



Fall  
Fest  
2025

**NINERTIMES**

Student-driven news since 1947

Oct. 15, 2025

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Davis Cuffe EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Emmanuel Perkins MULTIMEDIA MANAGING  
Clare Grealey COPY  
Ivory Galloway NETWORK MANAGER

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Sofia DiStefano NEWS  
Kelli Blackburn SPORTS  
Evan Campos ASST. SPORTS  
Wes Packham ARTS & CULTURE  
Madeline Andrews ASST. ARTS & CULTURE  
Emsley Jackson OPINION  
Ava Harris ASST. OPINION  
Mareska Chettiar ASST. COPY  
Ava Weaver LAYOUT  
Megan Khor ASST. LAYOUT  
Megan Bentley PHOTO  
Trace Smith PODCASTING

## CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Blaise Uy

## LAYOUTS

Cover layout and illustrations by Ava Weaver  
Interior layouts by Ava Weaver, Megan Khor,  
Gunisha Dhurve, Mark Seda & Hana Arshed



32ND ANNUAL CAROLINA  
**RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**  
& ARTISAN MARKETPLACE  
**OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 23**  
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS • 9:30AM-5:30PM

**GATES OPEN! 9:30AM! Arrive Early!**

JOUSTING • FEASTING • RIDES  
MUSIC • COMEDY • GAMES  
CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENTS

**TICKETS LIMITED! WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! ONLINE ONLY!**

PEPSI SUNBELT RENFEST HARRIS TEETER YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

**BUY TICKETS ONLY ONLINE AT [CAROLINA.RENFESTINFO.COM](http://CAROLINA.RENFESTINFO.COM)**



Niner Times File

# Fall festivals to look for in the Charlotte area this season

Davis Cuffe | Editor-in-Chief

As the weather cools and the leaves begin to turn, fall brings a full slate of seasonal traditions to the Charlotte area. From the thrill of haunted attractions to the charm of hot air balloons drifting through crisp October skies, local festivals invite visitors to slow down, step back in time or lean into the spooky season.

The following are some events to attend with friends or family to make this fall one to remember.

## Renaissance Festival

This fall, the Carolina Renaissance Festival invites visitors to experience the magic of the Village of Fairhaven, where history and fantasy come together in a fully immersive setting. Open to the public on weekends from Oct. 4 through Nov. 23, the festival offers continuous live entertainment, including horseback jousting, falconry, theatrical performances and interactive encounters.

Guests can explore the open-air Artisan Market to enjoy themed food and drink, and take part in family-friendly activities throughout the day. The event combines historical reenactment with imaginative storytelling, creating an experience for all ages.

For ticket information and a full schedule of events, visit [carolina.renfestinfo.com](http://carolina.renfestinfo.com)

## SCarowinds

From Sept. 12 through Nov. 2, it won't just be the roller coasters that will give you a scare at Carowinds. Every fall, the park transforms after dark into a haunted experience filled with themed mazes, scare zones and live entertainment designed to terrify.

Featured scare mazes include "Paranormal Inc.," "Tooth Fairy" and "Slaughter House." Scares are extreme, so the event is recommended for mature audiences.

Tickets and event details are available at [carowinds.com](http://carowinds.com).

## The Great Elizabeth Pumpkin Wall

From Sunday, Oct. 26, through Saturday, Nov. 1, one of Charlotte's most beloved neighborhood traditions returns: the Great Elizabeth Pumpkin Wall. Located at 2017 Greenway Avenue in the Elizabeth neighborhood, the display will light up each night leading up to Halloween.

Now in its 21st year, the Pumpkin Wall features hundreds of hand-carved jack-o'-lanterns created by residents of Elizabeth as part of an annual community celebration. The carving party is open exclusively to neighborhood residents, but members of the public are welcome to contribute a carved

pumpkin to the wall at any time.

The ceremonial lighting of the Pumpkin Wall will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 6:45 p.m. Following that, the wall will remain illuminated nightly through Halloween. The final night to view the installation will be Saturday, Nov. 1, with takedown scheduled for Nov. 2.

