NINE MINES

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Oct. 10, 2023

'A BIG PRESENCE ON CAMPUS': UNC CHARLOTTE'S MARCHING BAND PERFORMS TO BOOST SCHOOL SPIRIT

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Student-driven news since 1947

The Niner Times is UNC Charlotte's student-run news publication founded in 1947 and has received both state and national recognition.

The Niner Times aims to provide accurate and fair news to the UNC Charlotte community. We cover campus happenings, news and events in the city of Charlotte and North Carolina and topics that are important to students. We publish written, photo and video content online (ninertimes.com), on social media and through our weekly email newsletter (sent every Tuesday at 9:30 am). We also produce a supplemental bi-weekly (every other week) inprint newspaper that hits stands on Tuesdays.

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THE NC CONSERVATION NETWORK CREATES PETITION TO STOP FOREVER CHEMICALS IN N.C. WATER

Tom Quach | Contributor

he North Carolina Conservation Network (NC Conservation Network) has a petitioner on campus, located outside Prospector every Monday from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., urging government officials to stop forever chemicals in N.C. water.

Forever chemicals – per or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – are toxic, persistent chemicals found in stains, grease and water-resistant products.

Senior Campaign Organizer Stephanie Schweickert stated, "Forever chemicals are a giant class of chemicals – like 10,000 chemicals – they are very persistent in the environment and our bodies."

According to fourth-year UNC Charlotte student and NC Conservation Network Campus Fellow Alyse Moffitt, "They [forever chemicals] bioaccumulate, so once it is in our water, it is very hard to get out since it never breaks down."

Schweickert mentioned some common household products that contain forever chemicals: nonstick pans, raincoats, food packaging and some makeup, especially waterproof makeup.

"When people are exposed to the chemical for a long amount of time, a lot of health effects can occur: kidney, liver and bladder diseases and disorders, vaccine resistance and cancers," says Moffitt.

Local news stories have reported forever chemicals in some drinking water systems across N.C., with high levels in Cape Fear River.

"It can get into the water from landfills because of these common products and all of the things that end up there; there is leakage from those landfills. That leakage has to go somewhere," says Schweickert.

While Charlotte's water is not as contaminated, other surrounding areas have been identified to contain forever chemicals, such as "Durham, Pittsboro, Fuquay-Varina, Asheboro, as well as Orange, Johnston and Nash Counties," according to the Raleigh news channel, WRAL News.

Moffitt and Schweickert mentioned that this started in West Virginia with Dupont, a major chemical company. In 1998, Dupont was sued for doing studies with the Teflon chemical that was being placed into West Virginia's water. This led to locals and workers experiencing many health effects. Afterward, DuPont relocated to Fayetteville, N.C., and changed its name to Chemours in 2015.

"In the Fayetteville area and then downstream

to Wilmington, [Chemours was] manufacturing forever chemicals and discharging them directly into the Cape Fear River and then also emitting PFAS into the air, where ultimately, they land and end up in groundwater," said Schweickert.

These acts of pollution from Chemours came to a halt when "the state required Chemours to end their discharges into the river as well as implement controls to try to stop their air pollution," said Schweickert.

Although the state required Chemours' tighter pollution control, other companies and products still manufacture forever chemicals.

"It's not just one bad actor [or] one bad company that has contaminated the river," said Schweickert. "There are a variety of industrial sources that [are] putting their waste back into the water stream, and that is not being treated."

The NC Conservation Network, a statewide, nonprofit and non-partisan organization, filed a petition in 2022 to urge Governor Roy Cooper and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to take action against forever chemicals.

"The petition is really asking the state to do similar work with other polluters and demand that they halt their pollution," said Schweickert. "We really need action from all levels of government, and we think that DEQ and Governor Cooper have a good opportunity to step up on this issue and make a big impact."

"Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we table outside near Prospector – it's a table with a bright orange tablecloth that says 'NC Conservation Network' – where we have the petition postcards," says Moffitt. "We also have a QR code."

"We've collected thousands of signatures on this petition and will continue to collect as many as we can while we're engaging in this campaign for clean water," said Civic Engagement Organizer of the NC Conservation Network, Maggie Burns, "This campaign has no end date, as the forever chemical problem is only growing in North Carolina."

The NC Conservation Network aims to protect N.C.'s environment and public health.

"To protect our environmental justice and make sure everyone in all areas of North Carolina has equal access to clean and safe living," said Moffitt.

For more information, Moffitt is doing table and outreach events for educational purposes to help take action.

Check out their website to sign the petition to stop forever chemicals in N.C. water.

UNC CHARLOTTE'S UPDATED MASTER PLAN TO ENTER PHASE IV BY 2024

Olivia Fey | Staff Writer

NC Charlotte enters Phase III of the Campus Master Plan in October 2023, which is planned to run until February

The University recently entered Phase III, consisting of a final plan review and implementation before being cleared to move forward with Phase IV in March 2024.

The plan is being updated to implement campus needs such as "facilities, space, transportation, parking, housing, utilities, infrastructure and the outdoor environment," according to the Campus Master Plan webpage. The plan is set to be completed in 2035.

Students can already see parts of this plan being implemented, such as the Starship food delivery robots, the new dorm in South Village and the the 49th Acre. Another addition is the planning of University City Square, which will transform the shopping center across campus into a more sociable and walkable environment for students.

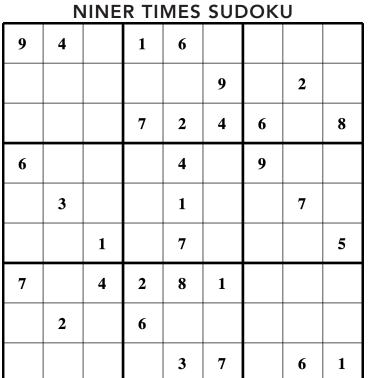
The Master Plan supports Charlotte's "Shaping What's Next" plan, which began in 2021 and will run until 2032 under Chancellor Gaber. "Shaping What's Next" aims to improve innovation, access, performance, community engagement and the campus environment, all of which will be updated per the Master Plan, which aims to follow similar guiding principles.

