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INCOMPLETE HEALTH CHECKS LOCK OUT STUDENTS P.4

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NINERTIMES

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Oct. 27, 2020
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Madison Dobrzanski
editor@ninertimes.com

EDITORIAL

Olivia Lawless MANAGING EDITOR
Tyler Trudeau COMMUNITY EDITOR
Megan Bird NEWS EDITOR
Hiral Patel OPINION EDITOR
Julianna Peres LIFESTYLE EDITOR
Anders Hare A&E EDITOR
Bradley Cole SPORTS EDITOR
Max Young COPY EDITOR
Niyathi Sulkunte PHOTO EDITOR
María Solano VIDEO EDITOR
Nic Jensen LAYOUT EDITOR

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Milo Cain, April Carte, Jessica Ceballos, Emily Kottak, Beth McGuire, Brandon Mitchell, Miles Ruder, and Reuben Sanchez

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Sam Perry, Likhita Yegireddi, and Gabe Lapalombella

COVER IMAGE

James Levison

NEWSROOM 705.687.7150
NINERTIMES.COM/STAFF
TWITTER @NINER_TIMES

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Abram Shaw
mktdirector@uncc.edu

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

James Bourke
production@uncc.edu

MARKETING STAFF

Ridge Grant and Luisana Gonzalez



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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE
Kelly Merges NINER MEDIA ADVISER
Laurie Cuddy BUSINESS MANAGER
Joshua Wood GRAPHICS & PRODUCTION

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POLICE BLOTTER

10/21: Officers received a phone call at the Police & Public Safety Department, in reference to a Harassment report.

10/21: Officers responded to Lot 20 in reference to a larceny of a bicycle.

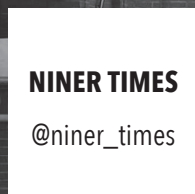
10/22: Officers responded to a parking lot, in reference to a subject that fell off their skateboard.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte



NEWS

Niner Health check yourself

1,400 lose NinerNET access after incomplete Niner Health Checks

by Kathryn Caudill, Staff Writer
Drew Young, Intern

This fall, COVID-19 has prevented many schools around the country from holding in-person classes. This was true for UNC Charlotte until the week of Sept. 28, when on-campus residents were able to move in for the fall semester. Classes that relied heavily on in-person instruction (such as labs) made up the majority of classes that would start in October.

To monitor those who attend UNC Charlotte classes and spend time on campus, UNC Charlotte officials have enacted daily Niner Health Checks. These daily surveys are sent out to UNC Charlotte students and staff every day of the week to help students and staff monitor symptoms associated with the virus. While the emails do state the surveys are “not intended for

the diagnosis or treatment of disease or other conditions, including COVID-19,” it is a tool for the University to assist their students in combating the spread of the virus.

If the health checks are not regularly completed, reminders will be sent asking you to take the assessment as soon as possible. If after 20 days, the health check is still not done, your NinerNET credentials will be temporarily suspended until action is taken. This prevents access to University email, Canvas and all other systems using NinerNet credentials.

Of the UNC Charlotte community, 1,400 had credentials suspended during the week of Oct. 12. As of Oct. 22, 145 people have their credentials suspended. These numbers

change daily depending on who has or has not responded to the checks after 20 days.

To restore one's NinerNet credentials a link will be sent to either the personal email or text number the University has on file for you once the credentials are attempted for use. The link will then walk you through how to restore the credentials.

