

NINERTIMES

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UNC Charlotte's 48th annual International Festival

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Cover photo: Emmanuel Perkins
Cover graphic by Ava Weaver
Interior layouts by Hana Arshad, Ali Thiam,
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Exhibition Reception:
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Sept. 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Dubois Center, Projective Eye
Gallery

**Family Weekend Guided Bike
Ride**
Sept. 25, 10 a.m.
Lot 27

**Niner Nation Week
Homecoming Kick-Off**
Sept. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Caulle Quad

Orchestra in Concert
Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Robinson Hall, Anne R. Belk
Theater

**Women's Soccer vs. North
Texas**
Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Jen Gaber Field

Football vs. Louisiana
Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m.
Jerry Richardson Stadium

Niner's Comics: It's too hot outside

Alexander Rodriguez | Staff Illustrator



NOTES FROM THE NEWSROOM:

Save sports journalism in Charlotte

Shane Reese | Asst. Sports Editor



The Charlotte Observer has covered the Charlotte Hornets since their inception in 1987, but as of September, there is no longer a beat writer for the team. Journalist layoffs are occurring at major publications nationwide, including the Charlotte Observer. Just two weeks before NBA training camp begins, McClatchy Media removed former Hornets reporter Rod Boone's position, along with

several others.

Boone covered the Hornets for nearly five years before he learned his position would be removed before the 2026-27 NBA season. Just as the Hornets appear to be building great depth and team chemistry, fans lose a source of weekly updates on their beloved home team.

Most fans rely on social media for news on the team, but what about the diehards? They are essen-

tially the center of both fandoms.

Fans still need local sports journalists, especially if they are older. Local reporters were, and still are, the cornerstone of local Charlotte sports reporting.

As sports journalism continues to struggle, and with the Hornets seeing glimpses of postseason play, fans must demand that sports journalism remain in the Queen City.

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

We cover campus happenings, news and events in the city of Charlotte and North Carolina and topics that are important to students.

CONTACT INFORMATION

9201 University City Blvd. SU 042
Charlotte, NC 28223
Phone: 704-687-7148
Email: inquiry@ninertimes.com

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Starship delivery replaced with new Grubhub-powered robots

David Morales & Kyle Boucher

New robots have arrived on campus as part of UNC Charlotte Dining Services' new Late Night Niners delivery program, announced on Sept. 2. This program, a partnership with Grubhub, brought the new delivery robots to campus and began operating on Sept. 8.

The announcement was made through a series of Instagram posts on the Niner Diners account.

Students can order food and drinks across campus through the Grubhub app from 7 p.m. to midnight with the help of Avride robots.

Moving forward, the service will expand to include more retail dining locations during the day. Declining Balance (DB), Optional Dining Account (ODA), 49er Account and debit or credit cards can be used in the Grubhub app.

The Grubhub robots arrived on campus after Starship Technologies pulled their delivery robots from college campuses in June 2026. This was due to Starship's strategic shift to focus on grocery and hot-food delivery in

cities across Europe and the United States.

Moving on after Starship

After Starship removed their robots from campus, Dining Services started looking for a replacement delivery method.

"When our former partner, Starship, ended service on campus to focus more on their European grocery business, it left a vacuum — not only here on campus but at universities across the US," Ben Kolnos, senior retail dining director of Dining Services, said. "Grubhub was the logical choice for our new partnership as they have been doing this for many years at other locations and can fit our needs perfectly. Timing was an issue, as we had to get our campus mapped for the new robots, all the new merchants' menus loaded into the system and hardware shipped and installed."

These concerns are why the current Late Night Niners program is operating during limited hours. The program's goal was to meet students' late-night delivery needs and

test the new robots to make sure they were integrated on campus correctly.

"With the new partnership with Grubhub, we wanted to make sure that the new robots can navigate the campus and can operate properly before expanding across the rest of the retail units," Kolnos said. "Late Night Niners was first as it filled the gap in retail dining operating hours to give students an option to get items they love during those later hours. We have already expanded into testing Subway in the afternoons and look to expand service in the coming weeks."

Kolnos also stated that the new robots are here to stay and will become a long-term delivery service, similar to Starship.

Students' opinions on the change in services

One of the most prominent concerns that students have with the new robots is the limited time that they will be operational.

While some students see the new service as a good alternative, others are concerned

about its limitations and uncertain whether it will improve on what Starship did.

"I'd rather have Starship back; even though the service would take a while to get to my desired location, I still found it helpful that I could get food anywhere on campus," Fatima Castillo, a second-year student, said.

Castillo hopes the new service can be faster, as she had issues with Starship's delivery speed. Other students took a more neutral stance on the new delivery robots.

"I think it's too early to see if they will be better than Starship. I think it will be good handling it with Grubhub since it can have more discounts or offers than Starship did. Although when it comes to delivery, I think it's still early to make an opinion," Edward Zavala, a third-year student, said.

Despite the different opinions, students agreed that convenience and time are important factors for campus food delivery, whether it is done through Starship or Late Night Diners.

Meet the 2026 Niner 9

Hayden Herr & Emma Rowe | Staff Writers

Courtesy of UNC Charlotte

On Sept. 11, UNC Charlotte announced the 2026 Niner 9 and candidates for the title of Golden Niner.

The 2026 Niner 9 are Abbey Beam, Alyssa Bissonnette, Ezra DeVane, Rupert Lartey, Dacien Montford, Monisha Pirela, Sammari Tate, Amanda Williams, and Sanders Zendejas Leon.

Student voting for the Golden Niner opens Sept. 23 and closes Sept. 30. The Golden Niner will be named at halftime at the homecoming football game on Oct. 3.

Abbey Beam

Abbey Beam is a fourth-year student, graduating in December with a double major in psychology and criminal justice, planning to attend an in-state law school next fall. For Beam, Niner Pride means being resilient, taking the opportunities that the University offers and creating opportunities for others to succeed.

"Everyone is so nice here. Being nice to people is the bare minimum to me," Beam said. "We're a big community here at Charlotte, and that says a lot about us. We not only want to succeed, but we want to see our peers succeed."

Kindness is an important part of Beam's life, and she goes out of her way to make sure people are comfortable in their transition to college. When browsing

through a UNC Charlotte "moms group" on Facebook, Beam came across a post from a mother worried about her homesick daughter. Beam reached out to the mother and later showed the student where her classes were.

As an honors college student, Beam has had a busy schedule during her time at Charlotte. She is involved in the pre-law society and multiple student organizations, works as a TA, and co-founded the student organization Reignite.

"I came from a very diverse high school," Beam said. "I wanted to make sure that I continued to be in that community space coming into college, because I think the most important thing that you could do in your life is be around people that are different from you."



Alyssa Bissonnette



Alyssa Bissonnette is a third-year Levine Scholar majoring in management while also working three jobs. She believes that Niner Pride means showing up every day and surprising others with your excellence.

To Bissonnette, Charlotte is home. Growing up in the area, Bissonnette and her family always supported the Niners at home games and festivals.

Bissonnette works three jobs and participates in a nonprofit organization called Dream On 3, a group

aimed at making sports dreams come true for kids and young adults with life-altering conditions.

Bissonnette believes Niner Pride includes being hardworking and able to contribute to your community and make it a better place.