## Carolina BalloonFest

One of the nation's longest-running hot air balloon festivals will once again take to the skies this fall. The 49th annual Carolina BalloonFest is set for Oct. 18 to 20, 2025, at 531 Old Airport Road in Statesville, N.C.

Held every third weekend in October, the Carolina BalloonFest is the second-longest consecutively running hot air balloon event in the United States, continuing a tradition of ballooning in Iredell County.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can enjoy morning balloon competitions, mass ascensions and the highly anticipated evening balloon glows.

A portion of the festival's proceeds goes to local nonprofit organizations.

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the three-day event.

For tickets, schedules and the latest updates, visit [carolinaballoonfest.com](http://carolinaballoonfest.com)



# The overrated and underrated things about fall

Bethany Ivan | Niner Times Archive

**W**e can now finally say that autumn is upon us. The temperature is getting cooler; the leaves are changing to a beautiful red, yellow and orange, finally breaking out our cozy and trendy clothes and, of course, the return of the spooky season.

Though we can celebrate the return of some fall trends, clothes, food and movies, as well as welcome new ones, some things about fall are either overly praised or not appreciated enough.

Here is a list of things about fall that I think are either overrated or underrated:

## **Overrated: Pumpkin spice everything**

I think we're going a little overboard with everything being pumpkin spice flavored. As a pumpkin spice lover myself, it may be an autumn classic as the taste is sweet and the smell is soothing, but it is also a little basic. Eating pumpkin spice pastries and drinking pumpkin spice flavored coffee is delicious but let me make one thing clear: to get it as a coffee flavor or as a pastry is one thing, but to get it as a flavor of popcorn, a chocolate bar or as a cup of ramen noodles, that's where I need to draw the line. Everything does not have to be pumpkin spiced flavored for it to be fall!

## **Cheesy fall Instagram captions**

Every time I am scrolling through Instagram and I see fall photos with those cheesy fall Instagram captions such as, "I'm fall-ing for you," "Sweater Weather," "Hay there" or "Pumpkin spice and everything nice."

The cute play on words may be clever, but I think they are overused and unoriginal.

## **Going to a pumpkin patch**

Going to a pumpkin patch may have been fun as a kid and for some people, it may be a tradition to go to a pumpkin patch and pick out the biggest or smallest pumpkin that they can find. Now, I think it's just for the aesthetic rather than just picking out a pumpkin to carve.

## **Black and red flannel**

The black and red flannel may be comfy, but it's like everyone is wearing one or at least trying to get their hands on one. It's like I am looking at a clone of someone! On the other hand, if someone is thinking about getting a black and red flannel, has it ever occurred to anyone to try and wear it in a new way? Maybe that's something we should try for a change.

## **Apple pie**

Apple pie is a delicious dessert that is enjoyed by all, especially if it is homemade or topped off with vanilla ice cream. But it's the fact that I can get it year-round, especially at any local fast food restaurant for a quick dessert or snack. Also, it's the fact that it is always on almost everyone's dessert menu for Thanksgiving. Let's switch it up!

## **Underrated: "Hocus Pocus"**

For those who don't know, this movie is about teenager and Salem newcomer Max, his younger sister Dani and his crush, Allison. The three visit the Sanderson Sisters' house, who were three infamous witches from Salem many years ago. Max, as a joke, lights the Black Flame candle, which resurrects the Sanderson Sisters only for one

night. As they come back to life, the sisters are determined to accomplish their plan: steal the lives of the children of Salem to remain young and beautiful and live forever. Yes, the movie may constantly play on Freeform and is referenced throughout the spooky season. Still, it is a fun and hilarious Halloween movie with a whole musical number that is really iconic!

## **"The Nightmare Before Christmas"**

Another movie played on Freeform that is referenced many times throughout the spooky season, but what's not to like? You get catchy songs, a haunting yet really cool storyline, and on top of that, the movie is both a Halloween and Christmas movie, which I think is a plus, all from the mind of Tim Burton!