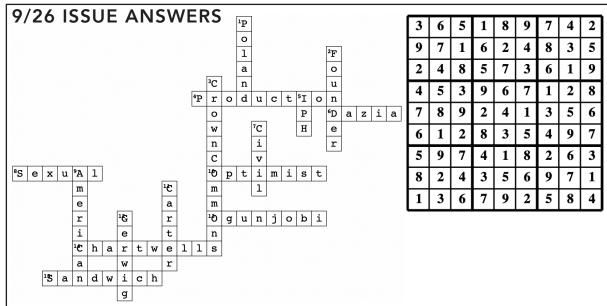
"I found the workshop and meetings where the consultants presented potential options for the development of the campus very interesting. The team synthesizes all the data that they had gathered through meetings, surveys and listening sessions," said the Director of Planning, Design, and Construction Kathryn Horne. "It is exciting to see the possibilities for what the campus might be in the future. I am looking forward to seeing the development of the final recommendations and master plan in Phase III."



Popp Martin Student Union | Photo by Jade Suszek

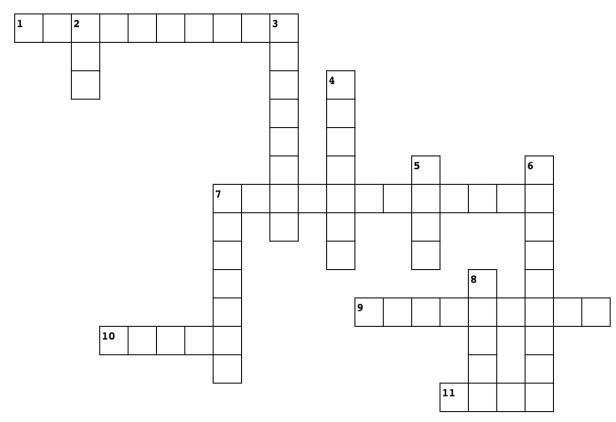
CHECK THE NEXT ISSUE (11/7) FOR THE ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU!





DID YOU KNOW?

NASA MISTAKENLY ERASED THE ORIGINAL TAPE OF THE FIRST STEPS ON THE MOON FROM 1969 (54 YEARS AGO).



NINER TIMES CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. UNC Charlotte's Niner Nation Week is organized to celebrate
- 7. The North Carolina _____ Network; a network of organizations focused on protecting N.C.'s environment
- 9. Undergraduate college admission application
- 10. ____ American Festival that was hosted on Sept. 23 in Charlotte
- 11. Charlotte football's homecoming game opponent

Down

- 2. Highest level of men's professional soccer in the United States
- 3. Name of UNC Charlotte's student section at athletics events
- 4. Fourth-year drum major of the Pride of Niner Nation marching band
- 5. Acronym for UNC Charlotte's transportation department6. CEO of Amazon
- 7. A week-long showcase where college football players perform
- tests in front of NFL coaches and scouts 8. "I saw the Devil" is a 2010 thriller/horror film from South

Crossword by Niner Times Editorial Board

LACK OF PARKING AND OVERCROWDED LOTS ARE FRUSTRATING AND MUST BE ADDRESSED

Nikya Hightower | Contributor

he battle for more parking spaces at UNC Charlotte continues as students struggle to find parking on campus. With more students enrolling every year, the parking availability is not growing with it.

Students are tired of the competitive parking, adjusting their schedules and enduring inconveniences from constantly packed lots and decks.

What may not seem like a big problem to some, students have to sacrifice extra time, money and stress on something as simple as parking.

Students find themselves late to class, which can eventually affect attendance grades. They are also being turned away at full buses and worrying about the lack of safety when having to walk to and from a distant parking lot.

Nancy Smith from Parking and Transportation Services (PATS) said that parking is always in the highest demand during the first two weeks of classes each semester when students are still getting to know the campus.

"Think of parking more like an airport and less like going to the grocery store. When you go to the airport, you expect to park in a remote lot and take transportation to the terminal. Campus works a lot like that, especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays," Smith advises students.

However, with Charlotte charging the highest parking permit prices in the state, along with NC State, it is more than reasonable for students not to want to fill in lots that are less than convenient for them.

"With the amount of people that pay for parking, they definitely make more than enough in revenue," said fourth-year student Jeremy Samonte

Although funding may not be an issue for the university, it is straining college students' bank

accounts.

"Parking is immediately available to those with permits in North Deck, South Deck, CRI Deck and Lot 6. All of these areas have shuttle service to them. Union Deck and West Deck will be full by 10 a.m., and space will be very limited in that area," stated Smith.

This information may not ease the frustrations of students but is very helpful to navigate lots for the future. There seems to be no timely solution or plans to remedy this issue except for students to fill in the available lots.

SEND US A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

IS THERE ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND ABOUT THE NINER TIMES, CAMPUS, CHARLOTTE OR OUR COMMUNITY? GET YOUR THOUGHTS OUT THERE BY SENDING US A LETTER!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE:

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- SIGNED BY AT LEAST ONE PERSON (ANONYMOUS LETTERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED)

THE NINER TIMES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT SUBMISSIONS AND EDIT THEM FOR CLARITY AND ASSOCIATED PRESS STYLE.

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UNC Charlotte Parking Lot | Niner Times File Photo

STUDENTS SHOULD QUESTION AMAZON'S "JUST WALK OUT" TECHNOLOGY

Ruhshona Soledjonova | Opinion Editor

he evolution of technology continues to shift how people live their everyday lives. While the goal of these innovations is to increase convenience, UNC Charlotte's integration of Amazon's Just Walk Out technology leaves unanswered questions concerning privacy and job availability.

