

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR FEMALE ADMINISTRATORS

Chancellor Sharon Gaber, Dean Christine Reed Davis and Dean Jennifer Troyer



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GABER . DAVIS . TROYER

GET TO KNOW SOME OF YOUR FEMALE ADMINISTRATORS

by Lorenza Medley
Intern



NEWS

UNC Charlotte boasts many female administrators, from founder Bonnie Cone to today's five female academic college deans. For Women's History Month, the Niner Times sat down with Chancellor Sharon Gaber, Dean of Students Christine Davis and Dean Jennifer Troyer to discuss their hobbies, gender discrimination in the workplace and advice for young women.

Chancellor Sharon Gaber has served as UNC Charlotte's fifth chancellor since July 2020. She is the second woman to lead the institution (after founder Bonnie Cone) and the first woman to serve as chancellor. Before UNC Charlotte, she served as president of the University of Toledo for five years and as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas for six. Education Drive named her "one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond."

Dean Christine Davis has served as the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students since 2013. She works closely with students, overseeing programs like Identity, Equity and Inclusion, New Student and Family Services, Student Assistance and Support Services, Student Conduct & Academic Integrity and Veterans Services. She has been with the University in various roles since 1997 and recently graduated from the UNC Charlotte Educational Leadership doctoral program.

Dean Jennifer Troyer has served as the seventh dean of the Belk College of Business since July 2020 and served in various leadership roles in the Business School for the past 20 years. Her research focuses on health economics and has won several awards and received funding from the National Institute of Health.

The following transcript has been edited and condensed.

What are some of your hobbies?

Gaber: I enjoy walking my dog, Augie, and spending time with my family. Additionally, I enjoy tennis, travel and music.

Davis: Recently, over the past year, I have taken up a spinning class, so I own a Peloton. I ride my bike that goes nowhere almost every day. I also love reading, cooking and traveling. Over the past, let's say, five years or so, traveling has been difficult because I have been finishing my doctoral program, which I finished this past fall. And then, of course, from a COVID-19 perspective, there hasn't been a whole lot of traveling going on. Taking day trips, visiting different states within the country, exploring history and just hanging out at the beach.

Troyer: I enjoy reading (mostly non-fiction), hiking (trails within a couple of hours of Charlotte), and practicing yoga (for 20+ years).

What do you like about your job?

Gaber: I like being the Chancellor at UNC Charlotte because this University, in particular, has the ability to change students' lives. My goal is to continue to make UNC Charlotte accessible and continue to increase the value of our students'/alums' degrees.

Davis: I love the fact that it is different every day. My calendar is just a suggestion of what might happen during my day. At any point during the day, an email could come through, or a crisis happens that I need to manage, or an opportunity presents itself that I get to connect with students or faculty or staff on campus. It is never boring, for sure. And I especially love the relationships I get to build and how I get to connect with students, faculty and staff members on campus.

Troyer: Being a dean is one of the best jobs on campus. As Dean, my key job is to help guide our faculty and staff in staying focused on our vision, which is to be a leading urban research business school and help secure the resources needed to move us closer to achieving that vision. As part of our mission, we are working to have excellent undergraduate and graduate programs. We are working to

produce research relevant to business and policymakers. We are engaged with the business community, and we promote the values of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Have you ever experienced gender discrimination in the workplace?

Gaber: I was the only female faculty member in my department for the first 11 years of my academic career. I was not discriminated against, but I wound up working very hard because nearly every committee needed some diversity and I was the gender diversity in that department. In the end, this helped prepare me to become the department chair which began my career into academic administration.

Davis: You know, I have been thinking a lot about this lately. I don't think that it's been overt gender discrimination, but I have experienced some more subtle discriminatory incidents over the years. I have been asked to be the note taker in meetings where I'm the only woman. I've been asked to follow up on things because perhaps I was the only woman, or I could come at it from a maternal or soft feminine kind of approach. I have been asked to do things or to be in spaces where there have been only women. So, there's never been anything that I have experienced that has been specifically biased because of my gender. When I was the director of Student Conduct, I got a couple of comments from some lawyers that I was interacting with that they were surprised that I was as good at my job being a conduct officer since I was a woman. And so, more subtle kinds of comments than any overt types of bias or discrimination.

