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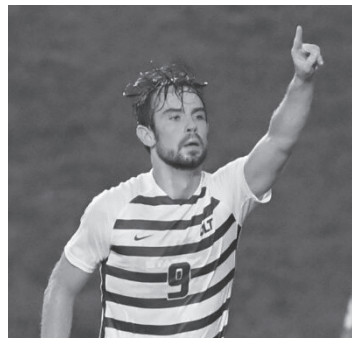
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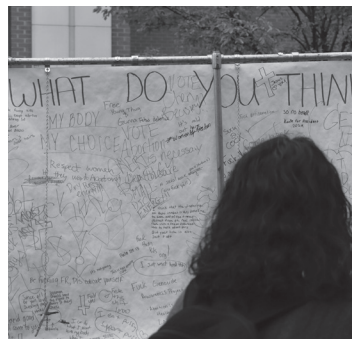
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'Creating the Unheardofhijabi'
Courtesy of Midas Magazine



Charlotte's Alex Willis (9)
Photo by Chris Crews



Display at a campus demonstration
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Jake Scott performing in Charlotte
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Midas Magazine and Nova Literary-Arts Magazine receive national recognition

by Sunnya Hadavi
Editor-in-Chief

At the MediaFest22 convention in Washington D.C., UNC Charlotte's Midas Magazine and Nova Literary-Arts Magazine each received national recognition for their 2021-22 student-made publications.

Both publications won design Pinnacle Awards from the College Media Association (CMA) and were honored in the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Best of Show Awards.

For the ACP Best of Show, Nova was honored as the Best Literary-Arts Magazine, and Midas placed No. 5 for Best Feature Magazine. For the Pinnacles, Midas Magazine was No. 3 in Best Magazine Feature Page/Spread for the designs of the "Creating the Unheardofhijabi" story in volume 2, issue 2. Nova was announced as the best literary magazine for the designs in their entire publication.

"Honestly, it felt incredibly rewarding to see all the effort the team from

last year put in come to fruition. A team full of seniors, all new to their positions, pulling something like Nova off is incredible. Winning the awards at the CMA conference is something we could've never imagined. So, I'm incredibly proud of all the old staff and my old friends," Alexander Beets, Nova editor-in-chief, said.

The Pinnacle Awards are a contest open to college media organizations, including print, broadcast and online outlets, around the nation and serve to honor student work. According to CMA officials, there were over 2,900 submissions for this year's Pinnacle Awards.

Midas' "Creating the Unheardofhijabi" covers Kowsar Sheikh and how she is breaking the boundaries of fashion through her streetwear hijab business. Kevin Ku, 2022-23 Midas design director, designed the spreads for this story. Claire Hambrick, founder and then editor-in-

chief, photographed Sheikh and other models to accompany the writing and design.

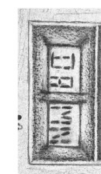
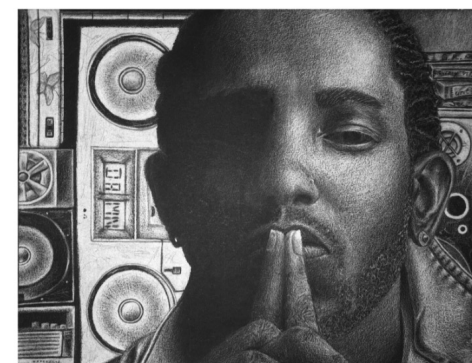
"With this story, fashion, streetwear and the things people wore in the photos were of the most importance. In order to show that and have it be the center focus, I wanted to design spreads in a way that the people were towards the middle and really take up the entire space of each space. I also wanted to bring out this theme of grunge and almost hipster vibes," Ku said. "Even with third place, winning out of 2,900 entries is crazy. To be honest, I have never won awards like this in design, so it's nice to see and hear that the work I'm putting out there is being acknowledged and recognized in the design world."

Designs for Nova's 53rd volume were themed around the magazine's rebranding from Sanskrit to Nova. Nova's 2021-22 Lead Designer Skylar Parrow-Strong, designed the book cover and layout design alongside Designers Noah Atwood and Vishal Nair. Atwood also designed the centerfold, while Nair designed the poster insert.

"Last year was all about reinventing ourselves. With the brand undergoing a massive change with the transition from Sanskrit to Nova, we wanted the design and themes of the magazine to reflect that. We tried to focus on the idea of rebirth and new beginnings. The name Nova connects to imagery of space and stars, yes, but also to new ideas. As a literary-arts magazine, we shine light on artists and authors who are full of new

K Dot

KENNY SERRANO ELIZALDE



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Nova volume 53 spread | Courtesy of Nova Literary-Arts Magazine

ideas and are deserving of recognition, so we wanted to the visuals of our magazine to represent that." Atwood, the 2022-23 lead designer, said. "The team last year worked insanely hard and I am proud to have been able to work alongside all of them. And it feels particularly special to receive the awards because of the fact that it was our first issue under the name of Nova."

Both publications are working on their 2022-23 publications. Nova will publish their 54th volume in Spring 2023, while Midas will publish in December 2022 and April 2023.



"Creating the Unheardofhijabi" spread | Courtesy of Midas Magazine

Column: Where does the Charlotte women's basketball go in 2022-23 season?

by Joey Ellsworth
Staff Writer

It is a new era for the Charlotte women's basketball team as they begin a new year without star play Octavia Jett-Wilson. Last year ended in glory, with the squad putting up one of, if not its best, season in history.