Charlotte is the first university in North Carolina to implement Amazon's Just Walk Out technology as of Oct. 1, allowing students to purchase items found in common convenience markets and walk out without waiting at a register.

The university has had its fair share of new applications in the dining department, like Starship's food delivery robots and Just Baked vending machines.

Access to innovative technology for students is crucial to keep up with the speed of the digital world. It also helps save time to get food during a busy day of juggling classes. According to the Just Walk Out press release, it "reinforces the university's commitment to providing innovative and convenient solutions for students that match their on-the-go lifestyles."

However, there are many reasons why students are hesitant to embrace Just Walk Out.

Convenience v. confidentiality

New technology can be overwhelming and intimidating to use because there is not enough clarity on how much information it will collect from personal data.

A quick check-out process just seems too good to be true. The act of just scanning your phone, credit card, or mobile code before entering and then proceeding to walk out with any item is a concept that no one is used to.

Questions swirl around whether Amazon will have access to student's information because they are closely tracked and monitored by surveillance cameras and technology that they are unfamiliar with.

There is skepticism about facial recognition tech. When it comes to surveillance technology, studies show a significant error in identifying darker-skinned people within algorithms ingrained in the equipment.

Time will tell whether Just Walk Out contains these systemic issues. Senior Marketing Director of Charlotte Dining Services, Mrinali Rao, encourages feedback from students to help them resolve complications. "We are always here to learn; we want to hear from our students."

Rao assures students that there should not be any concerns about privacy.

"If there was a concern, Amazon is not a loss-making company. They already have this program in Charlotte at the Panthers stadium with no problems whatsoever," Rao said.

Innovations are the cost of student jobs

Ultimately, this process eliminates interaction with cashiers or customer service and long

lines to check out, meaning the people who once worked those jobs are not needed anymore.

Especially in Charlotte, many students work on campus to support themselves while pursuing education. Students benefit from campus jobs because it is a short distance to work and flexible with class schedules. For most international students, their only option is to work on campus.

The number one occupation in the United States as of 2021 is retail salesperson, also known as a cashier.

Attending college is costly, and many struggle

with finding jobs after adjusting to their independence. Without this job available for students, it makes it more difficult for them to find areas of income.

Is this a sign to simply adapt to and integrate technology into individuals' lives?

It is not surprising that technology is taking over jobs; society has seen this trend for years now. Even so, people must question what measures can be taken to compensate for the lack of opportunities.



Amazon Market | Photo by Sunnya Hadavi

HIGH APPLICATION FEES DRIVE STUDENTS AWAY BEFORE THEY GET TO THE DOOR

Noah Hughey | Contributor

In a time when college admissions have become the subject of every person's intense scrutiny, the first of a very long list of financial obligations the higher education process impresses upon its prospective students is the application fee.

Much like tuition, these fees see a significant increase between academic years. The increasing rates of college application fees impede college admissions, turning away students who can not mount the costs before they even get to the door.

When the class of 2028 applies to UNC Charlotte next fall, they will first have to pay an application fee of \$75 if they can not get the fee waived. To some, that might not sound like a lot. But one forgets that students are not just applying to one school at a time. It is often a process that involves multiple schools simultaneously.

For reference, fees alone to apply to four colleges in the US are estimated to be around \$180. Factoring in additional costs that come with applying to college, including travel expenses to visit schools and attending test sites, the total estimated cost of applying to five schools rounds up to about \$2,250. Quickly, applying to college becomes a financial burden that may be difficult to resolve.

That is unless you fulfill the requirements for a fee waiver, which relies on two factors: One, it must be from the ACT, College Board, NACAC, SCOIR or Common App. Two, only current high school seniors are eligible, with the exception that transfer students may be eligible for a waiver during National Transfer Student Week.

More striking than this, if you compare college application fees with other schools nationwide, Charlotte's is strikingly high. In their ranking of college application fees in 2022, US News and World Report saw that Charlotte and Harvard University were charging the same \$75 fee to apply. While we have maintained our \$75 rate for the 2024 fall admissions, Harvard's has risen to \$85.

According to College Raptor, there are two core reasons colleges use application fees. First, colleges will want to recover costs spent usually on hiring "admission specialists" who will do the reviewing part of the application so the college does not have to do so internally.

Second, some colleges hope to deter people who are not "serious" about applying to their school through an application fee. The higher the cost, the more likely it is that applicants trying to game the college admissions process will be de-

terred from wasting the college's time and money spent reviewing their application.

"The Undergraduate Admissions application fee has been \$75 since 2020. Prior to that, it was \$60 dating back to 2012," said Sarah Humphries, UNC Charlotte's Director of Undergraduate Admissions. "Enrollment Management is partially funded through application fees, and those fees go toward initiatives that support students through the UNC Charlotte college admissions process."

