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# We the People Not the Party

An opinion writer's take on the two-party political system, pg 5



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## POLICE BLOTTER

### Fraud/Forgery 1/21

Officers responded to a building in reference to fraudulent activity on a 49er card.

### Lost or Stolen 1/21

Officers responded to a building in reference to a lost or stolen two-way radio.

### Larceny 1/22

3 Officers responded to a building in reference to a larceny of a bicycle.

### Warrant/Arrest 1/22

Officers transported one subject to Mecklenburg County Intake reference to a warrant.

### Suspicious Person 1/23

Officers responded to a building in reference to a suspicious person. One subject was issued a North Carolina State Citation and a trespass order, for indecent exposure.

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## NINERTIMES

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Madison Dobrzanski**  
editor@ninertimes.com

### EDITORIAL

Drew Fitzgerald COMMUNITY EDITOR

Megan Bird NEWS EDITOR

Sam Palian SPORTS EDITOR

Noah Howell A&E EDITOR

Olivia Lawless LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Hiral Patel OPINION EDITOR

Emily Hickey COPY EDITOR

Pooja Pasupula PHOTO EDITOR

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### ASSISTANT EDITORS

Kennedy Hehr, Elissa Miller,  
Niyathi Sulkunte, Max Young,  
Emily Kottak, Julianna Peres

### LAYOUT STAFF

Brandon Mitchell, Olivia Lawless,  
Hiral Patel, Drew Fitzgerald, Max Young

### CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Lanese Dell, Cooper Metts, Lolo  
Aboufoul, Gracie Hood

### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Natasha Morehouse

NEWSROOM 705.687.7150

NINERTIMES.COM/STAFF

TWITTER @NINER\_TIMES

### MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Caleb Adams**

mktdirector@uncc.edu

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

**James Bourke**

production@uncc.edu

### MARKETING STAFF

Abram Shaw, Alexis Raines, Raquel  
Adams, and Johanie Payer



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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

Kelly Merges NINER MEDIA ADVISER

Laurie Cuddy BUSINESS MANAGER

Joshua Wood GRAPHICS & PRODUCTION

Kelly Dudden OFFICE MANAGER

# UNIVERSITY RELEASES FACT SET ABOUT JOHN BOGDAN

*University responds to allegations against associate vice chancellor of safety and security*

by Megan Bird  
News Editor

In coordination with Max Young, Assistant Copy Editor  
and Madison Dobrzanski, Editor-in-Chief

The University has sent an unofficial “Fact Set Regarding the Employment of John Bogdan” to faculty for circulation within the UNC Charlotte community. The bulleted list contains Chancellor Dubois’ responses to criticisms and allegations against Associate Vice Chancellor of Safety and Security John Bogdan’s military service at Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo), Cuba. The Fact Set expresses the University’s support for Bogdan by praising his leadership during the April 30 recovery and addressing accusations about his tenure at Gitmo. This includes information about conducting genital searches and force-feeding detainees. John Cox, associate professor and president of the new chapter of American Association of University Professors, called the Fact Set “deeply troubling and distressing on many levels.” Cox criticized the Fact Set’s “cavalier

The bulleted list contains Chancellor Dubois’ responses to criticisms and allegations against Associate Vice Chancellor of Safety and Security John Bogdan’s military service at Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo), Cuba.

dismissal of all allegations about human-rights abuses at Gitmo” and “the statement’s presumption that it speaks for all of us -- that all of UNC Charlotte endorses methods that, it certainly seems, are excused and justified by this statement, such as force feeding and the use of rubber bullets.” Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel Jesh Humphrey described the Fact Set as a “response to historical mischaracterizations of John Bogdan’s service record that resurfaced following the publication of a Niner Times article last October.” The article in reference is an opinion article that followed a news story written in early September. The opinion article, written by former opinion editor Nikolai Mather, referred to Bogdan as a “cold-blooded war criminal” for overseeing “a host of human rights violations.” The Niner Times later added an editorial note that added the word “alleged.” Shortly after the opinion article was published, a group of UNC Charlotte students, staff, faculty and community members created the “Coalition to Remove John Bogdan.” The group protested the associate vice chancellor’s hiring through social media, flyers and chalking, but has since been largely inactive. Bogdan served as the warden of the Joint Detention Group at Gitmo from 2012 to 2014. During his tenure, the U.S. military prison received media attention when the detainees went on a hunger strike and were subsequently fed through nasogastric metal-tipped tubes. During an interview with the news editor, Bogdan told the Niner

