Where do we relax? Where do we take a yoga class? Where do we engage as community members long before we spend a single dollar?”



Mallard Pointe shopping center | Photo by Sunnya Hadavi

Fourth annual April 30 Remembrance Day on April 28

by James Kmosko
Staff Writer

CW: This article mentions a past shooting on April 30, 2019.

UNC Charlotte will unveil the April 30 Memorial on Friday, April 28, the fourth annual Day of Remembrance. The memorial will commemorate the victims of the tragedy on April 30, 2019.

Chancellor Sharon Gaber will host the dedication ceremony outside of the Kennedy Building at 3 p.m. The dedication will include the Day of Remembrance’s annual wreath-laying ceremony.

The ceremony is a tribute to Riley Howell and Ellis “Reed” Parlier, the two students who lost their lives, and the other students and professors who were present at the time. Attendance is not limited to Charlotte students and staff; anyone can RSVP to attend the dedication.

The memorial is designed to be a “constellation garden,” a series of metal arches that suspend strings of lights in the air. The lights are positioned to represent the stars that were in the sky on the night of April 30, 2019. The memorial will also be interactive, as the lights activate and change when touched.

A memorial wall will also be located outside the Kennedy Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller memorials are assembled annually in front of the 49er Miner statue, in the botanical gardens and at other places around campus.

Between 12-1:30 p.m., the Charlotte Center for Counseling and Psychological Services will sponsor Canine Connection in the Health and Wellbeing Courtyard. The event will allow students affected by the day to interact with therapy dogs at no cost.

The University Recreation Center (UREC) will host a series of fitness classes, including yoga, zumba and cycling, from 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. A full list of the classes and times can be found on the Niner Nation Remembers website.

Niner Nation Remembers has also created an online memorial that hosts photos, videos, letters and other media in remembrance of the events of April 30. Anyone with relevant media can submit it to the memorial and have it archived on the website.

On the evening of April 30, 2019, a gunman opened fire in Room 236 of the Kennedy Building during the last day of spring classes.

Two students, Ellis “Reed” Parlier and Riley Howell, were killed in the shooting. Howell lost his life after tackling the gunman, giving his nearly 60 classmates time to escape. Four additional students, Drew Pescaro, Rami Al-Ramadhan, Emily Houtp and Sean DeHart,

were injured in the shooting.

The perpetrator was arrested and pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.



Construction of Remembrance memorial | Photo by Cairo Smith

How Charlotte destroyed and revived the Brooklyn neighborhood

by Jackson Martin
Asst. News Editor

Brooklyn was a predominantly African-American neighborhood that resided in what takes up most of Charlotte's Second Ward today. After facing demolition in the 1960s-1970s from the Urban Renewal Act, Brooklyn essentially ceased to exist. However, organizations such as The Brooklyn Collective and Charlotte's Brooklyn Village project have made recent strides to revive the spirit of Brooklyn.

For most of the 20th century, Brooklyn was a lively community that housed schools, clubs, restaurants and other local businesses. However, after federal guidelines assessed Charlotte neighborhoods through redlining, Brooklyn was deemed a blighted neighborhood.

Between 1960 and 1977, over 1,000 families and 200 businesses were removed from Brooklyn as a result of Urban Renewal. Only four buildings remain today: the Mecklenburg Investment Company Building (MICo), Studio 229, Grace AME Zion Church and Second Ward High School Gymnasium.

A nonprofit organization called The Brooklyn Collective now inhabits three of these buildings. The Brooklyn Collective is a collection of nine small businesses and nonprofits looking to bring the spirit of Brooklyn back to Charlotte.

"We're like one big family here," said Executive Director of The Brooklyn Collective Monique Douglas. "But we're very intentional about who our tenants are in the building."

One of the Collective's companies is Advocations, which provides meaningful employment for people with disabilities. They also house The FACTS Initiative, which provides mental health counseling for youth up to the age of 17 and their families.

MICo was the first African American-financed and occupied office building in Charlotte. According to Douglas, it was designed to help support and provide resources for small Black businesses. Currently, The Brooklyn Collective uses the space as an art gallery.

"The third floor of [MICo] was a social club called The Lodge. Because the Blacks at that time couldn't go to the white lodges, The Lodge was where they gathered to discuss social, political and economic matters and how they would be vehicles for change in the times," said Douglas. "Today, we've kind of gone back to the model they instituted in the 1900s."

MICo turned 101 years old this year.

Currently, The Brooklyn Collective is

presenting the "Renaissance of Brooklyn," curated by Yvonne Bynoe. The exhibit is open until April 20, 2023.

The city of Charlotte has recently taken a few steps to honor Brooklyn's history, such as renaming Stonewall Street to Brooklyn Village Avenue.

"Anytime that people go back and recognize that this was a great neighborhood in its heyday is a good thing, right?" said Douglas. "The name was reflective of the community that was really here, that was taken away."

"I think it's also important for them not to get complacent and feel that just by changing the name of the street, they've done enough," said Douglas.

Additionally, the Levine Museum of the New South created a mobile app, KnowCLT, which uses augmented reality to simulate what Brooklyn was like in the 20th century. Users can visit Brooklyn landmarks to view and read about the history that once resided there. It is available for free on iOS and Android.

Charlotte is also in the process of developing the Brooklyn Village project, which will bring office, retail and cultural space to 17 acres in Uptown's Second Ward. However, there is some controversy surrounding the development.

"There are two parts to it. You can remember Brooklyn all you want, but the question is what do you do to address the damage that destroying the community did," said Pamela

Grundy, Charlotte author and historian. "It's fine to call it Brooklyn Village. It's nice to put up some plaques, but what aspect of that project is actually going to go toward addressing the wrongs that were done."

"There need to be places for African Americans who got displaced, who suffered economically because of that," said Grundy.

The Brooklyn Village Master Plan proposal consists of allocated spots for additional residential units, offices, retail and restaurant units, cultural space, hotels and 2.5 acres of open space with plans for a new park.

"Progress is necessary. But [they need to] ensure that as they're bringing in projects and taking on that name, Brooklyn, that they're making sure they also incorporate the true history within whatever projects they're doing," said Douglas. "We have the historic buildings that are still there too. There should be collaboration between the new and the real Brooklyn."

Additionally, the Brooklyn Village project is creating Myers Passage, which will act as a pathway that brings together Brooklyn Village's North and South phases where Myers Street in Brooklyn originally resided.