49er's 2021 season in review

- **22-10 record**
- **15-3 conference record**
- **No. 1 in Conference USA (C-USA)**
- **Made NCAA tournament**

In the 2020 season, Charlotte struggled outside of conference play. They went 1-7 in non-conference games, but when it came time to face C-USA opponents, it was a whole new team, going 9-5. This led to a mediocre 10-12 finish.

Claiming the 49er squad had a bounce-back is an understatement. They followed up their 10-12 season with a 22-10 finish and claimed the title of conference champions.

Player additions and losses

- **Addition: Tracey Hueston, Foward/Illinois**
- **Addition: Keanna Rembert, Foward/Pitt**
- **Loss: Octavia Jett-Wilson, Guard**
- **Loss: Cali Konek, Guard**
- **Loss: Molina Williams, Foward**
- **Loss: Keke McKinney, Foward**

The 49ers lost McKinney and Jett-Wilson from graduation over the off-season. 2021-22 C-USA Player of the Year, Jett-Wilson, left a significant hole on the Charlotte squad. Additionally, the loss of McKinney leaves Charlotte without their star defensive player, as she was the C-USA 2021-22 Defensive Player of the Year.

Over the offseason, Jett-Wilson went pro, signing with Greece. She finished All-time program leader in games played (143), games started (123), minutes played (4,157), second all-time in free throws made (490) and third on the all-time



Charlotte women's basketball team during a game against Southern Mississippi
Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

scoring list (1,812).

To help with the blow of losing Jett-Wilson, the key name Charlotte brought over is Hueston. She transferred to Charlotte from Pitt, a power 5 team. She played at Pitt for two years.

The other transfer, Rambert, who in her senior year of high school averaged just over 20 points per game, 9.9 rebounds per game and 2.1 blocks, transferred to Charlotte from Illinois. She did not see any time at Charlotte, transferring before she could have a chance to play.

Charlotte 49ers coaching staff overview

- **Head Coach: Cara Consuegra**
- **Associate Head Coach: Cait Wetmore-Banx**
- **Associate Coach/Recruiting Coordinator: Nicole Woods**
- **Assistant Coach: Ciara Gregory**

The coaching staff of the 49ers saw no significant changes over the offseason.

Consuegra returned to the helm of Charlotte after a big season last year. In the 2022 season, Consuegra won C-USA Coach of the Year as she led the 49ers to the NCAA tournament.

Over the offseason, Consuegra announced the promotions of Wetmore and

Woods after playing significant roles on the team last season.

Charlotte 49ers conference awards watch Mikayla Boykin, Defensive Player of the Year

Boykin transferred to Charlotte from Duke ahead of the 2021-22 season and became a prime defense threat for the 49ers. Her 53 steals last season put her at No. 16 among all C-USA players. She also added 17 blocks and 166 rebounds, second in both stats.

While she sat second in both stats, she trailed McKinney, the last year's conference Defensive Player of the Year. Boykin has a lot of improvement to see if she wants to win the award, but she certainly has the potential.

Cara Consuegra, Coach of the Year

Claiming Consuegra has a shot at Coach of the Year is no hot take. She won the award last year, and if she rebuilds the team back to its 2021-22 shape despite losing Jett-Wilson, Consuegra will be a shoo-in for the achievement again.

The biggest game on the schedule

Charlotte's biggest and most formidable matchup on their schedule is the 49er's

third matchup of the season. On Nov. 16, Charlotte is set to face NC State.

If NC State looks as they did in the 2021-22 season, this will be a true test of Charlotte's strength this year. NC State finished 32-4 overall and 17-1 in conference matches.

If Charlotte can pull off the upset if NC State is favored, which is likely, that early in the season, that would inspire a ton of confidence in the team this season.

Charlotte season prediction: Best-case scenario

While some may be writing off conference champions already with the losses of some big names, they forget that Charlotte has other players who can step up into more significant roles. While Consuegra does not see anyone replacing these players alone, she has high hopes that a few players playing more essential parts could fill that hole left behind with a combined effort.

The 49ers made the NCAA tournament in the previous season due to efficient team play. With much of the 2021-22 team returning, it is not a stretch to say the best-case scenario for the 49ers is conference champions and even a return to the NCAA tournament.

Charlotte season prediction: worst-case scenario

The worst-case scenario for Charlotte would be failing to adjust to a team without Jett-Wilson and McKinney. As previously mentioned, these two leave big holes on both sides of the ball, and if the 49ers fail to fill these roles, they are in from a significant fall from glory and failing to finish near the top of C-USA will be the least of their worries.

Charlotte season prediction for 2022

- **17-12 record**
- **No. 4 in C-USA (12-8 conference record)**
- **Playoff result: Lose in Quarterfinals**

All you need to know about the 2022 Charlotte Athletics Hall of Fame class

by Sam Perry
Staff Writer

The Charlotte 49ers announced the second class elected to the 49ers' Athletic Hall of Fame, which includes three former players, one former coach and two contributors.

"We are excited to welcome another class of all-time greats into the 49ers Athletics Hall of Fame," said Director of Athletics Mike Hill. "There are so many individuals that have helped build the foundation of our department, and it's an honor to be able to recognize these amazing Niners. Each in their way has had a huge impact on our program, and we are thrilled to welcome them into our Hall of Fame."

