

ELECTION 2020

News p.3 & Opinion p.5

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POLICE BLOTTER

10/28: Officers responded to Police & Public Safety in reference to a follow-up. One subject was transported to Mecklenburg County intake and issued a new trespass order.

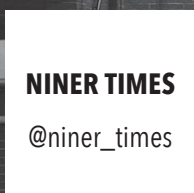
10/29: Officers responded to Cameron Loading Dock in reference to a two-vehicle accident.

10/29: Officers responded to Lot 25 in reference to a larceny from auto.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

Young voters mobilizing at potentially historic levels

Especially in key battleground states like North Carolina, young voters could be the decisive force in the presidential election

by Megan Bird
News Editor

This election is turning the assumption that young people don't vote on its head. More than 7 million young people (ages 18-29) voted early or absentee in the 2020 elections according to the Tufts University/CIRCLE analysis of Catalist data.

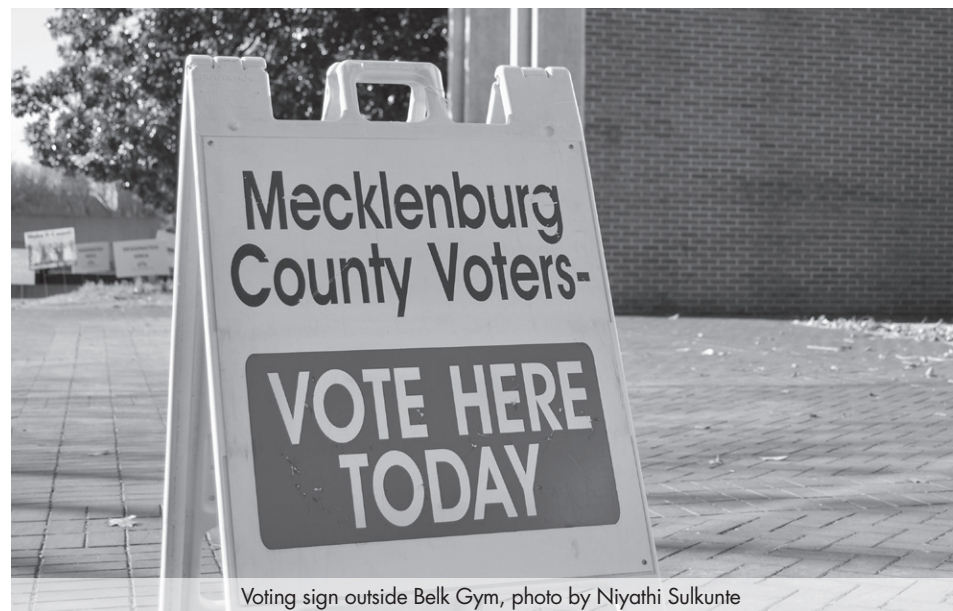
"Young people are over performing expectations at this point, and it doesn't mean that's where we end up on election day, but it's reasonable to believe we will see a 2008-level turnout," said Simon Rosenberg, a Democratic strategist for Clean and Prosperous America and New Democratic Network. "We are probably on track to see the largest turnout of young people."

This comes after first-time voters, a group that tends to wait longer than any other age group to decide who to vote for, had to navigate how to vote during a pandemic.

"I'll be honest with you, I've been doing this for a long time, and I was surprised by this. I thought young voters would lag and then vote at the end," said Rosenberg.

In North Carolina, a key battleground state, 18-29 year-old voters are mobilizing like never before—four times the rate of 2016. A Tufts University/CIRCLE analysis of Catalist data identified NC's youth electorate as the second most influential youth electorate in the presidential election, in part because NC is projected to be one of the most competitive states and also because youth make up 17% of NC's population. Young voters also have a large ideological gap with older voters: While NC went red in 2012 and 2016, young NC voters favored the Democrat each time by 35 and 20 points respectively.

As of Oct. 27, one week before election day, young voters make up 12.6% of early and absentee votes in North Carolina compared to 6.7% at the same point in 2016, according to Tufts University



Voting sign outside Belk Gym, photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

CIRCLE/Catalist. Compared to 2016, the share of early voters who are between 18 and 29 is up by 13% in North Carolina, according to Rosenberg's analysis of TargetSmart data.

Additionally, there are more than 740,000 new NC voters this election under the age of 30. That is 42% of new voters in 2020 compared with 13% in 2016.

This is good news for Democrat candidate Joe Biden. A Harvard Youth Poll conducted between Aug. 28 and Sept. 9 found Biden's support at 60% among 18-29 year-old voters compared to Hillary Clinton's 49% in 2016 and Barack Obama's 59% in 2008.

In North Carolina, the extent to which Biden leads (30-40 points, depending on the poll) can be attributed to his polling performance with young voters.

"The question was always could Biden, given his age, match Obama in turns of turnout. All the early indications are

that he's on track to do that," commented Rosenberg.

Although overall voter turnout is up across all ages, young people across the nation make up a larger share of the early voting electorate than they did at this point in either 2018 or 2016.

"If the whole electorate gets bigger, you would expect it'd be hard for young people to keep their share because everyone is voting more," Rosenberg told the Niner Times. "But in fact, young people are voting at a higher rate than 4 years ago, and young people tend to vote late. We weren't anticipating this."

Rosenberg says there could be many reasons that early young voter turnout is so high (and so Democratic) this year, including the coronavirus, resurgence in the Black Lives Matter Movement, natural disasters associated with climate change, and President Trump himself. According to a poll by Tufts University, 79% of young

people say COVID-19 helped them realize that politics affect their everyday lives.

In general, Gen Z is also "more combative, willing to engage in confrontation and unwilling to wait for change." According to Politico, Zoomers of voting age (18-23 yrs old) participated in greater numbers during their first midterm (2018) than previous generations had.