"Brooklyn had over 1,400 homes and 275 businesses. It was no little square block," said Douglas. "It is still Brooklyn. It may not look the same, but it's still Brooklyn. So it would be nice to see more placemaking happen. It would be

nice to see them using the name Brooklyn and calling it what it really is."

After the demolition of Brooklyn, many African-American families in Charlotte moved to new communities in neighborhoods such as Belmont, Villa Heights and Enderly Park, according to Grundy.

Urban renewal and gentrification continue in the city. Zillow claims Charlotte is "2023's Hottest Housing Market."

As of April 15, 2023, the Housing Precarity Risk Model by UC Berkley's Urban Displacement Project reports that Belmont and Villa Heights now face ongoing low-income displacement.

"I think they were different from the Brooklyn community. Maybe not as tight and coherent, but they built communities back," said Grundy. "But now they're getting displaced again."

Pamela Grundy is the author of "Legacy: Three Centuries of Black History in Charlotte, North Carolina," which covers the history of Brooklyn extensively. Grundy encourages UNC Charlotte students to learn and engage with Charlotte's history to preserve its legacy.

"[You must] understand the power of culture and connections in these communities that people have built up that you don't necessarily see," said Grundy. "You cannot keep history alive if you keep it buried. It's incumbent for your generation and generations to come to know the story because the more you all know, the more you will continue to pass it on."



Historic Brooklyn and Mecklenburg Investment Company Building | Courtesy of Brooklyn Oral History and The Brooklyn Collective

Vietnamese Student Association speaks on the realities of being Asian in America

by Monique Delagey
Managing Editor

On April 1, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) posted a promo video titled “Lotus in Bloom,” detailing their theme for Viet Night. The organization’s eighth annual event highlights dozens of Asian-owned businesses, families and traditions but, most importantly, is a celebration of Vietnamese culture.

The Instagram video is a testament to the reality of growing up Asian in America. VSA interns narrate over the video, stating, “I think I noticed I was different a really long time ago... I was the only one that looked the way that I did.”

The promo shows association members sitting alone, then being together, showing the normalcy of their daily lives and their community with each other.

The video’s narration showcases the struggle for Asian American youth to find true identity in places where they are not accepted. However, when they find a community with others of shared experiences, they begin to feel comfortable being themselves.

“Being in a community filled with many Asian Americans, it created a bond that will last for a lifetime,” one VSA intern voices. The voice-over ends with a final quote, “I’m proud of it. I’m

proud of being bilingual, and I’m also proud of being different.”

“Lotus in Bloom” represents a necessary conversation about what Asian youth face every day growing up in the United States. By highlighting the theme in Viet Night, the VSA members invite individuals from various Asian cultures to recognize the importance of their own community and values.

President of VSA, Kaitlyn Van, discussed how the theme is a metaphor for the struggles Asian Americans face.

“When a lotus grows, it sprouts underneath the surface of the water through dirty and rough conditions, but despite these conditions, it manages to push everything aside and rise above the surface of the water,” Van said.

She continued to speak on how choosing the Lotus as a symbolic theme showcases a constant struggle to be accepted.

“This is a representation of our struggles as Asian Americans growing up in an environment in which we try to conform to a society that is utterly foreign to us and our families. But we define who we are, and when we start embracing our identity and cultural values, are we able to blossom and thrive,” Van said.

Through promoting “Lotus in Bloom,” the organization welcomes others to share an appreciation for not only Vietnamese culture but for other cultures. They understand the meaning of celebrating these differences. Through its many hosted events, the student association continues to show its support for all students, no matter their cultural backgrounds.

“VSA has always been an open and accepting student organization regardless of each member’s ethnicity. Even though our organization has a focus on spreading awareness of Vietnamese culture, we strive to create a positive and supportive environment for all students,” Van said.

The association’s members actively support all individuals, allowing them to be integral to their community. VSA is where students can find acceptance and an organization dozens of Asian-owned businesses support.

VSA’s Culture Chair Phung Nguyen speaks on the organization recognizing all other Asian communities in Charlotte.

“Even though we say that we are VSA, Vietnamese Student Association, we welcome all kinds of Asian Americans in our group in terms of interns and E-board members,”

Nguyen said.

In return for VSA’s dedication to providing an accepting community, Asian-owned businesses show their favor. Many well-known businesses in Charlotte, and other locations, have shown their support of the organization’s mission through sponsorship.

“For our Viet Night, we have worked with, this year as well as last year, a lot of Charlotte local businesses that are mainly Asian-owned, such as Bánmí Brothers, Beard Papa’s, Vietnamese nail shops and supermarkets. They have really helped us out this year,” Nguyen said.

Since the association’s establishment in 1989, VSA has given back to the community and continues to receive overarching support for its mission. VSA’s “Lotus in Bloom” gives Asian Americans a platform to share their struggle to find an identity. By being a voice for the Asian community in Charlotte and across North Carolina, the VSA is essential to implementing societal change.

“We have VSA as well as Filipino Student Association as well as Asian American Student Association here at Charlotte. Although we are different organizations, at the end of the day, we are still Asian Americans,” said Phung Nguyen.

Film review: ‘Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves’ is a faithful but accessible love letter to D&D

by Cat Beck
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

The fantasy film “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves” was a delightful surprise in how faithfully it portrayed the most beloved elements of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and how entertaining it was as a fantasy movie in its own right.

I was cautiously optimistic going into this movie. The rising popularity of D&D in recent years had the potential to make it a soulless cash grab, but the promotional material and initial reviews were promising. To my delight, this film did not disappoint.

Setting aside all of the attention to detail and references to the lore, “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves” is just plain entertaining. From the beginning, the film’s humor is spot-on, giving a self-deprecating charm to its motley crew of adventurers. The banter between characters is quick and witty, and the situations they face are endlessly creative, from orchestrating a heist with magic portals to escaping a dragon that is too heavy to fly.

The adventurers at the heart of the story are

simple but charming, each bringing a distinct set of traits and skills to the table. Edgin (Chris Pine) is a crafty and charismatic bard, Holga (Michelle Rodriguez) is a tough if somewhat dim barbarian, Simon (Justice Smith) is an anxious and insecure sorcerer and Doric (Sophia Lillis) is a resolute druid with the ability to transform into animals.