Troyer: As far as I know, I have not experienced what I would characterize as gender discrimination, but I have experienced microaggressions in my profession, and I know of many women who have experienced gender discrimination. My early career training was in economics,



CHANCELLOR SHARON GABER

Photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte



DEAN CHRISTINE DAVIS

Photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte



DEAN JENNIFER TROYER

Photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte

Article continued on pg. 4



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which is a discipline that is still working to eliminate the gender gap and instances of gender discrimination.

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

Gaber: Treat people well. Our people—students, faculty and staff—are what makes our University great.

Davis: Trust your gut. Many of the things that I think about and process include trusting my gut because I feel like there is some value to that very instinctive feeling you get about a certain decision. I think that, in general, women aren't encouraged to trust their gut because we have grown up in a very male-dominated society, which espouses hard and fast data from a

decision-making perspective. And I think a good leader balances that data with some emotion and some gut instincts.

Troyer: I have a long list, but one of the ones that stand out is advice from my dad, who said, "If you never fail, you don't know your limits or potential."

What advice would you give young women entering the workforce?

Gaber: Be willing to take a risk or an opportunity when it is presented. They don't come along every day. Sometimes risks and/or opportunities throw people out of their rhythm, and they pass them up. In general, when presented with an opportunity, it means that someone saw something special in you. Explore the opportunity to learn if

it might be something worth pursuing.

Davis: I would advise them to explore—not to feel like they have to be boxed into one skill set or one type of position, but to really feel empowered to explore different opportunities. To ask to be placed at the table for conversations instead of sitting to the side and waiting to be invited. Expressing some desire to learn or shadow different people in different positions until you tap into that passion or find that passion through that exploration.

Troyer: Be yourself. Find opportunities to stretch yourself and keep learning. When you fail, take a little time to find the lesson in it and to feel bad and then quickly move on. Grow your network and lean on them.

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Chancellor Gaber discusses the fall 2021 semester, the COVID-19 vaccine, the new strategic plan and more

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

On Feb. 25, Chancellor Gaber delivered her first State of the University Address to the Student Government Senate. In this address, Gaber discussed the University's plans for the fall 2021 semester, the coronavirus vaccine, the recent state mandates regarding COVID-19, graduation in May, a possible spike in COVID-19 cases in April, UNC Charlotte's image as a research university and the new strategic plan.

Chancellor Gaber addressed the past few semesters' hardships and her excitement about in-person classes beginning. She said the University is hoping to model the fall 2021 semester after the fall 2019 semester rather than the fall 2020 semester.

Decisions regarding the fall 2021 semester largely depend on vaccination progress.

In a conversation with one of the senate members, Gaber mentioned that UNC Charlotte has applied to be a vaccination site but has not heard back.

"We strongly encourage everyone to get a vaccine," Gaber said. However, at University is not mandating the vaccine.

Starting Feb. 26 at 5 p.m., the State reduced the requirements for some COVID-19 restrictions. The requirements are outlined on the NC Gov. Roy Cooper website. Gaber stated that she read a memorandum draft about the athletics department allowing more people into

events for spring sports.

As far as May graduation, Gaber said that the University is considering holding a football stadium ceremony, although this is not confirmed yet. She noted that under state guidelines, the stadium could be filled to 30% capacity. Whereas in the past, graduates were allowed to invite 20 or more people each, now they may be limited to two or three. Gaber added that this in-person ceremony would mean the University would not provide virtual graduation as they did in December 2020. Gaber also mentioned that some other universities have decided to continue with virtual graduation this May.

"With our team, I'd ask them to look at the virtual and look at what it would look like to do a face-to-face, and we're optimistic that we can do this in the football stadium if we do three or four different ceremonies," said Gaber.

Gaber discussed the potential for a possible spike in COVID-19 cases in April, and that the University is keeping an eye out for this and will plan accordingly if necessary.

"There is a prediction that in April, there could be a spike due to the increase of the variants coming through," said Gaber. "If we have to think about things at that time, we will, but we are trying to continue to sort of roll with this and make sure that we can meet your needs and your family's

needs."

She discussed how other UNC schools are considered research one while UNC Charlotte is considered a research two university. Gaber stated that some of the faculty is interested in moving to a research one and that this would take place over a five to seven-year period. If the University is a research one facility, students would have the opportunity to be involved with the research. Gaber also mentioned that there is a possibility of a grant if the University were to move to a research one stage.