Although COVID-19 has influenced many to vote early by mail or in person, the historic early voting rate is not just higher due to the pandemic. All measures of voting are higher than they ever have been. Rosenberg predicts there will ultimately be somewhere between 150 and 160 million votes.

"This election is fundamentally different," said Rosenberg. "The amount of votes is not just a sign of COVID; it's a sign of interest. With the level of participation we're seeing, it's very unlikely that we're going to end up at the other end of this with levels equal or lower than 2016."

Rosenberg says there is a "virtuous cycle" at play: When people see others voting, it creates pressure on them to vote. It also allows campaigns to target low-propensity voters who would not have been targeted before.

Whether or not young voters determine this election for Democrats, they are a growing force and as more Zoomers reach voting age, they could pose a real existential threat to the Republican Party. Rosenberg says it's not necessarily true that voters get more conservative with age, and evidence suggests the imprint left on a given generation by early political encounters is indicative of how they'll vote over their lifetime.

In sum, "A lot more people are voting, and a lot more people are voting Democratic," Rosenberg says.



NEWS



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Levine Hall resident shares quarantine experience

The emotions associated with being quarantined on campus

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

Levine Hall,
Niner Times File Photo

UNC Charlotte sent a Niner Notice on Oct. 16 informing the University that Laurel, Levine and Lynch halls were undergoing testing for COVID-19. This was discovered through confirmed individual cases in the residential halls.

In an interview with the Niner Times, Halee Warren ('22) gave a detailed description of her experience with being in quarantine at Levine Hall, from receiving the email to being released from lockdown.

"We got the email at around 12 p.m. on Friday. I was in my math class [on Zoom] and I went out into the living room and was like, 'Did everyone else get the same email or was it just me?'" said Warren. "I had heard about it a couple days before; I think the Niner Times released something saying that a Levine student was tested positive and was taken out [to isolate] and so that kind of sent the whole building into a lot of hysteria. They were like 'Why didn't anyone tell us? What's going on?' So, I think testing everyone was mostly a measure to make sure everyone else felt safe. I found out Friday and Saturday night we got our results back. I came back negative. I feel like it lasted longer than that though. Getting tested wasn't too bad."

When asked about what she was feeling about the entire situation, Warren stated, "I have really bad anxiety anyways and the whole pandemic has really added on to that since March. I was kind of always in a perpetual state of thinking I had COVID-19. So, I stayed on top of it the

whole time but, oddly enough, whenever they tested us, I felt peaceful because I was going to receive an official answer and all I could really do was wait. There wasn't anything else I could do at that point. I knew stressing myself out would send me on a downward spiral and that's not

"I was mostly afraid, in general, that I would have it and give it to someone. I live on campus but even if I gave it to my roommates or a close friend that I hang out with consistently, that's my worst fear."

HALEE WARREN ('22)

something I needed to happen at that time."

Warren shared a little about what the experience was like to be tested by the nurses and how they made her and her roommates feel comfortable in the situation.

"We ended up getting tested at 4:30 p.m.. [The nurses] had a great attitude. They

double checked our names and they were just really sweet about the whole thing. They were joking around a little, trying to make us feel more comfortable. They were joking around because they had these hazmat suits on and that [were] a little intense but other than that it was fine."

When asked about her worst fear, Warren replies and also shares a warning to other students.

"I was mostly afraid, in general, that I would have it and give it to someone. I live on campus but even if I gave it to my roommates or a close friend that I hang out with consistently, that's my worst fear. I'm a relatively healthy individual, I'm young and I feel like I could probably bounce back. I don't have asthma or an immune deficiency. I'm not the at-risk individuals they're referring to but some of my roommates are and some of my closest friends that I hang out with are. So I have to make sure that I'm careful for them. That's my biggest fear is getting them sick. Wear a mask because like I said, I know [the testing] is not comfortable, you just have to do it. Not even for yourself, but for the people around you. If it's uncomfortable for you, just imagine how much more uncomfortable it is if you get someone else sick."

On Saturday Oct. 17, the University sent out an additional Niner Notice informing the community that there were two clusters of students found among the three residence halls. One cluster had eight students and the other had six students.

NO VOTE, NO COMPLAINTS

Why non-voters end up doing more harm than good

by April Carte
Asst. Copy Editor

The 2020 election is one that we are going to remember forever. This may be because of our choice of candidates, the fact that it was during a global pandemic or because of historic voter turnout numbers. But let me just say this— if you are eligible, yet chose not to cast your vote in the 2020 election, you have zero right to complain about the next four years, regardless of which way the votes fall.

This year, you could have voted via absentee ballot either dropped off in the mail or at any local polling site, in-person via curbside vote or in-person as you normally would with CDC guidelines in place. I'm telling you this to remind you that voting is supposed to be easy. By no means is the voting process perfect, but if anything, this year took more measures so everyone at least had the chance to vote.

The U.S. Elections Project recorded that as of Oct. 29, around 79 million people had cast their vote in the 2020 election. In 2016, only about 47.2 million people cast their votes during the early voting period. With today being election day, there are still many more votes to be counted—who knows what the final count is going to look like.

Of course, those numbers look pretty good on paper, however, there are still people that actively choose not to vote. These people happen to be young people. It is a fact that our elders outvote us. According to the U.S. News & World Report, in 2018 only 30% of eligible 18-24 year-old voters made it to the voting booth, versus the 64% of ages 65 and up that made it out. I mean, young people tend to be the first ones to protest, start a petition or use their voice on social media platforms. So why don't we vote?

Well, we are one stubborn generation. We don't like to conform. We like to stand out.



