

CHARLOTTE IS GOING BOWLING



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## POLICE BLOTTER

**Larceny** 11/24  
Officers responded to Parking Services in reference to a larceny of traffic cones and barricades.

**Traffic Accident** 11/24  
Officers responded to a parking lot in reference to a vehicle vs. pole

**Armed Subject/Arrest** 11/25  
Officers responded to the light rail platform in reference to a subject armed with a knife. One individual was transported to Mecklenburg County Intake for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Communicating Threats. Nobody was harmed. One trespass order was issued.

**Traffic Accident/Arrest** 11/26  
Officers responded to a roadway in reference to a vehicle that struck a tree. The driver was transported to Mecklenburg County Intake for revoked license and issued a trespass order.

**Injured Subject** 11/27  
Officers responded to the greenway in reference to a subject that fell off their bicycle.

VIEW FULL BLOTTER AT [HTTPS://POLICE.UNCC.EDU/POLICE-LOG](https://police.uncc.edu/police-log)

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## NINERTIMES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**Madison Dobrzanski**  
editor@ninerimes.com

EDITORIAL  
Brandon Mitchell MANAGING EDITOR  
Jeffery Kopp COMMUNITY EDITOR  
Megan Bird NEWS EDITOR  
Sam Palian SPORTS EDITOR  
Noah Howell A&E EDITOR  
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ASSISTANT EDITORS  
Kennedy Hehr, Elissa Miller, Hiral Patel, Niyathi Sulkunte, Max Young, Elizabeth Mcguire, Emily Kottak

LAYOUT STAFF  
Sam Palian, Noah Howell, Olivia Lawless, Nikolai Mather, Hiral Patel, Drew Fitzgerald, Reuben Sanchez

CONTRIBUTING STAFF  
Arsalan Ahmed, Arik Miguel, Bradley Cole, Alexandra Laloo, Jake Pierce

COVER PHOTO  
Chris Crews

NEWSROOM 705.687.7150  
NINERTIMES.COM/STAFF  
TWITTER @NINER\_TIMES

MARKETING DIRECTOR  
**Caleb Adams**  
mktdirector@uncc.edu  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
**James Bourke**  
production@uncc.edu

MARKETING STAFF  
Joe Calhoun, Abram Shaw, Alexis Raines, Raquel Adams, and Johanie Payer



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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE  
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# UNC SYSTEM IDS NOW PERMISSIBLE VOTING IDENTIFICATION



*Starting March 2020, students and employees can use their UNC Charlotte IDs to vote*

by Arsalan Ahmed  
Staff Writer

Throughout the 2016 and 2018 election cycle, requiring voter identification has been a major point of contention between Democrats and

*“Many universities and colleges have had their IDs approved by the government for voting, including NC State University, Duke University and Davidson College.”*

Republicans alike. With Republicans believing that voter ID is a necessity in reducing illegal voting, Democrats believe that voter ID is an unconstitutional method to suppress votes from

those who are unable to obtain a permissible ID.

As both parties continue to argue over the legality of the issue, many states including Ga., Ind., Kan., Miss., Tenn., Va., Wis., and recently, N.C. have strict voter ID laws in place. According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, in the 2018 midterm elections, 55.49 percent of North Carolinians voted in favor of an amendment requiring photo ID to vote.

While this policy has been in place for nearly a year, it has recirculated back into the news as many schools have begun to push the state government to allow student and faculty IDs as permissible voting identification.

Many universities and colleges have had their IDs approved by the government for voting, including NC State University, Duke University and Davidson College.

According to a tweet from Joe Bruno, reporter for WSOC-TV News, many academic institutions, including East Carolina University, UNC Chapel Hill, had not been approved until Nov. 26.

UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip Dubois

received a letter on Oct. 22nd from Ellen Weintraub, the current Chair of the Federal Election Commission encouraging Dubois to

*“North Carolina is historically known as a “battle ground” or “purple” state which experiences some of the most contested elections throughout the nation.”*

submit an application to the state’s Board of Elections after Weintraub was told by a student that, “Many colleges in North Carolina have not yet met a state-mandated deadline that would enable students to use their student IDs as photo IDs to vote in upcoming elections.”