## **Jumping in leaf piles**

Remember when we were kids, and our parents would rake up leaves into a pile in the backyard, and we would jump in those leaf piles? Honestly, I don't think you're ever too old to rake up some leaves into a pile and just jump in them, for old-time's sake! Just please be safe when doing so. But afterward, will you end up with leaves in your hair and all over your clothes? Yes, but it will be worth it!

## **Crew neck sweaters**

These sweaters are one of my go-to articles of fall clothing, and of course, they serve their purpose of keeping me warm. To me, they can be cute and stylish, no matter what the style is: casual, baggy or formal. Honestly, anyone can make it work!

# 'Gilmore Girls' fall episodes

## The top 10 episodes to binge-watch this fall

Jade Suszek | Niner Times Archive

"Gilmore Girls" is a television series from 2000 to 2007 with 23 Emmy wins. The television show ran on the CW network and is now available to stream on Netflix.

It features mother Lorelai Gilmore (Laurén Graham) and daughter Rory Gilmore (Alexis Bledel) in the small town of Stars Hollow. The series follows the two through the ups and downs of ordinary life. Stars Hollow is a small town about an hour from Hartford, Connecticut. Stars Hollow is filled with some very interesting townsfolk and town traditions. Some traditions include festivals like the Autumn Festival, the 24-hour Dance-a-thon and the Festival of Living Art.

With the leaves changing colors and the temperature cooling down, it is a perfect time to snuggle up with hot apple cider and play some of the most memorable fall episodes of the series. These are my favorite fall-themed "Gilmore Girls" episodes.

### 10. Season 5 Episode 2, "A Messenger, Nothing More"

Lorelai and Rory's relationship is strained, and they try to find new ground. The Cider Mill Opening Day Parade occurs and features children dressed as apples.

### 9. Season 6 Episode 6, "Welcome to the Dollhouse"

Stars Hollow undergoes renovation to bring the town back to its creation and

change back to the original street names from when it was founded. The episode is full of fall decorations and colorful leaves.

### 8. Season 6 Episode 7, "Twenty-One is the Loneliest Number"

Rory's 21st birthday celebration is bitter as she and Lorelai are not on speaking terms. However, her grandma throws a lavish party to celebrate.

### 7. Season 3 Episode 8, "Let the Games Begin"

Rory and Lorelai go on a college tour of Yale University with Rory's grandparents. The tour did not go as expected, but it did encompass perfect fall weather on their stroll.

### 6. Season 7 Episode 18, "Hay Bale Maze"

The town selectman organized a Hay Bale Maze that encapsulated the entire town. In the maze, some unexpected revelations occur for some characters.

### 5. Season 4 Episode 9, "Ted Koppel's Big Night Out"

The biggest football game of the season: Yale vs. Harvard. Rory goes with her grandparents to root for Yale, their alma mater, in style, especially during tailgating. Team spirit and cold weather fill the air.

### 4. Season 2 Episode 4, "The Road Trip to Harvard"

A split-second change in plans lets the Gilmores tour Harvard. Rory sneaks into a class lecture, making her even more excited to attend university soon.