Gaber discussed the new strategic plan, which is being developed to help guide the University over the next ten or so years. The planning committee is made up of 22 members, and they have released two updates since the planning has begun, one on Dec. 9, 2020, and the other on Feb. 9. Student Body President Tahlieah Sampson has been involved in strategic planning. The planning committee has sent out emails about receiving student and faculty feedback for this plan.

"It has been difficult past several semesters. I appreciate your patience, and understanding, and willingness to work with us," said Gaber. "Obviously, we are not able to control the pandemic, but the student body as a whole has done remarkably well, and we are really proud of how everybody has done in terms of minimizing the spread on campus."

DON'T WAIT, VACCINATE



OPINION

Get your COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you're eligible

by April Carte
Asst. Copy Editor

With COVID-19 vaccine eligibility changing weekly, it can be normal to feel like you are taking vaccines away from people that need them—especially if you are young and healthy. I felt this way too, but after talking with my parents, I realized I should not feel bad for getting my vaccine as soon as it becomes available.

The faster eligible members of the community get vaccinated, the faster we reach herd immunity. The World Health Organization defines herd immunity as “the indirect protection from an infectious disease that happens when a population is immune either through vaccination or immunity developed through the previous infection.” A couple of months ago, it was still unknown how many vaccines needed to be administered to reach herd immunity. However, Dr. Fauci told the New York Times that he now estimates that 70-90% of the community may need to be fully immune. So once you are eligible, get vaccinated.

This is where vaccine guilt can start to kick in. If you are eligible to get the vaccine, it is for a reason. Experts know what they are doing; there is a reason for this vaccine rollout process—so trust them. Waiting to schedule your appointment to avoid taking a spot from someone else that may seem more at risk to you does not guarantee that the at-risk person will actually schedule it— or that anyone will, for that matter. Don't let vaccines go to waste; make your appointment.

Now vaccine availability and eligibility can differ depending on the state. In North Carolina, Groups 1-3 are eligible for the vaccine. The NC Department of Health and Human Services said that Group 1

includes health care workers and long-term care staff. Group 2 includes older adults, ages 65 and up. And as of Feb. 24, eligibility opened to group three members, including child-care frontline workers and K-12 school workers. As of March 3, North Carolina expanded that group to any additional frontline workers—including restaurant employees.

If you do not currently fit any of the eligibility criteria, as soon as vaccines are open to the general public (Group 5), I recommend you schedule right away. It will definitely be far more difficult when everyone is allowed to at once—which is part of the reason for a group by group roll out in the first place.

For some people, it still may seem like it's too early to rush out and get the vaccine, even if they are eligible, simply because they are healthy. However, getting the vaccine means you are not only protecting yourself from a deadly disease, but you are also protecting at-risk individuals. The fact is, the vaccine doesn't stop you from getting ill. It stops you from falling so ill that you may need to be hospitalized or worse. So why wouldn't you get vaccinated if it meant you could save someone else's life, along with your own?

My dad— a sweet 62-year-old man— felt guilty that he was eligible with Group 1 simply because he takes care of my at-risk grandmother full time. He didn't feel he needed it right away since his job went virtual back in March, giving him fewer reasons to have to leave the house. I encouraged him to understand that whether he liked it or not, he was putting himself more at risk by not getting it. Even if that meant receiving the vaccine

in a group with very at-risk individuals, even a trip into the grocery store could cause him to fall ill. Not to mention, it would help guarantee the protection of my grandmother. Last week, my mom and dad received their first dose of the vaccine with still some slight hesitation. Encourage the people you care about that are eligible to get it.

I also understand, however, where some of the hesitations stem from what we saw back in March and April of 2020. Many of us can remember watching nurses and hospitals beg on live TV for supplies, including masks and ventilators. This has rolled over into what we think vaccine supply currently looks like. While we have a limited supply of vaccines in the U.S., it is not as limited as some may think. The Biden Administration is constantly buying more doses of each of the three available vaccines— Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson. On March 10, the

administration announced the purchase of an additional 100 million doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. This now brings the total to 600 million doses bought in the U.S., enough to vaccinate 300 million Americans (since Pfizer and Moderna require two doses). Biden even stated that “Any surplus of the vaccine will be shared with other countries.” So yes, supplies are limited, but it's not the same sort of limitation that caused the sweet old lady down the road to hand-sew masks and send them to healthcare workers in need.