"I think it's saying yes to difficult tasks, and being willing to better your community day in and day out, even when things feel difficult," Bissonnette said.

Rupert Lartey



Rupert Lartey is a third-year mechanical engineering student who applied to be a part of the Niner 9 to represent diversity.

"One thing that really motivated me was definitely seeing the all-woman court last year. I definitely wanted to make sure that men, especially minority men, were represented in the Niner 9 this year," Lartey said.

Lartey is involved in several campus organizations, including Kappa Alpha Psi, the National Society of Black Engineers and the Black Organization Alliance Board.

One of Lartey's biggest accomplishments at UNC Charlotte is investing time in new students, just as his mentors did for him. His previous FIT mentee is now a mentor.

"Being able to see that I had enough impact on one student for them to go and impact more students," Lartey said.

Lartey believes Niner Pride is celebrating each other's differences and encourages other UNC Charlotte students to take advantage of all the resources available on campus.

Ezra DeVane

Ezra DeVane is a fourth-year student, majoring in public health. He is passionate about musical theatre and the arts. DeVane explained that he enjoyed seeing the accomplishments of the past Niner 9 courts.

"It puts me in a space with like-minded individuals that are very accomplished in their paths," DeVane said. "I just wanted to put myself in a spot to be surrounded by some good people."

DeVane explains that Niner Pride means understanding that Niner Na-

tion is more of a foundation than an endpoint.

"We use the things we learn here, the people we meet, the principles that are instilled in us, the integrity, the respect, and we really use that to launch different careers and become different individuals," DeVane said.

While showing Niner Pride every day and being a part of Alpha Phi Alpha, mentoring students in SAFE, and founding Collegiate 100, DeVane also participates in musical theatre and has been nominated for multiple awards.



Sammari Tate



Sammari Tate is a third-year student, majoring in mechanical engineering, who believes that students should know about everything offered on campus during their time as a Niner.

Tate explains that Niner Pride includes being proud of your community and celebrating the success of those around you. He also talked about leaving a legacy in the way you represent yourself.

"Your name will be talked about, and it's up to you to decide that legacy. So presenting yourself because you're not only presenting yourself, you're presenting your family, your school, your state, so you've got to think about things larger than yourself," Tate said.

Tate is the design president for The Helping Hand Project, a member of Oakhurst Campus Ministry and the National Society of Black Engineers and a member of the Basketball Band. He explained that being in the Basketball Band has been his greatest accomplishment.

Sanders Zendejas Leon

Sanders Zendejas Leon is a fourth-year exercise science major with a pre-professional concentration and a psychology minor. After being fairly reserved his freshman year, he believes he is a good candidate for Niner 9 because of his progress coming out of his shell.

"I came here as a freshman, but I was very to myself, only going to the dining hall and going to classes. I wasn't involved as I should have been, but slowly I broke out of my shell," Zendejas Leon said.

Zendejas Leon is a first-generation college student and acknowledges the struggles that the title holds.

He feels that this contributed to his initial timidity in his first year, but getting involved on campus helped him feel like he belonged.

Zendejas Leon is involved on campus as co-president of the Latin American Student Organization, internal vice president of Lambda Theta Phi and a member of the Order of Omega.

"Niner Pride is, to me, not only someone who wants to get involved on campus; Niner Pride is someone who really represents the Charlotte culture and values," Zendejas Leon said.



Amanda Williams

Amanda Williams is a fourth-year student, double majoring in history and philosophy. She applied for the Niner 9 because of the dedication of the past courts.

"Getting tapped literally meant the world to me; it was just affirming that you love Charlotte and Charlotte loves you back and knows that you care and is putting you on the court with other people that care," Williams said.

Williams is heavily involved on campus as a resident advisor, Niner Guide, Student

Accountability Board Member, LEAD team coordinator, Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society member and more.

When giving advice to peers and students, Williams stresses leaving every space better than you found it.

"If everybody leaves that space a little better than they found it, then Charlotte gets better. We become a lot more prideful [and] a lot more prideful of our institution," Williams said.



Monisha Pirela

Monisha Pirela is a non-traditional third-year architecture major and history minor.

Pirela has always wanted to live in the city and be an architect. After graduating high school in 2007, her unique journey to earn her degree began by working in a call center for a decade before studying at Central Piedmont Community College and transferring to UNC Charlotte.

When selected for the Niner 9, Pirela was in class and burst into tears of joy and laughter. She believes being a Niner means belonging to a community of people who know how to laugh, but are very serious about their studies and committed to showing up.

Despite her non-traditional path, Pirela is



very involved on campus. She is the president of the H.E.R. (Healing. Empowerment. Reclamation.) Society, an upperclassman Student Government Association senator and has recently been nominated for chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

"There will be difficult times in college, but there will also be times for celebration and joy. One bad assignment or one bad grade or when things don't go as planned or expected, know that it will not determine your future or career prospects," Pirela said. "Remind yourself to just keep going and do something to move yourself toward a more positive outcome."

Dacien Montford

Dacien Montford, a third-year exercise science major and biology minor, has gone from growing up between his grandparents and a single-mother household in five different states to finding his home at UNC Charlotte.

"From the first time I visited, I knew I was going to come here," Montford said. "The community I saw, the diversity, the inclusion and all the different involvements I had seen drew me in."

Montford's days are packed with campus involvement, including serving as president and founding member of Brothers in Medicine, the at-large



coordinator of the Black Organization Alliance Board and holding many more titles. But his highest achievement at UNC Charlotte is his time as president and co-founder of the Purpose Project.

"Having Niner Pride means giving back to your community and pouring into others the same way that others poured into you," Montford said.

The University Transition Opportunities Program inspired Montford to apply for the Niner 9; he wanted to grow, be a voice for UNC Charlotte students and challenge himself.

Fall 2026 International Festival: Where is the money going?

Emily Schenkel & Kyle Boucher | Asst. News Editor & News Editor

UNC Charlotte hosted its 48th annual International Festival on Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in and around the Student Activity Center.

More than 30 countries were represented at tables throughout the festival. The festival also featured a parade of nations and a festival of music and dance.

The festival serves as an opportunity for different cultural student organizations to represent their heritage and raise money for cultural causes.

Raising money for a cultural cause

Several tables throughout the festival sold a variety of goods and food. These tables used

the money raised for varying purposes, from funding specific cultural clubs on campus to investing in other cultural festivals.

On the outside ring of the festival, the Brazil table offered free face painting and a spin-the-wheel game for prizes, in addition to selling Guaraná, a Brazilian soda.

"We're making money off of selling the Guaraná for our club so we can throw some events," Giovanna Claro Do Nascimento, vice president of the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA), said.

The table was hosted by BRASA UNC Charlotte and cost around \$100 to set up.

Beverages weren't the only thing being sold at the festival; many tables also offered food related to cultural heritage.

The India table sold an array of foods like butter chicken, paneer makhani, samosas, chicken biryani and several other Indian dishes. The table was hosted by the Indian Student Association and the Tamil Student Association.

When asked about where the money made by the India table will be going, Indian Student Association member Charvi Gavinnolla said, "It's for the club, and we're also collecting for Garba. Garba is a cultural dance; it's in October or November. It's a big group dance, and everyone comes together."