While high application fees may deter unfavorable applicants or recover costs to review thousands of applications, current fees may contribute to losing invaluable talent for fear of high prices. At its current rate, Charlotte is charging

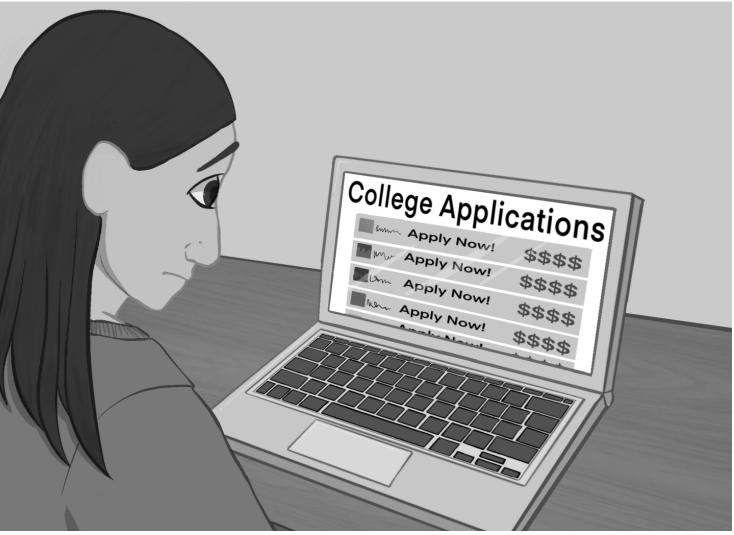
in the same range as an Ivy League school to apply, and as it continues to see its acceptance rate climb to 80%, the university might be in a position where it will raise the application fee to keep pace. There are options to respond to this issue, but they require notable trade-offs.

On one hand, the University could be like some other universities and scrap the fee altogether. This comes with the cost of allowing those potentially "unserious" applications to come through, but it would also release the barrier that the fee may represent to students unable to afford it in their larger college applications journey and likely increase the diversity of the applicant pool.

On the other hand, Charlotte could take other preventative measures that impact the size of the

application fee, such as potentially scaling back the acceptance rate or reducing the costs of application review. This may come with costs that impact the application review process or a lower acceptance rate but would allow the university to maintain the fee should it desire to while also working in ways that don't burden applicants with higher costs.

There are multiple angles to approach the issue of high application fees that frighten prospective students, each with its own set of trade-offs. And while the University's consistency is a good first step, Charlotte may lose the attention and applications of talented students not willing to pay the price.



Student applying for college on laptop | Illustration by Ava Weaver









PHOTOS: LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL

Photos by Richard Nuzzo

he Latin American Festival was hosted on Saturday, Sept. 23, as a part of the International Arts Festival.

The festival was hosted by Charlotte's Latin American Coalition. The group encompasses a variety of services for local Latinos, including welcominging immigrants, legal assistance and addressing societal issues that impede on the Latino Community.





'A BIG PRESENCE ON CAMPUS': UNC CHARLOTTE'S MARCHING BAND PERFORMS TO BOOST SCHOOL SPIRIT

Lily Kate Witcher | Contributor

ver the past seven years, the Pride of Niner Nation marching band has become a staple of the 49ers' school spirit. Now in its eighth season performing, the band continues to entertain audiences at all Charlotte 49ers home football games and many other Charlotte events.

Program assistant and third-year student Lily Cagle is particularly proud of this range of performance opportunities.

"I think that we bring a lot of the spirit to the community as a whole just because of our presence at football games, at pep rallies," Cagle said. "We've played for the chancellor and special events. We just have a really big presence on campus, even in Uptown and things like that where UNC Charlotte is represented."

Before each home football game, the Pride of Niner Nation performs several pregame shows, including one at the 49th Acre tailgating spot and for alumni. Fourth-year drum major Kenan Boswell says that the reception for the band's performances has always been positive.

"I think our Gold Mine is starting to really get into what we do and what we perform," Boswell said. "During pregame, we go to our alumni. Our alumni love us. When we go to 49th Acre, they're starting to love us there, too."

Throughout the football games, the band aims to keep the crowd excited, whether they are blaring stand tunes or, in Boswell's case, starting a wave that goes around the entire stadium. Both Cagle and Boswell say that the atmosphere in Jerry Richardson Stadium stays energetic, regardless of the game's score.

"The crowd has really been great and supportive," Boswell said. "It's always a good feeling when we're entering the stands and people are high-fiving us, giving us words of encouragement. After we get done with halftime, there's just these lit-

tle eight-year-old and 10-year-old kids that are high-fiving us and cheering us on. Especially for those little kids that are out in our stands and really supporting us, knowing that they might be a future member of our band is something that's really special."

Cagle said the best thing about being a member of the Pride of Niner Nation marching band has been the people in the program.

"It's nice to have people that aren't just music majors or just random people that I met on campus," Cagle said. "We all see each other at least three times a week plus games and whatever else is going on, and so it's a nice sense of community."

Boswell and Cagle encourage students considering joining the marching band to try it out for themselves. Prospective members can first fill out the information request form, available on the band's website, for more information. Band members are required to enroll in the MUPF

1118 course and attend the Preseason Band Camp in August.

"If you are considering or even on the fence, I say do it," said Cagle. "At least try it out; see how you like it. It's definitely given me a community, or we all say 'band family.' I do have a family here."

When it comes to the next steps for the Pride of Niner Nation marching band, Boswell said that the future looks bright.

"I think within the next four or five years, we'll be competing with some of the top schools with our sound. I go and watch other bands, and I can say for sure that we have one of the best bands in this conference, and I'm 100% confident about that," said Boswell. "The Pride of Niner Nation marching band is going to keep growing and keep getting louder."



UNC Charlotte's marching band performing at the Charlotte football game against Georgia State University on Sept. 16, 2023. | Photo by Aravind Pasupathi

STAR AND DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE HOLD 'LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL' AUDITIONS OCT. 16-17

Lauren Simendinger | Contributor

Student Theatre at Robinson (STAR) and the Department of Theatre will hold auditions for "Legally Blonde: The Musical" on Oct. 16-17 from 6-10 p.m.

Both days of auditions will be held in Rowe 206. Interested students must prepare 32 bars, or one minute, of one to two songs of their choice and sheet music for the accompanist. Singing auditions will be followed by a dance call on Oct. 16, 2023, at 6 p.m., and callbacks will be on Oct. 19, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Based on the book and movie of the same name, the Tony-nominated musical follows California sorority girl Elle Woods as she enrolls in Harvard Law School, hoping to win back her boyfriend, Warner, only to find new love and meaning in her life.