This time last year, I am not sure who could have said we would be encouraging people to run out and get their COVID-19 vaccine. But 534,000 deaths later, this vaccine is the biggest piece of hope to appear in this extremely long and dark tunnel. Do not feel guilty for getting the vaccine, no matter when you get it. Instead, know that you are doing your part in saving lives.



Photo courtesy of Hakan Nural via Unsplash



SPORTS

by Bryson Foster
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of
Charlotte athletics/Sam Roberts

TURNING PASSION INTO SUCCESS

Star Charlotte catcher having a breakout junior campaign

Bailey Vannoy, the starting catcher for the Charlotte softball team, has been a commanding presence since her first at-bat with the team. Vannoy is a leader on and off the field who has earned respect and many impressive accolades. She has been shaped by many circumstances and is so much more than just a regular softball player.

Vannoy is currently tied for 30th in the nation in home runs with six on the season as of March 10 and has a batting average of .373, which leads the team. The success has been a long time coming for the junior. Charlotte is 13-7 (might change) on the year.

Vannoy has always had a passion for the game of softball. Starting as a young child, hitting the ball off a tee at YMCA baseball games started her long journey to where she is now. From humble beginnings to the big stage, she has never changed.

"My brother was playing tee-ball, and we played on the same team at the YMCA," said Vannoy. "I enjoyed hitting the ball, and that is how my passion for the game started."

Family is something that has shaped Vannoy into the player as well as the person she is today. She credits her parents and siblings for giving her the support she needed to reach the next level. Without them, Vannoy doesn't know where she would be today.

"My family as a whole has helped to shape me as a person...my parents and siblings have always been my biggest supporters and cheerleaders," said Vannoy.

The junior catcher has always prided herself on making her teammates better and doing whatever she can to lead the

Niners to victory. Vannoy has stepped into the leadership role on a team that has a family environment. It's all about enjoying the moment.

"If you look at what is ahead of you, it allows you to better prepare for things in life," she said. "The tough times have kept me at the moment so that I enjoy what I am doing right now."

She received a tremendous honor in the off-season as she was named the Top 50 Softball Players List. It was a huge honor that has shown that all of her hard work has paid off, but she has many more things that she wants to accomplish in the future. The most important thing for her is what she can do to make the team better.

"Statistics come and go, so I don't really focus on that," said Vannoy. "I try to make the game fun for myself as well as others."

Vannoy is coming off a breakout campaign in the Covid-19 shortened season, where she hit an outstanding .480 batting average before the season ended abruptly. To start this season, Vannoy was struggling but has gotten back on track as she is currently at a .373 batting average as of March 13. She talked about how adversity has made her a better player.

"I had a slow start to the season because I was letting the pressure of the accolades I had received cloud my game," said Vannoy. "I had to dig deep to find what competitor that I was, and since then, I have been back to my old self."

Head Coach Ashley Chastain has been ecstatic about how Vannoy has taken to the team's leadership role. Vannoy's sacrifices and hard work have not gone unnoticed for Chastain as she had a lot to say about the star player.

"Bailey has taken it upon herself to become one of our leaders on and off the field," said Chastain. "She has a lot of experience that she can pass down to others."

Vannoy continues to take strides on the field. She has stepped into the leadership role by saying what needs to be said and keeping the team together. On the field, she has taken strides in her game as well as making others better.

"Whatever needs to be said that will keep our team together, I will say it," said Vannoy. "On the field, I try to lead by keeping the pitchers on track as well as keeping the infield encouraged throughout the game."

Her philosophy at the plate continues to be rather simple: to take her at-bats just one pitch at a time. Vannoy has taken a bigger presence at the plate, which has led to continued success on the ball's offensive side. As a catcher, she always tries to find ways to know what her teammates need from her.

"My only philosophy is to swing hard," said Vannoy. "It is the greatest compliment to be asked what I think and how others can improve."



SETTING THE PACE



Scudder finding success with historic 49ers in second year

by Joey Ellsworth Staff Writer Running graphic via Canva Photo courtesy of Sam Roberts via Charlotte Athletics

For the first time in program history, the Charlotte 49ers' cross country team has been selected for the NCAA XC Championships. The team will compete on March 15 in Stillwater, Okla.