2016 Election Night at Javitz Center, photo by Pooja Pasupula

We don't want our only personality trait to be our political affiliation. Obviously, that does not go for everyone, especially not the boomers trapped in a Gen Z body, but it certainly does seem like the most logical explanation. Unfortunately, not conforming to politics can only do us more harm than good right now.

About a century ago, political scientists Charles E. Merriam and Harold F. Gosnell identified which groups of Americans have comparatively low numbers regarding voter turnout. These groups included young people, minorities, the less educated and, the poor, all of which still show low voter numbers today. Yet, it's no secret that these are the numbers that really matter. They are not only the future of this country but also the most underrepresented by government

policies.

So, as much as playing the political game may not appeal to you, we still have to. Voting is the one way we can guarantee that our voice is being heard and not muted. It's important to be an activist on the streets, but it's just as important to be active in the voting booth. You're voting for more than just the president. In general elections you also vote for legislators, governor, attorney general, and the list goes on. It's not just about picking the lesser of two evils as president, it's about representation at the local level too.

I am sure I have not persuaded every single person reading this that voting is important. In fact, you may be dwelling on questions like, 'I'm just one person, what does my vote actually do?' Unfortunately,

there are many people with this mentality during election seasons. According to the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, between 35-60% of eligible voters do not cast their ballot. So, you're not just one person. Many people do not believe that their vote matters. They think that voting is only important in elections where there's a real chance to make a difference. But news flash! Every election makes a real difference.

You may also be thinking, 'Well what about the electoral college? Ultimately they decide the election, not me.' While the electoral college does, in a sense, determine the outcome of the election, it is still reliant on our votes. It is true that a candidate can win the popular vote but not win the election, like what happened in 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000 and, 2016. However, it is highly unlikely the electoral votes do not swing in the direction of the popular vote. Therefore, your vote still matters.

It is likely too late to cast your ballot in the 2020 election if you have not already done so. However, there are many more elections to come. Educate yourself and know what you're voting for and why you're doing it. Don't get me wrong, you do have the choice whether or not to vote. But voting is a privilege, one that many people would risk their lives to have. So if you're privileged enough to ignore your right to vote, remember that voters aren't just voting on policies that affect themselves, but also that affect their community. They're not just voting for constitutional rights but also human rights. They're voting to have people in office that represent them as best as possible.

Who you vote for is personal, but whether you vote is not. It is our civic duty as American citizens, so do it. If you don't, shut the hell up.





THE BEST LYRICS FROM TAYLOR SWIFT'S 'SPEAK NOW:' TEN YEARS LATER



Poetic recitations from Swift's lauded country album

by Madison Smith
Intern

'Speak Now' album
cover, courtesy of Big
Machine Records

A handwritten melodic letter to the skeletons in her closet, a big hug to every young soul who has ever fallen in love, and a notorious kiss blew to her haters who said she didn't write her own music—Taylor Swift's critically-acclaimed country album "Speak Now" turns ten on October 25.

This album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart and sold a little over one million copies, achieving the second-largest sales week of any country album at the time. It tells the story of 19-year-old Taylor Swift's shaky and charming experiences with love throughout her high school years. The Grammy-winning artist has been in the spotlight since she was 16-years-old and her music has traversed multiple genres throughout her successful career. Her most recent extended play "folklore: the year I showed up at your party chapter" is an unfamiliar and unique sound compared to her past country and pop roots. The EP speaks volumes to her versatility and style, but one thing that remains indisputable whether you're an alternative fan or not, is Swift's impeccable story-telling ability and candor-filled poetry. One of her first projects where she best showed this off was "Speak Now." Numerous Google reviewers still rave about the album's soulful and magical sound to this day. In honor of this timeless album's decade anniversary, I have broken down some of Swift's most memorable lyrics from the project.

From "Mine"

"You made a rebel of a careless man's careful daughter"

When asked about the inspirations behind this track, Swift explained how it really is meant to convey her own tendencies to run from love. The lyrics above quickly reveal an effort to change such tendencies, leaving her comfort zone for whatever love with this special guy holds. Like the nerdy kid in school acting like a jock

to get his crush's attention, we see the puppy love habit of changing personalities through this song and the dangerously exciting emotions that come with this.

From "Sparks Fly"

"Drop everything now / meet me in the pouring rain / Kiss me on the sidewalk / take away the pain"

"Sparks Fly" is lyrical transportation to a scene right out of a romance movie. It paints the picture of the intense chemistry between inseparable lovers, though the guy isn't the best for Swift. She sings passionately to him, begging him to sweep her off of her feet. The commands in the lyrics display eagerness and yearning, feelings that people can relate to when away from that special person.

From "Back to December"

"It turns out freedom ain't nothing but missing you"

An apology text may not have been enough for Swift's regret about walking away from this mystery guy, but this song definitely was. It pieces together her emotions about missing the ex-lover and realizing the irony in her past feelings of wanting to be 'free' only to find herself trapped in replaying memories and longing.

From "Dear John"

"You are an expert at sorry / And keeping lines blurry / Never impressed by me acing your tests"

The lyrics on this track can hit home for anyone who has been stuck in the cycle of turmoil and disappointment in their romantic involvement with someone else. It's pretty safe to say that is exactly how Swift allegedly felt about John Mayer after their fallout. He is quoted in a Rolling Stone article talking about the song. He says, "It made me feel terrible... Because I didn't deserve it. I'm pretty good at taking accountability now, and I never did anything to deserve that. It was a really lousy thing for her to do." Regardless of who is considered right or wrong in their situation, the track

is still a beautiful one to empathize with. And yes, you can replace 'John' with whatever name you'd like while listening.

From "Mean"

"Someday I'll be living in a big old city And all you're ever gonna be is mean"

These lyrics are iconic. They're the ones you can sing out loud in the car to make up for the ones you pretended to know.