STAR co-hosted an interest meeting for the show alongside faculty director and assistant professor of directing Laura Waringer. STAR is collaborating on the show alongside the Department of Theatre faculty. Waringer's vision involves bringing a modern eye to the musical, as its book was originally written in the 2000s.

"[Waringer] chose it because it involves a big

ensemble. There's a lot of opportunity for more students to get involved," said fourth-year student and STAR president Chandler Pelliciotta. "I know that that's really important to all of the professors here—is just to make people feel included. It's a fun show."

While the script and music will remain the same, Waringer plans to incorporate social media like TikTok into the show and lean into the show's feminist themes by including the #MeToo movement.

"I hope that [audiences] will get the sense of community that I think the show does a great job of exemplifying," said Pellicotta. "Elle's story is so special to me because she doesn't go through what she goes through alone. She has her sisterhood, she has her hairdresser, she has Emmett, and she has her friends at school. Even though she's facing all of these trials and all of these really, really tough situations, she never goes through it alone. She always has somebody on her team."

Formerly known as the Robinson players, STAR was created, recognizing the importance of having a theater group prioritizing student involvement at a school as large as Charlotte.

"The mission of STAR is to encourage the students inside and outside of UNC Charlotte's Department of Theatre towards creating student-driven theatre made for and by the student body," according to STAR's Niner Engage.

Uniting students through theater helps them foster meaningful connections and lifelong bonds, as well as providing a means of self-expression. STAR also gives students the opportunity to gain skills they will need in the professional theatre field without the hassle of vying for an internship.

"It's really important because it allows us to take initiative. It allows us to understand what it takes to take initiative," said Pellicotta. "There's a lot that goes into starting something like that, and when we have other people doing things for us, it can kind of lead to some blindspots in our knowledge of what it means to start theatre."

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" is set to run from April 18-21 in 2024.

STUDENT THEATRE AT ROBINSON

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK BRINGS TOGETHER ART AND COMMUNITY FOR ITS 59TH YEAR

Hyacinth Powell | Contributor

estival in the Park celebrated its 59th annual event from Sept. 22-24. The festival was a three-day event in Freedom Park, located in Charlotte's historic Dilworth area.

Festival in the Park was started in 1964 to bring people from all backgrounds together to celebrate the arts as a community.

The park was filled with people enjoying the various art mediums, live entertainment and food.

Vendors lined the park with handmade crafts such as blown glass, jewelry and paintings. Many traveled from all parts of the city to participate in the festival, some even coming from out of state to be a part of the event.

Thanks to social media and other online art platforms, word of this vibrant community event spread even faster, with an expected overall turnout of over 100,000 attendees at this year's festival.

"There's an online application apparatus that

helps arts and crafts folks know what kind of shows are going on throughout the country called Zap or Zapplication, so they're the ones who let me know about the festival here," said first-time attendee Ruel Martin.

Martin is a craftsman specializing in wood-turning. He attended the 2023 festival as a vendor, allowing him to share his creations with the Charlotte community.

"I'm just looking to sustainably source trees

that are already down and in various stages of decomposition," said Martin. "I try to preserve the work that nature's been doing in those trees through a pleasing form and a finish that allows the wood grain of the trees that I work with to really speak so that people can see that beauty."

The festival will return for its 60th anniversary in 2024 from Sept. 20-24. To learn more about this event and future events, you can check out festivalinthepark.org/.

FROM 'ALIEN' TO 'RAW': SOME GREAT HORROR FILMS TO WATCH THIS HALLOWEEN

Jackson Holloman | Staff Writer

fter watching the newest installations in the "Saw" and "Exorcist" franchises, you may be clamoring for more horror films. Mixing in classics with new flicks to add to your watchlist, here is a solid stack of horror movies to get you into this time of the year.

'The Thing' (1982)

A strong paranoia story can represent any time, place or social climate. And yet, the film's setting is almost completely disconnected from the world around it. Set in the middle of Antarctica, a group of American researchers find themselves under attack when they realize inside their research station lies a shapeshifting alien that can take the form of any living being. Director John Carpenter, of "Halloween" (1978) fame, takes this story and gives it an isolating atmosphere as well as an

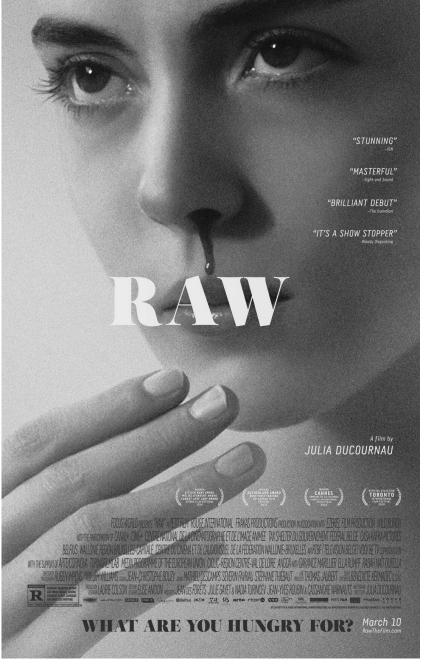
aggressively confident and dumb masculine edge. His blunt, unapologetic love for practical effects is evident, and with the help of Special Effects Supervisor Rob Bottin, he delivers some of the greatest creature effects ever put on film.

'Raw' (2016)

Raised by a family of strict vegetarian veterinarians, Justine (Garance Marillier) experiences hazing during her first year of veterinary school. After being forced to eat meat, Justine develops a craving for human flesh. Although painting her as a monster at times, "Raw" also presents its audience with a study of Justine's mind and the environment that created this hyper-tense and strangely juvenile young woman. "Raw" is shot gorgeously, utilizing intense close-ups to highlight the similarities between our leads and the animals they dissect.