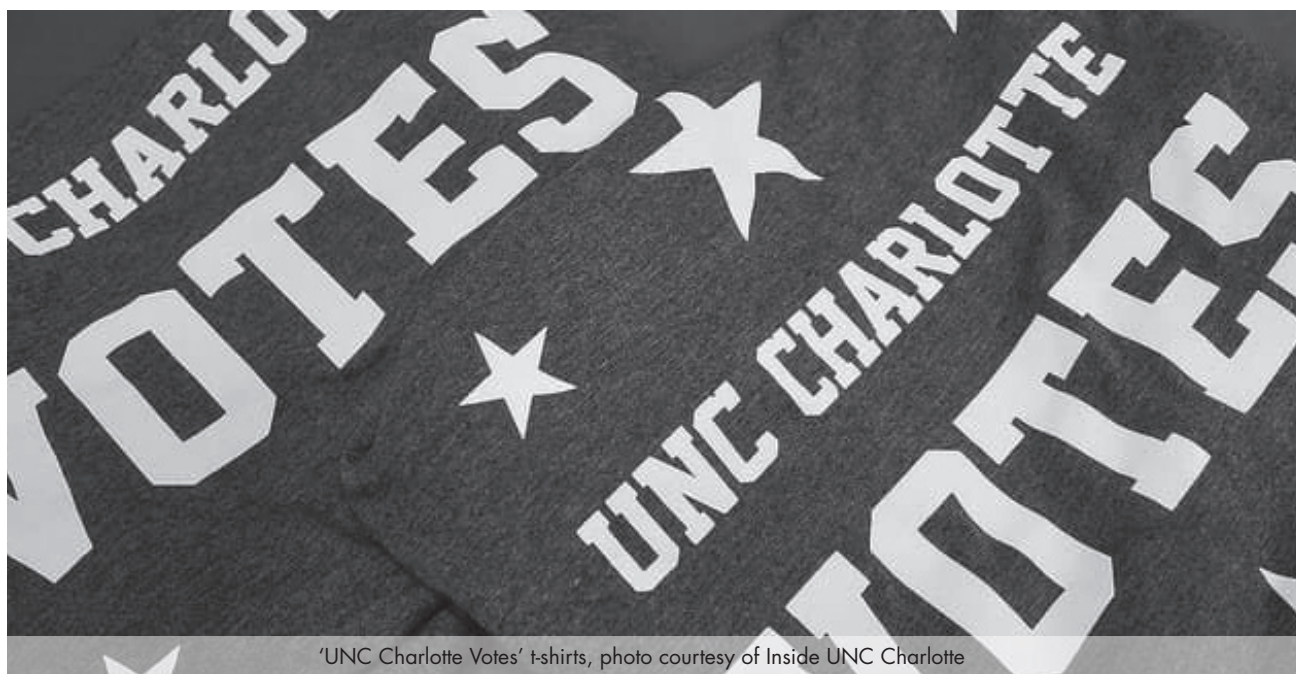
UNC Charlotte’s students and faculty will now be able to use their school IDs to vote.

North Carolina is historically known as a “battle ground” or “purple” state which experiences some of the most contested elections throughout the nation. With many of the largest universities in the state now having their IDs approved for voting, voter turnout between staff and students will most likely increase as not all students have other forms of permissible ID such as a driver’s license or passport.

Voter turnout for college students has been on the rise since the 2016 general election; however, new policies such as voter ID may hamper and suppress those who are not affiliated with universities or have other valid forms of ID.

In a battleground state like North Carolina, young people’s votes could decide key elections not only within the state, but the entire country.

With Chancellor Dubois pushing for UNC Charlotte student and faculty IDs’ approval for the next election, many students will be able to vote in their first election and ultimately ensure that their voices are heard in the next election.



‘UNC Charlotte Votes’ t-shirts, photo courtesy of Inside UNC Charlotte

# Police respond to assault and robbery incident at Atkins Library

*UNC Charlotte student assaulted and robbed on Tuesday morning at campus library*

by Emily Kottak  
Assistant News Editor

On Tuesday Nov. 19 at 8:41 a.m., a Niner Notice email was sent out with the subject: Incident at Atkins Library.

NinerNotice is a communication tool to spread information that does not pose a threat to the University community, but may be beneficial to share with those on campus. Students and employees are automatically enrolled to receive NinerNotices.

The notice said that a student was assaulted and had his cell phone stolen early that morning while in the library.

“Bad things happen often and it’s

very unfortunate when they happen on college campuses, but thankfully we have a support system here that is ready to tackle any issue,” freshman Julia Brodsky, who often studies in the Atkins Library, said.

When this situation occurred, a LiveSafe message was sent to Police and Public Safety (PPS). Police arrived on the scene and, as the suspects were leaving the library, arrested them.

The two subjects were taken to Mecklenburg County Intake for robbery and assault. In addition, three trespass orders were issued.

On the PPS website, a daily police log is published each business day, indicating what incidences, if any, occurred each day.

Another incident occurred on the evening of Sunday Nov 24, but this time, at the on-campus

light rail station. Once again, a NinerNotice was sent out to inform those on campus.

An individual with no affiliation to the University made verbal threats to two students while wielding a knife.

The students experienced no physical harm and called the UNC Charlotte police who remained on the phone with them until officers arrived. The suspect was then taken into custody.

The University stresses that the LiveSafe app is an important tool to help with incidences on campus. The LiveSafe app contains many different features such as reporting tips, emergency options and tracking friends to make sure they arrive at their desired destinations safely.

If one finds themselves in a dangerous situation, LiveSafe is a great tool to use to quickly get

in contact with police for help. Another option is to utilize the blue lights spread throughout campus. Pressing the help button on the blue light will immediately notify police and call them to that location as well as sounding an alarm.

“I am thankful for the LiveSafe app as it continues to prove its effectiveness,” said Brodsky. “Fortunately, I haven’t had to use it yet but I have it on my phone and trust in it should I need to utilize it.”

Also, if an issue occurs on campus that needs police, it is often more effective to notify the UNC Charlotte police first as opposed to the Mecklenburg County police as the on-campus police will be able to respond and arrive at the scene quicker.

**For more information visit <https://police.uncc.edu/>.**



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UNC Charlotte police car, photo by Chris Crews

# Now that THAT'S over

The opinion section closes out a long semester with its favorite pastime: venting

by the Niner Times opinion staff



## **Staff Writer Matthew Hall: Passwords**

The one thing that has perplexed me in my time here at UNCC is the fact that every year I am forced to change my password to my UNCC account. I remember when in October of my first year here at UNCC, I received an email telling me that I needed to change my password to my UNCC account. At the time, I had only been enrolled at UNCC for about 3 months. As a student, I understand that there is an important need to have a secure UNCC account. However, I still feel it is tiresome and redundant to have to change my password on a yearly basis. I especially get weary of the yearly password change as it usually takes me a little while to remember that I have a new password. Because of this, when I am trying to log into a school computer, I usually find myself typing in my old password.