None of the characters are groundbreaking, playing into archetypes that D&D fans and casual moviegoers alike would recognize. On the one hand, this made the characters

occasionally cliché, especially in Edgin’s case. Any cunning rogue with a tragic past could have been swapped out for Edgin with little change to the script. Doric was also a weak character, not because she was cliché but because she was underdeveloped. Her shapeshifting ability was a flawless contribution to the action sequences, but she was given little dedicated screen time in human form.

On the other hand, the simplicity of the characters made for efficient storytelling. Given

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how much ground the adventurers covered, more complex characters would have slowed the film to a crawl. Additionally, common archetypes added to the sense of familiarity, especially given the film's source material. Any viewer who has played D&D before can relate to the antics of these well-known characters.

The film's skill in telling a story that was simultaneously true to its source material and accessible to general audiences seems like nothing short of a miracle. In an interview with Collider, John Francis Daley, one of the directors, explained that their goal was to

"bridge the gap between [D&D] fans and non-fans alike," which was executed with remarkable efficiency.

In one scene, the adventurers must ask a magically reanimated corpse a series of questions to aid them on their quest, but they accidentally waste their limited number of questions trying to figure out how the spell works. The spell is based on one from D&D, and the humorous situation is one that many fans of the game have encountered before. The spell's mechanics are explained concisely so that those who have never played the game will still be able to appreciate the humor.

The film is full of scenes like this in which

familiar elements from D&D are succinctly explained and then seen in action, making for an effective setup and punchline.

The film's ability to balance tone was impressive throughout. The secondary villain Forge Fitzwilliam is as infuriating as he is hilariously incompetent. The main villain's ultimate defeat is cathartic and a hilarious piece of visual humor. Tying everything together are top-notch action sequences that epitomize the chaotic, edge-of-your-seat problem-solving that takes place at an actual D&D table.

As an avid D&D player, I was delighted by how immediately recognizable almost every element of the film was, from individual spells

and magical beasts to the more general tone and group dynamics of the characters.

"Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" took on the challenge of adapting a tabletop roleplaying game with no singular plot into a film, and it did so beautifully. The references to D&D paid tribute to the game and its fans. While the characters were nothing groundbreaking, the creative action sequences and efficient storytelling made it an entertaining watch for all audiences.

Rating: 8/10



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Restaurant review: Boardwalk Billy's is a budget-friendly option for Charlotte students

by Clare Pickhardt
Staff Writer

Boardwalk Billy's Raw Bar and Ribs is a unique sports bar that offers a laid-back feel to customers alongside quality food and service.

The beach-themed restaurant provides a casual sit-down experience with ample seating and a separate room for events. Upon entering, customers are greeted by a host and can enjoy the view from the large windows that overlook the pond.

My server brought a menu over and promptly tended to my needs. The extensive menu includes starters, salads, a smoked meats section, a raw bar section, the "Q Combo," which offers the choice of two or three smoked meats and two sides, "Billy's favorites" and a sandwiches, tacos and wraps section.

After marinating in all of the menu options, I decided to go with the grilled shrimp tacos, which include two tacos with a side for a reasonable \$12.99. I opted to pair my taco with some simple mac and cheese.

It took a short 15 minutes for my food to arrive on a metal tray with a sheet of brown parchment paper. The grilled shrimp tacos were

a colorful sight with a flour tortilla shell, four pieces of mango BBQ seasoned shrimp and a layer of slaw topped with pico de gallo and cilantro lime sour cream. My mouth watered instantly, and with the first bite, I was in love. The shrimp had a deep flavor profile paired perfectly with the succulent slaw and sauce combo. I cannot recommend the grilled shrimp tacos enough.

After I inhaled the tacos, I moved over to the mac and cheese. Though it came in a small palm-sized bowl, it had big flavors. The mac and cheese was rich and exquisitely creamy, leaving my taste buds and stomach satisfied.

Overall, my trip to Boardwalk Billy's was a great experience. The restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere, cheerful vibe and tangy, delicious food. I will certainly return. If you want a budget-friendly experience with a satisfying meal, you have found your new go-to.

Rating: 10/10



Boardwalk Billy's Raw Bar and Ribs at the Boardwalk | Courtesy of university.boardwalkbillys.com

Congratulations!

2023 Who's Who Among Students at UNC Charlotte Awardees

Who's Who Among Students at University of North Carolina Charlotte is a highly regarded award bestowed upon the students who excel in leadership, service, and academic endeavors.

Maya Alexander	Kirthi Kaushik	Kayla Poteat
Emma Boger	Adam Khrais	Mico Quijano
Lauren Brown	Jurcek Lesjak	Taylor Quinn
Caitlyn Burkett	Tatiana Larson	Rei Rama
Mason Burns	Matthew Sanchez	Jordyn Rascoe
Chloe Clary	Rachel Magallon	Tiera Ray
Colby Cockrell	Ashlyn Mallard	Kritika Reddy Bokka
Kaitlyn Collins	Cooper Manley	Madi Robertson
Niyati Danda	Kayla Marsh	Mahita Sadula
Jonathan Williams	Campbell Medders	Alexa Schoubert
Natalee Davis	Casey Mesaeh	Alexandria Schultz
Emily Garcia	Kristen Minehart	Erin Stone
Xavier Gomez	Mya Mitchell	Bridget Summerlee
Brittney Graff	Kylie Morin	Madison Synder
Maliah Graves	Brenna Murray	Donna Thompson
Carly Gross	Sarah Neil	Judith VanBoven
Emma Hardy	Enny Ogunyemi	My Vuong
Kayla Hensley	Tife Olusesi	Holly Wheet
Kristina Honcharova	Angel Padilla	Reece Yoho
Precious Ikejiaku	Grace Park	Gabrielle Zaliah Haley
Hannah Isenhour	Maggie Pearce	Kayla Ziutendyk
Mira Kaskas	Jennifer Pittman	Justin Zurawski
	Madeline Pitts	