At the helm of this team is Nick Scudder, who, at a young point in his college career, is making a big name for himself both with the cross country team, but the track & field team as well.

Scudder has been selected to compete individually at the NCAA XC Championship, while the men's team has also been selected, which will be their first time competing in program history.

"I'm excited, I haven't run a 10K in a while; it's a really long race," said Scudder. "We're big here on longer races here at Charlotte, so I think as a team we're going to do really well, so I'm excited."

When Scudder takes the course, long days of work will be on showcase.

"It just started something fun after freshman year of high school. And once I started running faster, it became more fun," said Scudder.

In high school, Scudder gained major recognition, especially for his performance in the 3200m races. In 2019, Nick got 1st in six of the nine 3200m meets he participated in. He got first in some of the ones, including the 'Cap 7 Conference Championship' and the "NCHSAA 4A East Regional." Nick placed second in the "NCHSAA 4A State Championship" 3200m and went on to take silver for cross country in this competition. Scudder recorded the fastest time in North Carolina for cross country and the outdoor 3200m during his senior season.

Nick was already making a mark in national cross country with all these

accolades and caught Charlotte Cross Country head coach Joseph Lynn's attention.

"I liked that he was a front runner. I think that is something you can't really coach, it's an instinct that you have, or you don't have," said Scudder. "I really really liked that with him out of high school. He was always really aggressive."

Due to COVID-19 canceling outdoor track competitions during Nick's freshman year at Charlotte, but when it came to indoor meets. Scudder did not let down in his first year with the cross country team, quickly getting Lynn's attention in Nick's debut.

"I knew personally early on in his career with us that we had something special," said head coach cross country coach Joseph Lynn.

Scudder ran in six cross country races in his freshman year. He finished 13th at the Conference Championships with an 8K time of 24:39.9, which is behind his personal record he set just before at the "UAB Blazer Invitational" with a time of 24:00.0. He also competed in three meets in the mile, 1000m, 3000m and 5000m events. He placed fifth in the 3000m at the "JDL Camel City Invitation" he placed 5th with a personal record time of 8:17.21. This ranked third in school indoor history at the time. In the conference championship, he took home eight in the 5000m with 14:27.36, which ranked fifth in school history. He made second-team All-Conference.

Scudder has thrived under Lynn's mentorship and the rest of the team and says Lynn is a big part of his success.

"I love it, it's different than high school, but that's not a bad thing. I like how he leaves a lot of the training to us, which

has put me in a hole working too hard sometimes, but he's pretty hands-off and sees our potential and lets us push ourselves," said Scudder.

Scudder has improved this year, breaking school records left and right. In his first meet of the year was at the VMI Winter Relays, wherein the mile event he claimed fourth with a PR of 4:10.68. At the time, this ranked sixth in Charlotte's indoor history.

At the Brant Tolsma, Invitational Nick ran 8:02.60 in the 3000m, which set his personal best and broke the school record. Just two weeks later, Scudder and the rest of the Niner Track and Field team participated in the Conference USA Championship. He won his second individual conference title in the men's 3000m with a time of 8:14.02. He broke the 5000m school record by 22 seconds in the Championship with a time of 13:47.51. This time also broke the C-USA meet record by almost 20 seconds. Scudder finished with two golds and totaled 20 points which gave him a Co-High Scorer of the Meet. This performance helped Charlotte earn their second straight men's team indoor conference title. Scudder was named USTFCCA National Athlete of the Week, a first for the school.

"It makes me proud, it makes me happy that I run here cause Lynn took a chance on me," said Scudder on succeeded so young. "I just somehow kept improving a good amount every year, and it's a good feeling."

Lynn is excited about the future for his young runner.

"With him only being a sophomore, there's still a lot of ceiling there to raise to yet," said Lynn. "We haven't even touched on a lot of things yet with his training and his progress. I think there's definitely more

to come. Whether it's a PR race or not, we always know when he crosses the finish line that he gave the most that he could. I think that's the thing I'm most proud of."

Scudder has made huge strides early in Charlotte's little time and has much potential in his years to come.

"I'm thankful to be able to run in a Charlotte uniform. I'm thankful the coach allowed me to run here, great teammates and a great school," said Scudder.