## **Intern Lexi Lalloo: Strict attendance**

Going to college I had the expectation to be treated like an adult. More responsibility, more freedom and less supervision. But coming into my second year of college, this was not the case. In fact, three out of five of my professors took attendance and one didn't just count absences but even tardiness. If you were ten minutes late to her class, it then counted as an absence instead. What is this? I happily graduated high school with hopes to never return. But here I am, reliving it. One reason I chose UNCC is because of the big student population, which in turn means that professors wouldn't know my name. In terms of schoolwork, I am someone that doesn't need to be guided or supervised, especially as a mature, responsible adult. Nevertheless, as a full-time student that is in four extracurricular organizations and also works 25 hours a week, I am always exhausted. Does it look like I have the time and the energy to go to every class? I know that I'm not the only one at UNCC with a busy schedule and life. So professors cracking down on attendance is really ridiculous and infantile.

## **Intern April Carte: Pop quizzes**

As college students, we are in charge of our own success. That means attending class, studying for tests and quizzes, and also turning in assignments on time – putting this tuition money to good use. But what if your class does not take

attendance; what would you do if the only grades or assignments you have to “help” you consists of exams and pop quizzes? To me, that is never going to spell success. Have you ever heard of tests causing students high anxiety and stress rates? Or ever actually seen cases of pop quizzes working? While a pop quiz may be “fair” putting all students on an equal level in that no student knows about the quiz ahead of time, some students suck at recalling information. Pop quizzes do not put students on the ultimate path to success. They just test one's ability to memorize textbook information and sometimes just proves if a student got around to reading the night before. Other courses that actually require turning in assignments, papers or projects will always remain at the top of priority lists. Those are the classes in which students will actually feel they are receiving effort back from professors (which is their job), where one may feel that the work is actually going to help them (even if sometimes it can be tedious) and it is where students are actually tested in order to indicate their full potential. That right there will always define success.



Atkins Library. Photo by Chris Crews.

## **Staff Writer Taylor Maness: Standardized testing**

My time here at UNC Charlotte has been enriching both educationally and personally. I've learned more here than I could possibly say, and certainly, more than a test could tell you. It's been proven time and time again that standardized testing is an ineffective way to measure overall

education retention. Although not all classes utilize this out-of-date testing method, some are still clinging to it. We're moving in the right direction with our diverse list of student organizations and career development opportunities, but we can still keep evolving.

## **Assistant Editor Hiral Patel: Rubrics**

Professors should always have rubrics. Rubrics are the key to any assignment. They provide a guideline for professors to grade from and it also tells a student what to focus on when they write their paper, work on a presentation, or work on a project. Throughout this semester, I have been hit with one continuous issue of my professor having the AUDACITY to give me low grades on short essays where the only thing I have to do is give my opinion on an article. Professors shouldn't grade students on their professors and if they want an opinion or response on an assignment, they should have a rubric specifying what a student should cover. Without a rubric and very vague instructions, I should not be graded so harshly.

## **Editor Nikolai Mather: Promo videos**

I don't really have beef with my professors or class structure. But I am mad as a hornet over one pressing issue. Why does the UNC Charlotte Twitter account score its promotional videos of campus with such bad music? All these sweeping gorgeous drone shots of campus and they still can't find any music beyond LO-FI HIP HOP RADIO CHILL BEATS TO STUDY/RELAX TO. The videos themselves aren't necessarily problematic – our campus is pretty cute, and I love a good promo clip – but the background music sounds like it should be in a Troom Troom tutorial. Mr. @UNCCharlotte, sir, I will personally compose, record and produce any number of banjo tunes for the exclusive use of campus promo videos. I will go to great lengths to craft an in-house orchestra to produce stirring renditions of whatever license-free lo-fi pop beats y'all want to play over your camera work of the sunset on Craver Road. Do you want me to obtain the licensing for the entirety of Brian Eno's discography? Because I will do all that and more. Y'all don't need a Grammy nom or a feature in NME, but please, I beg of you: stop the whistle-clap guitars and gentle hip hop.



# RIDING INTO YEEHAW CULTURE

## An Introduction to Cowboy Aesthetic in Popular Culture

by Arik Miguel  
Staff Writer

Cowboys are cool now. If you pay attention to pop culture or current music trends, this is probably something you've noticed. Social media platforms in 2018 were littered with "horse girl" memes. Kacey Musgraves' genre-breaking country album "Golden Hour" won 2018's album of the year award at the Grammys. And of course, Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road" grew from meme gold to Billboard's longest-charting number one song. Many of these artists are changing the limiting restrictions of country music and country personas from the top down.

In 2016, Beyoncé surprise released her landmark breakup album "Lemonade," which featured the song "Daddy Lessons." "Daddy Lessons" is undeniably a country song. Beyoncé also has a remix of the song with Dixie Chicks that was performed at the 2016 Country Music Awards. At the time, this was seen as just a flash in the pan. It was just a pop culture savant trying her hand at whatever she wanted to. But over the last few years more and more musicians have chosen to don cowboy hats, add country music references to their music, or as in indie artist Mitski's case, simply using "Be the Cowboy" as an album title. Mitski is an Asian-American musician who is known for her poetic and emotive indie rock anthems. The album title is Mitski's way of embodying all of the things that define the stereotypical cowboy. To be strong, assertive, and loud; all of which are things that are not expected of her as an Asian American woman.