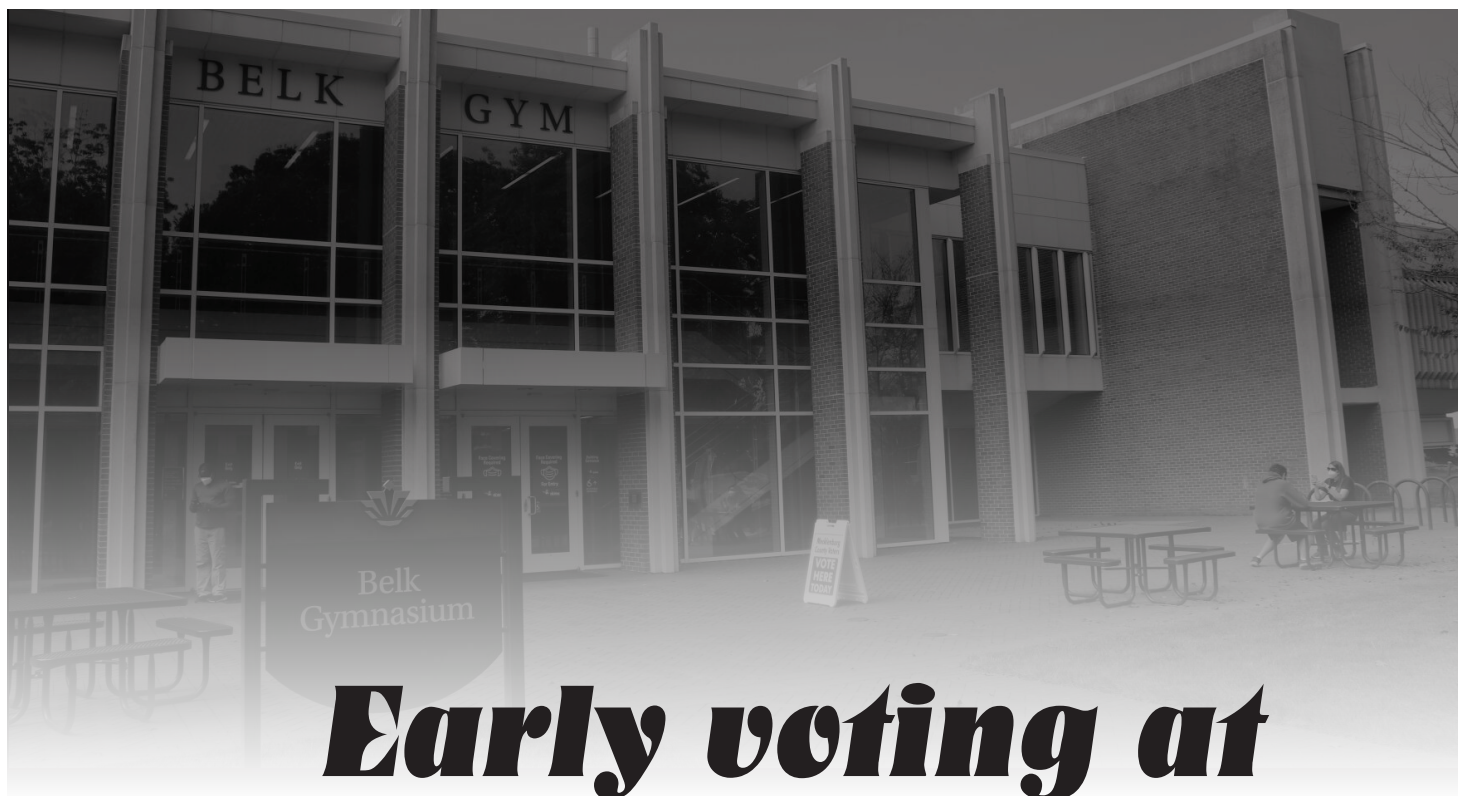
The loss of credentials will prevent both students and staff from attending/hosting classes as well as checking emails or assignments. Faculty have been instructed to alert their class if they lose credentials. Students should consult with their professors to make up missed assignments or class.

In a press release, UNC Charlotte stated, “Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve a student of any course requirement. Regular class attendance is a student's obligation, as is a responsibility for all the work of class meetings, including tests and written tasks. Any unexcused absence or excessive tardiness may result in a loss of participation points.”

An exemption form for the daily check can be filled out for anyone on an extended leave or who lives outside a 30 mile radius from campus to avoid the loss of credentials.



Niner Health Check sign outside UREC, photo by Niyathi Sulkunte



Early voting at Belk Gym

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

The on-campus voting site will be open from Oct. 15 to Oct. 31

Belk Gym entrance
Photo by James Levison

Belk Gym has been designated as an early voting site, open from Oct. 15 through Oct. 31. Residents in the Mecklenburg County area can register to vote and vote all in one day at any early voting site.

Early voting in Belk Gym takes place at 8 a.m. and closes at 7:30 p.m. every day. On Oct. 31, voting will end at 3 p.m. Election official Leslie Haley says that there is an average of 45 minutes during the busiest times of the day.

A curbside voting option is also available at UNC Charlotte near Belk Gym in Lot 7. Voters will be given a folder with their ballot inside which they must complete in front of an election official. Voters can also cast their mail-in ballots at this location.