Many tables also sold cultural items imported from other coun-

tries. The Ghana table featured a variety of jewelry, woven baskets and clothing, all imported from Ghana.

The table was fully funded by Divine Totes & Accessories, a company that sells accessories and handbags inspired by African cultures.

"[Divine Totes & Accessories] is giving us a portion of the proceeds. We plan to use this for some of our upcoming meetings. We want to get snacks, water and other stuff," Elsie Abaka-Mensah, a member of the Ghanaian Student Association, said.

Spreading cultural awareness

Some tables were at the festival to represent their culture, country and heritage. Though these tables were not selling anything, they offered infographics, pamphlets, crafts, games and free snacks and drinks.

The Kuwait table offered free coffee, pastries, cookies and biscuits. Yousef Aleidani, a student at the Kuwait table, characterized Kuwait as an inviting place, emphasizing that he wanted to bring that same hospitality to the festival.

"We're a very welcoming community back home, so if you go anywhere, everybody's gonna have their door open ready to pour you some coffee, so we're just trying to instill that here," Aleidani said.

The Jewish Diaspora table came to the International Festival to commemorate 2,500 years of Jewish history.

The diaspora originated in the Southern

Levant, but has since spread to historic Babylon and across Europe, Latin America, North America and many other places, according to a representative from the table, Dani Rabinowitz.

"No matter where you are as a Jew, there are certain cultural practices, history and rituals that we share in common," Rabinowitz said.

The table outlined the differences between Ashkenazi, Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews on a large trifold. The table also had golems, or clay figurines, which have become a symbol of protection, based on the story of a clay figure brought to life by a rabbi to protect the Jewish people.

Non-cultural organizations

There were also tables at the festival that did not represent a specific country or culture.

Charlotte FC had a table promoting their annual Hispanic Heritage match and Por La Cultura festival, ticket deals for students and a spin-the-wheel game for prizes.

The team also had bench soccer for people to play and a gaming truck where people could play soccer video games.

The International House table came to the International Festival to get their name out and prioritize keeping international spaces safe for Charlotte residents.

One of their highlighted programs is Conversation Hours, where people are invited to work on their language skills or connect with native speakers of various languages.

Conversation Hours are complimentary and offered in English, French, Farsi, Mandarin, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

"Sometimes you might be in the mall, or a supermarket, and you will see an older immigrant parent relying on a younger child to do the translations," Shivvon Joseph, an intern for International House, said. "What we want to do is build their confidence, as there are some conversations that younger children shouldn't be translating for their parents. It also brings dignity when you are able to speak on your behalf and not rely on a child in a public space."



Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times

Deejay Lomo looks to bring big-league hype as UNC Charlotte's new game-day DJ

Hayden Herr | Staff Writer

After DJing for 20 years, starting with humble beginnings, using heavy turntables and vinyl records, DJ Chris Lomonico has come to represent UNC Charlotte on the field during home games at Jerry Richardson Stadium.

The name “Deejay Lomo” came from the nickname Lomo, which Lomonico took on in his early high school days. It then followed him from New York City to Charlotte as UNC Charlotte's new game-day DJ.

In the stadium

As the hum of construction expanding the stadium droned on, Lomo pulled his MacBook out of his bag and quickly typed his password, revealing an organized desktop with a wallpaper of himself in the New York Mets DJ booth. He was wearing his own Mets jersey, complete with his name and the number 17 on the back, facing the field from the concourse.

“That’s my setup at Citi Field. This was a couple of years ago,” Lomo said, smiling. “We’re on high alert the entire game with home runs coming over our head.”

After opening the computer program Serato DJ Pro, he scrolled through an endless list of songs and samples. He pressed play on “Narco” by Timmy Trumpet and began to describe a scene as the song played: a stadium of 40,000, a pitcher running to center field with lights and cheers.

“When I was DJing for the Mets, we had a player; his name was Edwin Díaz, and he was a reliever pitcher,” Lomo said.

Lomo reflected on how “Narco” was Díaz’s walkout song, but it stuck out to him especially.

“I played [the song] here at the first game. It’s such an energetic song that every time he came out, that song played, and every single person in the stadium was on their feet. [There] was just so much energy, and that’s something I want to build here.”

But choosing a song isn’t based on energy alone; Lomo stresses the importance of keeping track of the beats per minute (BPM). He described “Narco” as high energy, at 130 BPM, but acknowledged that a lower BPM is sometimes important for the focus of the players. Another song that Lomo cites as a constant hit is “Enter Sandman” by Metallica. He recognizes it as a song that everyone can relate to and brings out that “goosebump” feeling.

To Lomo, having a game-day DJ is more

than just having someone to press play on a track. He feeds off the crowd’s energy while both matching and influencing it.

While DJing the first football game presented learning hurdles with sound design and getting used to the new space, Lomo is looking forward to the rest of the season.

“You see the other Division I programs where there’s a stadium that fits 150,000 people, and the energy in there. Sometimes you see those videos and just watching the videos gives you chills, so that’s something that I want to bring here,” Lomo said.

From NYC to CLT

Lomo landed in Charlotte in 2022, after moving to his new home near Lake Norman with his wife and 2-year-old son to escape the busy New York City environment. He wanted his kids to have an easier upbringing. He now lives with his wife, son and 2-year-old daughter. While he still DJs for the New York Mets, he spends most of his days playing gigs in Uptown Charlotte. He enjoys the friendliness and southern charm the city has compared to NYC.

Lomo is a self-described “super girl dad,” with his face lighting up as he describes his daughter. Even at two years old, Lomo remarks that whatever his daughter says goes. He plans to bring his son to Charlotte’s next home football game.

In 2007, Lomo began DJing while working with audio-visual equipment for Long Island University. He got his start at sports games and Greek-life events. This elevated his career into private events and nightlife. However, he’s always had a passion for DJing sports games.

“I have a lot of friends that are in sports DJing, so all across the country, from the West Coast to the East Coast, and I’ve seen their growth in it. [I] was kind of envious of it,” Lomo said. “The Mets thing obviously kicked it into gear in the professional sports side of it, and then having this opportunity was just awesome to [have] presented to me.”

His Niner pride is growing as he continues to work with the University, praising the welcoming environment and tight-knit community.

“The night after the first game, I was on my way out of the stadium, and the food truck [employees] that were over there, and the concession workers were coming out and greeting me and saying, ‘Thank you for

being here,’” Lomo said. “That was gratifying, after that first game, and it just made me feel a little bit more comfortable. No matter how long I’ve been DJing, I always get those jitters and those butterflies before that first show or that first gig.”

The creative process

DJing may seem like a pre-planned process, but Lomo said only about a quarter of his DJing is prepared in advance. To decide what to play next, he watches the people in front of him. When DJing outside of sports, most DJs might watch the dance floor, gauging the energy, but Lomo emphasized the importance of watching those off to the side.

One important aspect to him is connection through music. Whether it’s a Mets baseball game or a UNC Charlotte football game, there are a variety of faces in the crowd. When planning ahead of time, he makes sure there is music for every demographic.

“Some DJs will come in, and they say, ‘I only play this, and I don’t do that.’ I will play everything across the board to make sure every single person that’s in this entire stadium feels like they’re a part [of it] and enjoying their time,” Lomo said.