Times that his focus was the “safe, humane treatment of the detainees” and the decision to force-feed was a “medical protocol” that “wasn’t under his purview.” The Fact Set echoes this, adding “the enteral feeding of detainees engaged in hunger strikes has been upheld several times by the courts.” HuffPost reported a raid of Gitmo’s communal compound at Bogdan’s command. The Fact Set acknowledges Bogdan’s supervision of the raid, saying he sought and received all necessary approval. Aljazeera reported that a new policy was implemented during Bogdan’s tenure that required prisoners “to submit to a ‘pat down’ of their genitals and buttocks when they leave the detention camps to meet with their lawyers and return to their cells.” The Washington Post elaborated that Bogdan put these searches in place after the suicide of a Yemeni detainee. The new procedures were aimed to control the flow of contraband to prevent further suicide attempts. The Fact Set says of the genital searches, “These custodial searches were unanimously found to be reasonable security precautions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 2014 in the case of *Hatim et al v. Obama*, 760 F.3d. 54.” The Federal District Court for the District of Columbia had previously barred the protocol, calling it “religiously and culturally abhorrent” and claiming it was a tactic to prevent detainees from meeting with their lawyers during a hunger strike. In a statement sent to the Niner Times, UNC Charlotte student and

candidate for Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Cade Lee criticized the Fact Set, calling it “intimidating and threatening.” “The University must tread carefully as their rhetoric is bordering intimidation of the UNC Charlotte community to stay silent and complicit while a human rights abuser supposedly protects them,” said Lee. Humphrey, however, said in an email to a faculty member that the University does not intend to intimidate and “cannot and does not file lawsuits asserting an employee’s reputational rights.” “Characterizations of John as an ‘accused war criminal’ are—with very little question—defamation per se. That is a statement of fact, not an implicit legal threat,” he added.

**To access the Fact Set, go to:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/v7bvtq7>

“John Cox, associate professor and president of the new chapter of American Association of University Professors, called the Fact Set “deeply troubling and distressing on many levels.”



## NEWS

# UNC CHARLOTTE CHOSEN AS EARLY-VOTING SITE FOR MARCH PRIMARIES

UNC Charlotte will host an early voting site in Belk Gymnasium from Feb. 13 to Feb. 29 ahead of the March 3 primaries.

UNC Charlotte will host an early voting site in Belk Gymnasium from Feb. 13 to Feb. 29 ahead of the March 3 primaries.

Mecklenburg County announced the one-stop absentee voting site on Jan. 9. The effort was led by 49er Democracy Experience, UNC Charlotte's Office of Constituent Relations and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter of the NAACP.

"UNC Charlotte has diligently worked with the Mecklenburg Board of Elections to host an early voting site on campus for major elections. We believe that making voting more accessible and convenient for students, faculty and staff is important. We are extremely pleased that we will be hosting a site on campus," said Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations Betty Doster.

North Carolina voters will select a presidential nominee, governor, lieutenant governor, senator, auditor, commissioner of agriculture, superintendent of public instruction, treasurer, representative to the U.S. House and a state senator. Charlotte voters will also select four new members of the County Board of Commissioners.

Many of the candidates are affiliated with UNC Charlotte, including County Board of Commissioners District 3 candidate and current undergraduate student Cade Lee.

Individuals can register to vote and vote on the spot during early voting. Proof of address like a driver's license or other documentation is required to register. The last day to register via mail is Feb. 7.

This will be the first time since 2016 that UNC Charlotte has been an early voting

location. Corine Mack, president of the NAACP Charlotte-Mecklenburg Branch, said the group has worked consistently since 2016 to establish another one-stop voting site on campus.

Doster explained that it's difficult to meet the Board of Election's requirements for security, convenient parking and an accessible space for the entire early voting period.

Mecklenburg County's other one-stop sites will be located at Beatties Ford Library, Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center, Cornelius Town Hall, Hal Marshall Annex, Hickory Grove Library, Hornets News Pavilion, Independence Regional Library, Main Branch Library, Matthews Library, Mint Hill Library, Morrison Regional Library, North County Regional Library, South Boulevard Library, Sugar Creek Library and West Boulevard Library.

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Belk gym's basketball court, photo by Benjamin Robson

# WE THE PEOPLE, NOT THE PARTY

## Are political parties even relevant to voting?

by Lanese Dell  
Intern

In a letter to Jonathan Jackson, former President John Adams said, “There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great Parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other.