From "The Story of Us"

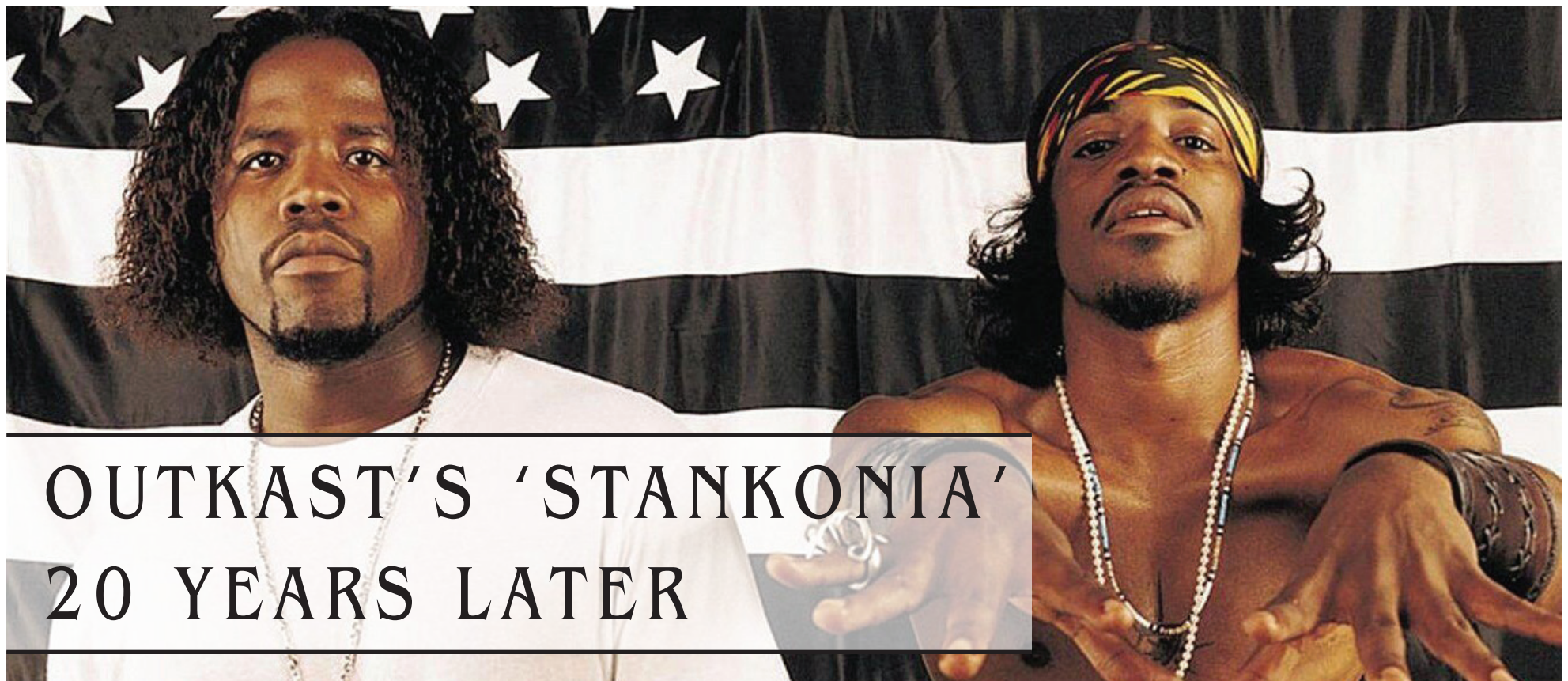
"I'd tell you I miss you, but I don't know how I've never heard silence quite this loud"

It's safe to say that everyone has experienced loud silence before, some louder than others. It has nothing to do with decibels and everything to do with discontentment. Though it was listed as track number seven on "Speak Now," Swift is quoted saying this is the last track she wrote for the album. She said it's about a silent war she battled at an awards show with someone she had recently fallen out with. Fans speculate that it is written about Taylor Lautner.

From "Better Than Revenge"

"She had to know the pain was beating on me like a drum / She underestimated just who she was stealing from"

Swift has made millions of dollars turning her worst romantic splits into relatable songs. Most are addressed to the men she has dated, as Swift rarely goes in-depth about another girl involved. "Better Than Revenge" was apparently directed at Joe Jonas about actress Camilla Belle after she found out about their hookup following her and Jonas's break-up. The lyrics are sly and shady, but I guess everybody copes differently with the end of a relationship.



OUTKAST'S 'STANKONIA' 20 YEARS LATER

A revisit of one of the most ambiguous records of all time.

by Arik Miguel
Staff Writer

Image courtesy of
LaFace/Arista Records

Perhaps more than any other 90s rap group, Outkast has become fully ingrained in our cultural dialogue. “Stankonia,” the duo’s fourth album, is the one that launched them into the mainstream. Southern rap roots can be traced back to the late 80s with Houston’s The Geto Boys being the first successful Southern rap group. By the mid-90s, artists like UGK and 2 Live Crew found success but were unable to find mainstream success. At the time, national rap discourse was focused on west coast versus east coast until Outkast found commercial appeal and brought the “Dirty South” into the dialogue. Outkast opened the doors for every southern rapper following them, and did so with what is one of the grooviest, and most meticulously crafted albums to come out the 2000s.

Following the critical and commercial success of their double-platinum album “Aquemini,” Outkast purchased a studio in their hometown of Atlanta, and dubbed the space “Stankonia.” Owning the studio space let Andre 3000 and Big Boi freely explore any sounds they

wanted. This freedom of exploration is evident in the music. “Stankonia” manages to take all the funkiness, humor, and breakneck speed rapping of the duo’s previous releases, and morph it into something new and fresh.