Indie slacker rock legend Mac DeMarco also used the "cowboy" persona recently. Earlier in 2019 he released his sixth album, titled "Here Comes the Cowboy." It was immediately criticized on the internet. The album title is suspiciously similar to Mitski's, but where Mitski's use of the word "cowboy" is an act of validating her worth in America as a person of color, Mac DeMarco's use of the word is fairly vapid. The cowboy persona and aesthetic has always belonged to people like Mac DeMarco.

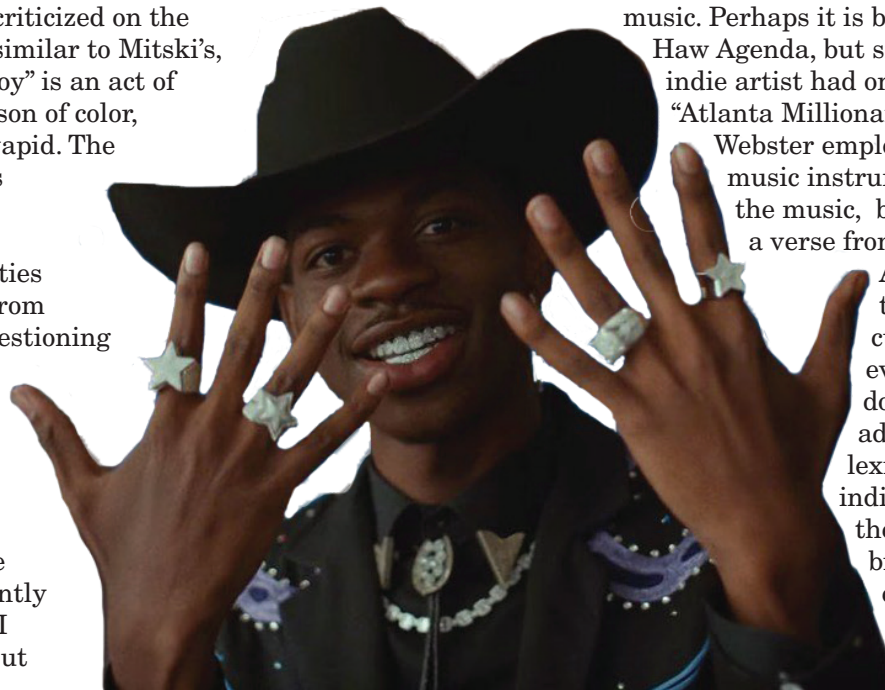
The YeeHaw Agenda is about people of color reclaiming identities and opportunities that were stolen from them, and erased from history books. Besides philosophically questioning what the cowboy persona means, artists have been using imagery and fashion associated with cowboys. Artists like Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion have sported sparkling cowboy hats and other western-style articles of clothing. Arguably, no one has pushed the limits of modern cowboy fashion as elegantly as Solange has. Her latest album "When I Get Home" is stunning in its own right, but

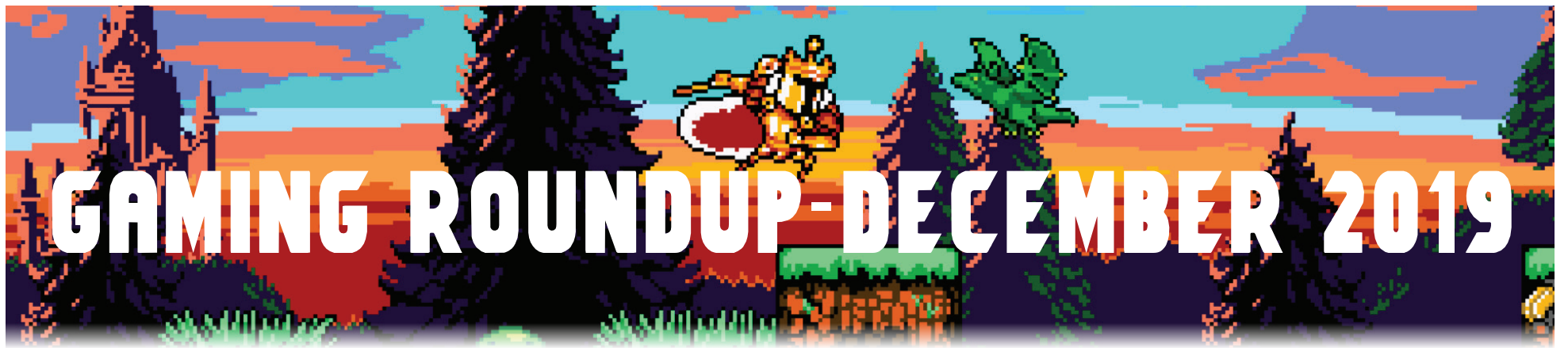
the accompanying film is a gorgeous foray into black cowboy aesthetics. The film is full of black dancers in cowboy boots, cowboy hats, and riding horses, but it is all coordinated in the most controlled and elegant way.

There is a certain machoism surrounding cowboys. Cowboys are stereotypically straight white men that embody all-American values like aggression, grit and rebelliousness. And then there's Orville Peck. He is a classic country artist who is gay, and is never seen without a leather fringe mask. He writes from the perspective of a lonesome gay cowboy, flipping societal expectations of country music. He is opening up the genre to a whole population of LGBT individuals to express themselves, and see themselves represented.