WANDAVISION

An indepth review of episodes four through nine

by Gabe Lapalombella
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of
Marvel Studios

If the first four episodes of “WandaVision” were any indication, this is unlike anything Marvel has done. In the early episodes, director Matt Shankman has thrown us into the deep end of Wanda’s mind. Added into the sitcom world, we finally get to expand the canvas into what’s going on outside Wanda’s world of grief. As we open this world up to FBI Agent Jimmy Woo (Randall Park) and Dr. Darcy Lewis (Kat Dennings) we get some much-needed natural levity in episode 4, compared to the manufactured world. This is why in this second half, my biggest compliment has to be the dynamic of Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany.

When WandaVision was starting in those first three episodes, there’s no denying that the nature of the show is jarring. From homages to the world of “Dick Van Dyke,” “I Love Lucy,” “The Patridge Family,” “Full House” and even “Modern Family,” I never knew where it was going. Once SWORD agent Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris) utters the words “It’s all Wanda,”

that’s where the pieces really started to fit for me. Particularly outside the “hex” as Darcy calls it, there’s an acknowledgment of Wanda coping with grief. That grief manifests itself in plot twists and themes that Wanda slowly starts to lose control which made it a fascinating watch.

Full disclosure, I didn’t quite understand the numerous classic sitcom tropes disclosed in the first three episodes. The rug was pulled out from under me in episodes five, in the finale scene that I’m sure many fans had heard about. Before the rights of the “X-Men” characters were owned by Disney, we had two different versions of the same character “Quicksilver.” Evan Peter’s arrival truly made my jaw drop, because it proved the valuable point that Disney knows their audience. His arrival in Wanda’s sitcom world as “the fun uncle” took this show down a twisted rabbit hole.

That rabbit hole was coated in a variety of twists and realizations as to what was actually going on here. Watching week to week, the social media reactions

after each episode completely threw fans (myself included) down a road of theories. What could it mean? Where are we going? How’s it going to tie into the next movie? It wasn’t until episode seven where I had an epiphany. The point of “WandaVision” wasn’t just a placeholder for future sequels, but a character study for Wanda. Episode seven, amply titled “Previously on” gives a recap of Wanda Maximoff’s life up to this point.

We see the power she’s had all along and the time she spent with her Pietro (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) as a test subject of Hydra. This is the closest we get to a “tie-in” to future properties because it teases the possibility of Mutants, which fans are eager to see. This leads to why I loved this final episode because of how it diverted the expectations we all had. Instead of being riddled with cameos, we focus on both Wanda and Vision’s fight for Westview. Some were undoubtedly disappointed in such reveals as “Pietro” not being the real Pietro, but also the

surprise Actor Paul Bettany teased. As the tease was Bettany playing another version of Vision itself, it tied into the dynamic I found most interesting about the show.

Characters like S.W.O.R.D.’s alternate Vision and the reveal that it really was “Agatha all along!” forced our leads to come to a tough realization. In order for them to become their new and improved selves, they have to conquer their own traumas. Some Marvel films have flirted with dealing with this pain, but not in a way that moved me like this. When the credits rolled on Wanda leaving Westview, realizing she brainwashed an entire town, it brought her full circle as a character. She evolved as a character by the time the series was over, and I can’t wait to see what she does next in “Doctor Strange and The Multiverse of Madness.”

Rating: 9/10

CHAOS WALKING

A film full of fun, empty-calorie entertainment

by Gabe Lapalombella
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of
Lionsgate



Sometimes, films get stuck in an odd creative limbo for their release. Set to be released initially in 2018, several poor test screenings forced numerous reshoots. Being something normal in the film world, when the first cut of the movie was deemed “unwatchable,” it put up many red flags. I know for me, it certainly made me fearful of what final product we could end up with. It’s certainly not a slam dunk, but it can be entertaining if you’re in the mood. In a world with no women, all men are affected by “the noise,” a mysterious force that allows their thoughts to be projected. When young Todd Hewitt (Tom Holland) discovers a mysterious girl named Viola (Daisy Ridley), it sets them on a mission to uncover the secrets of this world.