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

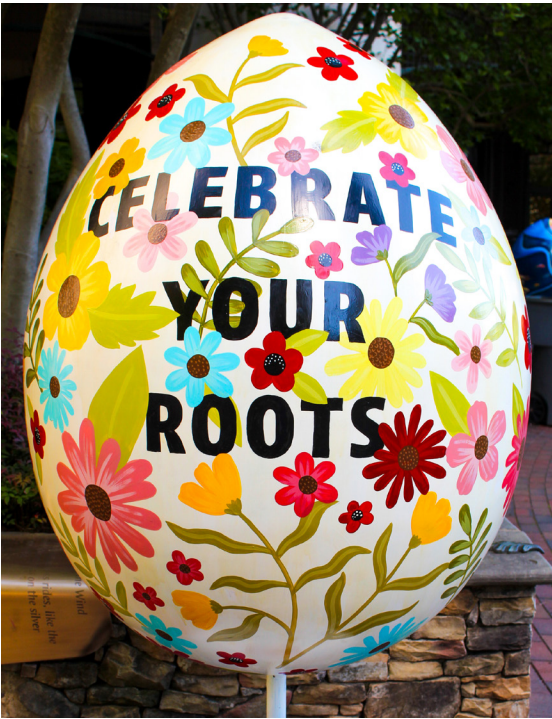


Charlotte SHOUT! returns to Uptown

Photos by Isabella Lain

Charlotte SHOUT! was back in Uptown Charlotte from March 31 to April 16. The multi-week festival featured a variety of creative events and attractions in addition

to music, food, art exhibits and more. The art installations around Uptown include “Roaming Gnomes,” “Chair Monster,” “POP!,” Easter Eggs on Parade” and “MIRAGE.”



Charlotte track & field junior Justin Leaston looks forward to furthering legacy

by Mason Curtis
Staff Writer

Charlotte track and field junior Justin Leaston is an NCAA First Team All-American hurdler with talent that could take him far in his career. After breaking UNC Charlotte’s school record for 110-meter hurdles in 2022, Leaston said he looks forward to furthering his legacy as a 49er.

“Honestly, I want to keep setting the record so far out that nobody else touches it,” said Leaston. “I hope it stays there forever, and I’m trying to build on that this year.”

Early life

Leaston attended Millbrook High School in Raleigh, where he was a three-time track MVP and an Indoor State Champion in the 55-meter hurdles his senior year.

Leaston comes from an athletic family. Sheri and Britney Sullivan, Leaston’s cousins, ran track and field for Division-One programs, and his brother Jonte played football and track and field for East Carolina University (ECU).

Coming from an athletic background can put stress on an athlete to perform at a higher level. However, Leaston said pressure is essential because it allows him to thrive in big-time moments.

“You know what they say, pressure builds diamonds,” said Leaston. “So if there’s no pressure, there are no diamonds.”

Inspirations

Leaston’s older brother Jonte was a jumper for ECU’s track and field team, significantly influencing Leaston’s career.

“My older brother was really good at track,” said Leaston. “He is probably the reason why I wanted to be a jumper in the first place.”

Leaston aspired to be a jumper, but his father and high school coach thought he would perform well in hurdles. It took some time to convince Leaston to give hurdles a go, but there was no turning back once he did.

“My high school coaches asked me to try hurdles, and I ended up being pretty good at it,” said Leaston. “After that, I guess the rest is history.”

Accomplishments

In the preliminary round of the 2022 NCAA Championship, Leaston ran the 110-meter

hurdles in 13.46 seconds, the fastest 110-meter hurdle time in program history.

Leaston finished No. 7 at the NCAA Championships and earned First Team All-American honors for his performance.

“Making it to the finals at Nationals and being a First Team All-American are probably my biggest accomplishments as an athlete,” said Leaston.

Career goals

Leaston has plans to make it back to the finals this year at Nationals and improve his times throughout the season.

“I feel like I’ve still got room to improve,” said Leaston. “There are some things I can

improve and do better outdoors.”

Leaston wants to decrease his 110-meter hurdle time this season and hopes to break into the 12-second mark.

After his collegiate career, Leaston wants to pursue his goal of going pro and running for the United States Olympic Team.

Next up

Leaston and the 49ers will be back in action on April 21-22 with two events. On Friday, the 49ers will compete at the Wake Forest Invitational, and on Saturday, the team will compete at the USC Outdoor Open in Columbia, S. C.



Charlotte track and field junior Justin Leaston | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics



CHARLOTTE 49ERS SCOREBOARD

RECENT GAMES APRIL 9 - APRIL 16

BASEBALL

April 11: Charlotte 4, Winthrop 3

April 14: Charlotte 1, Rice 0

April 15: Charlotte 4, Rice 1

April 16: Charlotte 16, Rice 2

SOFTBALL

April 12: Liberty 2, Charlotte 1

April 14: Charlotte 4, North Texas 3

April 15: North Texas 3, Charlotte 2

April 16: North Texas 6, Charlotte 2

OVERALL STANDINGS

Baseball:

18-15, 8-5; No. 3 in the C-USA

Softball:

25-17, 12-5; No. 2 in the C-USA

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball:

@ North Carolina on Tuesday,
April 18 at 6 p.m.

Softball:

Vs. Longwood on Wednesday,
April 19 at 5 p.m

The changing of the guard: Lexi Winters and Bailey Vannoy share time behind the plate

by Jesse Morris
Staff Writer

As veteran players returned in 2023, freshman catcher Lexi Winters took to the field. Long held by graduate student Bailey Vannoy, the position finds a new face behind home plate.

It marks both the waning days of a living age and the dawning moments of a new era in Charlotte softball.

A seasoned captain

During her career, Vannoy has been a Conference USA All-Freshman, three-time All-Conference player, two-time NFCA All-Region player and a 2022 NFCA Second Team All-American. Starting with the Green and White in 2019, records ranging from career home run record to on-base percentage have been set by the experienced catcher through her 215 games played for the 49ers so far.

In terms of performance, few can match her well-awarded tenure.

Amid her accomplishments, Vannoy's personal attitude extends beyond the field, even as some might look up to her for guidance.

"I just see [my teammates] with a lot of respect," said Vannoy. "I think that, first and foremost, they are going to be my sister, they're my friend... when people come and look up to me, they're kinda like my sister versus somebody that they think is bigger than they are."

A newcomer catcher

Winters arrived in the summer of 2022 as a true freshman for the Charlotte team. Although she had awards at lower levels from high school, she did not have the same collegiate softball experience to call upon.

As the season continued, Winters became a larger piece of the Charlotte puzzle with more starts and opportunities, which provided a chance to come into her own at the college level.

"It's been a lot of learning moments... being able to learn through experience and working with different teammates, different pitchers specifically," Winters said.

When meeting her teammates, it was time off the field that made the first lasting impression that Winters had of Vannoy.

"It was one of the first weeks on campus, and we went to a women's soccer game," said Winters. "I was walking back to the dorm... and she saw me walking back home, and she called me... she gave me a ride home, and ever since then, she's been driving me home."