### 3. Season 3 Episode 7, "They Shoot Gilmores, Don't They"

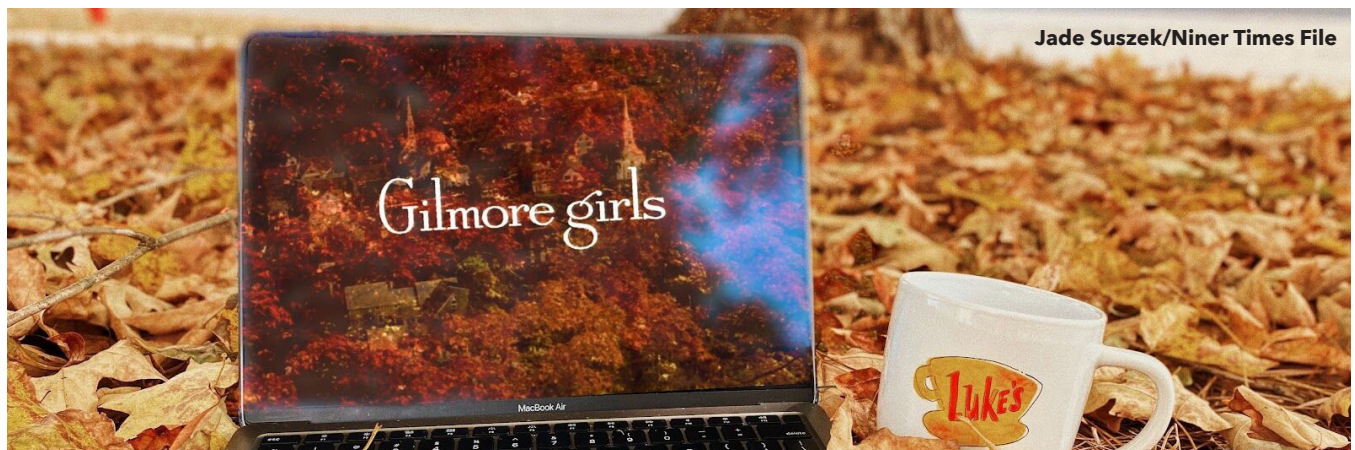
The annual 24-hour dance marathon ensues. Lorelai is determined to win, especially with her daughter by her side. Participants dress in vintage wardrobes, all around a light-hearted episode full of fun.

### 2. Season 1 Episode 7, "Kiss and Tell"

The Autumn Festival is in full swing in Stars Hollow. The entire town is decorated with pumpkins, and leaves cover the ground. During the festival, a rumor spreads quickly about Rory and makes its way back to Lorelai faster than expected.

### 1. Season 5 Episode 7, "You Jump, I jump, Jack"

Rory discovers a secret society at Yale called the Life and Death Brigade. Antics ensue, and Rory learns to be in Omnia Paratus, ready for anything.



Jade Suszek/Niner Times File



# Recipes to spice up your fall



Ava Weaver/Niner Times

Julianna Peres | Niner Times Archive

No one loves autumn more than my family and me. During cool days and cozy nights, there's no better time to bake together than fall. These recipes are a constant part of our family's fall baking rotation and we would love for others to participate in making them too.

I think these goodies symbolize Sept., Oct. and Nov. in their fullest extent. Personally, I think that the pumpkin truffles go best with an afternoon latte. As with all baking, have fun and make it your own!

## Melon Tea Loaf

In a medium bowl, whisk together:

- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

In a large bowl, whisk together:

- 3 eggs

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

After fully combined, fold in ½ large, ripe melon chopped into small squares.

Add mixture from the medium bowl. Do not over-mix.

Butter and flour two bread pans then divide the mixture into them.

Bake at 350 for 45 minutes to an hour or until toothpick comes out clean.

## Pumpkin Truffles

In a medium bowl, combine:

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ ground ginger
- Dash of cloves
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/8 cup melted butter

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 & 1/3 cup canned pumpkin

Once smooth, using a tablespoon, bake dollops at 350 for 10 minutes.

While still warm, break up the pieces and mix in a medium-sized bowl.

Roll the dough into balls and put in fridge.