*“The people that get voted into office do not represent the people in their district on a consistent basis. They care more about their personal interests than the voters who put them in office.”*

This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our constitution.” He is not the only Founding father who had this perspective about political parties. Former President George Washington also had a similar viewpoint. He believed that having political parties would threaten the unity of the American people. To him, it was important that the country remained unified since it was crucial for a good government.

The original idea to have our two political party system was to unify people who had similar ideas and beliefs on how our country should be operating. And for a certain amount of time, the political parties succeeded in this. The people in office and those who were able to vote shared the same exact beliefs as the political party they aligned themselves with. This is not the case today and it has not been that way for quite a while.

According to a Gallup poll that was conducted in 2017, forty-two

percent of American voters consider themselves to be independent. That is higher than both of the political parties where Democratic voters were at twenty-nine percent and Republican voters were at twenty-seven percent. This is a result of the parties becoming weaker over the years and the people wanting someone who is an outsider that prevents American politics from becoming muddled.

One reason for this is that there are more and more people who are becoming skeptical and critical of the political parties. The people that get voted into office do not represent the people in their district on a consistent basis. They care more about their personal interests than the voters who put them in office. If you are going to be voted into office, then you should be following the principles that are supported by the people that put you there instead of advancing your own agenda. Another reason why people are turning away from political parties is that they are becoming more partisan; they care more about the people in their party and doing their best to make sure that their party remains in power instead of doing what the American people voted for them to do.

Now the main reason why having political parties is no longer relevant is that they have switched platforms throughout history. At one point, the Democrats used to be very conservative while the Republicans were once very liberal. An example would be back when abolishing slavery was an issue in our country: The Republicans, who were liberal at the time, supported the abolition of slavery while the conservative Democrats opposed it. The parties have switched their platforms in the past and there is a possibility of it happening again, so why align yourself with a party if their platform is going to change anyway? You should be aligning yourself with someone who represents your interests, not a candidate from a political party who is going to do whatever they want regardless of what you voted for them to do.

This is the year of a presidential election and the candidates are already looking

towards college students. We are essential to how this upcoming election goes and the presidential candidates have noticed this. We made a good appearance in 2018 and need to keep that momentum going in 2020. According to the Washington Post, 40.3 percent of the voters in 2018 were college students which is a 21.1 percent increase from 2014. If enough college students like us go out and vote to affect the issues you care about, you can bring this change that you want for our country. But, you cannot fall for the trap of putting party over what is good for the country and what could benefit you in the long run. The politicians are already doing that to us and we need to vote them out of office. Be informed of the platform for each of the candidates. Voting is a civic duty and we have to do our part of being responsible voters.