Jeff Mullins, Byron Dinkins, Henry Williams, Paula Bennett with Gene and Vickie Johnson are the inductees.

Jeff Mullins

Jeff Mullins was Charlotte's men's basketball coach and Director of Athletics for 11 years from 1985-1996.

During his tenure, the 49ers won three league titles, two conference tournaments, three NCAA and two NIT appearances.

He was named Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year in 1988 and Metro Conference Coach of the Year in 1995.

Mullins left Charlotte as the all-time winningest coach with a 182-142 record while also posting nine straight winning seasons.

Byron Dinkins

Byron Dinkins was coach Mullins' first recruit and was the hometown kid playing for the 49ers. Dinkins joined fellow Charlotte Athletics Hall of Famer Cedric Maxwell as the only two 49ers to win both league Player of the Year and Tournament MVP honors in the same season, doing so in the 1987-88 season.

Dinkins is one of only four Charlotte players to dish out more than 500 career assists with the program. He ended his career with 1,657 points averaging 15.5 points per game and 4.8 assists per game.

Dinkins was named third-team All-American by Basketball Weekly and fourth-team All-American by Basketball Times in 1987-88 while earning back-to-back AP Honorable Mention All-America honors in 1988 and 1989.

Henry Williams

Henry Williams left a remarkable legacy with Charlotte's men's basketball. His all-time scoring record still holds today at 2,383. He also has the record for most double-digit points games in 111 of his 118 games played as a 49er.

Williams was a three-time all-American, three-time First Team All-Conference selection, a Metro Conference Tournament MVP and a First Team Freshman All-American.

Williams will be honored posthumously after passing away in 2018. But despite him not being with us today, his legacy still lives on within the basketball program, with his jersey hanging from the rafters of Halton Arena and through his son Brice Williams who is a crucial player on the current Charlotte basketball team.

Paula Bennett

Charlotte's Paula Bennett is the first women's basketball player inducted into the Charlotte Athletics Hall of Fame. During her time as a 49er, Bennett set the program record for points with 2,078 and ranks second all-time for program rebounds with 1,301.

Bennett was with Charlotte from 1978-1982. During that time, the team wasn't playing with a conference affiliate, so she did not receive any conference honors. However, she was recognized as a First Team All-America in 1980 and named Honorable Mention All-America in 1981-82.

During her four years at Charlotte, she took the 49ers to their first four appearances in the NCAA IAW Div. II Tournament. She is one of four players to average a double-double in program history, and she has the school's third most steals with 265.

Gene and Vickie Johnson

Gene and Vickie Johnson are alums who have contributed their knowledge and resources to help build Charlotte's

athletics department into what it is today.

Their donations rank amongst the top five historical contributors to the athletic department.


They were instrumental in developing the Miltimore-Wallis Athletic Training and Academic Center/Hayward Memorial Practice Gym. The Johnsons donated to the construction of the Jerry Richardson Football Stadium and have contributed to the EverGreen Athletics Facility Master Vision.

They also have sponsored two athletic scholarships and an athletics development fund.


One of the projects they contributed to was Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band. The Johnsons led this project to help boost the atmosphere at their alma mater's football games.

When


The 2022 Charlotte Athletics Hall of Fame Class will have their induction ceremony in the fall of 2023. A specific date has yet to be confirmed.




2022 CHARLOTTE ATHLETICS
HALL OF FAME




PAULA BENNETT
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL




JEFF MULLINS
MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



BYRON DINKINS
MEN'S BASKETBALL



HENRY WILLIAMS
MEN'S BASKETBALL



GENE AND VICKIE JOHNSON
CONTRIBUTORS

The 2022 Charlotte athletics Hall of Fame class.
Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

Luke Johnson and Alex Willis reflect on careers with Charlotte men's soccer

by Jesse Morris
Staff Writer

As Charlotte men's soccer prepares to compete for the American Athletic Conference championship, an unfortunate reality begins to set in: some of those that helped achieve this moment will not return.

Graduate students Luke Johnson and Alex Willis have spent long years for the cause of the Green and White. Now, those days may yet be at an end.



Charlotte's Luke Johnson (3) during a game against FIU on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022
Photo by Chris Crews

Before Charlotte

Neither could remember a time before soccer was in their lives.

"[Soccer] is something my dad and I bond over a lot. It's given me so many opportunities. I've been able to come over here to the U.S. and study in college because of soccer. It means everything to me," said Willis.

In his native England, Willis played for

the Charlton Athletic Football Club of London. But, for Johnson, the road to Charlotte took him worldwide. In 2017, he went to Korea to represent New Zealand in the U20 World Cup.

"It was incredible. We were able to play against the best players in the world for my age. During the World Cup, and after, you sort of get to know what level it is [at], and you get very inspired by it," said Johnson.

Both players turned their eyes toward the U.S.

Willis would arrive in 2018. His freshman year at Northern Kentucky earned him Horizon League Freshman of the Year.

"It's always weird moving across the world to a place you've never been before [where] you don't know anyone, so [I was] apprehensive in terms of that," said Willis. "In terms of soccer, the style, the coaching – you don't quite know what it's going to be like because it's very different."

Johnson had no such apprehensions when he eyed joining the 49ers for his freshmen season in 2017.

"I did a lot of research before I came over and knew a lot of people who had done it. I moved away from home when I was 16, so I was already used to that life of being away from my family for longer periods of time," said Johnson.