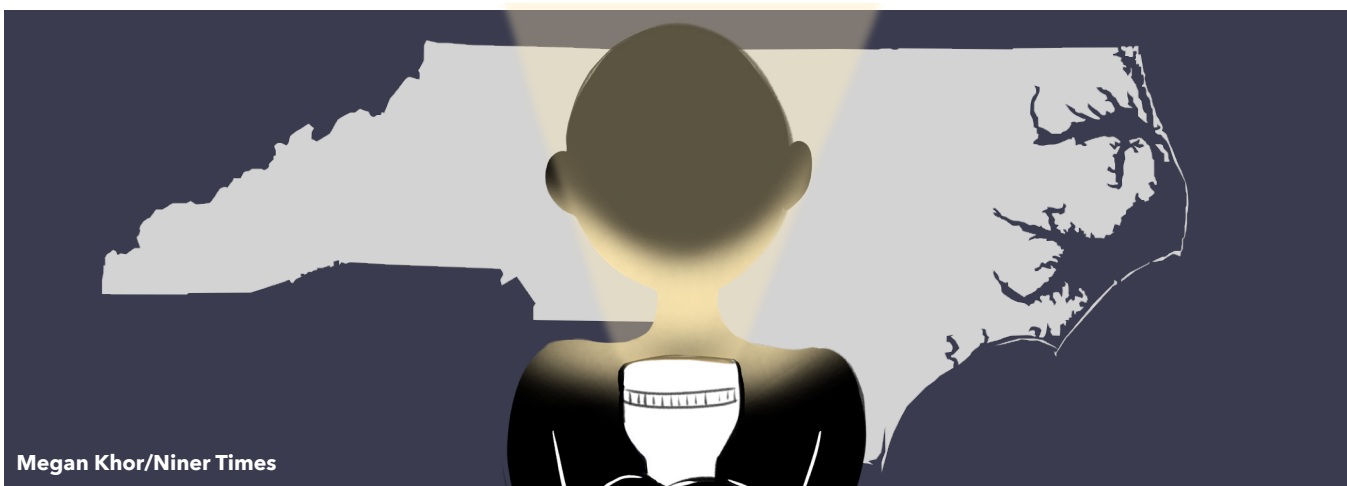
Let rest overnight.

Once hardened, dip in melted chocolate of choice and freeze until chocolate turns solid.

## Vegan Pumpkin Spice Latte

In a medium cup, add:

- 4 tablespoons pumpkin puree
  - ½ cup oat milk
  - 2 tablespoons maple syrup
  - 2 shots espresso
  - 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Sprinkle with pumpkin pie spice.



# North Carolina's haunted spots and spooky tales

Davis Cuffe | Editor-in-Chief

**K**nown for barbecues and beaches, the Tar Heel State is a treasure of America's South, so much so that some never want to leave. As the site of the first English colony, North Carolina's deep history makes it fertile ground for ghost stories.

Whether you're a believer or not in the supernatural and all that constitutes a ghost story, there's no better time for a spooky tale than fall. The following are some from our very own state.

## The Devil's Tramping Ground

Even the Devil loves North Carolina. Deep in the forests of Bear Creek, N.C., two paths converge at a barren circle in the woods where nothing grows. Rumor has it that at night, the Devil walks up one of the converging paths and paces in the circle, perhaps to plot against mankind or meet his daily step goal. As the story follows, anything placed in the circle at night will be moved outside it in the morning.

While the Tramping Ground is available for reservation, buyer beware. Those who have stayed the night have reported an overwhelming feeling of dread, a sense of being watched and the sounds of footsteps. Check it out if you dare.

## Lydia's Bridge

No one really knows why Lydia keeps coming back to this Guilford County bridge to flag down drivers. Her white gown suggests that she died on her way to something formal, like prom or homecoming. Researchers found a record of a fatal accident in the area from the 1920s involving a young woman, but not Lydia.

And yet, year after year, passersby report a woman in a white dress waving for them to pull over, only to disappear once they do. One man reported in 1924 that he drove Lydia home, only for her to vanish once she stepped out of the car.

Seemingly trapped between transit and her destination, maybe you can be the one to help Lydia get home.

## Founders Hall

You won't have to travel too far to find this one. Charlotte's own Founders Hall is said to be haunted.

Before it was a gorgeous venue used for weddings and other formal events, the space was home to a medical school with some unsavory history.

Legend says grave robbers sold a stolen and unearched corpse to the medical school, halting the spirit's journey to the afterlife

and stranding them here.