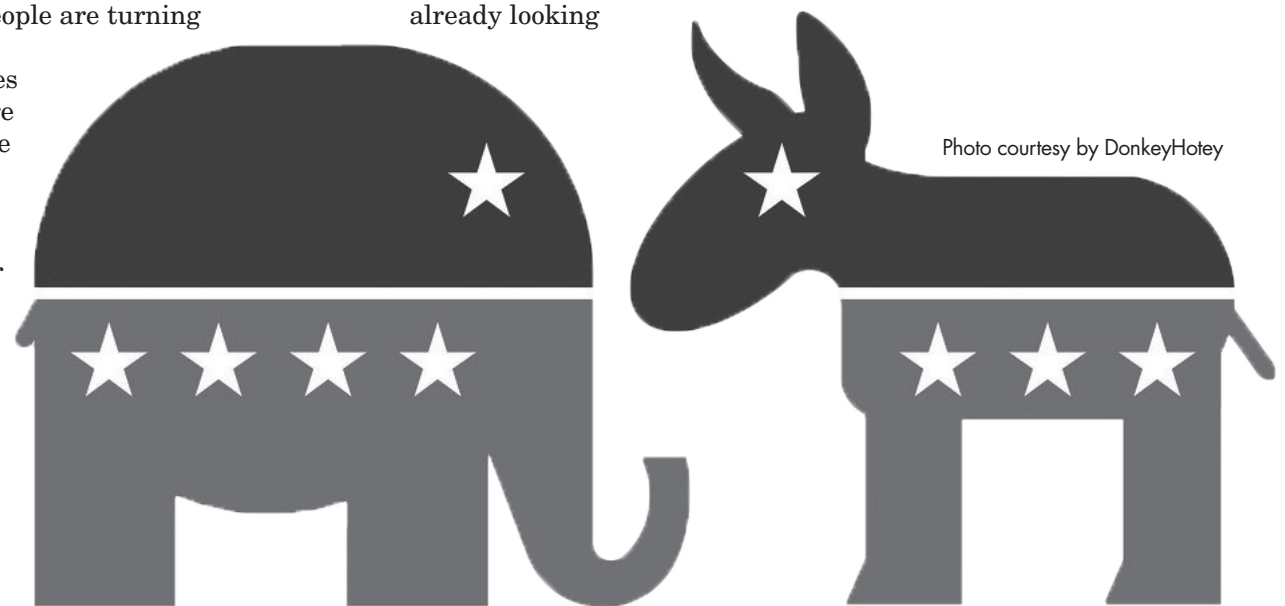


Photo courtesy by DonkeyHotey

A&E

# THEATER 'UGLY LIES THE BONE'

*Three Bone Theatre Company's new exploration of a veteran's reintegration*

by Elissa Miller  
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

In 2011, my mom and dad rushed me out of bed early in the morning and shoved me into our Honda Odyssey, where I promptly fell asleep. When I woke up, we'd stopped at a pier an hour or two away from where we were staying on our trip to Florida. It was still dark outside but people were everywhere, alternatively camped out in foldable chairs or standing as close as physically possible. Wading into the crowd, I thought I heard every language on the face of the planet. When we'd found a good spot (or at least as good as we could find considering the crowd), we prepped our phones to capture the event on camera: NASA's last space shuttle launch.

Interestingly, this same event is portrayed -- though at a distance -- in Three Bone Theatre's newest production, "Ugly Lies the Bone." It grounds the play in its time period, the early 2010's. "Ugly Lies the Bone" follows Jess (Andrea King), an Afghanistan war veteran, as she returns home from her third tour to Titusville, Florida. She was injured by an IED, which caused severe burns and scarring on the side of her body. But Titusville has rapidly changed in her absence as NASA shut down its space shuttle program -- the town's main source of income. It isn't the only change either. Her ex-boyfriend Stevie (Scott Tynes-Miller) got married. Her sister Kacie (Becky Schultz) started dating a man named Kelvin (Peter Finnegan), much to Jess' dismay. It isn't the safe haven Jess dreamed of returning to.

To cope with her physical pain, Jess participates in an experimental new type of therapy. A scientist/therapist, only heard as a voice (Debbie Swanson), explains that she will build a "perfect world" for Jess. It should be completely different than what she is familiar with. It should allow her to move forward and not to focus on the past. Jess is inspired by her sister's goal of visiting the Rocky Mountains. The cold. The quiet. The snow. That sounds perfect to Jess. Through a customized virtual reality experience created by the unseen Voice, she is able to travel there. When surrounded by snow, Jess is able to move more freely and escape from the stresses of her everyday life.

Of course, this escape is only temporary. Jess has plenty of struggles waiting for her in the outside world. For example, trying to find a job in a town where there aren't any. Or attempting to reconnect with an ex who is unhappily married and still cares for her. Or avoiding visiting her mother for fear she won't recognize her. Sure, "Ugly Lies the Bone" is about Jess's physical journey. However, it focuses far more on her personal one. It is about Jess' relationships with others and with herself. The therapy functions as a time out, a place where she can breathe and reset before she tackles the other complicated parts of her life.



Photo Courtesy of Three Bone Theatre Company

# R REVIEW: THE BONE'

*newest production is an in-depth  
s reintegration into society*

“Ugly Lies the Bone,” was written by the award-winning Lindsey Ferrentino and comes to Charlotte for the first time by way of the Three Bone Theatre company. Dee Abdullah joins the company as the director. It is an exceptional production, from casting to costume and set design (Davita Galloway and Ryan Maloney, respectively). The set is immersive, using huge swaths of white background to project Jess’s virtual reality onto. It’s also versatile and functions as a gas station, living room and rooftop throughout the play. It is a phenomenal use of the Duke Energy Theater.