A helpful guide

With a team sport such as softball, a strong relationship with one's team can be as important as any at-bat. For Vannoy, while she has shared many memorable moments with Winters, it is the little ones that count the most.

"Some of my favorites are the smaller moments, like every time we go and run, we do a jog pre-game," said Vannoy. "We're jogging partners, and we always stand and do a little heart together. These are the moments you're going to take in and remember for a long time that create the team chemistry."

For a player with a budding career, working close beside a player of Vannoy's caliber offers a chance to see the game from a different perspective.

"Her ability to command the field is a very big characteristic that she has as a catcher. Another one is just her mindset overall," said Winters.

On the other side of the coin, it is an opportunity to offer a lasting impression upon those rising up the ranks. Looking at a player starting where she did before, Vannoy offered advice to Winters of a more personal nature.

"Just be yourself. I think whenever you carry yourself with a lot of confidence and take pride in what you do, it shows up on the field," said Vannoy.

A closing page

While the present chapter concludes and the new one opens up, the results and words on the page mark only half the story. Just as much as any home run or thwarted steal, the intangible, personal legacy is an unmistakable piece of the saga.

"[When all is said and done], I hope that the impression that I leave is that I left it better than I found it and that I never took a day for granted," said Vannoy.

Charlotte women's tennis impressive season sets up compelling C-USA championship tournament

by Josiah House
Staff Writer

As the 2022-2023 Charlotte women's tennis season comes to a close, the 49ers find themselves with a Conference USA (C-USA) leading 20-5 overall record after starting their season with a questionable 3-3 record.

Charlotte Head Coach Anthony Davison has now led the 49ers to at least 19 wins in all four of his full seasons. However, Davison claims this is simply a byproduct of what's more important: the process.

"It's great to get those wins. It's fantastic, and it shows where the hard work that we've been putting in is," said Davison. "But honestly, it's been more about the process than those wins. It's more about what we bring to the table every day. I think if we fight for every point and the team is who they've been all year, I think the results will take care of themselves."

A big part of that team identity has been

married to the history books, as both Kaavya Sawhney and Margaux Maquet climbed into the top 10 in wins for the program, and the doubles duo of Ruxi Schech and Sawhney are tied for the most wins for a doubles partnership in program history and the historic win against the No. 41 Penn State University Nittany Lions, the highest ranked win ever for the 49ers.

Maquet's doubles partner and C-USA Women's Tennis Athlete of the Week Lucia Quiterio talked about the record-setting atmosphere that comes with the Charlotte women's tennis team.

"I think the thing that sticks out the most to me is that this program is pretty much breaking all the records," said Quiterio. "I feel like here, everyone on this team is so special because literally every time we win a match, we might be breaking a new record."

Continued on p. 12



The Charlotte women's tennis team | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Continued from p. 11

Quiterio is not exempt from this praise, as she and Maquet's doubles partnership has been ranked as high as No. 19 this season, going 23-11 in their doubles matches.

"Our games match pretty well on the court, which helps. She's really good at getting involved at the net and being reliable on the back of the court, so I think she just matches with my game," said Maquet. "We've just had a good connection since the beginning, and I think it's working

well, and that's why we got those wins."

This respect and understanding of each other's play styles have helped them secure doubles points in matches all throughout the season, including against Power 5 opponent Penn State. Davison talked about what that win meant to the 49ers.

"It's great to win that [Penn State] match. I genuinely thought we were the better team, and I think that's because of how hard we [Charlotte] trained. We looked like a very tough, disciplined and resilient team out there," said Davison. "It's

great to beat teams with a rich history and tradition because we're a team that doesn't necessarily have that. It's nice that we're forming our own history at the moment and creating a legacy for ourselves."

"I think the team has been working really hard for these opportunities," said Maquet. "We've been trying to compete as hard as we could. Sometimes it went our way, sometimes not. But I think we got better from it, and that's also why we got a couple of wins over Big Power Five schools."

After completing such a prolific season, the 49ers have their eyes set on another big opportunity: the C-USA tournament starting on Thursday, April 20.

"For the seating for the tournament, we will most likely go in as number two or potentially even one. So, I think we're definitely one of the top three teams in the conference," said Davison. "I expect the team to fight for every match and give that 100%. If that happens, it's going to be really exciting, and we've absolutely got a shot of winning it."

Charlotte men's basketball seniors reflect on collegiate careers

by Jacob Moss
Staff Writer

The Charlotte men's basketball team took on the College Basketball Invitational (CBI), taking down No. 8 seed Eastern Kentucky University 71-68 to claim victory in the tournament.

For three seniors, this was the last time they dawned the Green and White. Montre' Gipson, Josh Aldrich and Regin Larson have all made their mark at Charlotte and reflected on their time as 49ers.

Regin Larson

Larson always knew he wanted to be a 49er, and after spending a season at division three Pfeiffer University, he got his wish.

"It was a dream come true for me to play at Charlotte," said Larson. "My dad went here, my uncle went here and my brother [went here], so I just kind of always bled gold and green," said Larson.

Being able to live out a childhood dream is always a special experience, but Larson said the bonds he made with his teammates are what stood out.

"My favorite part of being here? Man, just the connections I've made with my teammates. I feel like these days you get a new seven, eight guys every year because of the transfer portal, but I built really good relationships with all those guys," said Larson.

When asked if there was a teammate that he felt really helped him develop as a player, Larson named several but said that he and junior guard Brice Williams had a unique connection.

"I've known Brice since tenth grade, we played AAU together, so that's always been my guy," said Larson.

When it comes to the question of legacy, Larson said he wants to be remembered as someone who was there for others.

"If I have a legacy here, I hope my legacy would just be a guy that showed up every day

and was a light and a joy to everyone around him and encouraged everybody, loved everybody and served everybody," said Larson.

Larson said he sees himself as a full-time minister in the future.

"In five to ten years I see myself doing full-time ministry and just knowing Jesus and making Jesus known," said Larson.

Josh Aldrich

Aldrich said he gained his passion for basketball at a very young age.

"My dad coaches JUCO basketball, so I remember when I was young, I would always beg my mom to go to his practices and games and stay until the end," said Aldrich.

That passion led Aldrich to the University of South Carolina Upstate, and after four seasons, he decided to enter the portal as a grad transfer. He knew he wanted to make his last season of college basketball count, and when asked what made him choose Charlotte, he said the coaching staff made all the difference.