The spirit, Louise, now haunts Founder's Hall, wandering the venue and taking her despair out on those who walk its halls. Under a full moon, you can reportedly hear Louise's anguished screams, and some employees at the Hall have said they have seen her ghostly form walking the property.

## Old Settlers' Cemetery

Established in 1768, the graveyard is Charlotte's first public cemetery and holds the remains of some of Charlotte's earliest inhabitants, including Revolutionary War leaders and the city's elite.

Frequent grave robberies and the hundred or so years since the cemetery's inception have stripped the cemetery of any record of who and how many are buried there.

What we do know is that the spirits of the poor few who remain in the cemetery love to come out and say hello. Rumor has it that if you visit the cemetery on the right night, mysterious orbs of light will rise and float around the cemetery.

On the more sinister side of this cemetery's tale, a rare few have reported that the cemetery instantly makes them feel sick or evokes a ghastly sense of uneasiness upon setting foot in the area.

# Cozy up with these fall music recommendations

Davis Cuffe, Wes Packham, Emsley Jackson & Sofia DiStefano

Courtesy of MJ Lenderman, Cocteau Twins, Fiona Apple & Elliott Smith

**T**emperatures have remained in the mid-70s through the early parts of autumn, but the leaves have begun to change color, and Spirit Halloween is back open. While it may be too early to grab a cup of hot chocolate or throw on your favorite sweater, nothing beats a fall playlist to pair with the crunch of leaves under your shoes.

Here are some albums, new and old, picked by Niner Times editors to pull from for your fall playlists and cozy nights indoors.

## Davis Cuffe:

### MJ Lenderman - "Manning Fireworks"

The breakout 2024 record from North Carolina's hottest new rocker, Lenderman's "Manning Fireworks," paints an endearingly masculine picture of the mundane. A more rugged shade of the 'soft-boy' aesthetic painted by Tyler, The Creator or Frank Ocean, Lenderman sings about Guitar Hero and drinking beer in a way that might make you sad. Still, lyrics about flirting with the clergy nurse, DUI scooters and howling at the moon make each track an addictive, sometimes humorous listen.

I was admittedly late to this record; I first hit play on the album's first track, "Manning Fireworks," in mid-February, months after its September release. Though my first listen was in the chilling 50-degree temperatures of the North Carolina winter, it was instantly obvious why this album was a fall release.

Slacker-rock tunes mixed with distinctly southern sounds make the album an essential backdrop for North Carolina's fall.

## Emsley Jackson:

### Cocteau Twins - "Heaven or Las Vegas"

Released in September 1990, the dreamy pop album "Heaven or Las Vegas" by Cocteau Twins has remained evergreen, even as many seasons have come and gone. Earlier sunsets, spiced apple candles and flushed cheeks from biting, blustery fall winds pair with the hauntingly beautiful sound like peanut butter and jelly.

The album emerged during a time of personal struggle for the band, reminding us that beautiful things can be born from life's growing pains. Autumn, for many, is the same way: a season of vibrant transformation. Soon-to-be barren trees blaze with color, and the start of a new school year brings fresh faces, places and ideas.

So do as I do every fall: let the warmth of "Heaven or Las Vegas" aid in your enjoyment of falling leaves and autumnal rituals. You may not fully understand the vocals sung by the Scottish group, but the language of music is universal.

## Sofia DiStefano:

### Fiona Apple - "Tidal"

Fiona Apple's "Sleep to Dream" from her debut album "Tidal," which came out in 1996, is precisely the song I find myself listening to on a chilly fall morning, especially a moody Monday. The song's raw energy aligns perfectly with each step on campus, walking over the fallen leaves and bringing your sleeves over your hands to keep warm. While I can't say I was an original listener of Ms. Apple and her music, I discovered

her through my Spotify suggested playlists one morning during my first year here.