The backbone of what makes “Ugly Lies the Bone” work is the characters. They are fully-realized and complicated. They make mistakes but the audience roots for them. Take, for example, Kelvin. Kelvin looks like the “Florida Man” headline came to life, from his capris to his Hawaiian shirt to his Crocs. He is extremely loud, opinionated and frequently puts his foot in his mouth. At one point the list of things that he says make him a great boyfriend are that he 1) drives 2) cooks and 3) doesn’t need viagra. Jess distrusts him immediately. The audience, through her eyes, is lead to believe that Kelvin is attempting to swindle Kacie out of her money by asking her to “invest” in his sketchy business ideas. However, the end reveals that he really was just using the money to buy Kacie the vacation she’d never buy for herself. The one to the Rockies. Granted, this doesn’t redeem Kelvin entirely either. The long speech he gives to Jess about her need to be “positive,” is a perfect encapsulation of his regular dismissal of Jess’s struggles and concerns.

This same level of care and complexity is represented in Jess’ relationship with her ex-boyfriend Stevie. From the second they share a stage, the tension is palpable. The two clearly care deeply about one another. The familiarity and trust between them comes back almost automatically. Yet, Stevie got married in Jess’s absence. Throughout the course of the play, the audience learns why: Stevie didn’t want to be alone. He thought that marriage would make him feel like an adult, like it would change him. But it didn’t. It is a basic human folly: the idea that accomplishing something, or getting older, or finding someone will make you fundamentally different. The way Tynes-Miller and King sell this relationship is absolutely masterful. Near the end, the two truly brought me to tears.

Schultz as Kacie and Swanson as the Voice/Jess’ mother are equally heavy-hitters on stage. Their familial closeness feels real. Kacie and Jess, as they sit on the couch together with one’s feet on the other’s lap, could be any pair of sisters.

“Ugly Lies the Bone” is hard to write about. It takes on so much. It is about

disability and PTSD and the changing idea of what a veteran looks like. It’s about change and aging and family. It is about what constitutes home (and paradise). “Ugly Lies the Bone” boldly declares that maybe one needs to sort through their past in order to move forward and into the present, contrary to what the doctors at Jess’s therapy sessions believe. While it features groundbreaking technological therapies and virtual reality, it focuses far more on the human. Furthermore, it consistently gives Jess the spotlight as she finds self-acceptance and community with those around her. “Ugly Lies the Bone” is a clear and insightful look into Jess’s life as she reintegrates into American society.

“Ugly Lies the Bone” will play for its second weekend through Jan 30 - Feb 1. It is housed in the Duke Energy Theatre in Spirit Square. Student and teacher tickets are available at the door on Thursday and Friday nights for \$10, one per ID. General tickets are \$22 online and \$28 at the door.

Photo Courtesy of Three Bone Theatre Company



# JANUARY MOVIES

JAN. 30 - FEB. 2

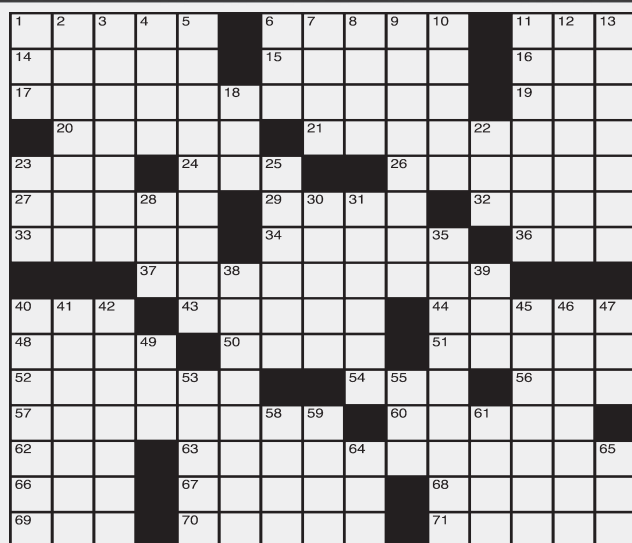
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1 Tibetan monks  
6 Rise up against authority  
11 U.S. interstate, e.g.  
14 Grind, as teeth  
15 Amazon Echo Dot's voice service  
16 West end?  
17 \*Mystery/soap (1956-'84) that ultimately dropped "The" from its title  
19 Pilot-licensing org.  
20 "Grrr!" is one  
21 Understood by a select few  
23 Garden shed tool  
24 Smidge  
26 Give in  
27 Light-circling insects  
29 Send out  
32 "Got it"  
33 Start, as of symptoms  
34 John Brown's eulogist Stephen Vincent \_\_

36 "If only \_\_ listened"  
37 \*One of the four Seven Sisters magazines that are still in print  
40 H.S. equivalency test  
43 Hopscotch  
44 Sonnet line quintet  
48 Chrysler Building architect William Van \_\_  
50 Campus official  
51 Longest river in France  
52 As found  
54 Cartoon frame  
56 Prefix with gender  
57 Christmas saint  
60 Quarterfinalists' count  
62 Suffix with alp  
63 \*Televised panelist shown from the shoulders up  
66 Opposite of oui  
67 Under-the-roof room  
68 Prefix for sun  
69 Clock-setting std.