'Funny Games' (2007)

A couple, Anne and George Farber, played magnificently by Naomi Watts and Tim Roth, head out to their vacation home for a getaway. While there, two deceptively sweet and put-together rich young men come by to ask for some eggs, thus beginning a night of torture. This one is for horror fans who want to be genuinely disturbed rather than excited. A meticulous and sometimes painful experience, this deconstruction of violence makes "The Purge" look like "Tangled." It's hard to swallow, but if you want something that will disturb you, this is it.

'Phantom of the Paradise' (1974)

For something more upbeat, "Phantom of the Paradise" brings together (at minimum) 6 genres in one movie. While saying it is purely a horror movie is not entirely accurate, any film that mixes adaptations of "Faust," "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and "The Phantom of The Opera" into a glam rock horror musical definitely has Halloween energy. The story follows a singer-songwriter who makes a deal with an off-beat evil record producer who changes his life's work to make it more commercial. In an act of revenge, the singer dons the "Phantom" costume and sets off to terrorize the producer's future live shows. You may think this sounds horrible, and you would be correct if not for writer-director Brian De Palma (director of "Carrie") pulling the strings. It is boldly beautiful and intensely loveable, melding cynicism with sensitivity and boundlessly creative music.

'Possession' (1981)

Now we can dive back into something more

conventionally horrifying, though that may be the only thing conventional about "Possession." What at first seems to be a divorce story turns into something weirder as the audience sees the darker sides of our lead couple Anna (Isabelle Adjani) and Mark (Sam Neill). The film's subtitle, "Inhuman ecstasy fulfilled," sets the film up nicely. The heightened world of possession is made of a manic energy that is fresh and alive. At every turn, the movie changes your understanding of its characters. It is an exhilarating movie that begs for multiple viewings.

'I Saw the Devil' (2010)

If you want something more grounded in its horror, then look to this serial killer revenge story. "I Saw the Devil" is a mysterious and thrilling watch where deciding who the psychopath is becomes almost impossible. Jang Kyung-chul (Choi Min-sik) murders the wife of Detective Kim Soo-hyun (Lee Byung-hun). When the detective goes off on a violent revenge path to find him, he discovers that Jang is a serial killer with a long history of violence. With the renewed interest in serial killer stories, this is one to check out as it goes where very few do.

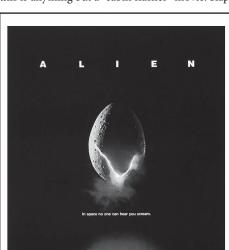
'Alien' (1979)

Of the tentpole horror film franchises, "Alien" may not receive much attention from college students. If you are not a fan of the recent "Alien" films, we recommend returning to the original classic. Only his second feature as a director, Ridley Scott built a franchise out of a simple idea: a small group of people on a spaceship accidentally allow an extraterrestrial onto their ship. Gor-

geously shot with a production design that still amazes, "Alien" is stunning and scary to this day.

'Evil Dead 2' (1987)

Sam Raimi's Splatterhouse comedy filmmaking marvel is one of the most innovative and fun movies ever made. Ash (Bruce Campbell) and a group of friends in an abandoned cabin find a book that summons the dead. The pages announce that the teens will be dead by dawn. But this is anything but a "cabin slasher" movie. Slap-



In space no one can hear you sorram.

stick comedy genius Bruce Campbell plays every scene with a loose connection to reality, and his lunacy offsets the brutal demons. It will scare you and make you laugh harder than most comedies.

It is a sequel only in its title, as it retells the first film. The energy and love for filmmaking are infectious. Every character tormenting Ash works due to the film's confined setting and playful tone. The camera hops from one insane set piece to the next. With fast cuts and no-frills pacing, this quick ride is worth taking with a group.

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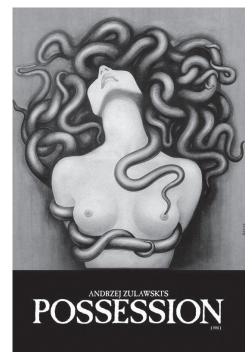
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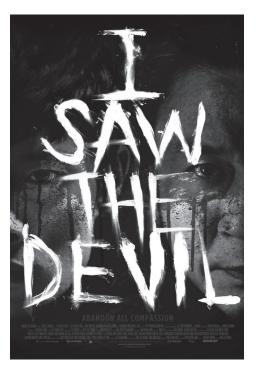
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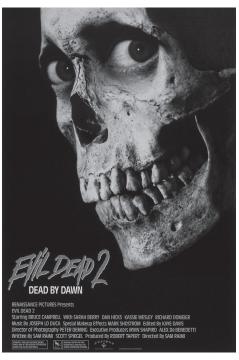
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Movie posters courtesy of IMDb







LARRY OGUNJOBI, PITTSBURGH STEELERS DEFENSIVE TACKLE, REFLECTS ON HIS IMPACT WITH THE 49ERS

Sam Perry | Staff Writer

In 2012, Charlotte football brought in their first recruiting class as they prepared for their inaugural season in 2013. Current Pittsburgh Steeler Larry Ogunjobi was a part of that class, being one of the first building blocks of the 10-year-old program.

"It was a super humbling, super surreal blessing to be a part of the first program and inaugural team," said Ogunjobi. "I had great teammates, great coaches, and you know we were just young and so fresh it was exciting."

Being the first 49

It was the last week of August of 2013, and former Head Coach Brad Lambert brought Ogunjobi into his office leading up to the team's first game and asked him to wear the No. 49 jersey in the first game, getting the distinct honor of wearing the team's namesake number in his first game.

Wearing the number was a testament to all the hard work Ogunjobi had put in during his first year on campus, and he made history coming out of the tunnel wearing the No. 49. He led the team to a 52-7 win over the Campbell University Camels.

lotte history. The Cleveland Browns selected him in the third round of the 2017 NFL draft.