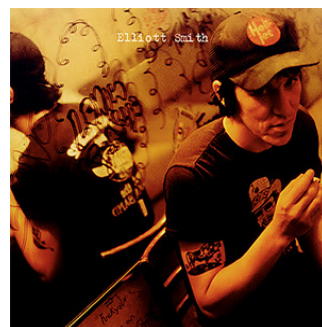
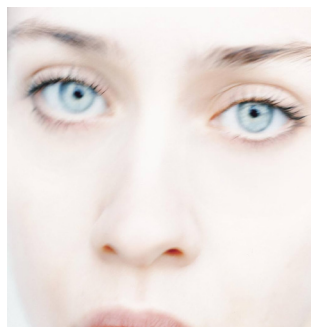
We all know that fall comes with a mood shift; some are dreary over the changing temperatures and the summer glow fading, while others are ecstatic about bundling up and grabbing an iced chai. The track, in my opinion, mirrors autumn's emotional roller-coaster, and maybe next time you're on your way to class and the wind is hitting against your cheeks as you walk, you'll find comfort in "Tidal."

## Wes Packham

### Elliott Smith - "Either/Or"

Stripped-down instrumentals, softly sung lyrics and bittersweet melodies encompass Elliott Smith's 1997 album "Either/Or." A mellow and melancholic release from the singer-songwriter, Smith is deeply vulnerable on this record, detailing stories of failed love and the helpless struggles against a cold world.

With Smith contributing to all instrumentation and vocals, he carefully orchestrates a blend of depressed storytelling and intricate compositions for the perfect portrait of a troubled man. From retelling the events of a sleepless night in "2:45 AM" to commenting on how those under the spotlight of fame are harmfully misrepresented in "Pictures of Me," Smith simultaneously stays deeply personal while commenting on societal issues. The acoustic rock and colder refrains pair perfectly with autumn days; wired earbuds, pockets stuffed deep in a layered jacket and getting your old shoes wet in puddles from drizzling rain.





# A guide to thrifting in Charlotte

Madeline Andrews | Asst. Arts and Culture Editor

If you're brave enough to compliment someone cool-looking on campus, chances are they responded with something along the lines of "Thanks, I thrifted it."

Thriftng is suddenly everywhere: from fashion exclusivity to a hopefully affordable hobby, it is an eco-friendly answer to the age-old problem: 'I have nothing to wear.'

If you're like me, you've put in hours at the local Goodwill and mom-and-pop antique barn back in your hometown, but after coming to Charlotte and being surrounded by competing styles and stores, you may feel overwhelmed with what the local scene has to offer.

Hopefully, this thrifting guide can clarify what the sport was designed to avoid, and how you can shortcut the classic beginner thrifter pitfalls.

## How we got here

Originally, second-hand stores served as an affordable clothing option to underprivileged communities. Most traditional thrift stores operate on a donation basis, where people bring their pre-loved items to a center, which is then sorted and tagged for sale.

As fashion trends from previous decades started to make a comeback, thrifting be-

came a cost-effective way to get high-quality items from previous generations. Why get a cheap remake of a 2000s mini-skirt when you can have a real one from someone's mom's closet?

Since then, it has become a way of life for many kinds of people. Some are drawn for the extreme savings, others want one-of-a-kind fashion statements and many see thrifting as a climate-conscious way to dress without harming the planet.

## Environmental impact

Unfortunately, thrifting exploded in popularity around the same time as fast fashion sites like Shein and Temu began to flood the For You Page.

Many influencers have promoted the sites in different ways, often boasting these 50-item hauls, where they show off the items they got for some unbelievably low prices.

However, the shock value of Shein is in many ways too good to be true. According to Yale, sites like Shein use AI models to identify the latest trends and mass-produce items that consumers are interested in moment-to-moment.

Shein has also been criticized in the past for poor working conditions and insurmountable environmental damage. Emitting 16.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide

in 2023 alone, Shein is now the biggest polluter of any fashion brand. Many shoppers see thrifting as a way to extend the life cycle of clothes that are inevitably headed to the landfill, lowering the demand for these ultra-fast fashion companies.