When planning, he mentally imagines himself in the environment — the crowds, referees, tackles, fumbles and the emotional energy.

“At times, if I’m at home practicing and going through a routine, I’ll literally close my eyes and envision myself where I’m at. Closing my eyes for that second and mentally putting myself here is how I make that happen,” Lomo said. “I love doing that because I can get those goosebumps at home and then when I do it live, I get those same

goosebumps, but it’s amplified because now I’m seeing the [crowd].”

He makes sure to be constantly aware of everyone, from the fans in the stands to the athletes on the field. Lomo isn’t just DJing for the crowd, but also holds an important role in hyping up the team.

“I like to make people have fun and release their energy and not care about what’s going on around them. If I can make a couple people dance, I feel like it’s a domino effect, and music does that for people,” Lomo said.

His history and home life

DJing involves interaction with the crowd and thinking on one’s feet — and this fast-paced environment mirrors Lomonico’s everyday life. From being in NYC, DJing for a Mets game on Friday night, to flying back to Charlotte on Saturday at 7 a.m. and being in Jerry Richardson Stadium at noon, to playing at a busy club in Uptown just hours after the UNC Charlotte game ended, Lomo stays busy.

“After a long day of events, I’ll usually drive home in silence. I’m always in the music. There’s a lot happening, there are people talking, and my brain’s on a thousand miles an hour getting ready for the next song or getting ready for the next moment,” he said.

His go-to way to wind down and his “guilty pleasure” after such a busy day is to end the night scrolling through Instagram Reels, especially golf vlogs.





‘Recent Acquisitions’ exhibition highlights UNC Charlotte’s need for an art museum

Annie Waskey | Staff Writer

“Recent Acquisitions” debuted as the first art show in a series of biennial exhibitions, held every two years, from the Department of Art & Art History at UNC Charlotte. Professor Jim Frakes and his students in the spring 2026 art history curatorial seminar curated the exhibition, spending a semester researching and detailing various artworks the University acquired over the last seven years.

An intentional medley of works

Whether donated by someone with a tie to UNC Charlotte, purchased by a faculty member or otherwise obtained, the University has collected a wide range of artworks.

“It was so interesting to see all of these different artists from different parts of the world having a tie to this random school in North Carolina,” third-year art history student RYann Taylor said.

The exhibition was designed to honor the donors and artists, so it intentionally consisted of a wide assortment of works.

Fourth-year art history student Maylis Trice worked on a collection from photographer Barbara Morgan, best known for her depictions of modern dancers, before she passed away in 1992. Trice is writing her senior thesis on Morgan, which is partly why she took this class.

Trice also curated work from UNC Char-

lotte professor Andrew Leventis, who specializes in oil paintings of contemporary vanitas. This motif represents the fleeting nature of life and the passage of time through images of perishable objects like food and flowers.

“To think about Barbara Morgan’s black-and-white photography, where I had to interview her grandson to learn information, and then simply talking to Andrew Leventis about his work put such a different perspective on secondary and primary sources,” Trice said.

UNC Charlotte’s need for an art museum

UNC Charlotte’s lack of an art museum can create bad optics for an institution that holds R1 status.

Many R1 universities have art museums or collections, like Duke University’s Nasher Museum of Art and UNC-Chapel Hill’s Ackland Art Museum. Students studying art history at Charlotte don’t have a place like this to identify with; they don’t have a collection that solidifies what it means to be an art history student at UNC Charlotte.

“I think projects like this show that we have works that are worthy of study and care,” Frakes said.

Currently, many pieces have yet to see the light of day, while the viewable works are scattered around Charlotte’s campus.

Courtesy of CC Abdine, Izzy Belnavis, Ryan Johnson, Leah Johnson, Alexandra Derosier & Ranya Mahmoud

“While there’s a beauty in that any student can see the art, there’s little opportunity for us to study it, and as a research university, we need to be able to study art well,” Trice said.

A taste of what comes after graduation

Academia or curation: two possible paths many art history students face as they approach graduation. Experience from shows like “Recent Acquisitions” helps students learn what their profession could look like hands-on.

“Art comes to [the University] in a lot of different ways, but it’s never heard about,” Frakes said. “So, I decided, with my department, that the art history program would begin doing curatorial seminars for students who were interested in gaining those skills.”

This upper-level seminar gives art history students curatorial experience typically found only in internship or entry-level positions.

Though Frakes had already selected the body of works to be featured, the students spent the semester doing valuable research about the pieces and conducting interviews with donors, artists and other individuals to learn about the works.

“I learned quite a bit, especially about the ways older artists typically carry themselves or talk about their own work,” Taylor said. “It

was good to get interview experience under my belt.”

Promoting unity and collaboration within the University

Art has the ability to unite people regardless of discipline or differences in fields.

“When I say unity, I mean that everyone has been engaging in visual culture in all these different ways; everyone is already invested,” Frakes said.

If the University had an art museum, the audience wouldn’t be limited to art students. The collection could bring in other colleges and departments, offering a space to work together and think through problems in their different fields. Students walking into the gallery might better understand where they belong within a larger system of collaboration.

“Images become the way in which many different interests can be brought together to be understood,” Frakes said.

The different colleges and departments within UNC Charlotte have varied relationships with the community and donors, creating a range of processes for acquiring and curating the works.

“There are relationships that exist within the University,” Frakes said. “We’re trying to promote the story.”

Khamani Alexander steps up against Appalachian State as the No. 1 running back

Sean McGuffin | Staff Writer

Set to face his former school, senior running back Khamani Alexander had plenty of expectations going into this past weekend's game in Boone, North Carolina. Alexander is part of the dynamic Charlotte 49ers' run game, a key component of the team's offense. He looked to step up in his return, especially with junior leading rusher Chance Williams removed from the roster under unconfirmed circumstances. Alexander worked to bring the ground game to the Appalachian State Mountaineers, scoring two rushing touchdowns on 13 total attempts.

Khamani at App State

Alexander started one game in his lone season at App State, seeing special teams action in the Mountaineers' 29-10 loss to rival Georgia Southern University in the 2025 Birmingham Bowl. Alexander put up 22 rushing yards and 17 receiving yards in the Bowl game. He saw limited snaps against Georgia Southern in the regular season and Week 1 against Charlotte.

Alexander the 49er

After a brief stint with the Mountaineers, Alexander drove south to Charlotte hoping to be an impact player, and so far he has been exactly that. In his first two games, Alexander rushed for exactly 150 yards on 20 attempts, averaging 7.5

yards per attempt.

The transfer has already proven himself a player to watch, with Alexander establishing a strong connection with the team early on. "I'm loving it, man," Alexander said. "The team fights every week. You know, I believe in my guys at all times." That early bond has led to dynamic ground-game play.

Old town, new colors

Alexander's return to Kidd Brewer Stadium was a major storyline coming into the in-state matchup, but for Alexander, it was like any other game on the schedule. "I'm not changing anything," Alexander confirmed before the game. "You know, I'm gonna keep doing what I was doing since Week 1, keep doing the same thing, same routine, just keeping my head level-headed. Stay down, stay humble."

Alexander also credited Charlotte's offensive line for

its help in the run game. "The running backs believe in our O-line," Alexander said. "We see our O-line putting in the work, both fighting for every single play," Alexander said. "So we're gonna keep believing in our guys."