The music still sounds exciting 20 years later, and a large part of this can be attributed to the way disparate sounds and genres are fused together and presented through a southern lens. While recording the album, the band chose not to listen to hip-hop and instead drew inspiration from artists like Jimi Hendrix, Chuck Berry and Prince.

“Ms. Jackson,” for example, takes the type of wordplay and charisma that would be expected from the two but marries it with the sounds of Prince and 60s Psychedelic Funk. The resulting song is melodic, witty, ridiculously catchy, and surprisingly touching. The song was inspired by Andre 3000’s relationship with Erykah Badu. They had one child together but ended their relationship one year before “Stankonia” was released, and the song is meant to act as an apology for everything he had put her through.

“Humble Mumble” is indebted to salsa music, talks about overcoming adversity, effectively attacks any music critics, and features some angelic vocals from Badu herself. If this sounds like a lot to unpack in one song, that’s because it is. Such is the beauty of “Stankonia.” The album isn’t as much a pendulum as it is a metronome, constantly switching between ideas, tones and musical influences.

The album also features a number of interludes. These humorous skits act as needed palette cleansers, giving you a moment to catch your breath before being thrown back into the funky and fantastical but down-to-earth world Outkast has concocted.

Perhaps more than any other track, “Stankonia” and its importance can be summed up by the song “B.O.B. (Bombs Over Baghdad).” The song takes drum and bass rhythms, gospel music, and Jimi Hendrix-style guitars, and ties it all together by incredibly high-speed rapping. “B.O.B.” is a delirious and politically charged sucker punch of a single. Like many high points on

“Stankonia,” this song embodies certain chaos that can be attributed to Y2K and general unease over the state of the world at the start of the millennium.

Listening to the album 20 years after its creation, it’s hard not to see it as a precursor to the seemingly anarchical combining of sounds and genres of artists like M.I.A. or 100 Gecs. It is also important to note how “Stankonia” threw open the door to dirty south rap. “Ms. Jackson” went on to be the first Outkast song to reach the top of the Billboard charts, and they ended up winning two Grammys with the album. With all eyes on them, Outkast went on to become household names, and the dirty southern rap they come from could now fight commercially with the heavyweights from the east and west coasts. By expanding expectations of what rap could sound like, Outkast created space where southern rappers like Lil Wayne, Killer Mike, and even Megan Thee Stallion, could find audiences. “Stankonia” embodies what makes so much of 90s rap great while at the same time influencing music in the decades that followed.



A FRESH START

by Bradley Cole
Sports Editor

When Charlotte opened up its season at Appalachian State on Sept. 12, the 49ers had a lot of new faces making big plays en route to a tough 35-20 loss to the Mountaineers.

Some of those new faces were on the offense, some on the defense. Tyler Murray, however, might have made the biggest impact.

The linebacker made 14 total tackles, had a fumble recovery and had an interception. He made big play after big play for the Charlotte defense. The big day earned Murray Conference USA defensive player of the week honors.

"It means a lot to me because it brings more energy to the team as a whole," said Murray on his immediate impact.

Murray has continued to make big plays for the 49ers, who sit 2-2 overall and 2-1 in conference play as of Oct. 30. In just four games, the charismatic redshirt junior has 34 overall tackles, two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

The fast start means a lot to Murray after he sat out a year after transferring to Charlotte from the University of Troy. Per NCAA rules, transfers must sit out a season after transferring unless granted a special waiver. So far, the waiting has paid off for Murray.

"Just producing early showed all the work paid off from the year I had to sit out," said Murray on his red-shirt season. "A lot of work went into that."

Murray had two successful seasons at Troy, where he had 64 tackles, four interceptions and three fumble recoveries. He was even named Third-Team all-Sun Belt in 2018.

Murray was successful early on in his career, but a fresh start with the 49ers was a challenge worth taking on for the young star.

After a year of sitting on the sidelines,

"I feel like I made the right decision, the best decision for me," said Murray on coming to the Queen City. "I feel more comfortable out of that program and more comfortable than ever here in Charlotte. It was the perfect fit for me."

Murray checked all the checkboxes for Charlotte when he decided to transfer. As Coach Will Healy was just arriving in 2019, Murray fit in with the new culture.

Murray has seen a lot in his time with the 49ers thus far. While sitting out last year, Murray watched the 49ers go 7-5 and make a bowl game. Then, of course, Murray and the 49ers have gone through the roller coaster 2020 has offered. From spring practice being cancelled to three games being either cancelled or postponed, this season has been a lot to handle.

Although there is no handbook on how to play football in a pandemic, Murray's football centered upbringing prepared him well. Murray grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and football was a must.

"Football played a big role," said Murray on how football impacted his early life. "Football brought me maturity and leadership."

When it comes to 2020, Charlotte has had a stop and go season. This has allowed more off time for the team, which can either be a blessing or a curse. Murray tries to take things one week at a time and figure things out with his team.

"It challenges me and my team as a whole, it is very tough on us," said Murray. "We just try to stay positive and do what we can each week."

Tyler Murray is making an impact

Even though this season isn't desired, Murray says the extra time also allows the players to spend more time taking care of their bodies and prepare thoroughly for games.