According to Charlotte City Council member Braxton Winston, 35,269 ballots were cast on the first day of early voting in Mecklenburg County.

In order to register and vote on the same day, individuals must provide proof of residency. According to the Early Voting website on 49er Democracy, proof can be shown in two ways. If you are a student at

UNC Charlotte living on campus, you can show the UNC Charlotte housing website with your dorm room assignment and your student ID. If you are living off-campus, you can provide a lease agreement, a North Carolina driver's license or photo ID, a utility bill, a bank statement, or a government document with the your name and address. Note that identification is not needed to vote—just to register.

Parking is free for voters and is located in Lot 7. Parking officials will direct traffic and limit UNC Charlotte students and employees from using the space. Vehicles will be towed if parked in the reserved areas of Lot 7 after 5 a.m.

Individuals can find information regarding early voting off-campus on the North Carolina State Board of Elections website. This website gives a breakdown of how the early voting process will work off-campus and how individuals can vote in person or by mail.

Voters can confirm their registration status and view a sample ballot using this voting search tool.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections website, polling sites are taking several safety precautions against COVID-19 including social distancing, providing hand sanitizer and masks for those who don't have any, equipping election workers with gloves and face shields, installing barriers at the check-in desks, providing single use pens, having volunteers that are readily available to clean high-contact surfaces throughout the day, as well as recruiting poll workers that are less susceptible to the virus.

Haley added that at Belk Gym in particular, after the voter has left their station the area will be sanitized by one of the 12 cleaning people. There are sanitizing stations located throughout the building where people are voting.

For those who prefer to vote on election day, polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m.



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'THE MANDALORIAN'

SEASON 2: HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

Season two has limitless opportunities to improve on everything since season one.

by Jack Hale
Intern

Season one of "The Mandalorian" did something that seemed impossible at the time: unite "Star Wars" fans. Both casual and hardcore fans, and "Disney" lovers and haters loved it. Season one did an incredible job at mixing elements that the diehard fans would enjoy such as the many easter eggs and callbacks to previous shows, and entertaining action set pieces for the casual viewer. With the highly anticipated season two premiering on "Disney Plus" on Oct. 30, here is a recap of season one and what you could expect in season two.

At the end of season one, Din Djarin (The Mandalorian) is tasked by The Armorer to find and give The Child (Baby Yoda) back to its people, the Jedi. Presumably joined by Greef Karga and Cara Dune, this will most likely be the main storyline of season two. Fans like myself who have watched the other "Star Wars" TV series "Star Wars The Clone Wars" and "Star Wars Rebels," are extremely excited to see Moff Gideon return and hopefully learn how he obtained the darksaber. The last shot of the season shows Gideon exiting his crashed TIE Fighter by cutting through the metal with the darksaber. The aforementioned shows had multiple storylines talking about the darksaber, with Darth Maul, Sabine Wren, and Bo-Katan Kryze being previous holders of the saber. Many fans are hoping to learn how Gideon obtained the saber, as it is extremely important to Mandalorian culture and history and to see how Djarin might react to a non-Mandalorian holding the treasured saber.

Fans are also hoping to find out more about Yoda's species. The end of the first episode in season one, which showed The Child, was arguably the most surprising reveal in "Star Wars" since finding out that Darth Vader is Luke's father. We know virtually nothing about Yoda's species. No name or planet has ever been canonically

mentioned. We have only seen three of that species; Yoda, The Child, and Yaddle, who was a High Jedi Council member in "The Phantom Menace." Since there was no new information about the species in season one, it seems likely that there will be something we learn about this mysterious race. Moff Gideon's interest in The Child is another very exciting storyline many fans can't wait to see. As we saw in season one, The Child was highly sought after, with its importance left unknown. Many theories are surrounding this mystery, a popular one having something to do with cloning. The Client's assistant in season one had a Kamino cloning patch on his sleeve, which was a very interesting inclusion. Nonetheless, be ready to learn why so many people are after The Child.