Next man up

The 49ers' game plan had to adjust quickly after Williams was unexpectedly removed from the roster on Sept. 15. Williams had the second-most rushing yards in the first two weeks of the season and was expected to complement Alexander in the run game. With Williams gone just days before the team traveled to Boone, Alexander had to carry more of the load. But Alexander chooses not to run from the challenges; he runs straight into them.

"It's gonna be a tough game," Alexander admitted before the matchup. "You know, get it all like we did in Ole Miss. We're gonna keep on fighting."



Emmanuel Perkins/Niner Times
Courtesy of UNC Charlotte & Appalachian State University

Did Charlotte move conferences too quickly?

Tre Holland | Sports Editor

Charlotte Athletics joined the American Conference, formerly known as the American Athletic Conference, in 2023 as part of a clear push for greater

exposure, revenue and visibility. The athletic program even rebranded in the summer of 2020 to a sleeker “C” logo with a visible pickaxe.

Six years later, a \$70 million investment added seats and premium amenities, making Jerry Richardson Stadium a true spectacle.

Yet the 49ers lost to an FCS opponent in the 2026 season opener amid the ongoing construction.

The strategic decision to prioritize facilities and branding comes with clear trade-

offs. While an upgraded stadium and a refreshed image can drive long-term exposure, attract recruits and boost revenue, these changes may not immediately translate into better on-field performance. If successful, these investments can lay the foundation for future competitive success. However, in pursuing growth for Charlotte Athletics, one major component of a successful athletic program has slipped through the cracks: on-field success.

Conference alignment history

Before Charlotte joined the American Athletic Conference, it was part of Conference USA from 1995 to 2005 and again from 2013 to 2023, with a period in the Atlantic 10 Conference from 2005 to 2013. Before the football program's reinstatement in 2013, Charlotte Athletics included baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, track and field, men's golf, men's soccer, women's soccer and softball.

In 2005, collegiate sports went through a



Niner Times File

restructuring of many conferences, including Charlotte's Conference USA. The Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East catalyzed Charlotte's move to the Atlantic 10. Multiple Big East schools left for the ACC, which led the Big East to recruit five Conference USA schools; as a result, Charlotte and many other Conference USA members left for the Atlantic 10 and the Mountain West Conference, while Army West Point became independent in football.

After spending 2005 to 2013 in the Atlantic 10, Charlotte sought to revive its football program, which had been disbanded in 1948. To advance this process, Charlotte Athletics returned to Conference USA in 2013, leaving football as an FCS program until 2015, when it became an FBS school. However, Charlotte's second stint in Conference USA ended the same way as the first. In 2023, multiple schools from the American Conference departed for the Big 12 Conference, leaving an opening for Charlotte and other schools to fill.

What has worked out so far

Since joining the American in 2023, Charlotte Athletics has seen success throughout the entire program. Men's soccer has won two conference tournament titles and appeared in the NCAA tournament twice. Softball won a regular-season conference championship and appeared in the NCAA tournament in 2023. Men's golf has won the conference championship every year except

in 2024, and baseball won the conference tournament and appeared in the NCAA tournament in 2023. The American's reputation and the increased national exposure have helped Charlotte teams attract stronger recruits, compete against tougher opponents and make their success more impactful. While some of these teams performed well in previous conferences, joining the American has elevated their achievements and provided a bigger platform for recognition.

In addition to on-field success across multiple Charlotte Athletics programs, Charlotte expanded to 19 varsity athletic teams with the addition of women's lacrosse in 2022; its first season came in 2025.

Joining the American also increased Charlotte Athletics' national visibility. In 2021, Charlotte Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber made it clear that joining the American was transformative.

"We have enhanced geographical concentration, which will especially help the conference's men's and women's basketball and Olympic sports teams," Gaber said. "Additionally, we increase the value in live content options for CBS Sports, which features selected men's basketball games from the conference."

Charlotte's vision for athletics is clear; increasing visibility to appeal to recruits and transfers, more NIL money and adding women's lacrosse were the cherry on top. Yet, football continues to lag behind the rest of the program.

Why it feels so rushed

Football is often the most influential sport in terms of a university's national standing and conference alignment. From 2023 to 2025, Charlotte football went 9-27. It went through three different head coaches, including an interim head coach in 2024. There were no bowl games, no winning seasons since 2019 and none in the American.

Charlotte football is still quite young, as the 2026 season is its 14th season after its reinstatement. So, after eight years in Conference USA, a program that has existed for less than 10 years needs room to grow. However, moving to the American put the already struggling team in an even tougher spot. The move to the American was great financially, but the on-field product is still behind. This is evident after Charlotte's surprise loss to FCS opponent The Citadel in the 2026 season opener, despite being favored by over 15 points. Charlotte losing to an FCS opponent is one thing; it has also struggled to compete against its own conference, with an average point differential of -14.8 and a 6-18 conference record since joining the American.

A common online discussion is that Charlotte should compete in the FCS because of its lack of success in the FBS, especially since joining the American, which is a fair assessment. However, when the American

Conference presented Charlotte with an opportunity to increase notoriety, brand value and revenue, they took it. At the cost of the on-field product, Charlotte took a chance to grow into a more prominent university.

The move was hasty, especially given the need to compete with bigger schools in the American Conference compared to Conference USA. It has led to one of the worst-ranked football teams over the past three years, while most other Charlotte Athletics teams have found success. Charlotte football awaits a winning season while its \$70 million stadium expansion looms over the program as a sign the move may have been the wrong decision.

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Can the Carolina Hurricanes repeat as Stanley Cup champs?

PJ Sullivan | Staff Writer

AP Photo/John Locher

The Carolina Hurricanes enter the 2026-27 season as the reigning Stanley Cup champions. This season will see a lot of changes in the NHL, with teams making key roster decisions and injuries affecting every team. One thing the Hurricanes are hoping doesn't change is lifting the Stanley Cup.

Offseason recap

The Hurricanes have had a mostly quiet offseason, with few additions to the team. The main addition was defenseman Pierre-Olivier Joseph. Joseph played for the Vancouver Canucks last season. During his time in Vancouver, he played 31 games and had one goal and five assists. Joseph is looking to have a consistent role with the Hurricanes this season.

The Hurricanes re-signed defenseman Mike Reilly to a one-year, \$1.1 million contract. The 33-year-old played 42 games in the regular season, with one goal and eight assists during that time. Reilly was also part of the Hurricanes' Stanley Cup run, contributing two assists in the two games he played in the postseason. Like Joseph, Reilly is competing for a consistent role on one of the Hurricanes' defensive lines.

Other signings include center Skyler Brind'Amour, son of head coach Rod Brind'Amour, as well as goalie Cayden Primeau, who saw some playtime with the Toronto Maple Leafs last season. However, both of these players, and the majority of other signings this past offseason, will be playing for the minor league team, the Chi-

cago Wolves.

The Hurricanes lost a few pieces over this offseason, including goaltender Frederik Andersen. Over the summer, he signed a one-year deal with the Edmonton Oilers. Andersen spent the last five seasons with the Hurricanes, and he was the main starter for the Hurricanes in their Stanley Cup run before being taken out of Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Finals due to a knee injury in the previous game.