"The opportunity to be the first, and because of that, many others will now be able to follow in the same footsteps and chase the same dreams, that in itself is a dream," said Ogunjobi.

He also made the first-ever tackle for a loss in the inaugural game against Campbell. Ogunjobi became the first 49er to participate in the Reese's Senior Bowl and the first Charlotte player to be named to a national award watchlist in program history when he was named to the Chuck Bednarik Award and Outland Trophy watchlist.

Records forged in gold

Charlotte's record book was flooded with Ogunjobi's name when he left, and to this day, his name remains attached to many records.

When he was drafted, he left as the program leader in career tackles (217), tackles for loss (49.0), career sacks (13.0) and quarterback hurries (33). Now, he ranks No. 4 in career tackles and No. 3 in sacks while remaining as the leader in tackles for a loss.

I played with some amazing guys, and it was just an amazing experience."

It was a big moment for the team as they narrowly beat the Florida Atlantic University Owls 28-23, with the defense holding down the fort and keeping their lead intact throughout the game. Ogunjobi also had a significant individual performance in that game, making a big impact as the star nose tackle for the team. He led the team in tackles with 10 and tackles for a loss with 2.5 in the contest.

Life in the NFL

At the NFL stage, Ogunjobi played four years in Cleveland, playing in 60 games where he forced two fumbles, made 14.5 sacks and had 180 total tackles.

After playing with the Browns, he signed a one-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals in 2021. He was a prominent piece of their team that made it to the Super Bowl, but due to a foot injury sustained in the wild card round of the playoffs against the Las Vegas Raiders, he missed the remainder of the playoffs that year.

"It was bittersweet because you know you want to be out there competing, want to be out there helping your team win, but I believe everything happens for a reason," said Ogunjobi. "I take it all in stride and never take it for granted, and I look forward to getting back to that big game [Super Bowl] again."

Following that season, Ogunjobi initially signed a three-year \$40.5 million deal with the Chicago Bears, but due to health concerns over his recovery from his foot injury, the deal fell through.

The Steelers then swooped in and signed him to a one-year deal to prove his health, where he reunited with former Charlotte teammate Alex Highsmith.

"It's great because you get to see the growth, and you get to see the dream come to fruition looking at a guy like Alex who has worked extremely hard to become the person he is today," said Ogunjobi. "I'm proud I know where Charlotte was when I first got there. It's a true testament not only to the hard work of the individual but the program and everyone that's been involved in it."

He found success in Pittsburgh, playing all 16

games with them and making 48 tackles with 1.5 sacks. After reproving his worth, he got a three-year \$28.75 million deal to stay in the steel city.

A mold for the future of Charlotte football

Ogunjobi, as one of the first 49ers, created the mold of what Charlotte sought in players both on and off the field, and he paved the way for fellow defensive stars, passing the torch to Alex Highsmith, who then passed it to Markees Watts.

Those players were the epitome of the best of 49ers football during its first 10 years, building the foundation of what the program wants for the future. In year 11, another strong defense player seems to have picked up the mantle in Eyabi Okie-Anoma.



Pittsburgh Steelers defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi (99) during a regular season game against the Tampa Bays Buccaneers on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. | Photo courtesy of the Pittsburgh Steelers

66

"IT WAS A SUPER HUMBLING, SUPER SURREAL BLESSING TO BE A PART OF THE FIRST PROGRAM AND INAUGURAL TEAM." Larry Ogunichi Pittel

- Larry Ogunjobi, Pittsburgh Steelers Defensive Tackle

"Being able to come out in 49 and the words on the back of the jersey were grit, and it was a testament to the person I was trying to be and aspiring to be, and it was just a blessing," said Ogunjobi.

Many other firsts in program history

Being the talented player he was and being on the first team, Ogunjobi accumulated a lot of firsts in his time with the program, including being the first player to attend the NFL Combine and then later being the first draft pick in Char-

Favorite memory

Being there for the beginning gave Ogunjobi the front-row seat to many defining moments in program history, and being a part of the team's first Conference USA win was one of his favor-

"The win against FAU was our first conference win. It was a hard-fought game we won in the end," said Ogunjobi. "It was one of my fondest memories because everything clicked at that game. Overall, my team was just awesome, and

CHARLOTTE FC TAKES WIN OVER TORONTO FC WITH PLAYOFFS ON THE LINE

Billy McGee | Staff Writer

harlotte FC defeated Chicago Fire FC 2-0 on the road, moving Charlotte FC to the No. 12 seed in the Eastern Conference and just one point out of a playoff spot.

With two matches remaining in the season, both against Inter Miami CF, Charlotte FC stays in the Audi 2023 MLS Cup Playoffs hunt but must take down Miami in both to avoid elimination.

First half

Neither team created chances early in the match, with the first shot attempt coming in the 23rd minute with Westwood's shot from just outside the box that scored a goal, putting Charlotte FC up 1-0.

The only other attempt of the half for either team happened in the 37th minute with a shot from Karol Świderski that was blocked by the Chicago defense.

Charlotte FC was called offside four times in

the first half, with Chicago called offside three times.

Second half

Charlotte FC threatened early in the second half with Enzo Copetti and Świderski making runs at the box, but neither managed an attempt.

The first shot of the half came in the 50th minute with a shot from Charlotte's Jere Uronen that missed to the right of the goal.

Copetti drew a penalty in the 55th minute for Charlotte FC. After a Video Assistant Referee review, the penalty was confirmed. Świderski stepped up to the penalty spot for Charlotte FC and converted the penalty, putting Charlotte on top 2-0 in the 58th minute.

Shortly after the penalty, Charlotte FC had another chance with a shot from Kamil Jóźwiak being saved in the 59th minute.

Charlotte FC put another shot on goal in the

65th minute, with Chicago making the save on a Copetti header.