## Charlotte charity stores

Charlotte has all kinds of thrifting gems depending on what you're looking for. My personal favorite traditional thrift stores are the University Pointe Goodwill, the Salvation Army and the Value Village, all located on Central Avenue.

An honorable mention goes to the Goodwill Second Editions in uptown. It's an outlet with items priced by the pound, but make a day out of it to increase your chances of finding something really cool.

Thrift stores also tend to have great quality housewares if you just moved off-campus and have your own kitchen for the first time.

Clothing is usually separated and priced at a flat rate in different categories. Be sure to double-check for stains and holes.

It's important to remember that these stores are many people's only option to find clothes. Try not to rely on charity stores for items like gloves, socks and winter jackets, and leave them for people who are in need.



# 10 Tips and tricks for life at Charlotte

Ruhshona Soledjonova | Niner Times Archive

**A**s the fall semester creeps up, having a list of tips in your back pocket is crucial for a productive semester. From study recommendations to lifestyle hacks, this list is curated for students to keep in mind when walking into their first day of classes and making a positive student-living experience.

## 1. The library is free, so use it to your advantage.

UNC Charlotte is proud to supply students with a long list of amenities, including the J. Murrey Atkins Library, between Cone and Colvard. Students can check out leisure books and find class readings for free. Remember to check the Charlotte library database before spending money on books.

## 2. Use your study senses.

When studying before an exam, be in tune with your senses. Chew on your favorite gum or snack every time you study—you can also use scents. During the exam, chew that same gum or snack. This tactic will help you recall the study material better.

## 3. Sit closer to the front of the class.

While being seated close to the professor may be nerve-racking, sitting near

the front of the class will help students pay attention and focus better. It can also open doors for peer conversations and familiarity with the professor.

## 4. Set your notes as your lock screen.

What better way to learn the material than constantly viewing it before unlocking your phone? Using your notes as your lock screen is a quick way to remind you of the material and quiz yourself throughout the day.

## 5. If there is a group chat, join it.

Students are encouraged to make class group chats during the first weeks of school. These group chats are a great way to make friends, form study groups and ask questions if you miss a day. Especially in major courses and even resident halls, get to know the people you will likely see again.

## 6. Quizlet is your best friend.

Be the one to make a study Quizlet for the class or befriend somebody who is.

## 7. Reserve library space early.

Prioritizing and reserving study spaces ahead of time makes all the difference. Once you know your exam schedules, book a

study room or try to do so at least a week or two in advance.

## 8. If you are not a morning person, do not get an 8 a.m.

Remember that you know yourself better than others; find what fits best in your comfort zone.

## 9. Campus life is music to the ears.

Sometimes, the best experiences and interactions happen right under our noses or outside our headphones. When walking to class, take your headphones off and be present in the environment. Spend that time between classes, work and extracurriculars to immerse yourself in the Charlotte campus culture.

## 10. Ask about student discounts.

One of the many advantages of being a student in a big college town is the various vendors that offer student discounts. It does not hurt to ask; it can save you a lot of money in the long run.

As students settle into their daily routine, they will find their own tricks and shortcuts to maximizing their time and finding balance.



## Stores & Eateries

Charlotte's Only Indoor  
Outlet Shopping Destination

Scan for a FREE Digital Coupon Book & Save \$100s when you shop



  
**CONCORD MILLS®**  
A SIMON CENTER



**THE EDGE**



**UNIVERSITY CROSSINGS**

*You've never lived like this.*

Walk or bike to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus

Private bedrooms and bathrooms available

Leather-style furniture

24-hour, state-of-the-art fitness centers

Academic Success Centers with iMacs and free printing

Internet included in every apartment



**UNIVERSITY WALK**

Learn more and apply at [AmericanCampus.com/Charlotte](https://AmericanCampus.com/Charlotte)

**AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES**

**Where students love living.®**

Rates/installments, caps, dates/deadlines, promotions, fees, amenities and utilities included are subject to change. Limited time only. See office for details.