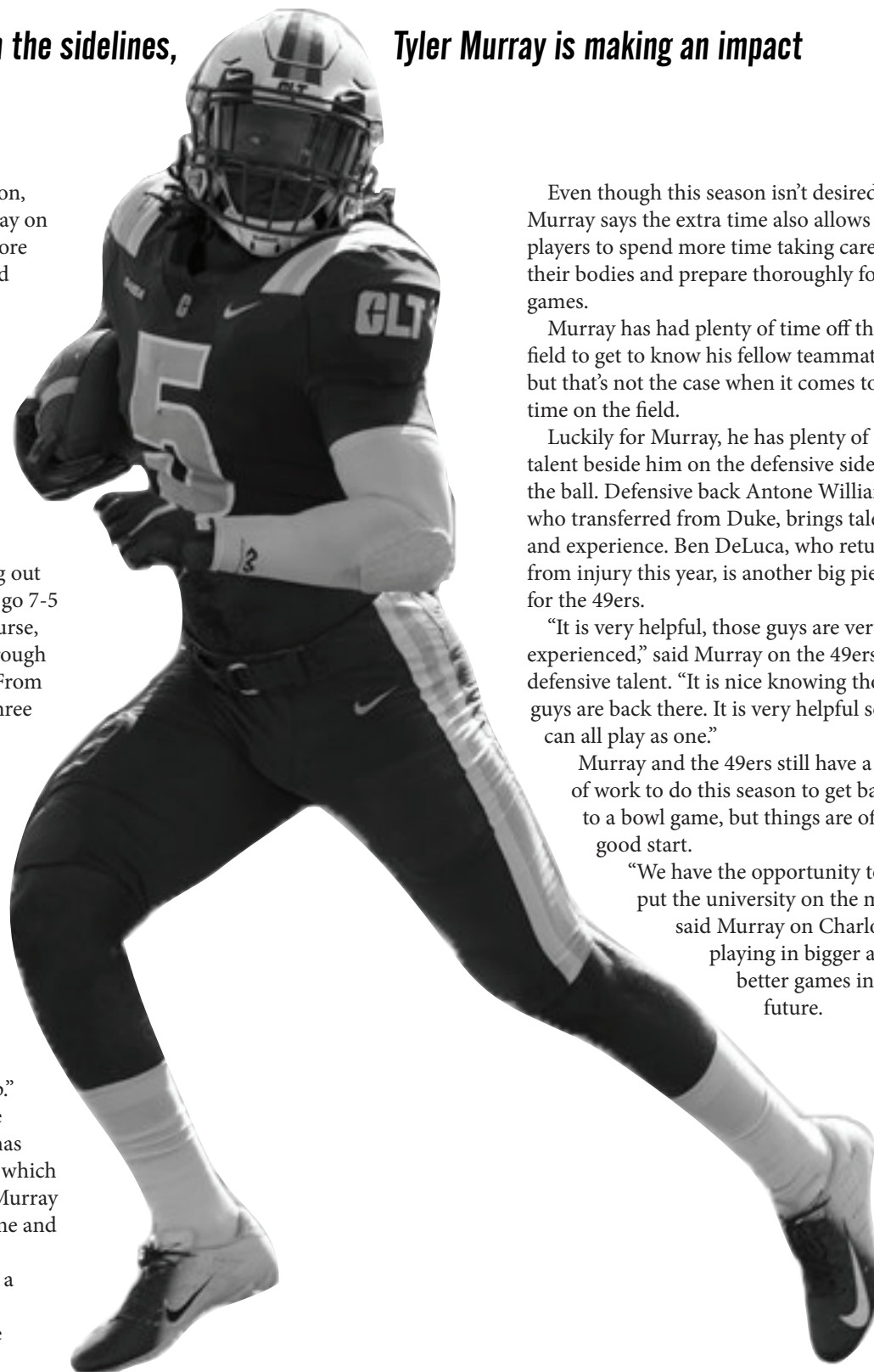
Murray has had plenty of time off the field to get to know his fellow teammates, but that's not the case when it comes to time on the field.

Luckily for Murray, he has plenty of talent beside him on the defensive side of the ball. Defensive back Antone Williams, who transferred from Duke, brings talent and experience. Ben DeLuca, who returned from injury this year, is another big piece for the 49ers.

"It is very helpful, those guys are very experienced," said Murray on the 49ers defensive talent. "It is nice knowing those guys are back there. It is very helpful so we can all play as one."

Murray and the 49ers still have a lot of work to do this season to get back to a bowl game, but things are off to a good start.

"We have the opportunity to put the university on the map," said Murray on Charlotte playing in bigger and better games in the future.



Tyler Murray returns an interception against UTEP, photo courtesy of Charlotte athletics.

49ER FLASHBACK:

CHARLOTTE'S 1976-77 FINAL FOUR RUN

In a new series, the Niner Times sports section looks at Charlotte 49er sports history

by Bradley Cole
Sports Editor

When it comes to looking back at the history of Charlotte 49er athletics, no one can deny the fact that the 1976-77 men's basketball team might be the most successful 49er team to date.

The '76-'77 Charlotte team was led by legendary coach Lee Rose and made the Final Four in the NCAA tournament. This was the first and the only time the 49ers made the Final Four. Making the deep run in the tournament was the crowning achievement of that team, but there was a lot more than just the Final Four appearance.

The 49er basketball program was still young at the time, but the 49ers set the gold standard during that improbable season.