"The coaching staff seemed really genuine, and you know, Coach Sanchez seemed like a really good guy, and I knew the staff would have a plan for me when I got here," said Aldrich.

Aldrich also said the connections he made with his teammates are what stands out to him. When asked what his favorite memory has been as a 49er, Aldrich said being with on the team was special.

"Just hanging out with the team and getting to meet these guys and getting to know them over a year," said Aldrich.

When asked which teammate helped him develop most as a player, Aldrich singled out sophomore Aly Khalifa.

"I would say Aly because we play the same position, and every day in practice, we competed and tried to make each other better," said Aldrich.

As far as legacy goes, Aldrich said he hopes to remain a part of the 49er program.

"I hope to still be coming back and being involved in 49er sports in the future," said Aldrich.

Montre' Gipson

Similar to Aldrich, Montre Gipson is also ending his career as a grad transfer.

The DeSoto, Texas native spent two years at Tarleton State, where he was a key contributor both seasons.

"On my visit, I liked how Coach Sanchez set me down, and we did a little film thing where they showed me what we could work on and what I did well," said Gipson when asked what convinced him that Charlotte was the team for him.

When asked what his favorite memory as a 49er is, Gipson pointed to getting to know his teammates over the summer.

"Summer workouts in Costa Rica, that's when I got closer to them," said Gipson.

As far as his next steps in life, Gipson said he wants to keep playing the game he loves.

"Hopefully, I'm still playing somewhere, even if it's overseas or something. Just try to keep playing the game I love," said Gipson.

In Charlotte men's basketball's season finale, taking the victory over Eastern Kentucky to win the CBI tournament, Gipson had 13 points, second to only Khalifa for most on the team. He also added a team-high two steals, two assists and four rebounds to mark the second-highest on the team.



Charlotte men's basketball seniors | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

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

DADDY LONG LEGS, ALSO CALLED HARVESTMEN, ARE NOT ACTUALLY SPIDERS BUT ARE INSTEAD A KIND OF CRANE FLY.

[illegible]

1. Taylor Swift's ex boyfriend
2. Boardwalk ____'s (restaurant in University City)
3. North Carolina grocery store that was bought out by Delhaize Food Group (a Belgium-based conglomerate) in 1974
7. New name for HBO's mobile streaming service
9. What season it currently is
10. Neighborhood in Charlotte's Second Ward that shares a name with a New York borough
12. Chatting app typically used by gamers that was recently the source of a military data leak
13. Upcoming Greta Gerwig film based on a children's toy

4. Titular character in the newly-released film that quickly became the biggest video game adaptation ever
5. App being banned on government devices
6. Iconic sphere in Disney World
8. Apartment complex facing legal battle with student about an Instagram page
10. Restaurant in the Student Union that closed early for the summer
11. 2023 vampire flick starring Nicolas Cage
14. Charlotte ____ (creativity festival taking place March 31-April 16)
15. HBO dramady about a hitman who wants to become an actor

The pornography industry normalizes sexual violence and profits from sex trafficking

by Lola Oliverio
Asst. Opinion Editor

CW: This article contains mentions of sexual violence and exploitation.

The pornography industry's lack of surveillance and monetary incentive promotes sexual violence and directly profits from sexual assault, rape, child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Pornhub, one of the largest pornography websites in the world, has been profiting from the exploitation and rape of women for over a decade. Despite facing widespread backlash after an exposé was published by the New York Times in 2020, the website is still one of the most visited in the world.

Reforms were made following the New York Times piece, which was written by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof. These changes included preventing uploads by non-verified accounts and deleting millions of videos flagged for various offenses, including abuse, rape and child exploitation. However, the issue still runs rampant, as countless videos continue to seep through the cracks.

One of the most prominent reasons why the spread of non-consensual sex videos is so hard to combat is that it is nearly impossible to tell whether or not consent was given, especially depending on the genre of pornography. It is also difficult to know whether or not all parties consented to the video being uploaded or even filmed in the first place.

Additionally, pornography consumers' penchant for videos displaying real or simulated sexual violence desensitizes the youth, teaching them that it is okay — and even encouraged — to find pleasure in inflicting or receiving pain during sexual interactions. It also exposes youth to potential rape videos without their knowledge.

A 2010 study examined 304 porn videos and found that 88.2% contained incidents of physical aggression. This makes it even harder to discern whether or not all parties are consenting, as many consensual porn videos are designed to essentially simulate a struggle or physical altercation. To make matters worse, in 95% of the incidents, the women react positively to the treatment.

A press release by the American Psychological Association detailed a study by University of

Nebraska-Lincoln doctoral student Alyssa Bischmann, in which a relationship was established between men's view of women and their earliest exposure to pornography. Bischmann stated that it was "found that the younger a man was when he first viewed pornography, the more likely he was to want power over women."

Many women find themselves drawn to the porn industry due to the commonly falsified promise of monetary stability, fame and a cushy lifestyle. This has been exacerbated by the normalization of young women creating OnlyFans accounts on their 18th birthday — a

phenomenon that serves as a uniquely modern form of sexual coercion.

Porn actresses on TikTok, Twitter and Instagram post videos of their luxurious business trips, large hotel rooms, designer bags and seemingly laid-back workdays. Young women then see these videos and assume that porn is some easy-money job and not a grueling, oftentimes ostracizing profession that requires work, dedication and a firm understanding of repercussions.

The issue is not pornography; it is natural for humans to find interest in consuming sexual

content. The problem lies within the coercion of young women into the porn industry based on misconceptions, as well as the normalization of sexual violence and the frequency of real-life sexual abuse being uploaded and used as pornographic material, inherently shaping the minds of young people.

Pornography websites profit off of misconceptions, withheld information and blissful ignorance. Pornography giants do not care whether or not content was made ethically or if young women are being coerced into the industry — they lead with their wallets.



An unidentified female silhouette on a laptop screen | Graphic by Lola Oliverio

The University needs increased CAPS support to combat mental health crisis

by Jesse Morris
Staff Writer

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans need psychological services more than ever. Yet, the UNC Charlotte Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has cut sessions per student in half.

As society continues to recognize the importance of counseling and mental health, it should be a concern of Charlotte's to expand its offerings when affordable and available access to these services is limited elsewhere. When opportunities to use what is offered are further curtailed by long wait times, it leaves only one option for many: suffering in silence.

The national crisis

Psychological strain has reached a breaking point in American society.

In February 2023, 32.3% of adults surveyed reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder. For the 18-24 age group, the number sits at 49.9%, well above any other age group polled.

