

UNC Charlotte + COVID-19



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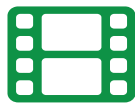
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POLICE BLOTTER

9/9: Fraud

Officers responded to alleged fraud in Sanford Hall.

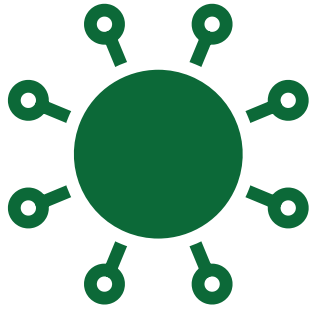
9/10: Damage to Property

Officers responded to graffiti at College of Health and Human Services

9/10: Loitering/Trespassing

Officers responded in reference to a loitering subject at the College of Health and Human Services. The subject was released to a parent and issued a new trespass order.

VIEW FULL BLOTTER AT
POLICE.UNCC.EDU/POLICE-LOG



Niner Times survey reveals concerns about returning to campus



by Megan Bird
News Editor

Nearly 70% of surveyed students prefer an entirely remote semester

A Niner Times survey reveals that students are nervous about returning to in-person classes in October. Nearly 70% of the 280 respondents said they prefer an entirely remote semester, while about 30% hope to return to in-person courses.

On Aug. 23, UNC Charlotte announced that it would begin the semester remotely with plans to return to some in-person instruction on Oct. 1. Move-in to residence halls was also delayed until Sept. 26 except for international students, RAs and other students with extenuating circumstances.

In the same survey, 58% of students with on-campus housing contracts indicated that they would not move into the dorms if instruction is moved completely online after Oct. 1.

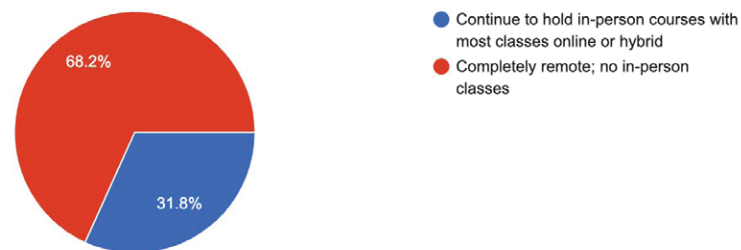
When the University announced that the semester would begin remotely, Mecklenburg County's positivity rate was 6.4%. It is now 6.2%. According to the World Health Organization, a 5% positivity rate is one indicator that the virus is under control.

UNC Charlotte reports 38 new COVID-19 cases since Sept. 7, when online classes began. The week before, there were on average three new cases per day.

Because the semester began both remotely and later than all other UNC System schools, UNC Charlotte has the unique vantage point of seeing how other universities fare before filing back into classrooms. UNC Chapel Hill, for example, jumped from a 2.8% positivity rate to 13.6% during their first week of classes. The school attributed the spike in cases to off-campus events.

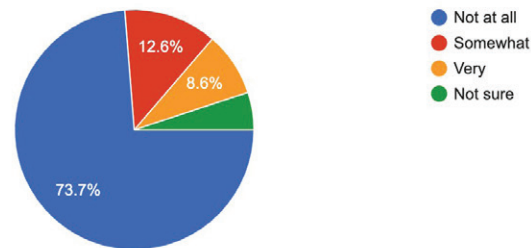
How do you think UNC Charlotte should operate after Oct. 1, 2020?

280 responses



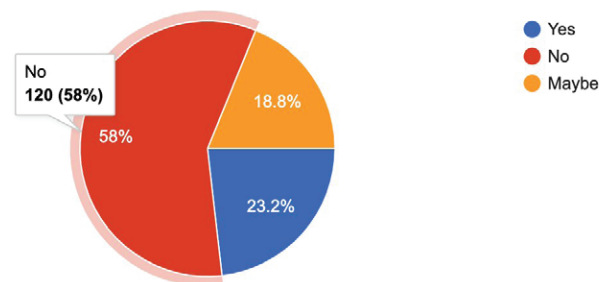
How likely are you to attend a party of 10 people or more during the pandemic?

278 responses



If you are planning to live in on-campus housing, will you still move onto campus if all instruction is moved online for the rest of the semester?