On the 49er squad

With 205 NCAA Division I men's soccer teams to choose from, donning the Green and White took more than just on-paper metrics to convince the likes of Johnson and Willis. It took former Assistant Coach Jason Osborne.

"When I had my first interview with [Osborne]... I thought it was a good fit straight away," said Johnson. "[He was] a coach I got along with well, and I liked what he said the most."

According to Willis, Osborne got back in contact with him after his junior year.

"I spoke to [Osborne] again, originally when I came as a freshman, and when I transferred as a rising junior, he got back in contact," said Willis.

Since starting in 2017, Johnson's accolades as a defender speak for themselves. He was selected to the Third Team All-Conference USA (C-USA) in 2019, recorded 13 shutouts as a defender in 2018, and brought Charlotte to two NCAA Tournament appearances in both years.

"My favorite moment was NCAA round [one] versus Mercer in my junior year. We had a very good season that year and pushed onto the tournament. Being able to score an assist in that game was awesome," said Johnson.

Willis' tenure at Charlotte as a forward has been similarly productive. In 2020, he was named to the All-Conference USA First Team while earning the Region Wide All-Scholars honors with a 4.0 GPA in history. In addition, he played on the 2020-21 49er squad that went to the NCAA tournament at large and finished second in the C-USA.

His favorite moment came fighting against his old haunt, Northern Kentucky.

"In the Spring '21 season, we went away to Kentucky... we won in overtime," said Willis. "That was cool because I [lived] in Kentucky for two years, so people I knew

were there... just going back to see a few familiar faces and do that there."

Looking back

Nearing the 90-minute mark on their careers, Johnson looked back with pride on his time at Charlotte.

"I played a lot of games here... must be like 80-odd now... I've met a lot of great people from throughout America and all over the world. It's a shame that we didn't win a title earlier on, but everything else I wouldn't change," said Johnson.

For Willis, it was those he fought beside that had made the most significant impact – one that will linger long after their jerseys of Green and White pass into the pages of history.

"I've got mates from all over the world who I'm sure will all be at each other's weddings for years to come and be lifelong mates out of [being at Charlotte]," said Willis.



Charlotte's Alex Willis (9) celebrates during a game against UAB on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022
Photo by Chris Crews

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S SOCCER

Nov. 2: Charlotte 5, Temple 1

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Conference USA Championships:

Nov. 2: Charlotte 4, Rice 1

Nov. 4: Florida Atlantic 2, Charlotte 1

FOOTBALL

Nov. 5: Western Kentucky 59, Charlotte 7

VOLLEYBALL

Nov. 4: Charlotte 3, FIU 2

Nov. 6: Charlotte 3, Florida Atlantic 1

Protests are most powerful when joined with political action

by Jesse Morris
Staff Writer

On Oct. 14, a crew of religious fanatics arrayed themselves outside the student union to assert their thoughts. As a crowd formed in opposition, one student grabbed a flag and stood firm before the masses. It did not matter what their name was or why they were there. All that mattered was that they stood there, leaving a lasting impression on the cause they believed in.

Protest, considered a display of strength or power of one's cause to the public, is one of the oldest forms of political action. While direct political involvement is more effective, protest nonetheless remains essential. When combined with political action, protesting can demonstrate one's cause and bring it to the public's attention like no other method – giving that cause a greater chance for success than without any protest.

A history of protest

From the very founding of the nation, even before the republic itself, the act of protest was there. When the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act without colonial consent, American colonists rose in protest in the 1760s. Colonists created petitions, organized boycotts, and in some cases, acted violently. With no say in their overall government, protesting was the primary way to express discontent against the state.

Later, as the Republic began to face the significant issue of slavery, protesting became a vital part of political discourse. For example, when Congress enacted the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, Boston abolitionists petitioned, protested publicly, and organized to pressure public officials into opposing the laws.

More recently, the 20th-century civil rights movement sat upon the back of protest. There was the Montgomery Bus

Boycott, the Greensboro Sit-Ins that would spread nationwide, and the well-renowned March on Washington in 1963 that gave a face and vitality to the cause of the civil rights movement.

In the past year, protests against anti-abortion laws swept the country, from marching in the street to providing funds for affected individuals to receive treatment elsewhere.

The need for protest

In all those cases, protesting was not the driving force behind the eventual political results that one enjoys today. Instead, they were a magnifier.

As a republic, political change in the United States comes from concerted political action. Such action involves voting, running for office, going to

local party meetings, campaigning for candidates and forming political action committees to fundraise and support candidates. However, the effects of these actions are contingent upon the minds of the voting public.

Voting or running for office will not change minds but rather the visible aspect of protest that can excite the public toward action and strengthen the resolve of those already excited. Petitions, for example, may have limited impact. However, they show the strength behind a cause, and as votes matter to obtain electoral success, the deliberate and focused voices of 10 or 100 thousand can convince political leaders.

When coordinated, boycotts can pressure political leaders to act while evidencing the power – and perhaps

the importance – of one's cause. Public displays put a face to the cause and can provide a symbol to rally behind.

Those that succeed occur on a focused level, where individual voices matter more to local or regional leaders. For example, a million petitioners nationwide will not matter to local legislators, but a thousand in one city can matter when that many votes decide municipal elections.

As such, combined with political action to work the system and judicial action to regulate the system's activities, protest bolsters these efforts by adding and solidifying the most potent positive resource of all: people.