Being based on a novel, you can certainly feel the expansiveness of this world. Despite numerous reshoots, the sci-fi aesthetic is apparent and quite effective. The real

driving force is our two protagonists’ performances. Both Holland and Ridley have a great dynamic on screen and mine some great humor from the premise. Ridley’s Viola can hear these thoughts, allowing Holland to deliver some great moments of subtle comedy. It mainly stems from the effectiveness of the idea of men’s thoughts being projected. What makes “Chaos Walking” rather unfortunate is just how forgettable it is. That’s unfortunately due to nothing more than the circumstance surrounding its release.

Since the start of filming in 2017, the hype for YA adaptations has massively died off. You can feel, throughout the film, places where sequels and continuations of this story could go. However, the finale makes it to where there likely isn’t going to be a sequel. It’s a rather unfortunate mishap being that I found the pieces on the board to be fascinating. When you

have actors like Mads Mikkelsen and Cynthia Erivo who are given nothing to do, it doesn’t feel intentional. You can feel nothing but the continuous meddling of studios trying to make a product that’s never going to work. It’s a mash of different thoughts and ideas that never coalesce.

It’s me as a sci-fi fan that’s a little more forgiving of the ludicrous and cool world established. The attention to detail in the technology makes it feel fun and different from what we might expect. What makes it a bit of a mishap is that the time has passed for audiences to enjoy this sort of film. We’ve grown beyond the young adult franchises and deserve better. The other massive benefit to the film is that it doesn’t follow someone who was “chosen” and can take down a shadowy figure. It was enough for me to have a bit more fun since it didn’t know beat for beat how it was going to go. Either way,

there’s still just as much good as it is bad.

“Chaos Walking” is nowhere near the dumpster-fire the behind-the-scenes drama will have you expect. Holland and Ridley make for a good on-screen dynamic and never force the romance. Compared to years of YA adventures with young actors who have to be in love forcefully, it was a nice surprise. That still doesn’t forgive the fact that the film has a feeling of being less than the sum of its parts. Due to the numerous reshoots, that’s to be expected but still feels like a waste of great resources. This goes to show that some stories don’t need to be adapted.

Rating: 5.5/10

What is NT listening to?

Hi there! I'm Tyler Trudeau, and I am the Community Editor for the Niner Times. Unlike some of my other playlists, which typically emerge from a particular feeling or action—like traveling down a dirt road in the middle of nowhere or having a lazy Sunday or two—one of my most personalized playlists comes surprisingly from one of those 30-day song challenges on Instagram. Spending jobless summer at home in Raleigh, with nowhere to go as a global pandemic was sweeping across the world, I devoted a few minutes each day to share a song for each day of the month-long challenge. From songs that remind you of summer to songs with a color in the title, the topics ranged from tracks I could easily conjure from my memory to ones I had to rediscover again to recapture the first time I had ever heard it. Ultimately, the playlist reflected some of my favorite genres and artists, old and new. The challenge made for an enjoyable little activity to provide some routine to an otherwise listless summer. Enjoy!



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Five Reasons Why You Should Get a Credit Card

Tips for finding your first credit card

by Julie Dam
Intern



LIFESTYLE

Image courtesy of Advantus Media Inc.
via QuotefInspector.com

For many college students, getting a credit card is probably not the most urgent thing on your to-do list. But getting one and using it responsibly while you are still a student can give you a head start and save you a lot of money as you try to navigate young adulthood. A Discover Student Card is a great starter card, and it is not as selective as other credit cards.

Here are five reasons why you should get a Discover credit card as soon as you get a job:

1. You can start building your credit score

If you plan on starting your own business, buying a car or buying a house after college, you will most likely need to take out a loan. What do you need to take out a loan? Good credit. Your credit score tells the bank that it can trust you to pay back your loans, and having a credit card lets you safely work toward having good credit.

2. Your credit history matters

Having a long record of paying back loans makes you more worthy of a better loan and lower interest rates. Credit history also makes up 15% of your credit score, and you typically need a history of five years or more for it to be considered good. Discover does not require applicants to have a credit history in order to be approved, which is ideal for first-time credit card users.

3. You can earn a variety of cash back rewards

Discover gives you 1% back on all your purchases all year, and it can add up quickly. Every quarter, certain categories give you 5% cash back for up to \$75, some of which include purchases at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and Amazon. Discover

also automatically matches all your cash back rewards in the first year.