70 Sierra \_\_, Africa  
71 Prom attendees

### DOWN

1 Tee size; Abbr.  
2 "... et cetera"  
3 Fridge stickers  
4 On the briny  
5 \*Infielder typically between second and third  
6 Campaigned  
7 Nobelist Wiesel  
8 Pleads  
9 Urged strongly  
10 Barista's creation  
11 Browser update button  
12 New employee  
13 Passed, as a bill  
18 Miami's st.  
22 Yale student  
23 Med. care plan  
25 Campaign face-off  
28 Use an axe on  
30 High-IQ group  
31 Simpatico (like Justin Timberlake's band?)  
35 Rear warning lamp, and what can go with the end of each answer to a starred clue  
38 Soften, as one's voice level  
39 Ex-NBA star Ming  
40 Opposite of losing, weightwise  
41 Weather-changing currents  
42 Climber's downward journey  
45 "Glee" star Lea \_\_  
46 Great \_\_: London's island  
47 French possessive  
49 Medical research org.  
53 Bottom line  
55 Dusk, in poetry  
58 Choral part  
59 Organ that may itch  
61 Indian butter  
64 \_\_ cream soda  
65 Spanish two

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# Quiet confidence

*A feature on Jahmir Young, Charlotte's freshman point guard*

by Cooper Metts  
Staff Writer

After scoring 19 points in a 75-49 victory against FIU, Charlotte freshman point guard Jahmir Young walked into the postgame press conference with an air of confidence and maturity, similar to that of a fourth-year veteran.

Young's ability as a freshman to handle the limelight on the court and in interviews is rare. Performances such as his 24-point outings in two-point wins against ACC opponent Wake Forest and Conference USA opponent Florida Atlantic, combined with his ability to remain composed in clutch situations, sets him apart from his peers.

For many Charlotte fans, Young's sensational freshman season may come as a surprise, but Young expected nothing less of himself.

"Not to sound cocky, but yeah, [I expected to perform this well]," Young said. "All the work I put in this summer and building up from high school, I felt like it was time for me to play confident and see the results pay off."

Over the summer, Young spent his time honing and expanding his abilities with the Charlotte coaching staff.

"I was here most of the summer," Young said. "I worked on letting the game come to me, playing at different tempos and speeds, my jump shot and trying to get stronger."

In his first collegiate season, Young's hard work has paid off as he is averaging 12.7 points per game, a team-high 5.2 rebounds per game, 2.6 assists per game and nearly two steals each game. He's garnered not only the attention of 49ers fans, but also the eye of the conference, quietly earning C-USA Freshman of the Week four times.

Young attributes much of his early success at Charlotte to the basketball foundation he received under the

tutelage of Head Coach Mike Jones at Dematha Catholic High School, which has produced current NBA talents such as Quinn Cook, Markelle Fultz,

and most notably, Victor Oladipo.

"I was at Dematha, so Mike Jones, he was a really good coach and we had a lot of talented players



Freshman Jahmir Young going up for a jump shot, photo by Chris Crews



around me," Young said. "In high school, playing in tough games and tough situations, made me feel like when I came here I was ready to play. I try not to treat it like I'm a freshman, just play with confidence and believe in myself."

While assembling what is widely considered the top C-USA recruiting class of 2019, Charlotte Head Coach Ron Sanchez appreciated the pedigree of the program that Young developed in throughout high school.

"Jahmir comes from one of the best high school programs in the country; he's so well coached," Sanchez said. "When we ask Jahmir to do something, we're not the first coaches that have asked him to do that. That's why we're so excited he decided to come play for us."

The 49ers are benefiting from the coaching Young received while at Dematha and the hard work he put in over the summer. The 49ers have already surpassed their win total from last season and they're off to their best start since the 2013-14 season. Additionally, Charlotte is in legitimate contention to win the C-USA Tournament. As one of the primary catalysts for this abrupt turnaround in Charlotte, Young has high goals for himself and the team.

"I just want to win as much as possible, it doesn't matter if it's conference play, playoffs, or the NCAA Tournament, I just want us to win games," Young said. "Our goal would be to win the conference tournament and make some noise in the NCAA Tournament; that's a goal for all of us this season."