Students of college age make up a large quantity of those suffering amid the intense weight of a national crisis over mental health.

To make matters worse, the ability to access resources is limited and the demand for counseling services has skyrocketed.

North Carolina has seen the results of this crisis. Over the past academic year, North Carolina State University was faced with the deaths of five students by suicide.

The silent barrier

Now, not only do students have fewer sessions, but getting into those sessions is a hurdle.

When the University faced the crisis in 2020, it made sense to cut back on services so more students could access CAPS when needed. Compared to previous conditions, it was the best solution to combat the short-term issues of limited capacity.

Yet this has become a long-term solution that ineffectively services the nation's chronic mental health crisis.

For some with open schedules, finding times may not be an issue. However, for others, such as students with classes that fall within CAPS business hours, one could be expected to wait a month or more for a session.

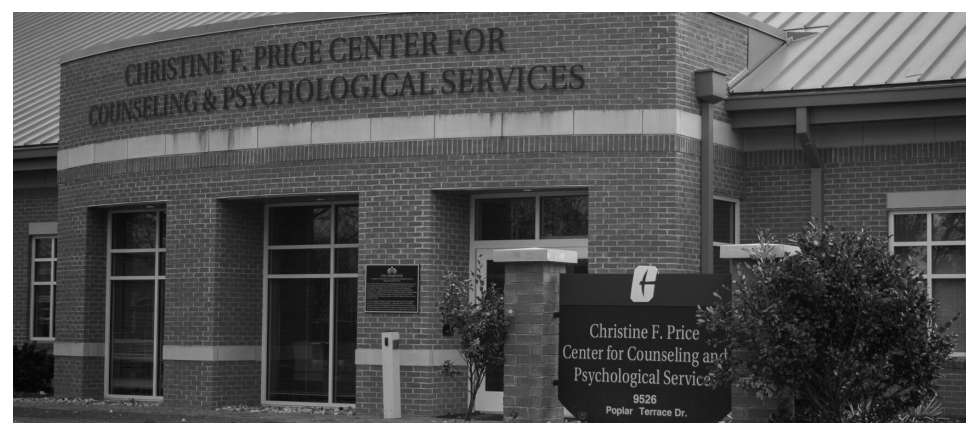
Students left behind can choose between paying for mental health services off-campus, battling the substantial demand or handling it alone.

The need for change

Breaking this silent barrier cannot be achieved without increasing funding to CAPS so that every student has reliable access to

counseling services. With a larger staff, more people could be accommodated, and more sessions per student could be achieved.

Increased hours could also be added with a larger budget, such as during weekends or after hours generally taken up by classes. The stopgap solution of group therapy, while useful for those with workable schedules, may end up primarily helping those who already had the time to access regular CAPS services, leaving others behind.



CAPS building | Photo by Emma Toney

Productivity does not necessarily equal success

by Ruhshona Soledjonova
Staff Writer

As a society, there is a heavy focus on productivity as the measurement of success. Unfortunately, this can damage people's health and become counterproductive.

Especially in a college setting, students are surrounded by deadlines, job hunting and balancing a social life. It is crucial to understand why excessive focus on the amount of work one does should not be prioritized over basic human needs.

Primarily, forcing productivity and overworking causes burnout. Burnout results from putting yourself in a state of excessive and prolonged stress to the point of mental, physical and emotional exhaustion. This can cause social isolation, mood swings and insomnia, all of which delay actual productivity.

Pushing yourself to work constantly increases stress, often leading to longer-lasting burnout. Mental exhaustion can further affect an individual's health in the long run. Research suggests that long working hours could potentially cause cardiovascular and heart diseases.

The expectation of excessive productivity leads to burnout and becomes counterproductive. It takes away from the goal of achieving success because the "grind" mindset assumes the human body does not need rest.

Furthermore, the infatuation with productivity places a negative connotation on taking breaks. Having a moment of clarity or enjoying activities that do not involve work or academics may increase guilt and anxiety.

It can also weaken relationships by cutting out quality time spent with others. Productivity and prolonged hours of work do not equal success. Instead, it prioritizes quantity over quality. Keeping busy has no meaning if it dismantles aspects of life that bring true fulfillment.

Over the past few years, hustle culture has influenced society's attitude toward productivity and success. Unfortunately, hustle culture concentrates too much on material success and advocates for intense efficiency with little regard for self-care.

Emphasis on material success and wealth may influence unhealthy competition in a work or school environment. This decreases possible connections and relationships in order to prioritize work. Additionally,

materialism creates false realities of happiness, dissatisfaction with non-monetary gains and lack of gratification.

While hustle culture has some positive impacts on individuals, such as encouraging goal-oriented behavior and demonstrating self-made fortune, it does not allow room for work-life balance. Differentiating one's work and personal life helps enable personal connections, cherishable memories and self-actualization.

While productivity is important to achieving accomplishments, it can come at the expense of one's well-being. In reality, stable productivity can be attained through setting boundaries, generating realistic goals and being intuitive with self-needs.

Legacy media's coverage of transgender people is disingenuous and irresponsible

by E. Alexander Zimmerman
Staff Writer

The rights and safety of transgender people are being endangered by irresponsible reporting from media outlets. By crediting openly bigoted experts who front bad-faith concerns to further other political agendas, they foster a culture of paranoia and suspicion that has historically resulted in the prosecution and erasure of an already marginalized group.

On Feb. 15, an open letter signed by nearly a thousand New York Times contributors and subscribers criticized the paper's coverage of transgender issues as irresponsible and dangerous, citing the use of opinion and news articles in anti-transgender legislation in states such as Nebraska, Alabama and Arkansas.

Since this letter and its updates, the New York Times has denied these accusations, claiming they give credence to all sides of the issue. The New York Times' skepticism from historically transphobic pundits like Ross Douthat and Bari Weiss have given credence to not only anti-transgender lawmakers but have emboldened other well-established media institutions to follow suit.

CBS afforded notorious far-right representative Marjorie Taylor Greene a shockingly sympathetic interview on their 60 Minutes program. Asking her about her critics and rise to prominence, there was hardly any pushback when she referred to the democratic party as a "party of pedophiles," a stance that has been rhetorically linked to these issues of gender-affirming care as a way to paint LGBTQ+ people and their supporters as predators, simply by virtue of existing. Although the interviewer disagreed with her, they offered no substantial challenge to this rhetoric or its implications.