Lil Nas X's meteoric rise from nobody to multi-platinum musician in less than a year is the stuff of legends. Lil Nas X perfectly embodies the spirit of the cowboy. A young, gay, black man's first hit song is the longest-running Billboard number one song. To charge into the homogenized, whitewashed, casually homophobic world of country music and flip it on its head takes passion, grit, and a lot of rebellion. Lil Nas X is changing country music, and the perception of country music, from the top down. He is forcing everyone to acknowledge that a country-trap song is a viable music genre in 2019. He is making society accept that a 20-year-old can wear a cowboy hat and a gold-fringed outfit while being the first gay black artist to win a Country Music Award.

On the other end of this country movement is a bottom up change in music. Perhaps it is because of the sudden explosion of the Yee Haw Agenda, but smaller scale artists. Faye Webster, a small indie artist had one of the most enjoyable albums of the year. "Atlanta Millionaires Club" is a distinctly country-folk album. Webster employed a pedal steel guitar, a classic country music instrument. Its sound brings a breath of fresh air to the music, but the album seamlessly manages to include a verse from the Atlanta rapper Father. The Yee Haw Agenda is more than just a funny current trend in celebrity fashion. It's about breaking cultural boundaries that we might not have even realized existed. It's about breaking down the definition of country music and adding its components to the current musical lexicon. It's about people of color and LGBT individuals having new methods to express themselves through, and wider audiences to broadcast these messages to. In the year 2019 cowboys are cool, but now they are cool for more than just the straight white male.





by Noah Howell  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Photos courtesy of Yacht Club Games and 343 Industries

### **“Halo Reach” - December 3 for Xbox One and PC**

Kicking off the barren month of December is a game very near and dear to me. Bungie’s last entry in the “Halo” franchise, “Halo Reach” was one of my most played games on Xbox 360. Through the campaign, Firefight mode, multiplayer, custom games and Forge mode, it was truly the best sendoff the studio could have had with the franchise. Now Microsoft is finally adding it to the “Halo: The Master Chief Collection” on Xbox One, as well as finally bringing the series back to PC starting with “Reach.” While “Halo 3: ODST” is my favorite campaign in the series, “Reach” is definitely up there as one of the best. Part of what made it feel so special was being able to customize your spartan, Noble Six. Seeing the armor in cutscenes made your story feel personal to you, in a story that constantly hits you with all the feels.

The multiplayer component of “Reach” is just as strong as its campaign (which I suppose is technically also co-op). Firefight pits you against waves of enemies, creating intense situations with your squad. There is also the staple multiplayer, with countless modes to keep things fresh. My personal favorites were Infected and Big Team Battle, both of which were made even more fun with friends. Then you have Forge to round things off, allowing players to create their own maps for use in multiplayer mode. There are also custom games with that, which allows the creation of game modes tied to those maps like my favorite cops and robbers. “Halo Reach” one of the greatest packages for first-person shooters and I can’t wait to jump back into it with my friends on PC. As the collection makes its way to PC, we are slated to get “Halo: Combat Evolved” next.



### **“Shovel Knight: King of Cards” - December 10 for Wii U, 3DS, Switch, PS3, PS4, PS Vita, Xbox One, PC and Amazon FireTV**

Since it released in 2014, “Shovel Knight” has been the gift that’s kept on giving. Yacht Club Games has turned it into an incredible package, with the “Treasure Trove” edition offering the main “Shovel Knight” campaign along with two more on a similar scale with Plague Knight and Specter Knight. The game looks and sounds like it came straight out of the late 80s, while still accomplishing things that weren’t possible with the hardware at the time. Now, the final campaign comes with players taking control of King Knight. I am very excited to see how his movement differs from the prior three knights, as well as what new characters we’ll get with him. Launching alongside it is the new Showdown mode, which is basically a fighting game featuring “Shovel Knight” characters. I am most pumped for what the new eight-bit soundtrack will be like. If you are a fan of 2-D platformers, “Shovel Knight: Treasure Trove” is a no-brainer and is probably one of the best ever.

### **The Game Awards - December 12**

Not a game release, but something that may be worth checking out if you’re at all interested in gaming news. The Game Awards, like Nintendo Directs, are kind of like a stop-gap between E3s. While it is certainly a place to celebrate games released in 2019 like most award shows, it also debuts stuff coming for future games. One of the most likely things I think we’ll see is who will be coming with Fighter Pack number five for “Smash Ultimate.” Joker was revealed as the first back at last year’s show, so it makes sense that Nintendo will bring it full circle. As the last one for the pass, I am excited to see who it could be (but also extremely deflated that a “Resident Evil” rep has been seemingly deconfirmed through a single tweet). In terms of the actual awards, the only stake I have in the game is “Tetris 99” getting the best multiplayer game award because if it does not, I will riot. As far as Game of the Year, I would like for it to be “Resident Evil 2” or “Smash Ultimate” winning it but I wouldn’t mind the others either.