Your voice matters

If history shows one thing, it is that nothing is immutable.

There was a time when the idea of the people leading was unthinkable. At one point, the existence of the U.S. hung by a thread. The U.S. protected the rights of millions after the Civil War. Once people lost interest, it then allowed others to take them. The same happened just this year with the Dobbs case that overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Protest is a powerful amplifier and attention-grabber for one's cause. However, no matter how much one protests, it will do little without the strong arm of the people in elections and political action to back it up. With the general election on Nov. 8, the chance to lend that arm is here.

You have only one life to live. Do not let others decide the shape of your world. Do not let those that come tomorrow suffer because you did not stand today.



Student counter-protests of Puritan demonstration in front of Popp Martin Student Union
Photo by Jesse Morris

You should spend time exploring University City

by Sonia Birla
Contributor

Charlotte is a glamorous city. Between the hip streets of NoDa, the highrises of Uptown and the booming nightlife in South End, there is always plenty to explore. However, many UNC Charlotte students neglect the thriving neighborhood UNC Charlotte calls home. University City, as it is officially called, is a district filled with diverse small businesses, hiring employers, thousands of residents, a greenway over 14 miles long, and of course, our campus. The University is only a part, albeit an integral one, of this larger neighborhood we call home. So, Charlotte students should be more involved and explore University City further.

Jordan Harris is the Director of Community Development and Outreach at University City Partners (UCP). This organization works to be the economic, community and business development engine in this part of the city. She said

that UNC Charlotte is an anchor for educational and professional growth in University City. Employers come to this district for the fresh talent the University provides. Our 30,000 students ensure that thousands of people live, work and visit the neighborhood daily. Working for people affiliated with the University, as well as those that are not, UCP brings together community stakeholders and improves the district for everyone who interacts with it. Harris strives to make their neighborhood memorable and to create “smaller moments, and have people interact with the community in new ways.”

However, as they work towards their larger goal, a problem they are facing lies in the way UNC Charlotte interacts with the neighborhood: we don’t.

“Many students at UNC Charlotte don’t even know that this neighborhood is called University City,” Harris said.

When students spend an afternoon

by the lake with their Ninety’s shake in hand, when they spend too much money at Target, or when they trek to the Halal Cart at 1 a.m., they support University City and do not even know it. This is important because, as Harris said, this neighborhood is truly special. University City has the longest greenway in Mecklenburg County, has a wide range of diversity and is the second-largest employment center in Charlotte.

There are many reasons for students’ unfamiliarity with this neighborhood: a lack of accessibility, a car-heavy transport system and a sprawling suburban area. Furthermore, this neighborhood is not as flashy as the ones farther up the light rail, which are easier to characterize. You know when you are in NoDa or when you are in South End because those neighborhoods have a particular personality. University City is harder to distinguish.

Despite this, the point still stands.

Students should interact more with our immediate neighborhood. Harris and the rest of University City Partners are working to create a place for students and bring people off campus. There is a lot of room for Charlotte students to support the community on their own, engaging not just with the University but also with its lesser-known surrounding.

Whether that be the Vietnamese Student Association partnering with local boba vendors or Pre-Med students working with Atrium Health, we should be more involved within our neighborhood. As residents of University City, Charlotte students have the power to help bring about local growth. Even more than that, on an individual level, students can and should explore this neighborhood. Take the light rail to JW Clay Blvd. Station and explore. Get to know the streets and shops, bike down the greenway, volunteer closer to home, and remember, you are in University City.

Requiring students to provide doctor’s notes is unhealthy

by Jessica Danesi
Opinion Editor

For a professor to mark a student’s absence as excused, the professor typically requires the student to provide proof, such as an obituary when a relative passes or a doctor’s note if they feel sick. However, not everyone will be able to receive a note for their ailment, either due to not having access to a doctor or for their issue not meeting the requirements for one. Therefore, students should not be required to give a doctor’s note to their professor for their absence to be excused.

Some students lack access to a physician. While UNC Charlotte requires students to have health insurance, many students’ health care providers are in their hometown, not Charlotte. In addition, based on a student’s schedule or how ill they are, they may not be able to attend an appointment. While we

have medical resources on campus, they cannot help students get excused from class. According to the Student Health Center’s website, the center “does not provide class excuse letters for routine illnesses or injuries.”

Furthermore, requiring students to give a doctor’s note when they do not feel they can come to class invalidates mental health issues. Often, you will not receive a note from a general physician for needing a day to take care of your mental health. Usually, receiving a note from your doctor requires an actual appointment with them, which is not always the case when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. Some individuals who struggle with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues are prone to feeling depressed on occasion and consequently cannot attend class when that happens.

Mental illness is not less significant than physical illness.

Moreover, when someone is ill, their focus should be on healing themselves so they can return to their best self as soon as possible. This is the fastest way for a student to return to the classroom. Adding extra stressors such as reaching out to all of their professors immediately and having to contact their physician would only slow things down for them.

Many professors necessitate a doctor’s note. They want to verify that students are not skipping class because they would rather do something else. However, a professor needs to trust their students the same way students trust their professors. Leniency can be a virtue in this case. If a student consistently does not attend many class periods, that may be cause

for concern and worth investigating. But before that becomes the case, it would be beneficial for professors to trust their students to be responsible. As college students, we pay to attend school and pursue our desired majors and career paths. Many students value their education and want to make the most of their time here, including attending class to learn the material and earn good grades.