As with almost all "Star Wars" projects, there were countless rumors of characters from other shows or movies that will appear in season two. The biggest rumor, and the most likely is Ahsoka Tano. She is a fan-favorite character from "Star Wars The Clone Wars," "Star Wars Rebels," and had a voice appearance in "The Rise of Skywalker." There are many connections to her appearing in season two, as Djarin is set to return The Child to Jedi, many speculate that he could give The Child to Ahsoka so that she could train him. Dave Filoni, a producer, writer and director of all four canon "Star Wars" TV shows has a strong bond with Ahsoka. He has said on

multiple occasions that he hopes Ahsoka could turn up in live-action "Star Wars" and being that he is an executive producer on "The Mandalorian" it is very likely that he at least pitched her showing up.

Boba Fett, Ezra Bridger, Thrawn and many other characters have also been rumored to make an appearance this season. It is important to take a pinch of salt with these rumors as neither "Lucasfilm" nor "Disney" has made an official announcement of any of these characters returning. I am personally not a fan of characters from other projects coming into "The Mandalorian." What made the first season great is the uniqueness. Aside from a planet and some species, it was almost

completely brand new material. It made the "Star Wars" universe feel very large, like it should. If we see outside characters coming in, it can make the universe feel quite small because these characters continue to run into each other. However, it all depends on how it is handled. As all fans should, I have complete trust in whatever Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni do.



Image courtesy of Lenex Web

OCT 15TH - OCT 31

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October 15th through October 31st we can early vote and register on the same day.

If you want to register to vote during this period, bring a photo ID OR a utility bill, bank statement or paycheck with your name and current address on it.

You can also cast your ballot on Election Day, Nov 3rd. To make your plan to vote visit ncvoter.org - decide where, when, with who, and how you will make your voice heard.



A RISING STAR

After long journey to college, Charlotte freshman Louise Lounes makes impact

by Amanda Olson
Intern

Louise Lounes does not fall short of reeling in remarkable success. Although just beginning her career as a 49er, the freshman has been a force on Charlotte's women's cross country team.

Lounes' cross country career has been in the making for several years.

At the start of her journey, it was Lounes' mom who peaked her interest in the sport. Together they started running, sharing quite the admirable bond with each other and the sport itself.

Come seventh grade, Lounes tried out for the cross country team, enjoying it for the fun aspect. Not knowing what the future would hold, she was just happy to be making her mom proud.

When it came time for the next level, thankfully her sister Cici didn't want to be the only Lounes sister trying out for the high school team. So she convinced Lounes to give it her best shot alongside her. Wanting to continue the tradition for her family, Lounes gave it a go. Little did she know at the time how much the sport would come to mean for her.

Originally becoming a runner from family efforts, Lounes' freshman year in high school was when she realized this running gig was something she wanted to do for herself.

Pushing herself harder each day, Lounes grew to know this sport was something she wanted to do for the rest of her life. Keeping her on her toes, Lounes noted that "it brings me joy and a sense of accomplishment that I can be proud of."

"Cross country is woven into the fabric of my life," said Lounes. "I couldn't imagine my life without it."

Throughout all four years of high school, Lounes had the opportunity to attend States with her cross country team. Junior year and Senior year, Lounes' team took

home the gold, declaring themselves state champions.

"It was fun because we were all running for each other, like a family destined to achieve something big," said Lounes.

Senior year proved to be Lounes' toughest task as she endured grueling setbacks. After just 2 weeks of being back from a hip injury, she then faced a stress fracture, leaving her on the bench that much longer.

Destined to overcome the hardships thrown her way, Lounes jumped back into the swing of things, putting in the hard work day and night. She was determined to let nothing stop her from achieving a fantastic senior season.

Kicking it into high gear, Lounes dropped her personal record from 20:10 at junior year states, to 19:16 at senior year states. Lounes embodied a tremendous bounceback, proving her worth.

As the recruitment process began, Lounes was very honored to hear from Charlotte. From her very first visit she says "It felt very genuine here to me." She believed that with being here at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, everything would fall into place wonderfully.

Loving the guidance from Coach Lynn and his goals for this team, she knew this was the place for her.

She was ready to take on a whole new set of challenges, to be pushed into being an outstanding runner. "I was prepared to be ambitious and competitive."

Charlotte has had two meets thus far and Lounes has proved to be a crucial element to the team. The first meet was held at Appalachian State University where the team placed 2nd overall. The second meet was the Louisville Classic, in Kentucky, where the team placed 6th overall.

At Appalachian State, Lounes placed 5th overall and 2nd for the team. She dropped

her personal record to 18:01.

At the Louisville Classic, Lounes placed 21st overall and 1st for the team. This meet, she dropped her personal record all the way down to 17:35, making it the best PR of her cross country career thus far.