**Check out monthly Gaming Roundups on [NinerTimes.com](http://NinerTimes.com)**

# DECEMBER 5-7 MOVIES AT THE UNION THEATER

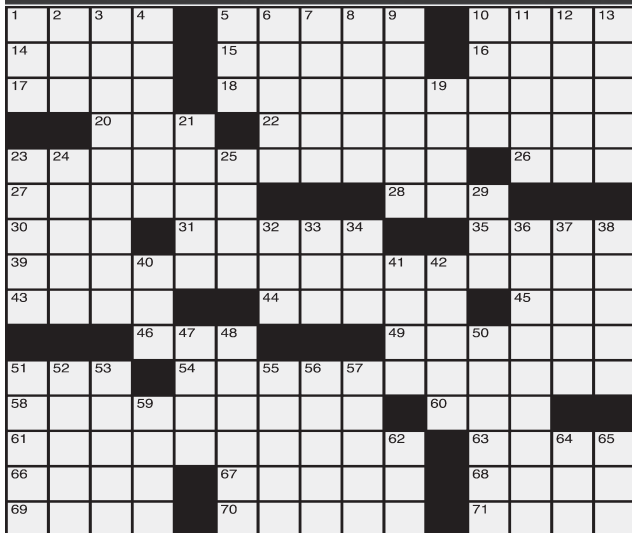


12/5 Thursday ..... 8:00 pm    12/7 Saturday ..... 2:00 pm  
 12/5 Thursday ..... 10:30 pm    12/7 Saturday ..... 8:00 pm  
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# CHARLOTTE'S GOING BOWLING

## *A look inside the historic 2019 season*

by Bradley Cole  
Staff Writer



The Charlotte 49ers' football regular season has come to a close. With their 38-22 win over Old Dominion on Saturday, Nov. 30 the 49ers finished 7-5 on the season and have set a school record for wins in a season.

It seemed it would be a year of ups and downs early in the season but the 49ers have found themselves rewriting history. To earn their postseason appearance, it took a little bit of everything to put the program on the map.

### **Bouncing back**

The first stretch of the season wasn't the best for Charlotte. After going 2-2 in non-conference play, the 49ers started off Conference-USA play with three straight losses. After that however, the Niners flipped a switch. From there, they won their next five games while averaging over 30 points a game.

"Winning five in a row is a big deal. Going 4-0 in November is a huge deal," 49ers Head Coach Will Healy said about the turnaround. "This team was 7-5. That's resiliency. Tremendous job by this staff. Great job by this staff. Great job by these players of buying in and sticking with the plan and they got rewarded. Super proud of them."

### **A change in culture**

Up until 2019, Charlotte had not had a winning season. Since becoming an FBS program in 2015, the closest Charlotte had come to a winning season was in 2018 with five wins. Before that, they had endured a lot of losing seasons. This year, with a new head coach in Will Healy, it became apparent that Charlotte football's culture was changing quickly. On top of



Head Coach Will Healy and Charlotte 49ers celebrate on sidelines, photo by Chris Crews

winning games, Healy started a new tradition in "ClubLit." After each win, the locker room would transform into a club and players and coaches would celebrate the win. This got attention across social media from the start of it and even some screen time on ESPN after the win against Marshall

as clips of Healy celebrating went wildly viral.

"Slowly but surely it's becoming cool to play football at Charlotte, which was a goal of ours," Healy said. "Obviously we're not even close to being done."

### **A stable offensive core**

Every good team needs a few players to turn to during big games. Charlotte they had a few of those. Quarterback Chris Reynolds, in his first full season, showed what he was capable of. He threw a career



Quarterback Chris Reynolds runs into endzone for a touchdown, photo by Chris Crews

high 21 touchdowns and only threw 10 interceptions on the year. During the team's five-game win streak, he upped his rushing game in each of those games, eclipsing 90 or more yards. Along with that, his passing numbers improved. Reynolds also happens to be one of the most efficient passers in the country. He had a passing efficiency rating of 155.10 and was 18th in the country in the category. He completed 166 of his 267 pass attempts.

The backfield for Charlotte did its part as well. Benny LeMay led the rushing attack. He was a top-50 rusher in the country and was 22nd in all-purpose yards with 1,279 total. He had 1,037 rushing yards and nine touchdowns. Along with LeMay, redshirt junior Aaron McAllister was an efficient backup with 377 yards and five touchdowns. The 49ers had stars on the receiving end as well. Receivers Victor Tucker and Cameron Dollar led the way in that category. Tucker had 848 yards and five touchdowns, while Dollar had 551 yards and two touchdowns.

### A talented defense

What has been missing in previous seasons has been a good combination of both a stellar offense and defense for Charlotte. This year, there's no question they had both. The defense was led by NFL prospect Alex Highsmith. The redshirt senior linebacker finished second in the country in sacks with 14. He sits only behind Heisman hopeful Chase Young. He had plenty of help as fellow linebacker Markees Watts had eight sacks, good enough for 22nd in the country. As a team, Charlotte had 36 sacks and tied for 14th in the country in that category. The Charlotte defense excelled in an important category this year: red zone defense. They were 33rd in the nation when it came to efficiency down near the endzone.

### Signature wins

Any team sitting team sitting at 2-5 knows their chances are slim when it comes to being bowl eligible. For the 49ers, they put those chances aside and brought their A-game after their

rough start. In their first win during the streak, it was a comeback 39-38 victory against North Texas. Down 28-14 late in the third quarter, the 49ers raced back and scored 25 points in the span of 19 minutes. A Reynolds 34-yard pass to Victor Tucker put the 49ers ahead by one and sealed the deal. Another big win for the 49ers came on the road at UTEP. After a blowout win against Middle Tennessee, the 49ers were down 21-7 against the Miners going into halftime. They scored 21 unanswered points in the second half and won 28-21.