All things considered, students should not be required to provide their professor with a doctor’s note to qualify their absence as excused. Instead, their priority when they are sick should be to focus on their healing. As long as not attending class is not a consistent issue for a student, professors should be able to trust them to monitor their responsibilities and health.

Album review: 'Midnights (3am Edition)'

by James Levison
Staff Writer

The last time I listened to Taylor Swift was in middle school. I had not stayed up-to-date with her music until I bought "Midnights." Regardless, I was interested in the album (primarily due to its name), and I went in with some expectations. After listening to the album, I would say that it met my expectations to some degree but left much to be desired.

My primary expectation was that the album would have a dreamy vibe that one would typically associate with midnight. My associations with midnight are tranquility and creativity. To some degree, "Midnights" does embody these associations, especially with songs such as "Lavender Haze," "Maroon" and "Snow on the Beach."

"Lavender Haze" is a dreamy song named after a phrase that means "to be in love." This phrase was coined by the show "Mad Men." The breathy vocals in the chorus represent the sigh of a romantic, and the instrumentals perfectly complement the song's mood.

"Maroon" is a song wrought with imagery that makes you want to lie in bed and close your eyes as your mind paints vivid images of the lyrics. One lyric that stood out to me in this respect was, "Carnations that you thought were roses, that was us." It instantly made me think of the meanings associated with both flowers, passionate love and true love. This song is a sensual dream that pulls the listener in with soft instrumentals.

"Snow on the Beach" is in my top spot for the best song in this album. It uses its calm instrumentals and low vocals to create a wistful atmosphere that makes one instantly think of snow. It also fits very well with the dreamy vibe created by "Lavender Haze" and "Maroon."

However, some songs conflicted with

these dreamy vibes, such as "Vigilante Shit" and "You're On Your Own, Kid." When it comes to "Vigilante Shit," the vocals are powerful and have a certain sense of danger within them that moves the listener and pumps them up, but the instrumentals do not do them any justice. They are very low and reserved, contrasting the confident and energetic nature of the lyrics, making the song more underwhelming than it should be. In "You're On Your Own, Kid," the main problem lies in the transitions between the verses and chorus. The instrumentals and verses work to build suspense, but the transition to the chorus is underwhelming. I love the lyrics in this song, but the suspense leads the listener on and kills the song's vibe in the process.

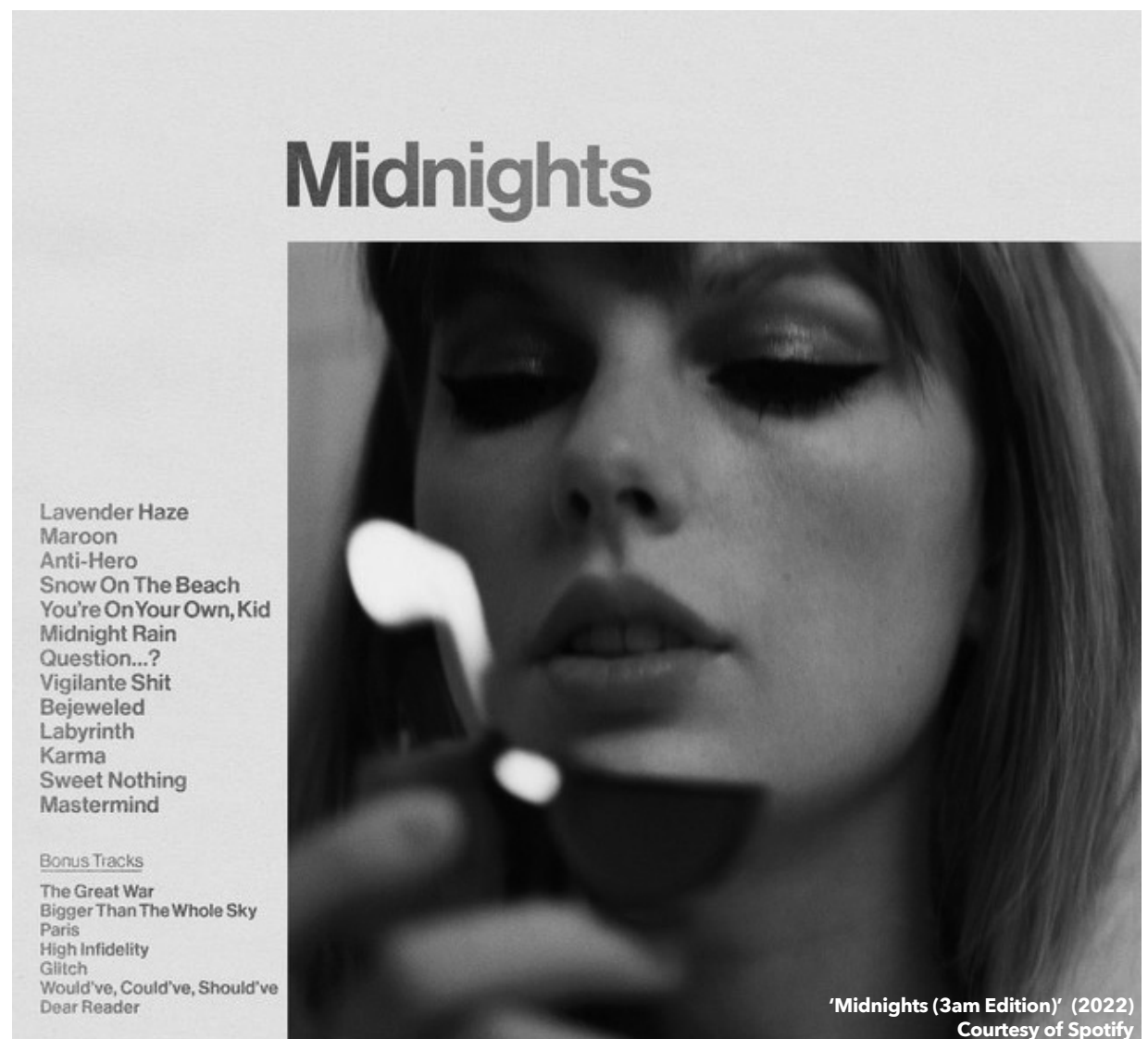
Since I bought "Midnights (3am Edition)," I got seven extra songs with the original thirteen. Unfortunately, most of the songs in the "Midnights (3am Edition)" had the same problem as songs in the original edition; they were underwhelming and needed to fit better with the midnight theme. There are some good songs