The Hurricanes may not be done with offseason moves, as defenseman Alexander Nikishin requested a trade from the Hurricanes earlier this offseason. With no signing from the Hurricanes for the restricted free agent and the regular season beginning soon, the team will have to figure out what to do with the young defenseman.

Scouting the Eastern Conference

This offseason saw a few key additions to other teams in the Eastern Conference. These new additions may create stronger competition for the Hurricanes this season.

The Washington Capitals were one of the teams that made big moves this offseason. The Capitals revamped their forwards with signings such as Alex Tuch from the Buffalo Sabres and Jordan Kyrrou from the St. Louis Blues. These new signings will also help with what could be Alex Ovechkin's last year. Ovechkin signed a one-year deal with Washington at 40 years old — he doesn't have much time left to win a Stanley Cup. Washington will look to go all in this season.

Another team that was active this offseason was the Florida Panthers. The Panthers struggled last season due to key injuries and inconsistent goaltending. However, this year the team, led by forward Matthew Tkachuk, will be healthier at the start of the season compared to last season. In a trade with the Ottawa Senators, Florida acquired forward Brady Tkachuk, Matthew Tkachuk's brother. The Panthers also acquired New Jersey Devils goaltender Jacob Markström, who brings more consistent goaltending.

Other teams that will be competitive in the Eastern Conference include the Montreal Canadiens, who have a young core and made it to the conference finals last year, and the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Lightning will be tough competitors this season with a core that has been a playoff team for the past nine seasons.

How to go back-to-back

The Hurricanes will face multiple challenges heading into the new season, one being key injuries to the team.

Forward Seth Jarvis had shoulder surgery for a torn labrum and rotator cuff in his right shoulder right after the Hurricanes' Stanley Cup run. Jarvis chose to play through the pain during the past two seasons following the injury in the 2023-24 season. The surgery will keep him out at least until late October, perhaps until late December. Head coach Rod Brind'Amour expressed hopes that Jarvis will start playing closer to late October.

Forward Eric Robinson also had surgery

this offseason, needing knee surgery after the playoff run. However, Robinson's return should be closer than Jarvis' with the team hoping to see him back before the first game of the season.

Even with injuries and a mostly quiet offseason, the Hurricanes will be in good shape. Brind'Amour has never missed the playoffs as the Hurricanes' head coach. Over the years, he has built a locker room that can succeed on the ice. The team has also built strong leadership; forward and captain Jordan Staal has been a leader for the team ever since he was traded from the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2012. He proved his leadership in the playoffs, winning the Conn Smythe Trophy, which is awarded to the best player of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Goaltending will not be an issue even with the loss of Frederik Andersen. Goalie Pyotr Kochetkov missed most of last season due to hip surgery; before the injury, he was a consistent goalie for the Hurricanes and will look to return to form. Last season, goalie Brandon Bussi proved he could also be a starting goalie when he took over during the playoffs after Andersen's injury, to help secure the Stanley Cup coming to Raleigh.

Up next

The Carolina Hurricanes will start their season on Sept. 29th against the Florida Panthers at Lenovo Center in Raleigh at 5 p.m. They will also raise their Stanley Cup championship banner before the game, with coverage for both available on ESPN.

Opinion: Make America ‘Healthy’ Again — the contradiction at the heart of the MAHA movement

Bonnee Song | Staff Writer

There are two ways to understand Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr’s “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA) movement.

There is a classic version that most Americans recognize: a campaign focused on the types of food we eat and the ingredients we put into our bodies. Kennedy has made a public case against food dyes, ultra-processed foods and other ingredients he believes are contributing to the country’s health problems. He encouraged the public to return to “real” food, an approach that has attracted both devoted supporters and fierce critics. However, his overall message is abundantly clear: Americans should pay closer attention to what they consume.

Yet there is another aspect that is less visible: the gutting of health, environmental and agricultural agencies. Behind the MAHA movement is a series of mass layoffs, terminations and early retirements by the people

who inspect our food. Last year, Jim Jones, the head of the food division at the FDA, resigned, saying it would be fruitless to continue.

This contradiction is difficult to ignore. It is one thing to chastise Americans to take greater responsibility for the food we eat, but another to weaken the institutions responsible for ensuring that the food Americans purchase is safe in the first place. With less regulatory foresight at the federal level, it should come as no surprise that food recalls have become more than a passive nuisance. Citizens from states like North Carolina are seeing the real, dire consequences of incompetence on the federal level.

The most well-known food recall is the recent multi-state outbreak from iceberg lettuce sourced by Taylor Farms. With over 20,000 illnesses across 21 states, North Carolinians were not spared. For many of the people I know, the outbreak brought the

consequences (and fear) of foodborne illness closer to home. This, coupled with the recent recalls of Publix frozen blueberries for E. Coli and Outshine fruit bars for glass shards, reveals the impacts of federal policy at the state and local level.

This is where the MAHA movement’s contradiction becomes impossible to overlook. If the goal is truly to make Americans healthier, then food safety cannot be an afterthought. A functioning food system requires more than just farmers producing good food and consumers making responsible choices. It requires a regulatory framework that connects the two: a framework that consists of inspectors, scientists and agencies that take accountability when a problem occurs.

The irony of this is that the MAHA movement has correctly identified one important point: what Americans eat matters. Yet, the safety of our food cannot be outsourced to consumers at the individual level. Ultimately,

it is not whether Americans are eating “real” food. It is whether Americans can trust that the food on their plates is safe.

In the words of Senator Elizabeth Warren, “The Trump administration’s systematic dismantling of the food safety system has hampered the federal government’s ability to prevent, identify, and respond to the latest outbreak.” As citizens and participants in our country’s food system, we all have a responsibility to keep our elected officials accountable and defend systems that keep us safe.

It is important now, more than ever, to continue advocating for stronger regulatory systems and greater transparency throughout the food system. Ultimately, making America healthy cannot simply mean telling Americans to make better choices. It must also mean ensuring that the institutions responsible for protecting those choices are strong enough to do their jobs.



Ava Weaver/Niner Times
AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

Opinion: Stop forcing AI in the classroom

Delaney Crowder | Staff Writer

“A I is here, and it’s here to stay, so you either get on board or you get left in the past.”

“See, that is a big part of why I hate it. This forced inevitability. People like you are always saying that it’s happening whether you like it or not, but you’re the ones making it happen. And you could easily stop it if people could say that they didn’t want it. But you don’t want to give people a choice. So you just say, ‘Oh, the train’s already on the tracks,’ and you don’t let people decide for themselves.”

This dialogue is from the HBO Max comedy-drama series “Hacks,” in which a tech founder requests that the character Hannah Einbinder be cloned by AI for joke generation. When Hannah first denies the proposition, the tech founder tries to convince her that she is denying the future and will be left behind. In a now-viral monologue, Hannah goes on to explain how ridiculous that statement is, saying this supposed inevitability is human-caused and continually forced on us against our will. After the first few weeks of the fall 2026 semester at UNC Charlotte, I cannot help but agree.

When reviewing the syllabus for each class, students will likely see a dedicated section on AI policies and expectations. It is an unfortunate necessity of academia in 2026, and every professor seems to have their own opinion about it. When it comes to personal growth and academic integrity, one would expect most professors to ban or at least heavily restrict its use. Instead, professors are requiring students to use AI in the classroom — something most people did not expect.