Dropping almost 2 minutes in a year, Lounes has really been showing how much she is capable of improving. Her hard work and dedication to the team is really paying off.

Although COVID-19 is preventing a lot of the world from experiencing activities, especially in the world of sports, Lounes is just taking each day, one step at a time. While taking precautions, she is using the available resources she has to get the work done for the team.

"Nothing can stop me from running, not even a pandemic," said Lounes. "I find running to be keeping me healthy during these nightmare of days."

Throughout the next four years, Lounes hopes to continue running her heart out with the desires to go professional one day. She is going to work on accomplishing her goals of breaking her PR meet after meet.

Her end goal is to break 16:30 for her new PR. With practice and dedication, she knows she can get there.

While the benefits of the hard work are shifting into action, Lounes just hopes to continue inspiring the team. She wants to be a positive influence for her teammates into achieving their goals, all while having fun in the process.

"It's pretty ambitious, but if I can dream it, I can do it," said Lounes. "Nothing is impossible."



Louise Lounes runs in a meet.
Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics.

BATTLE OF THE PICKAXE

FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM CHARLOTTE'S FIRST HOME WIN OF THE YEAR

by Miles Ruder
Assistant Sports Editor

Pickaxe Courtesy of
Guvnor Co from the Noun Project

After two games were cancelled earlier in the year, the Charlotte 49ers finally got to play their first home game of the 2020 season as they hosted UTEP. As both teams have pickaxes in their logo, the battle of the pickaxe was alive and well. Charlotte beat the Miners 38-28.

With the win, Charlotte moves to 2-2 on the season and 2-1 record in conference play. Here are five takeaways from Charlotte's home victory.

No. 5 came ready to play

Whether it was Aaron McAllister or Tyler Murray, both players who wear the number five came ready to play in Charlotte's home opener. In his first home game as a 49er, Murray earned his second interception as a Niner and almost took it back for a touchdown before being tackled inside the 10-yard line. Murray, who finished with three tackles, nearly had his second interception of the day in the fourth quarter but the ball was just out of reach.

Following the interception from Murray, the offense was set up to score and they did off a seven-yard run from McAllister. Later in the game with Charlotte leading by 10, McAllister continued his great performance by scoring his second touchdown of the day from 36 yards out, the longest play of the game. McAllister finished the game with 68 yards rushing and two touchdowns, his second consecutive game with two scores.

Slow start for the offense

Entering the game, UTEP was ranked as a top-20 defense in terms of yards and points allowed. This made it difficult for Charlotte to move the ball in the opening quarter. Over the first three drives, the 49ers gained only 24 yards on 11 plays, one of which was a seven-yard touchdown from McAllister. In the first quarter alone,



Charlotte's Victor Tucker catches the ball against UTEP on Oct. 24. Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics.

Charlotte recorded only 22 yards of total offense and had one first down. Charlotte finished the first half with 103 yards of offense but 79 of those yards came in the final possession of the half for the Niners.

The spread offense worked to perfection

Outside of the first three possessions, the Charlotte offense showed the potential it has this season by scoring on five of their next seven possessions. Under Will Healy, the 49ers like to run the spread offense, which is meant to be even in terms of yards gained from passing and running the ball and that is exactly how Charlotte played against UTEP. Chris Reynolds threw for 185 yards and two touchdowns, his second straight game with multiple touchdowns and zero turnovers.

When it comes to the running game, McAllister led the way with 68 but it wasn't just him who contributed to the stellar running performance. The 49ers

had six players, including McAllister, who ran for double digits, which included 31 from Chavon McEachern and 15 from Tre Harbison. Charlotte likes to run the ball and do it well, which they did by gaining 144 yards on the ground off 35 carries.

Defense stepped up in the second half

Before both teams started trading touchdowns in the final four possessions of the game, the Charlotte defense really stepped up and were at their best all season. UTEP turned the ball over on their two opening possessions due to miscommunication and good defense from the 49ers. Gavin Hardison threw his second interception of the day by over-throwing his receiver who stopped on his route. The next possession for the Miners had the same result as Deion Haskins fumbled on the first play of the drive. The Miners were held to less than four minutes of possession in the third quarter which allowed Charlotte to

extend their lead.