More severe examples include the BBC's coverage of transgender people, more explicitly misrepresenting the United Kingdom's debate over the issue. In November 2021, the BBC platformed the concerns of adult film performer Lily Cade, who called transgender women "weak, vile and disgusting" in an article titled "We're being pressured into sex by some trans women."

They failed to include that Cade had a history of sexual misconduct, a detail brought to light by transgender adult performer Chelsea Poe who had also contributed to the article but was not included in the final draft. When petitioned by 20,000 signatories to remove the article, they declined, stating they were dedicated to

impartiality. It was only when Cade used her moment in the spotlight to call for the lynching of trans people that her quote was removed, though the article is still available.

Trans activists were highly critical of the article, pointing out that its surveyed opinions were from a self-selected group of anti-trans activists while ignoring the other half of that argument. The BBC has also come under fire for handling transphobic comments by author J.K. Rowling similarly, platforming bad faith concerns and staunchly refusing to frame them as transphobic in spite of pushback.

These editorial decisions by highly influential media outlets serve to generate a sense of fear and concern around transgender people and the healthcare they require, despite being a demographic group that are disproportionately the victims of violent hate crimes, an issue that these same outlets rarely discuss.

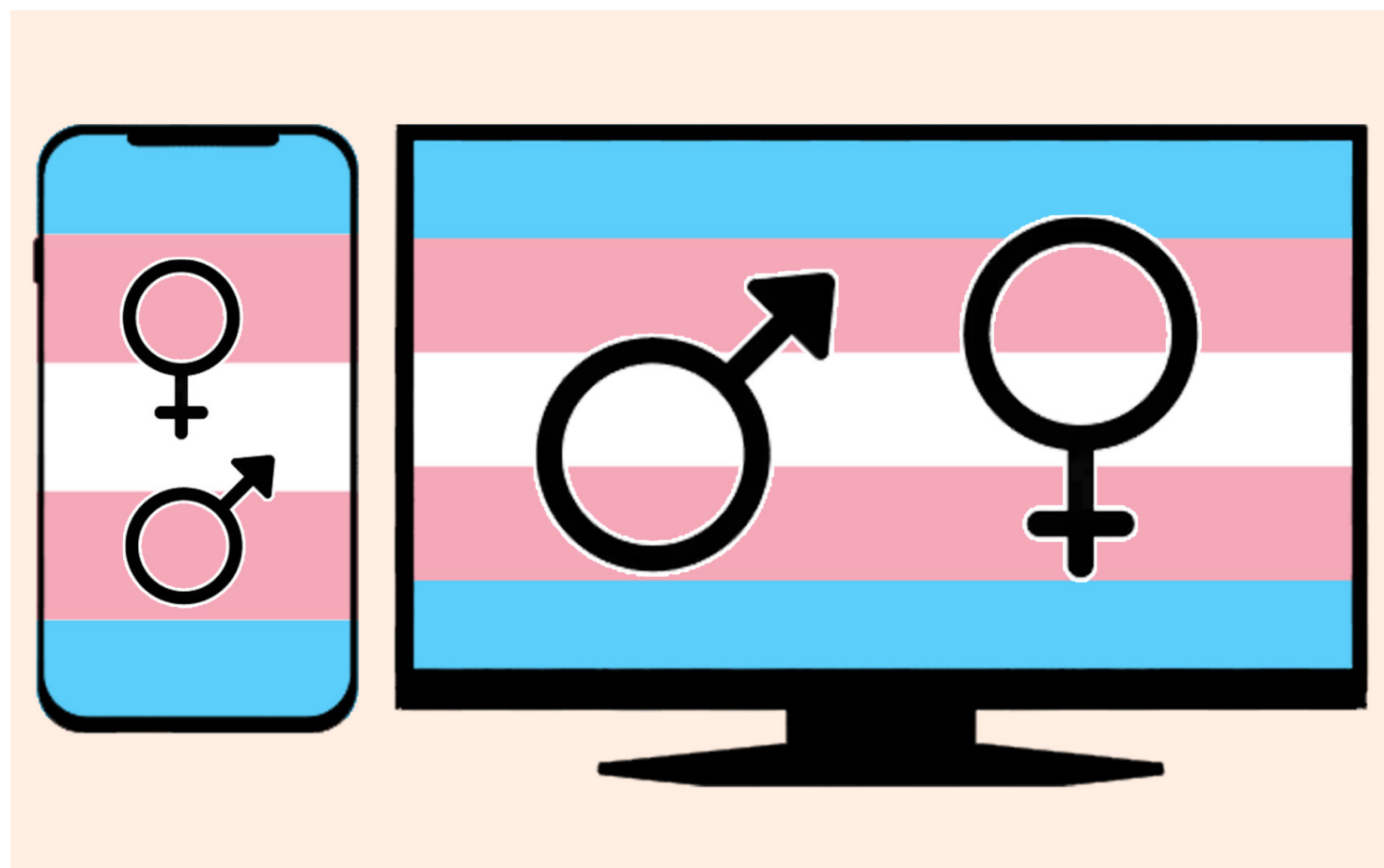
It bears true that transgender individuals are far more often the victims of violence rather than the perpetrators. By allowing people like Rowling, Weiss and Douthat to suggest otherwise under the guise of editorial impartiality, they continue to contribute to the culture of transphobia. This has led to open transphobic radicals like Matt Walsh and Michael Knowles to call for the eradication of transgender people entirely at mainstream venues like CPAC or Fox News.

The issue has become particularly important as the Biden administration has put through a "compromise" on transgender people in sports. Although it may not allow for blanket bans, it does allow for the case-by-case removal of transgender people from school sports teams if the school deems fit.

This concession to the right-wing does not seem to come at any cost to them, with the

transgender population being so small that the result is being able to ban any transgender individual with the right paperwork filed. Creating a legal framework by which to remove transgender people from public spaces has grave implications for their health and safety.

The historical precedent for the marginalization and violence against transgender people is exceptionally dark. Prior to the rise of Adolf Hitler, Weimar Germany had been a hub of LGBTQ+ studies. On May 6, 1933, The Weimar Institute of Sexology was sacked and destroyed by fascist German students. Transgender people were among the first groups to be deported to concentration camps. To pretend that the push by far-right groups to marginalize and concern-monger transgender people is journalistic integrity is to open the door to far more radical and violent agendas.



Trans flag and gender symbols displayed on screens | Graphic by Kim Zan