Whether it’s through a website such as Hawkes Learning for math, or an AI conversation trainer

for learning a language, forced AI use has grown exponentially at Charlotte and shows no signs of stopping.

Recently, in a humanities class — the humanities being disciplines that are continuously threatened by AI — my professor told students to use an AI system of their choice to make a schedule for all their classes and assignments. I politely declined, as there are multiple AI-free ways to make your own schedule, online or on paper, but sometimes refusal is not an option. In other classes, students are told to use AI platforms, such as MyConversationTrainer, Gemini and others, for certain assignments, or else receive a failing grade.

The question remains: Why are we forcing so much AI use in the classroom? Why are we forcing the AI train to keep going through the stations of our lives when we would rather just get off? When did getting on this hypothetical train become inevitable, when other options became obsolete? Since when has humanity been able to look into and manipulate the future?

When speaking with many professors in

the classroom about their thoughts on AI use, they say they are preparing students for the workforce, where AI is already used regularly. While that is currently true, I think many professors are forgetting that there are still many people — and even whole companies — who refuse to use AI and have no plans to.

We cannot ignore that AI is growing exponentially, and more and more people are using it, but we also cannot pretend we can see into the future. If you look into what people from past centuries thought our present day would look like, you would consider them ridiculous. They thought things like phone books, trains as primary transportation, or even pennies would last forever, but in the end they faded away. We can never truly know what will stand the test of time, so why should we force our students to use AI as if it will be around forever?

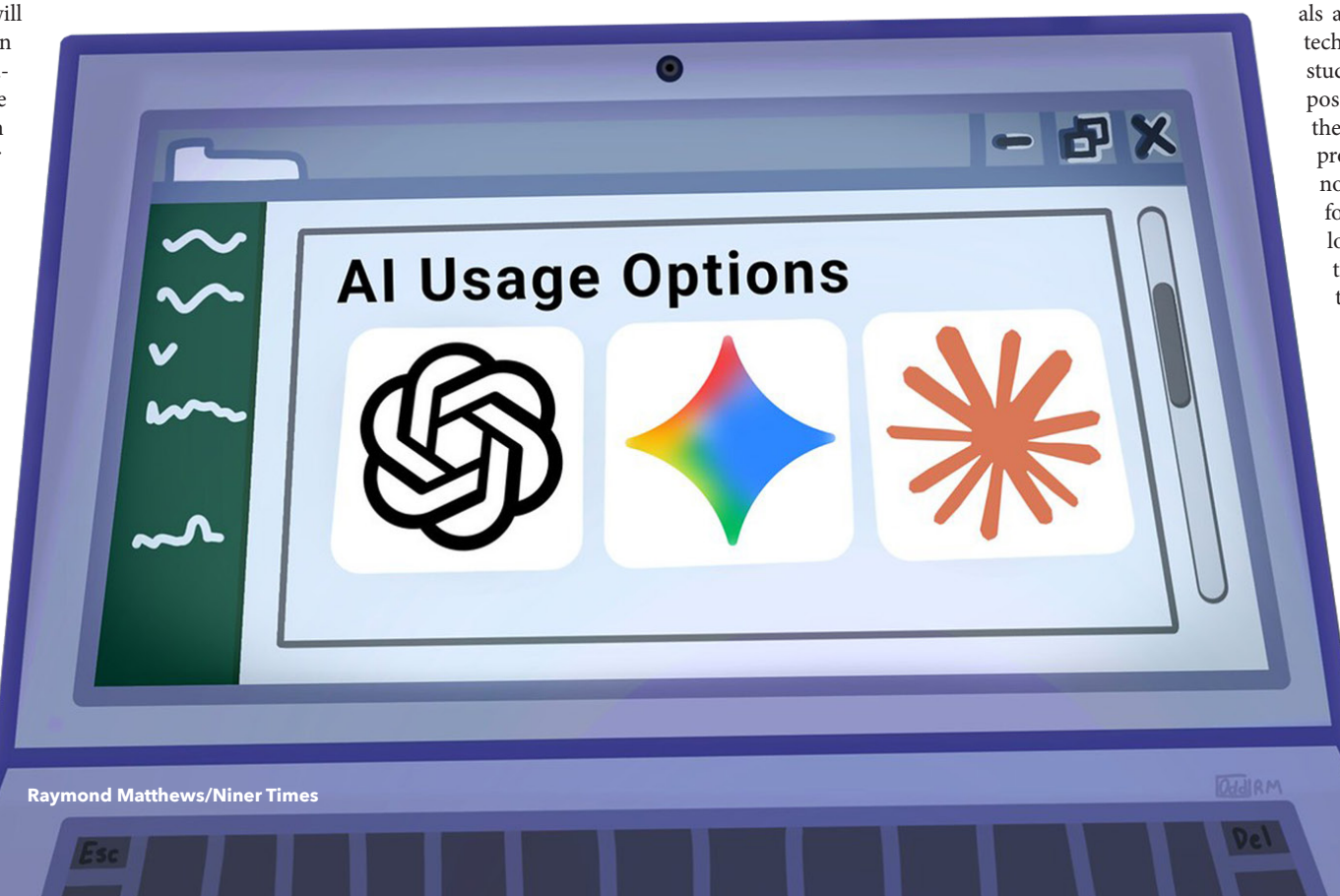
Moral requirements and accommodations have been part of college life for decades, as they should be. Religious exemptions can allow students to miss class or do alternate assignments; students can avoid certain ac-

tivities like animal dissection, have alternate readings based on personal morals and even be exempted from certain classes, so why isn’t it the same for students refusing to use AI? Why should the moral objection against AI be refused while others are allowed?

When arguing about AI, people often point to other new forms of technology that changed how we live our lives. For example, the calculator is often compared to AI because it made many forms of math unnecessary to learn. The printing press made hand copying books obsolete. The microwave made cooking easier and more timely.

Throughout different periods of history, these tools have changed our lives just like AI has. However, the invention of the printing press did not pollute our drinking water to a murky dark brown. The calculator did not erase jobs and force people in certain fields to rethink their entire lives. The microwave did not force aspiring chefs to rethink the plans for their future. AI has done all of these things and more, so we cannot keep ignoring the danger it has already caused.

It is our human right to have and keep our own personal morals about what tools and technology we use. If a student is morally opposed to AI because of the dangers it poses, a professor should have no right to require it for assignments. Charlotte should recognize that AI is not destined to be our future, and those who refuse to use it should not be told they are falling behind. The future is ours to shape, and we have the right to decide how it looks.



Opinion: Charlotte's Club culture is getting stale

Noah Hughey | Staff Writer

Charlotte's nightlife is an eclectic blend of Uptown class, a South End honky tonk and NoDa's artsy alternative dive bars. But in a city with so much nightlife — and its daytime trying to be somewhat equivalent — it's really no wonder Charlotte is considered boring on the weekdays from 9 to 5. If Charlotte wants to escape the charge of being a generic city with nothing to do while you wait to let it all loose on the weekend, it needs to invest in more all-ages development in spaces overcrowded with low-quality, overpriced clubs that blend together by the time you stumble home.