Plenty of Talent

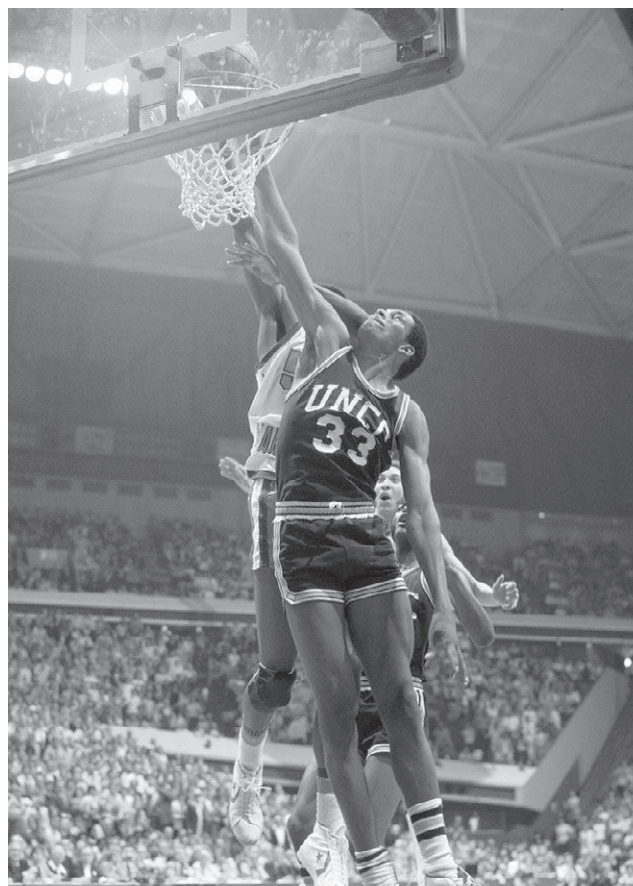
The 1976-77 Charlotte team had plenty of talent. The roster had two future NBA players. Cedric Maxwell (11 seasons) and Chad Kinch (2 seasons) both spent time at the next level. Maxwell went on to win two championships with the Boston Celtics. With the 49ers in 76-77, however, Maxwell led the team in points with 22.3 per game. He also averaged 12.1 rebounds per game.

The team had four players average double digits in scoring. As a team, the 49ers scored 87.1 points per game and held their opponents to 73.1 points per game. On top of a successful team, Charlotte had a legendary head coach in Lee Rose. Rose used his time with the 49ers as a launching pad for a successful coaching career. Charlotte was the coach's first big-time head coaching position and was hired by the school in 1975 as the head basketball coach and athletic director.

A long time coming

Charlotte's successful season was no accident. The 49ers slowly but surely turned themselves into a title contender. In the 1973-74 season, Charlotte went 22-4 and 14-0 at home.

The 49ers then went on to go 23-3 and 15-0 at home during the 74-75 season. The 75-76 season is when the 49ers finally made an impact in the postseason. In just their seventh season in the Division 1 ranks, Rose wanted to put the 49ers up against tougher competition. The masterful



Cedric Maxwell goes up for a shot during Charlotte's 1976-77 basketball season. Photo courtesy of the Associated Press.

plan worked. The 49ers went undefeated again at home and advanced to the NIT championship game against Kentucky with a 24-6 overall record. Charlotte lost to the Wildcats but it set the stage for the next season.

Final Four run

Playing some of the toughest competition they had played to this point, Charlotte had a lot on their plate for the 1976-77 season. It was the first season in the Sun Belt Conference for Charlotte and they also had their fair share of tough opponents. In their first 20 games of the season, the 49ers only lost three games and even had a signature win against powerhouse Florida State.

After that first part of the season, the 49ers played almost

flawless. Charlotte won eight straight games to close out the season. In the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the 49ers beat Jacksonville 74-69 that would set up a championship bout with New Orleans. The 49ers barely came out on top with a 71-70 win and advanced to the NCAA tournament.

For the first-time ever, Charlotte was on the national stage. The 49ers had another nerve racking game as they beat Central Michigan 91-86 in overtime. Going up against the No. 5 seed Syracuse Orange in the second round, Charlotte routed the powerhouse team, 81-59.

Charlotte then had to play No.1 seed Michigan to advance to the Final Four. Maxwell helped lead the team to a 75-68 victory with 25 points and the 49ers made the Final Four.

All good things must come to an end. For Charlotte, their magical tournament run ended against the Marquette Golden Eagles. After tying the game up with just three second left, Marquette struck again and scored to win, 51-49. They went on to beat UNC-Chapel Hill in the championship game.

A warm reunion

It was only right that the 1976-77 team got a proper reunion in front of Charlotte fans. The team put the school on the map and made Charlotte a prominent basketball school.

UNC Charlotte welcomed back the 1976-77 team in 2017 to celebrate their success for the team's 40th anniversary of the season. A lot has changed since 1977 when Charlotte last played in the Final Four. Back then, a ticket to the Final Four cost \$14 and the budget for the team was \$180,305, compared to \$3.3 million today.

A lot has changed, but the appreciation the players and staff had for that magical season hasn't.

"Maybe it's like somebody playing golf and they hit a hole-in-one," coach Lee Rose said to Charlotte Observer in 2017 about the Final Four run. "They cherish that moment, but then they never have another hole-in-one."



QUEER YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020

by Julianna Peres
Lifestyle Editor

Photo courtesy of Carolina
Conference on Queer Youth

This was the eighth annual, and first ever, virtual Queer Youth Conference with a lot of protestors in attendance. This wasn't just because they put "queer" in the title, but because it was specifically queer-centric. The organizers, however, said that it doesn't matter whether it is protestors or COVID-19, this conversation cannot be stopped.

The virtual conference opened with UNC Charlotte's Dr. Pitt's land acknowledgement for the Native American groups that were previously enslaved and abused by colonialists. After the introductory meeting, participants were asked to choose from a list of breakout session lectures. The list included: Best Practices when Supporting LGBTQ+ Housing Clients, The Intersectionality of Queer Youth in the Healthcare Continuum, Black Transgender Men: Grappling with Multiple-Minority Stress and Police Brutality, and the one that I attended: Decolonizing Therapy 103: The Ethics of Decolonization.

That first workshop I participated in was led by psychologist, social worker, and therapist Reia Chapman. She opened with a discussion on what constitutes as "decolonization therapy." I'd never heard this term before, but was interested to learn that it is a specific kind of mental health treatment for systematically marginalized communities of color. Chapman said that her unique point of view (as a queer black woman) allows her to see holes in so many different programs. Her own graduate program was guilty of swerving all LGBT issues. In attending other conferences, Chapman saw herself reflected in queer elders whom she wished herself to be someday. But this serves the question: where do law and health intersect to help those elders?