Family is one of the principal values that motivate Young to work hard and set a positive example. "I'm a family guy," Young said. "My parents, my grandmother, just my family. I want to do the best I can for them."

“Not to sound cocky, but yeah, [I expected to perform this well],” Young said. “All the work I put in this summer and building up from high school, I felt like it was time for me to play confident and see the results pay off.”

Young, the oldest of four children, strives to be an impactful role model for his brother and sister in high school and his youngest sister in middle school.

“I’m the oldest of four, so I try to set an example for my younger siblings,” Young said. “[I hope they see] my hard work ethic and start everything they finish. I just want them to be themselves.”

As a result of the strong bond Young has with his family, moving nearly seven hours away from his hometown of Marlboro, Md to Charlotte, NC was challenging. However, coaches and teammates helped make the adjustment significantly easier. Young now feels as if Charlotte is his second home.

“My transition was a little difficult. It’s been difficult being away from my family,” Young said. “But I’m building relationships. Charlotte feels like a second home. My coaches

and teammates helped me transition. As teammates, we’re usually with each other all the time.”

Off the court, Young draws his academic interests from his mother, an instructional specialist for 15 Prince George County Schools.

“Right now, I’m undecided, but I’m leaning towards criminal justice or business,” Young said. “That type of stuff just interests me. I’ll probably decide next year. My mom was a criminal justice major, so she taught me some stuff and got me interested.”

In his free time, Young enjoys listening to music and cherishes the time he spends with his friends and family.

“I like a lot of music. My uncle Davies is actually a rapper from New York. My favorite rappers are Davies and Lil baby,” Young said. “I like to hangout with friends and interact with others. I’m a family guy, so I like spending time with my family.”

Young also enjoys watching highlights of current second-team All NBA player Damian Lillard.

“My favorite player is Damian Lillard,” Young said. “I really like his game and how he lets the game come to him, so in my free time, I watch his highlights.”

Young’s overall game and demeanor reflect that of a young Lillard that helped lead a program turnaround at Weber State. With a similar quiet confidence and program-altering talent as Lillard, Young hopes to continue to help build a program with lasting competitiveness and change the fortunes of Charlotte basketball.



# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: 2020 WINTER FASHION

## Use neon sweaters and fun accessories to switch up



by Lolo Aboufoul  
Intern

It's winter. You know what that means. It gets dark much earlier, and you feel tired (and stressed) with the new semester well underway. You're constantly applying hand lotion and chapstick to avoid all sorts of dryness, and most people are just waiting for March to arrive so we can finally switch back into spring and summer mode.

But the winter season can be the best time to create some major changes in your life: simply start with your wardrobe. After all, new year, new you, right? It's the time of year when we're all busy making new year's resolutions and setting goals to make this year the best one of our lives.

Being a busy college student makes it easy for our daily look to be something comfortable and easy to wear, like classic black leggings and a sweatshirt. But changing up your style can be the perfect way to ring in the new year! So many new fashion trends can be made affordable and comfortable, so why not give them a shot? With two months of winter left, this is the perfect time to finally switch up your everyday look.

Let's start with a basic piece: a turtleneck. Street style photographs from throughout the season show the biggest influences in fashion wearing the standard, basic turtleneck we're all so used to seeing. Reigning colors like beige and black are popular and common, but a new trend may come as a shock: turtleneck sweaters in bright neon colors. The neon brings a pop of color to a basic outfit. Paired with simple jeans, these bright sweaters can make you look ready to walk the streets of New York as well as head to your next class!

Even though it isn't always as cold as it should be for winter in North Carolina, it's always a good time to rock an outfit featuring a chunky sweater. Statement sweaters are always perfect to make a basic outfit look chic and stylish, and they're found at almost every clothing store. A sweater with a fun print, one with tassels on the ends, and one made with a feathery material are all examples of fun statement pieces that can make for an easy and comfortable winter fit.

This winter, you may notice your favorite celebrity wearing a large puffer jacket that is the highlight of their outfit. Billie Eilish, Ariana Grande and Kendall Jenner have been known to wear these statement pieces. Just because these A-listers wear them doesn't mean you can't wear them to class. They're bold, fun and (most importantly) keep you warm. A cozy and cute outfit idea would be one of these jackets paired with light blue skinny jeans, some white sneakers and a long-sleeved shirt underneath (keep your jacket unzipped for a more relaxed look.) Tuck in the shirt slightly and you're looking like a superstar walking into a lecture.