The one win everyone will remember, though, was the last home game of the year. Against Marshall in the rain and cold, the 49ers battled back and forth and ran away with the game in the last ten minutes, winning 24-13. Against a traditionally powerful Conference USA team in Marshall, the win was even bigger for Charlotte. It was only their second win against the Thundering Herd and they went into the game as big underdogs. That win made Charlotte officially bowl eligible. They finished off their story book season against Old Dominion convincingly by a score of 38-22. With the win, Charlotte secured a winning percentage of .583, which was tied for 43rd best in the country.

### Not done yet

All in all, the 2019 season is one the 49ers will never forget and they are not done yet. On Sunday, Dec. 1 it was announced that Charlotte will be playing in the Bahamas Bowl against Buffalo on Friday, Dec. 20. In front of a national audience on ESPN, Charlotte (7-5) will play in their first-ever bowl game. Buffalo (7-5) will be looking for their first bowl win as well.

**Charlotte vs. Buffalo**  
**Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl**  
**Thomas A. Robinson National**  
**Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas**  
**Friday, Dec. 20**  
**2 p.m.**

# A HUNGRY DREAM: INTERVIEWING FOOD AND LIFESTYLE GURU CHADWICK BOYD



UNC Charlotte alumnus speaks on his success in the food industry

by Alexandra Laloo  
Intern



Chadwick Boyd in a kitchen, photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte

Chadwick Boyd, a figure well known in the food industry for being a guest on Food Network TV shows, his multiple appearances on The Today Show, copious amount of cookbooks, magazine branding, host of “Reel Food,” a James Beard Foundation Journalism judge and most notably, his delicious biscuits. But even with all of this esteem, I had actually never heard of him until recently.

Going into his presentation and listening to his speech, I expected to hear about his passion for food, his experiences as a chef and how

rewarding it had been. Instead, it was the complete opposite of cliché. It was awe-inspiring. It was motivational. It was relatable. Boyd compares his life story and his climb to success to the main ingredients for biscuits.

First, there was the base. He was born in Southern Pennsylvania in 1971 to a seventeen-year old high school junior. Chadwick says his mother Linda “was scared to death because she got pregnant from the boy on the opposite side of the tracks... in rural conservative Pennsylvania.” But, “despite all [that] she knew and would endure, she also knew that within her, [she had] this being she would love unconditionally and [who would] love [her] unconditionally back.” So she made it her mission for her son to have a great life and “‘every single opportunity available’ to him.”

She was his anchor and all the experiences, opportunities and memories she provided stabilized him, much like the base of flour within biscuits. Boyd’s mother drove him across towns and cities to attend “pottery classes, art classes, acting auditions [and] drafting competitions,” all while being introduced “to people with different cultures and cuisines.”

Nonetheless, cooking was most interesting to him. Throughout elementary school, his favorite book was his mother’s 1961 edition of the Betty Crocker cookbook for boys and girls. Every day after school, he would race home, and before even doing his homework, he would “pour through all the illustrations and memorize the recipes.” By the age of ten, he moved on to the Betty Crocker Adult cookbook and created his first dinner party consisting of “steak Diane with twice baked mashed potatoes and peas, served on coriander ware with green curly edges.”

Even more so, food was in Chadwick’s blood, as he came from a long line of farmers. Thus, there was constant exposure from a family of farmers that have been farming since at least the 1600s. He learned “to feed the community” and create “moments around the table.” Every Sunday dinner was time to not just enjoy food but for his “grandfathers and uncles [to] laugh and have joy in their

eyes.” Chadwick reminisced and marveled at these transformative moments for “seeing and tasting the food [caused the] flavors on the table to come to life.” He internalized these moments and felt them move him. It perhaps there within these precious moments, that his passion for food was first cultivated.

The rise or support in his life was the same as leavening (baking soda or baking powder) in biscuits. Chadwick’s grandparents, Claire and Frank, were the secure lift throughout. He states, “they were my greatest teachers in life and they taught me how to cook, they taught me how to create community through food and crafts and they showed me how to lead through example in everything in life.” Even though they were connected through Chadwick’s stepfather, from the moment they meet, “it was a kismet connection.”

His grandmother was a cook and baker and from an early age. She taught him how to “cook, do Thanksgiving dinner for 20-30 people and a multi-course for New Year’s Eve dinner.” She even gave him and his cousins a pastry board and icing to practice cake decorating in lieu of the coloring books and crayons all parents give their children to keep busy. His grandparents were always supportive, even in all four years of college, where they would send a Hallmark card every week with a dollar inside. They were “betting on [him] and reinforcing their investment in what they taught [him].” Claire and Frank were more than his leavening, they were Chadwick’s backbone.

The other ingredient necessary for biscuits is butter, or the richness that melts within. For Chadwick, it was his education and time at UNC Charlotte. It equipped him with flexibility and introduced him “to working professionals who were also professors.” He recalls it was there that his “brain really came alive, in thinking about [his] ultimate profession [and] the applications of the lessons that [he] learned, became more enriching.” It was “Charlotte’s newness as a city center, [that] felt fresh and inviting” and hence excited him for what he could provide the world. It was here at UNCC that his creativity could be nurtured for his “dreams became more hungry.”