among the seven bonus songs, such as "Paris," "High Infidelity" and "Dear Reader," that I felt would have fit the theme better. However, the rest of the songs were underwhelming, with only a few good qualities, like the last minute and a half of "Would've, Could've, Should've."

If there is one phrase that can summarize "Midnights," it would be "weird but beautiful." Although many

songs were underwhelming, some had potential. Some songs are just fine, with no good or bad qualities to write home about. A couple of songs I did like embodied the theme of midnight rather well and were compelling. This album is not the best, but there are some gems that are worth listening to.

Rating: 6/10



Event recap: College of Arts + Architecture hosts Fall Dance Concert

by Cat Beck
Staff Writer

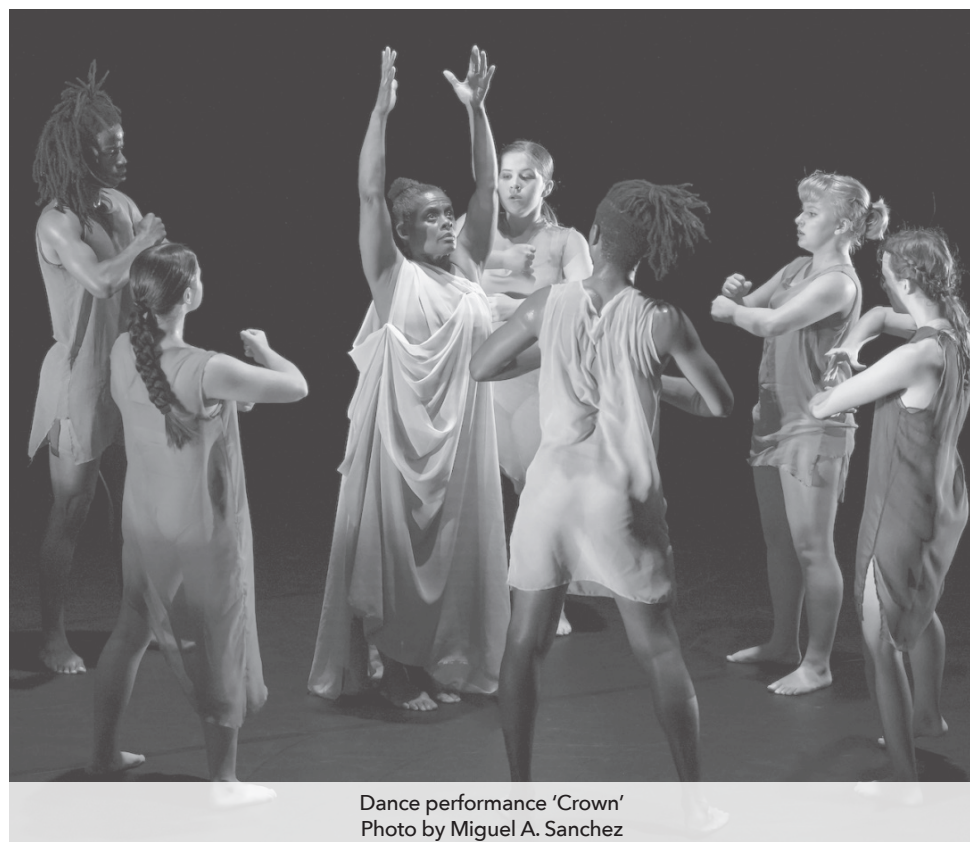
Part of the magic of the performing arts comes from being in the same physical space as the performers, something we take for granted in an age when the arts often are experienced remotely. Watching live dance taps into the deeply human experience of expression through movement, forming a connection between the audience and performers. As someone with little experience with dance, I found the Fall Dance Concert refreshing in a way I did not expect.

This year's Fall Concert featured five pieces: one choreographed by a student, another by a guest artist and the rest by faculty.

The first piece, "Crown," choreographed by guest artist Rosangela Silvestre, was the most abstract of the five. It made bold choices at every turn, forgoing music, using the dancers' breathing as an auditory element and

even having the dancers speak at several points. The program's description of the piece is a fairly high-concept endeavor, saying it was "created through conversations and reflections about gestures and movements expressed by the symbolic significance of intercultural connections." Unusual as it sounds, "Crown" was a fitting and enjoyable opening piece. As a stranger to the world of dance, I found the way this piece defied my expectations to be very freeing. I could set aside what I thought dance was and embrace the experience of watching people use their bodies expressively. This enhanced the experience of the rest of the concert and made me question my preconceptions about dance.