Chicago threatened with a shot on goal from Maren Haile-Selassie that Kristijan Kahlina saved in the 67th minute. Chicago followed up the shot on goal with a missed shot in the 68th minute and a shot blocked by the Charlotte FC defense in the 69th minute. Kahlina made another save on a Chicago shot in the 72nd minute.

Charlotte FC put another shot on goal with Derrick Jones taking the attempt that went straight to the Chicago goalkeeper for the save.

Kahlina made another save in the 74th minute on a shot from Gastón Giménez.

Neither team was able to get another shot on goal, with Chicago having a few more attempts that were either blocked or missed the goal.

After 11 minutes of added time, the final whistle was blown.

Takeaways

Charlotte FC was outshot 11 shots to seven by Chicago but had five shots on goal compared to Chicago's three, which led to their 2-0 victory.

"The way we control games, we're starting to score goals now, so everything's clicking at the right time," said Westwood. "I'm sure if and when we do get there, we'll be a team that no one will want to play, that's for sure."

Charlotte FC controls their playoff destiny with just two matches remaining in the MLS season. Charlotte plays Inter Miami CF twice to close out the season; if they win both matches, they will host the MLS Eastern Conference play-in match.

"It's nothing less than the boys deserve," said Head Coach Christian Lattanzio. "I think that they played with a lot of maturity, a lot of intensity in defending in open play, in defending set pieces and then playing our game. This team's last step is to learn how to win games, but in order to do that, we need to go through tough lessons."

Up next

Charlotte FC goes on the road to take on Inter Miami CF on Wednesday, Oct. 18.



Charlotte FC's Kamil Jóźwiak (Left) and Ashley Westwood (Right) following Westwood's goal against Chicago Fire FC. | Courtesy of Charlotte FC

CHARLOTTE 49ERS

RECENT GAMES

SCOREBOARD

SEPT. 25 - OCT. 7

FOOTBALL

Sept. 30: Florida 22, Charlotte 7

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 28: Charlotte 3, Temple 0 Oct. 5: FAU 1, Charlotte 0

MEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 29: Charlotte 3, Temple 1 Oct. 5: No. 4 SMU 1, Charlotte 0

VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 29: Charlotte 3, Memphis 0 Sept. 30: Charlotte 3, Memphis 1 Oct. 6: SMU 3, Charlotte 0 Oct. 8: Rice 3, Charlotte 1

OVERALL STANDINGS

Football, 1-4, 0-2

Women's soccer: 5-4-4, 1-1-2

Men's soccer: 5-2-1, 3-1

Volleyball: 9-9, 2-4

UPCOMING GAMES

Football:

Vs. Navy on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

Women's soccer:

Vs. Tulsa on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

Men's soccer:

Vs. Tulsa on Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Volleyball:

@ USF on Friday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY PUTS UP STRONG FINISH AT ROYALS CHALLENGE

Davis Cuffe | Staff Writer

harlotte's women's cross country team competed at the Royals Cross Country Challenge on Friday, Oct. 6, at McAlpine Creek Park in Charlotte, N.C.

With the men's team not racing, the women's team stepped up and put on a show, as almost every runner set a 5k personal best.

Meet recap

Charlotte's score of 212 resulted in a fifth-place team finish behind Milligan University (first), Wingate University (second), College of Charleston (third) and Furman University (fourth).

Furman's Madelynne Cadeau was the top finisher in this race, running a time of 17:14.

Race leaders

True freshman Keely Bradle led the Charlotte pack in her third race as a 49er. Her time of 18:26 was good for a thirty-second personal best (PB)

and 22nd in a field of 243 runners. This race is another step of improvement for Bradle, who had a slow start to her season at the Furman Invitational in September, where she finished 49th. The Providence High School product has found her stride now for the 49ers and has already smashed her high school 5k PB of 19:04.2.

Karina Coulter was just 14 seconds behind Bradle with a time of 18:40 and a 32nd-place finish. Her 18:40 was a breakout race for Coulter this season, breaking the 19-minute mark for the first time this season and setting a career PB. In her third race in three weeks, Coulter has improved in each after running 19:35 at the Virginia Invitational in late September.

The pack of Austin Heft, Kiersten Kohler and Jenna Franklin all finished within nine seconds of each other between 19:03 and 19:12 for Charlotte. Heft led the group with a time of 19:03, suitable for a 54th place finish, and freshmen

Kohler and Franklin nearly tied, finishing 59th and 60th, respectively, each running 19:12. Heft and Kohler both set new PBs while Franklin was four seconds off. Charlotte's sixth runner, Olivia Kaisin, also PBed in her first collegiate 5k with a time of 19:54.

Takeaways

Charlotte showed their depth in this meet. Despite opting to rest many of their top runners on the women's team and the entire men's team in favor of getting younger runners racing experience, the 49ers were still able to come away with a fifth-place finish in a field of solid teams. With postseason racing just a week out, it's good to know Charlotte has runners they can depend on in the case of injury.

Although Bradle is one of the younger runners on this Charlotte squad, she is making a strong push to be considered for an alternate spot during postseason racing. Her new PB of 18:26 would've been good for an eighth-place Charlotte finish at the Joe Piane Notre Dame Invitational, where many of Charlotte's top runners ran. We could see her enter the mix as an alternate, depending on her performance at pre-nationals next week.

McAlpine kept its reputation as a faster course this week as all but one of Charlotte's runners were able to set career PBs. With much of the course being flat, even gravel, expect fast times every time Charlotte races here.

Up next

Charlotte will enter the first stage of postseason racing at XC-23 Pre-Nationals in Earlysville, Va., at Panorama Farms. The men's championship race will begin at 9:40 a.m., and the women's championship race will start about an hour later at 10:30 a.m.



Charlotte cross country's Keely Bradle | Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