The last foundational ingredient for making the perfect biscuits is the “light touch and love” incorporated. For him this was The Four Agreements. It gave him a spiritual practice, ability to keep himself grounded and not rush into things. Receiving a book in 2006 by a mentor named Ron Marks it aided him in his grieving process when his grandmother died. After his grandmother had passed, he went to South America for a healing and therapeutic vacation. Reading the book on the plane, he described that, “words just flew off and flew into him as he internalized it.”

One of the Four Agreements became empowering for Chadwick, as it spoke about being impeccable in your work. It reinforced what his grandmother, mother and UNC Charlotte had taught him, and he incorporates this philosophy in his work every single day. It helps him to trust that his work is going to be “delicious, wonderful and more awesome than he thought it would be.” So truly the big question for your success is, what is your flavor, what is your leavening, what is your richness, and what else is holding you back?

# A YEAR ON TEAM PIXEL

## Google's Android phone knocks it out of the park

by Jake Pierce  
Staff Writer

A little over a year ago, it came time once again for an upgrade in my phone plan. All my friends were telling me that this was finally my big chance to break out of my dreaded Android loop and go for an iPhone, but I had other ideas. You see, I had taken notice of a lot of advertising for Google's "Pixel" line of devices.

Pitched as a revitalization of Google's presence in the mobile space, items under the Pixel branding were marketed as premium devices that not only packed new and improved versions of Google's own software but were also built from the ground up around that software. Google promised a device with seamless integration of the physical object itself (the hardware) and the programs that made it tick under the hood (software). Getting a phone with these features that didn't cost more than my car was a very compelling prospect for me. And so, after trading in my old phone for a shiny new Google Pixel 3, I was a proud member of team Pixel.

I'll cut to the chase and say it: that Google Pixel 3 has become my favorite smartphone that I have ever used. It seems to address almost every single problem I had experienced with android products in the past while also packing in a ton of features that I never even knew I wanted. Throughout my time using it, my Pixel 3 has continued to stand out to me as a device that makes the Android platform seem, ironically enough, decidedly un-Android-like. So, without further ado, allow me to provide you with a brief explanation of just how impressive this device has been and where I think that magic seems to come from.

First, I want to focus on the hardware; how it looks, how it feels, build quality and other things of that nature. The Google Pixel 3 is a gorgeous piece of technology and ticks all the boxes for a modern electronic. It's sleek, sophisticated, light, easy to hold, and the screen (which comes in at around 5.5") is just the right size to not feel overly tiny but can still be slipped easily into most pockets. If you're looking for massive screen real-estate (like what would be found in a "phablet" style device) then you won't find it here, but personally I think that the device strikes the perfect balance between viewing size and portability.

And speaking of the screen, what a screen it is. Coming in at a staggering 1080 x 2160 resolution and sporting one of the deepest, richest color palettes I've ever seen on a mobile device, you can



rest easy knowing that anything you watch or play is going to look fantastic on Pixel 3. Couple this with speakers that offer surprisingly high levels of volume and a brilliant, crystal-clear camera, and you get a fantastic "jack-of-all-trades" device. Unfortunately, like many modern smartphones, Pixel 3 seems to skip over some basics like a headphone jack, but a pair of Google's USB-C headphones are included in the box and can connect to the phone through the charging port.

That being said, the positives far outweigh the negatives here. Pixel 3 stands as an incredibly slick and stylish phone. Mine still remains free of major signs of physical wear after over a year of use.

While the hardware is fantastic across the board, I would argue that it's Google's revitalized software that really carries Pixel 3 above and beyond Android devices of the past. Pixel's operating system and overall UI (User Interface) is lightning fast, much more so than other Android phones I've used.

Now, I don't claim to know everything about how phones operate, but I'm going to take an educated guess. I would say this performance boost is due to the fact that Google has effectively removed the middleman from this particular Android platform to ensure that optimization is as tight and complete as possible. Whereas Android has been—and often still is—the basis devices produced by Samsung, Motorola, and others, Pixel 3 represents a glorious union of Google hardware and Google software, and is all the better for it.

Simply put, Android has never felt more powerful than on Pixel 3. Google searches feel nearly instantaneous, downloads are incredibly snappy, and streaming services like Spotify or Hulu work without a hitch. Even high-profile games are no match for Google's device, as it displays almost anything available in the Play Store at a rock solid frame-rate and crystal clear resolution.

What really stands out, though, are Google's proprietary programs. Sure, things like "Google Maps" and "Google Assistant" are available on a wide variety of products, but the difference here is how much more polished and optimized these services are on Pixel. There are exclusive features as well, such as the brilliant "Google Lens" within the camera app that will identify and display search results for any object in the camera's view, scan codes or documents, translate text, and more.

To wrap up, I have thoroughly enjoyed every second of my time spent on Team Pixel. Google has really outdone themselves here, showing just how powerful and capable the Android platform can be with the right team behind it. Pixel 3 is a device that almost single-handedly takes Android from a laughing stock to a modern and sophisticated force to be reckoned with. The exclusive features in widely used services like "Google Drive" and "Google Maps" are the icing on the cake.

Furthermore, the presence of entirely exclusive programs like "Google Lens" and the very recent "Google Astrophotography" give the device even more value for those who may be on the fence about checking it out. Consumers truly get the best of both worlds with Pixel 3. The many programs and features that I have mentioned above and the sleek, modern, and aesthetically pleasing physical device both come together to make what I would call the first truly premium Android-based device, and they've won me over. So, here's to my first year on Team Pixel, and many, many more to come.