After a punt and UTEP trailing by 10, the Miners were desperate to score and went for it on fourth down, but the 49ers held strong and forced a turnover on downs. The Charlotte offense took advantage of the mistakes from the Miners by scoring 14 points off these turnovers in the second half. This proved to be costly for UTEP as the 49ers held at least a 10-point lead for the rest of the game after these turnovers.

Perfect in the red zone

One stat that is often underappreciated is how well a team performs when they get inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Last week, Charlotte was perfect inside the red-zone, going 5-for-5. The Niners continued to play well in the red-zone as they went 4-for-4 against UTEP, which included three touchdowns and one field goal. This is mostly due to the experience and leadership from quarterback, Chris Reynolds. On one drive in the red zone, Reynolds scooped the ball off the ground off a low snap, avoided pressure and threw a perfect pass to Cameron Dollar for a 10-yard touchdown.

These are the kinds of plays that will be crucial when playing against better opponents like Duke or Marshall later in the season. Charlotte will have to continue their success in the red zone if they want to continue their winning streak.

Charlotte will have a tough task this week as they play at Duke on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m.



HALLOWEEN ORIGINS AND DEBUNKING MONSTER MYTHS

by Julianna Peres, Lifestyle Editor
Emily Kottak, Asst. Features Editor

Spider and webimage by Nadiinko
via iconfinder.com



For those of us who thrive in chilly, autumn air, who wait year-round for apple cider or watch “The Nightmare Before Christmas” on a loop, Halloween is truly the best time of the year. Pumpkins and cheesy decorations cover entire front lawns. Fake cemetery plots and folks dressed up as vampires wander the streets. This is a holiday that many of us take at face value. Of course, there are always the parents who complain that Halloween is a thinly veiled ploy to turn their kids into Satanists, but other than that, we don’t really think about the origins of Halloween.

Samhain (pronounced sa-win) means “summer’s end.” It is the festival that the Celtic people from across the land would celebrate in honor of the beginning of the Celtic New Year. This is also when all of the crops would be harvested and stored for the snowy winter. Samhain is called the fire festival because of the huge bonfires around which people would gather to dance and talk. The supernatural aspect of Samhain comes from the divide between this plane of existence and the Otherworld. The veil between life and death was said to thin on this day and allow spirits to be seen by the naked eye.

The bonfires, however, were not just for a sense of community. There were several sacrifices made of crops and livestock throughout the three days of Samhain festivities. So this is where we get the vampires, werewolves and ghosts. But where did trick-or-treating come from?

Fairies, poltergeists, elves and other fabled creatures are notorious for playing pranks. During Samhain, the weird was widespread.

Everyone accepted the strange sounds, moving objects, and lost items as a part of the festivities. But, the human tricksters of the community took this opportunity to play their own tricks, all while blaming it on supernatural beings.

The Druids also took the opportunity to dress up. Their costumes were animal skins and scraps of mismatched fabric that allowed the humans to blend in with the spirits. Unfortunately, there was no candy to pass around. Instead, they ate fresh fruit and baked goods.

The most common treat for children was apples. Especially during the Roman celebration of Feralia, kids would bob for apples in honor of the goddess Pomona. Feralia made many practices popular that we continue to participate in during Halloween. However, Feralia wasn’t meant to be fun. It was originally held to make offerings to the gods, particularly the gods who controlled the dead’s passage into the Underworld. In this way, Feralia was more like Latin America’s Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) than North America’s All Hallows Eve.

Ever since most of us were children, we have been aware of some of the superstitions and legends that surround Halloween. However, while many of these urban legends are exciting or chilling, many of them are just myths.

The myth that a child’s Halloween candy was potentially poisonous was especially popular in the 1980s when someone put cyanide in the Tylenol on store shelves. Though this incident was unrelated to Halloween, it caused many parents to fear. I can speak from personal experience that before

digging into my candy after trick-or-treating, my parents would sift through it and briefly look it all over just to make sure there was nothing off about it. While this is a myth, it is still a good idea to make sure the candy that children are receiving comes in a sealed, unopened wrapper.