After 20 years in service, Nikko Sushi Bar in South End was closed recently following a \$4-million sale and transfer of ownership, with plans to reopen as a steakhouse with an "elevated" atmosphere. Besides the award-winning sushi and endless accolades for the food, one of the features that Nikko is remembered for, among many Charlotte businesses of its kind, is what newspapers have called a "club-like" atmosphere.

"Y'all remember when the lady who ran it would twerk on the tables?" one comment reads in reply to an Instagram post by @clt-five breaking the news.

A lot of businesses in Charlotte pine for that "club-like" atmosphere. It probably has something to do with one-third of Charlotte's

white-collar workforce being people under 35. Charlotte has, for a while now, attempted to sell itself as a city for these young, hip and virile people, ready to work hard and play harder. With the inability to get places like Queen City Quarter (formerly the EpiCentre) back up and running after a violent event seven years ago, Charlotte needs to consider investing more in what Charlotteans will be doing during the day.

Queen City Quarter is a good example of that. Until 2019, it was Charlotte's club central station. But following the 2019 shooting, development has been slow; ownership has changed hands multiple times, it has rebranded, and none of it has restored its former glory. I think this is equal parts because of the concern for violence and the self-realization that we have enough of that kind of thing already. Clubbing has diffused, with options down the street on the corner of Fifth Street and North Tryon Street, in South End and NoDa, and further down Wilkinson Boulevard or toward Huntersville if you're willing to pay extra for your Uber.

But what developers seem unwilling or unable to accept is that this proliferation of clubs and other establishments trying to pass themselves off as clubs is exactly why Charlotte is considered boring outside the 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. window, Thursday through Satur-

day. Any attempt to build a base of regular customers, especially those with families or trying to settle down, is hard to do when they only feel welcome in the place when nobody else is there.

Charlotte's quiet bars do exist, but they often run drinks at prices that make gas look like a steal and are inaccessible using public transportation. Or, worse yet, they are struggling to make ends meet while crowds of finance yuppies rush another weekend at Prohibition or The Union at the grown age of 30. College was done almost a decade ago, bro; it's time to hang up your frat merch and realize you will not be young forever.

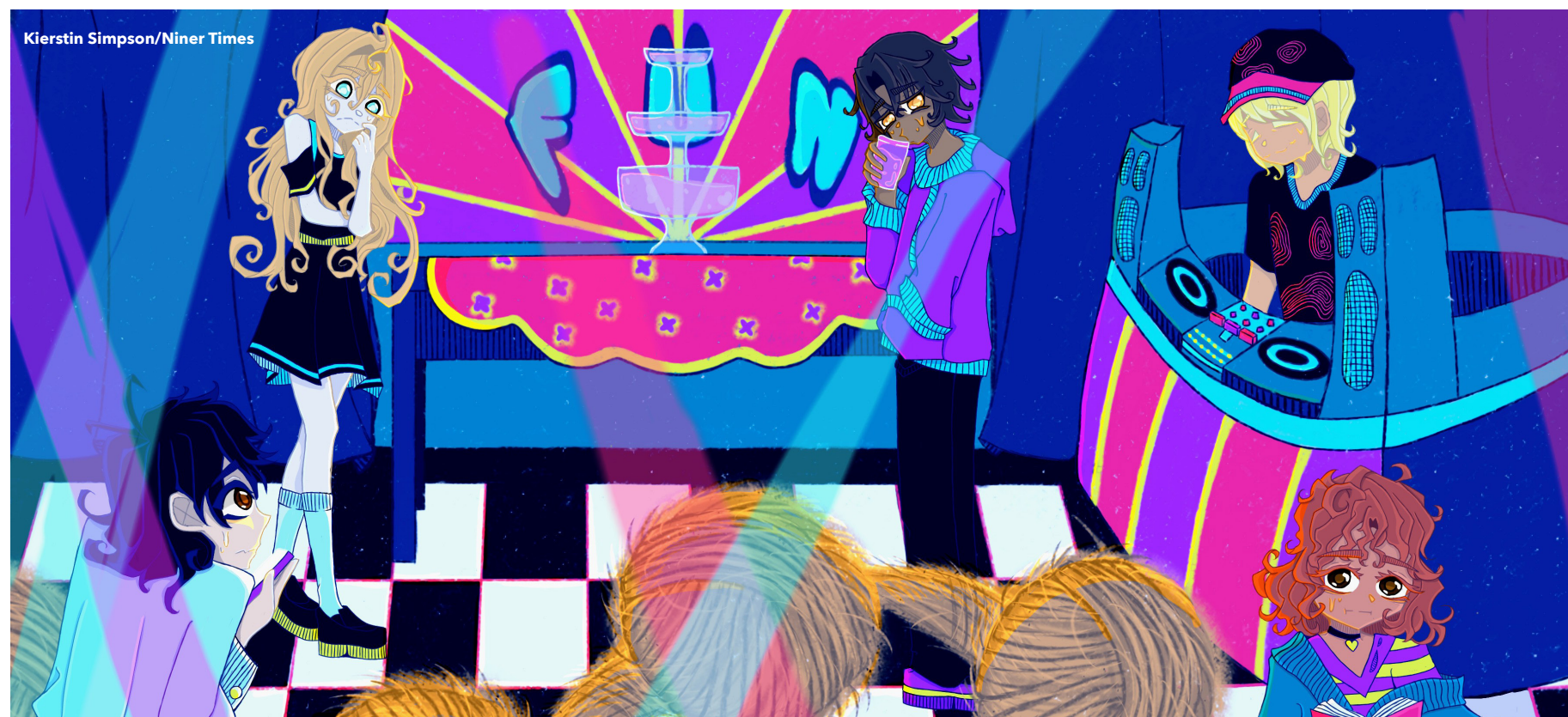
All-age development does not have to be boring. But it probably helps if that development is backed by the soul of a local artisan or entrepreneur rather than a boardroom of executives and their marketing team. This is the real problem with Charlotte's club craze. It is so overexposed precisely because it was thought up as a marketing ploy to exploit the fast-growing wealth of the city, sucking up all the room from local businesses, real or potential.

Club culture has roots in resistance and renewal. It is deeply tied to the development of hip-hop, which similarly reuses what exists to create something new. The music, the vibe, the freedom to move, to dance, are a release

from the especially constricting realities we live in today. But club culture in Charlotte is being bought out and gutted of any of these qualities in hopes of generating profit for nameless, faceless hordes of investors on the back of that very same need to escape the cruel world they simultaneously invested in the creation of.

Returning to Queen City Quarter, imagine a future where you catch a light rail train to Uptown, stepping off in the heart of our city, and within less than a minute's walk, you're in an open-air shopping mall with three levels of shops and restaurants that house local vendors and diverse options for entertainment. Now imagine being a guest in our city and staying at the AC Hotel or Residence Inn located in the Queen City Quarter and having these options.

The potential for Charlotte to stand out as a city is boundless. The possibilities of what could be done if we tried are limited only by our imagination. But if we continue to sell out to a tired idea that we are a city of twenty-somethings looking for cheap booze and "DJs" playing their Spotify playlist for four hours, then people will continue to pass through Charlotte rather than see it as a destination.



Kierstin Simpson/Niner Times

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