She was clear that there's a huge difference between social work training and actual practice. Most social workers are taught to distance themselves from clients, to focus on medical diagnoses, and to ignore culture altogether. Meanwhile, decolonization therapy is about connecting with clients, creating a bond with them, discussing social justice (i.e. the world around us), and embracing the intersectional cultures/identifiers that a client may have.

Chapman made a great analogy in favor of social workers who don't distance themselves from clients. She

said, "Imagine seeing someone crying and just standing there and watching them. It's been embedded in people that it would be inappropriate for you to sit there and watch someone suffer. This compassion encourages truth and transparency and that's what I want my clients to feel." This is the same philosophy that she applies when it comes to community injustice.

According to Chapman, her largest client demographics are homeless LGBTQ+ individuals and previously incarcerated people of color. The prison system, housing laws, immigration, and barriers to proper healthcare are what Chapman says "tragically keeps her in business." But she also mentioned some great LGBTQ+ organizations in Charlotte including Transcend Charlotte, Time Out Youth, The Freedom Center, Reia Chapman LCSW

Then it was time for the second group of breakout sessions. The list of sessions was: Out of The Closet and into The Room: The Exclusion of Blackness within LGBTQ Spaces, Inclusivity in the (Digital) Classroom, and the one that I attended: Intersectional Monosexism: Tackling Disparities in Queer Youth of Color from Multiple Angles. In this lecture, Anthony Carr and Miles

Joyner talked about how monosexism (prejudice against bisexual or pansexual people) affects queer youth of color much more often than their white counterparts.

I had never heard the term "monosexism" before this lecture and it really made me think. The term seems like it would apply to polyamorous people (those who date more than one person at a time) too. But does it? This conversation was more about how gays, lesbians, and straight people often stigmatize bisexual people for "not being able to pick just one gender." It may sound like harmless teasing, but it can knock over a domino that leads to more bisexual people of color being incarcerated, unable to graduate high school, and finding themselves in abusive relationships.

Joyner started the discussion with a brief history of bisexuality. It was said to see how, even the people who coined the term, thought that bisexuality/pansexuality was unnatural and wrong. Fortunately, despite all of this discrimination, there did come to be the Kinsey Scale. This scale represents someone who is 100% straight, someone who is bisexual/pansexual (50%) and someone who is 100% gay. Of course, most people who identify as bisexual find themselves somewhere between the two extremes, but the fact that they're not "totally" bisexual doesn't strip away their sexuality. In fact, the man who created the scale said that sexuality is fluid. He even put himself in the gray area, with a preference for women. This was a really interesting discussion because, as a person who would define myself as being 100% gay, I don't pay as much attention to the rest of the scale as I should. With that being said, I think that everyone should look at the statistics about bisexual people of color. It's so important to analyze the parts of society that are keeping specific groups oppressed.

Finally, the conference ended with a large group discussion on what we'd learned and what we thought could be improved upon for next year. I wish it were longer, with more opportunities to attend all lectures, but I would recommend this conference to allies, LGBTQ+ individuals, educators or anyone who just wants to learn something new.



**BLACK QUEER AND TRANS LIVES MATTER:
UPLIFTING QTBIPOC AND ADDRESSING
ANTI-BLACKNESS IN LGBTQ+ SPACES**



THE BENEFITS OF THRIFTING

How thrifting can benefit the environment, your wallet and your style

by Emily Kottak
Lifestyle Editor

Photo by
Kavya Kumar

For most of my life, shopping meant going to all the popular stores in the mall to find the clothes I wanted. If I'm being honest, I always thought of thrifted clothes as old and worn so it never really crossed my mind to try out thrifting. However, a little over a year ago my friend took me along with her to Uptown Cheapskate, and not to be dramatic, but it was life changing. So, I've compiled some of the benefits I've come to understand through thrifting.

Unique finds

I never thought of thrift shops as having cute, trendy clothes. I was wrong. Pretty much any item of clothing you could think of (and more) are often on the racks at thrift stores. Some items haven't even been worn before and the tags are still attached. I have found so many wgreat pieces while thrifting. From high-end brands to vintage finds, there are so many unique pieces that you can come across while shopping. It's so exciting to find cool new things.

Thrifting is good for the environment

Fashion is the second most polluting industry in the world. 32 billion garments of clothing are produced for the U.S. market each year and 64% of them end up in a landfill. Thrifting is a much more sustainable option. Returning one clothing item back into the circular economy reduces its carbon footprint by 82%. Buying second-hand helps contribute to decreasing the worldwide textile demand and keep plastic out of the landfills. I've learned that thrifting helps

keep the resources that were used to create the clothing items and prevent them from going to waste.

You can make it your own

DIY thrifting finds has become increasingly popular. I think thrifting is already a creative practice, but there are so many ways to personalize things you find. For example, you can cut a shirt to crop it, create rips/distress marks in jeans, paint shoes, etc. There is so much freedom with this. Don't be discouraged if you find a piece that's not exactly how you want it to look. There are ways to spice it up and customize it to your own liking.

Low prices

This is an obvious one but definitely important. At a normal store in the mall, a plain white shirt could cost \$20, jeans up to \$60 and a simple sweater could be \$50 or more. These are just rough estimates but needless to say there is no reason to spend that much money every time you shop. Especially as a college student, the value of a dollar is important and saving money on clothes makes life that much easier.

Thrifting is literally one of my all-time favorite things to do. I don't feel as guilty about spending money (though I try to avoid going overboard) and I think my wardrobe has become more unique and catered to my "style." I love trying out different pieces and styles while saving money and helping the environment. If you are like I used to be, and have doubts about thrifting, I encourage you to give it a chance. You might just fall in love.

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