Black cats seem to be a staple of Halloween. For a long time, black cats have been seen as objects of superstition. In Medieval France and Spain, black cats were considered to bring bad luck to any humans they encountered and were seen as a symbol of witchcraft. The reality is that black cats are no different than any other color cat. However, just because the cats themselves are not dangerous or frightening, does not mean that those who interact with them are not. Around Halloween time, many animal shelters choose not to adopt black cats in order to prevent irresponsible pet owners from taking one home. This is because some satanic groups use black cats for sacrifices during satanic rituals. While it is highly unlikely that a satanic worshipper will abduct your pet cat, it is a good idea to keep your pets inside on Halloween due to increased traffic and busy streets.

Vampires, mummies, and zombies seem to always make an appearance on Halloween whether it is through your front porch decorations or on your TV screen Halloween night. Vampire legends have been popular even since before the Twilight series. Dracula, the fictional monster, is considered the most famous vampire of all time. Some historians think that a real person, Vlad III a Roman medieval prince was also known as Dracula. Although this “real”

Dracula probably did not drink people’s blood, he was vicious and had the horrifying habit of impaling his enemies with sharp stakes.

The practice of mummification began in Egypt and is the process of preserving the body after death. Since mummies are real, ancient and once-living people, the question often arises of why they are associated with Halloween. Mummies have been featured in books and films since 1903. Though mummies are wrapped in bandages and have been dead for thousands of years, they still resemble a human being. This has led to sensationalist movies about mummies and their possibility of coming back to life. Though we know this is not possible, Halloween is a mummy’s time to shine.

Like most other Halloween creatures, zombies are a prevalent symbol for the holiday because of the popularity it has in movies and shows. “The Walking Dead” is one of the most recent productions to showcase the “not-so-alive” monsters. Zombies are a strange concept because they aren’t quite dead but also aren’t alive. Regardless, they are yet another fictional character that many children will find themselves dressed as this Halloween.

Many of us celebrate Halloween each year and embrace it as a time to watch classic movies, stuff our faces with candy and dress up in fun costumes. However, going more into depth on the holiday itself reveals more about Halloween than most of us thought. The history of Halloween is not something most people think about, and myths surrounding the holiday are often still widely believed.

SATIRE: THE END OF AMERICA PART 2



A satirical candidate guide for the 2020 presidential election



OPINION

by Isaac Naylor
Staff Writer

Illustration of Trump and Biden
by Isaac Naylor

After watching the presidential debates, I thought to myself, “Man, the trailers for America’s season finale are looking nice. Too bad Netflix is canceling the series.” Well, it’s that time of the year again—the season of nonstop political advertisements and partisan nonsense. 2016 was the first round and the rematch is on.

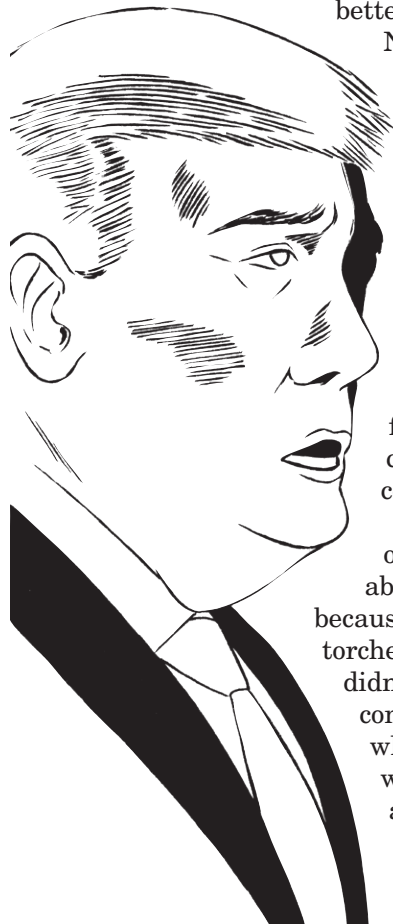
In the far-right corner, we’ve got a heavyweight in BMI and a champ in tax evasion: Donald “small loan of a million dollars” Trump. Wheel out the patient-in-chief, grab your face mask (or don’t, I’m tired of arguing at this point) and let’s give a round of applause for a man rounder than that applause.

Ever meet anybody who’s paid barely any taxes? No? That’s probably because they’re behind bars, but not Donny. Word on the street is that he keeps his figure by eating the money he would normally pay in taxes. It’s a shame. He could have used that money to bail out the American people during this pandemic, but why do that when it’s more fun to call the virus xenophobic nicknames like the Wuhan virus, Kung Flu and China plague?

When Trump told Bob Woodward, “Nobody’s ever done a better job than I’m doing as president,” he’s right!