An easy way to upgrade any outfit is through accessories; some of the most popular accessories for the winter season are hair clips and headbands. Big, statement hair pins with fun designs or large headbands are listed by several fashion magazines as some of the biggest trends of the season. Push your hair back with a fun clip and your basic t-shirt/jeans combo instantly looks more polished and fashionable. As for me, my favorite trend of this winter is the bold

sweaters that have been sweeping celebrity (and hopefully college campus) fashion this season. I love the feathers, graphics and embellishments that have been added to plain, solid colored sweaters. They're easy to dress up or dress down, paired with jeans for a cute and casual look or with a tight skirt and heels for an evening outfit.

Not only are they so easily styled, but they're affordable and everywhere. Forever 21, H&M and Francesca's are some of the most popular retailers. Many local boutiques are popping up across town, and they all carry trendy pieces like these fun sweaters. I've also found so many cute ones at Target and Marshall's, which are really affordable places to find these statement pieces.

These were some of the trends we saw emerge during winter 2019 and will continue to be popular in the early months of 2020. Let's get excited about the new year: here's to accomplishing new goals, making new relationships, and living our best year yet!



A young woman posed in a fluffy coat, photo courtesy of Ali Pazani via Pexels

# LET'S GO TO NOLA

## How to see New Orleans in one day



by Gracie Hood  
Staff Writer

You can't go wrong with a trip to New Orleans. A quick flight away from Charlotte, New Orleans has everything you could dream of and more. Over fall break, a friend and I had the opportunity to visit and check out what this fabulous city had to offer us. The city is commonly referred to as The Big Easy or NOLA for short and is filled with endless boutiques, shops and of course good food. How should you spend it? Well, I've got just the thing.

Start your morning off by strolling down the streets of the French Quarter. Frequently mistaken as a night scene only, this neighborhood is filled with life when the sun is out too. Stop by Café Fleur De Lis off of Chartres Street for the best shrimp and grits you can eat. This cafe is filled with a wall of mirrors and even a small balcony for its customers. Afterwards, take an old-time streetcar and spend some time wandering the Garden District on your own self-guided tour. The homes within that area are immaculate and will make you want to never leave. Some date back to centuries ago and have historic plaques on their fences for anyone to read. Soak up the history and stories as you imagine what it must be like to live in a house almost as old as this country.

Lunchtime! Back in the heart of NOLA, I fell in love with Willie's Chicken Place. You can find them scattered throughout the city, but the one on the corner of Chartres Street and Toulouse Street is the best! It has an open environment that allows you to watch the cars and people pass by as you enjoy your basket of chicken and fries. The best part is there is already honey on your biscuit. What more could you ask for?

Just down the road from Willie's is Jackson Square. Everyone knows you must see the 16th century cathedral located in the middle of the square. It is the landmark which marks your arrival in New Orleans. This cathedral



Gracie Hood posing in front of the 16th century cathedral in Jackson Square, photo by Manny Mirabal

holds service every Sunday and anyone is welcome to enter with respect. Right outside this gorgeous white building are all types of entertainment. Get your cards read or get a henna tattoo, it's all up to you.

Of course, if you are 21 or older, you've got to hit up Bourbon Street, which is well known for wild streets filled with drinking and bead-throwing. As you meander through the endless stream of people, stop to get yourself The Hand Grenade from Tropical Isle. Its secret recipe has a sour melon kick that'll be the highlight of your night. Despite being known for the drinks and its open container policy, my favorite part of Bourbon Street has to be all the open gift shops through the street. From keychains to voodoo materials, these shops had everything you could think to get and more. Shoutout to the hole-in-wall gift shop that had \$7.99 t-shirts. You rock.

To end the night (or early morning) why not stop by the world-renowned Cafe du Monde for amazing beignets. Beignets are a light fluffy fried dough topped high with powdered sugar. It is a must! There are Cafe du Monde's scattered throughout the city. Fun Fact: the majority of them are actually open 24 hours a day, every day, except for Christmas. These beignets are constantly being made, so every bite is

guaranteed to be fresh. The atmosphere of these restaurants are lively around the clock.

One of the best things about New Orleans is that you do not need a set schedule or even a full itinerary. You can find things along the way. NOLA took my breath away. There is so much culture and heritage that makes the city unique. If you ever get the chance, come and just explore. It's a city that never loses its magical feeling, because that's the power of New Orleans.