The second piece, entitled "Tonight Again, The Wind Brushes the Stars," was more conventional, and from this point forward, the rest of the concert



Dance performance 'Crown'
Photo by Miguel A. Sanchez



Dance performance 'Under the Umbrellas: El Huracán'
Photo by Miguel A. Sanchez

used music. There were three sections, each accompanied by a musical piece with a wide range of moods. Behind the dancers, a screen displayed glowing shapes drifting across the stage. I initially found this distracting, but before long, it blended seamlessly into the motion taking place onstage.

The third piece, "Diamond Desert," is described in the program as an exploration of "patterns of stolen land, the displacement of residents and colonization and gentrification both nationally and locally." The themes of struggle and alienation were tangible in the movement of the dancers. Each section differed in choice of music, background and, of course, the dance itself, but it all came together to create an underlying, tonal idea.

The fourth piece, "Iya Axé," was a brief contemporary work "inspired by Indigenous traditions that come from the Yoruba nation and Caboclos of present-day Brazil." Tamara Williams, associate professor and choreographer of the piece, has studied and written

extensively on African-Brazilian dance and her passion for the culture, evident from the choreography style and the vibrant costuming. Finally, the concert closed with a three-part piece by student choreographer Arelys Duran Llorens called "Under the Umbrellas: El Huracán." This piece had the most concrete premise of the five; it celebrated the people and culture of Puerto Rico and their resilience in the face of frequent hurricanes. Umbrellas suspended from the ceiling were used as both scenery and props, and the costumes boasted the colors of the Puerto Rican flag. From its energetic opening to its heavy but hopeful ending, "Under the Umbrellas: El Huracán" was profoundly moving and stunningly creative.

Overall, I had no idea what to expect from a dance concert, but I was delighted by the experience. I gained a new respect for the art form, and the next time the dance department performs, I would encourage anyone in a similar position to go.

Concert recap: Jake Scott performs at The Fillmore

by Bethany Ivan
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

Fans visited The Fillmore to see pop singer Jake Scott perform live on his Lavender Tour. Scott kicked off his tour in San Diego on Oct. 15 and traveled to Charlotte on Oct. 26 to perform at the venue. Before going on tour, the singer explained in an earlier interview with the Niner Times that he “played in Charlotte three different times, and it might be his favorite city in America to play in” and “the people who are there in Charlotte just love music. That’s always such an energetic crowd.”

Brynn Cartelli, winner of season 14 of “The Voice,” opened for Scott. Cartelli played guitar and sang acoustic versions of her songs titled “Last Night’s Mascara,” “Gemini,” “If I Could” and her newly released single, “Girl Code.” Cartelli also beautifully sang a cover of Kings of Leon’s song, “Use Somebody.”

Singer Sam MacPherson was the second opener of the show. With an electric guitar in hand, MacPherson sang songs such as “Forget I Exist,” “Crash Course” and “Last Minute.” MacPherson invited the audience to sing along, and they echoed back the lyrics from “How Do You Dress for the Rain?”

As the openers exited the stage and the audience patiently waited for Scott, fans sang along to the music playing at the Fillmore, such as Taylor Swift’s “Blank Space.”

As the lavender lights shined and the smoke on the stage had cleared, Scott appeared on stage. The crowd cheered as Scott opened with his songs “CWJBHN (Can We Just Be Happy Now),” “Texas Girl” and “She Likes It.” The singer soaked up all of the audience’s positive energy and started to dance on stage as the fans echoed every lyric back to him.

Throughout the performance, Scott expressed his love for his wife Rachel, proclaiming that he “will never stop writing songs about his wife,” with the crowd swooning as he sang “She” from “Year of the Sunflower.”

Scott continued to showcase his talent and passion for music as he played his acoustic guitar or played the piano for some of his songs and slowed down the night singing, “Working For You” and a cover of Taylor Swift’s song, “All Too Well,” which he invited the fans to sing along and eventually started to scream the lyrics at the top of their lungs.

Scott even lets his fans in on a little secret: He is releasing a new album, and we were able to hear one of his new songs, “Lavender” live. He played one new song after another, and the crowd went wild.

Scott broke out his electric guitar and invited the audience to sing along to “She’s Not You.”


The singer started winding down his performance with three songs and with the fans singing along to every lyric to his recently released song, “Good Day,” where he encouraged his fans to put their hands up and sway them from side to side. He ran off stage and into the crowd to sing the rest of the song. He slowed it down with his song, “Tuesdays,” and ended the night with fan-favorite, “Favorite T-Shirt.”

The concert was such a surreal experience and the energy in the room from both Scott and the audience was so energetic. I was blown away by the performance, and the amount of talent that the singers held, and every song that Scott, Cartelli and MacPherson performed was enchanting. They even had me singing along to the songs or screaming the lyrics at the top of my lungs. After the show, I had to stream all three of the artists’ songs immediately.

Overall, it was not only a night to remember but also a “Good Day.” Thankfully, I did not just have an amazing experience, but I now have another favorite T-Shirt.




Jake Scott at The Fillmore in Charlotte
Photo by Jacob Scannell




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Jake Scott at The Fillmore in Charlotte
Photo by Jacob Scannell

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