Nobody has done a better job undoing all the progress we have made in this so-called democracy. Here’s a list of what he’s done: Appointed crooked federal judges and Supreme Court justices, pulled America out of the Paris Climate Agreement, abandoned the Kurds in Syria, purged amnesty and civil rights protections, deported non-criminal immigrants. You can have all of this for \$19.99, but wait, there’s more! Call right now and we’ll throw in 200,000 more COVID-19 deaths absolutely free! Still not satisfied? We’ll throw in our complimentary white supremacist figurine complete with Klan hood and burning cross.

Georgia is on Ray Charles’ mind; violence is on Trump’s. “Somebody’s got to do something about Antifa and the left,” Trump said. Right, because the left was totally marching with tiki torches in Charlottesville, VA. That’s why the GOP didn’t bat an eye at the “stand back and stand by” comment. We love it when a president sends dog whistles to his white supremacist supporters with an iota of plausible deniability. But in all seriousness, if this Tropicana tyrant gets a second go at this president thing, then they’ll probably deport me to Mexico. I’m not Mexican, but do you think he cares?



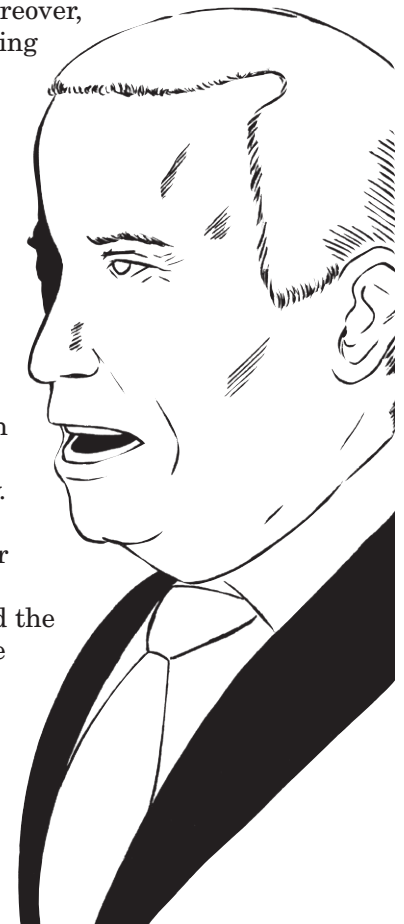
In the center-left corner where pandemic relief is an actual possibility, we’ve got the one, the only... Joe Biden (crickets). If melatonin is more your speed, then grab a pillow and cast a ballot for Sleepy Joe. The only thing he’s sleeping on is his politics, but I’ll take a mumbling moderate any day over a corporate crackpot full of QAnon conspiracy theories.

Some may think of Biden as a moderate Republican with the label Democrat slapped on top. But, I think a more apt description of his political stance is the midpoint between the moderates and progressives. I can’t speak to how most progressives feel about Biden. He might be a centrist dad, but he’s our only shot to bring things back to normal.

If you love Comrade Bernie and his five-year plan, then you might not be head over heels for Biden’s proposals. However, there are some juicy bits in there. Biden and Harris vow to end qualified immunity, which would bring police accountability to the courts. Biden won’t sign off on Medicare-for-All, but he will protect Obamacare; that’s better than Trump’s viral herd-immunity approach. There’s no Green New Deal, but there is an ambitious climate agenda that pledges to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Moreover, Biden can dethrone the Don, which would bring us back to the days when every alert wasn’t breaking news.

If Trump wants to “make America great again,” then riddle me this, Batman: When was this country great? Because before this, it was the back of the bus and cotton fields. America was never in some idyllic paradise and a president like Trump won’t help us get there. Somehow, our country elected as its leader a reality TV star who partied with pedophile, Jeffrey Epstein and has had more bankruptcies than there are Avengers movies. I still think 2016 was the start of a dystopian alternate reality. But, we’re a smart country. America always chooses adequate over idiotic; just ask former presidents Al Gore and Hillary Clinton.

We’re trapped in crazy times right now and the candidates are far from ideal. If the two were entrées, then I wouldn’t call them five-star meals. However, we have a real opportunity to change this country for the better. This pandemic might have robbed you of going outside, but nobody can take away your right to vote. So, use it. Get out there and vote! Our democracy depends on it. And that’s not a joke.



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