4. You are probably using a card to make purchases anyway

Chances are, you do not carry enough cash to use everywhere you go, so you use your debit card or put funds onto your 49er card to make everyday purchases. If you use a credit card for the things you buy anyway, like groceries, gas and food, you can get cash back from it and a chance to build credit.

5. You learn about financial responsibility

The key to using a credit card responsibly is to learn how to manage your money and build a budget. With a credit card, you learn how to be mindful of your spending habits, maximize your rewards every quarter and keep track of your payments. It becomes part of your routine very quickly.

Here are some extra tips to keep in mind if you do think about applying for a Discover card:

Do your research! This article is meant to help students get started with using a credit card by recommending a reliable starter card, but it is by no means exhaustive. Research some more and consider your current financial situation before making a judgment.

If you are under 21 years old, you need to provide proof of income or a savings account before being approved for a credit card. Luckily, you only need a part-time income for a Discover Student Card. I got approved when I was 18, and I made around \$8,000 a year.

Pay your balance in full on time every month because 35% of your credit score

is based on your payment history. Try not to leave a balance on your card for long, or interest can start to build. If you do leave a balance one month, stay calm and pay it off by the next billing date.

Do not spend your entire credit limit because 30% of your credit score is based on how much you spend every month. If you use your credit card too much, you will seem irresponsible with your money, negatively affecting your credit score. Use your credit card for purchases you know you can pay back. Spending about one-third of your credit limit each month is a safe bet.

Do not apply for too many credit cards at once. If you are desperately in need of good credit, the answer is not to apply for multiple credit cards at a time but to start as early as possible. Stick with one card for at least a year or so and gradually build credit.

Remember to be patient. Your starting credit limit may not be much, but it will get higher with time and regular, responsible use. It takes around six months to get a credit score, and it may not be as high as you want it to be at first. Credit scores can also fluctuate every month, which is nothing to worry about if you are making payments on time.



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

HISTORY, MYTHS AND TRADITIONS

by Emily Kottak
Lifestyle Editor

Image courtesy of
Canva

March 17 is a day associated with wearing green, parades, food, and of course, beer. This day is mostly seen as a day of party and celebration without much regard to the hard facts and real history of what St. Patrick's Day is really about.

Hence the name, St. Patrick's Day is the feast day of St. Patrick. However, much of what is actually known about the life of St. Patrick himself is swirled in with legends and mythology. Though he was born in Britain near the end of the 4th century, St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. When he was 16 years old, St. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish soldiers and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest in Northern Ireland. After six years of working as a shepherd in Ireland, St. Patrick escaped back to Britain. He eventually returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

People in Ireland began to celebrate

St. Patrick back in the 1600s, though the tradition of a St. Patrick's Day parade began in America. Clearly, the celebrations for this day have not faltered as the years have gone on. Though parades are still held in some areas, most people see this day as a time to gather with friends and socialize with the accompaniment of food and often alcoholic beverages. Beer and partying aren't the only aspects that come to mind when St. Patrick's Day rolls around. Leprechauns, the color green, rainbows, pots of gold and shamrocks do as well.

Shamrocks were a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because they symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, the shamrock was seen as a symbol of nationalism in Ireland. When the English began to take over Irish land and make laws that contradicted the use of the Irish language and the Catholic religion,

many Irish began to tote the shamrock to symbolize their country's pride.

The traditional Irish name for leprechaun is "lobaircin," translating to "small-bodied fellow." The belief in leprechauns most likely began from the Celtic belief in fairies. They believed that these fairies could use their magic to create either good or evil powers. Leprechauns were known for their trickery and crankiness. In fact, these mythical creatures have their own holiday on May 13, but they are typically celebrated on St. Patrick's Day when people will dress in costume as these creatures.

St. Patrick was actually associated with the color blue, but obviously, green is the primary color associated with St. Patrick's Day. Why? Well, it seems to tie back in with the leprechauns. The mythical belief is that if green is worn, the person would be invisible to leprechauns. Though the Irish

flag is green, orange and white, orange is not a good color to wear on St. Patrick's Day for the Irish. This is because the color orange has been associated with people loyal to the British crown long ago.

St. Patrick's Day is a fun and celebratory day. However, it can be both educational and interesting to learn about these days we excitedly celebrate and the history, facts and traditions associated with it.

In the words of an Irish blessing, "May your troubles be less and your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door."