207 responses



UNC System President Peter Hans also blamed students for the failed openings. "This hard work is being undermined by a very small number of students behaving irresponsibly off campus, which unfairly punishes the vast majority," he said in a statement on Aug. 20.

In the Niner Times survey of UNC Charlotte students, 73.7% said they are not at all likely to attend a party of 10 or more people. 12.6% are somewhat likely to attend, and 8.6% (24 students) responded that they were very likely to attend. Five percent said they were not sure.

UNC Charlotte can process 1,000 tests a week beginning Sept. 14 with no out-of-pocket costs, according to spokesperson Buffie Stephens. In addition to testing, faculty and students must participate in daily screening surveys. The University is also surveilling wastewater by tapping directly into waste lines in the plumbing under dormitories. The method indicates a spike in COVID-19 cases before traditional testing does.

In an interview with the Niner Times, Chancellor Sharon Gaber said students can expect to hear early in the week of Sept. 21 whether or not UNC Charlotte will return to in-person classes on Oct. 1.

Note: The Niner Times survey cited in this article was not a random sample of students and is therefore not necessarily representative of the UNC Charlotte student body.

Students push for required anti-racism course at UNC Charlotte

by Jessica Ceballos, Asst. News Editor
Kathryn Caudill, Staff Writer

UNC Charlotte junior Lauren Martin and senior Scott Christensen are pushing for a new general education course on race and racism in order to “increase awareness of systemic racism and engage students in meaningful conversations,” they say. They started a petition to gain support for the cause that currently has 450 signatures.

The course would be similar to an LBST 2301 Critical Thinking and Communications course in that it would be small and discussion-based and mandatory for all incoming freshmen and transfer students. It would not be an additional course, they say, but would replace a pre-existing general education course. “We don’t want to add to the course load of current students,” explained Christensen.

The idea has garnered support from several faculty members. Director of Women’s and Gender Studies Dr. Janaka Lewis told the Niner Times, “I support a class in anti-racism curriculum because it would shed light on the many ways racism, discrimination and racial violence are part of the fabric of society and range across educational disciplines as well. We do not currently, to my knowledge, have a curricular initiative that addresses anti-Black and racial violence throughout or as a basis for a field of study.”

Dr. Lewis also stated that, “The benefit of such a course is to escape the idea that racism is only relevant in cultural-specific studies and instead emphasize that

it is of local, national and global significance.”

Martin and Christensen took inspiration from Sarah Klein, who started a similar petition at the University of Florida.

“This is something that should be happening at UNC Charlotte, which is one of the most diverse student bodies in the UNC system,” said Christensen. “This is important and it is something tangible that we can do to create change.”

Martin added, “Education on racism in the United States is currently a topic the majority of UNC Charlotte students are not taught. Therefore, we believe there is a need for this type of course at the university level.”

The two were also motivated by an Instagram page created during the recent resurgence in the Black Lives Matter movement. @dearuncc is an unaffiliated Instagram account that shares BIPOC students’ experiences with racism and prejudice at UNC Charlotte. Martin and Christensen say that the racism course would help educate students in order to limit encounters like these.

The process to change general education requirements is complex. Martin and Christensen will have to gain support from the Faculty Council, the deans of each college, Provost Lorden and Chancellor Gaber. The last change to general education curriculum was the

addition of LBST 2301, and it took 3 years to complete.

In her 2020 convocation speech, Provost Lorden said, “We need to revisit the goals and values embodied in the general education program and ask what a contemporary program should be.”

UNC Charlotte also recently implemented an online bias reporting form. The form allows you to provide information to anonymously report any incident of bias on campus. It is then reviewed and directed to the appropriate office on campus to resolve or amend the issue. This process is meant to track incidents as well as provide the campus with an idea of the prevalence of biased incidents on campus.

Chancellor Gaber also recently announced that Dr. Cheryl Waites Spellman will be the new Interim Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at UNC Charlotte. She will organize with faculty, staff and students to further create a more diverse environment on campus.

Martin and Christensen believe that now is the best time to introduce this petition and course because UNC Charlotte has a new chancellor who they hope is open to new concepts and changes.



Photo of CHHS Plaza, by Niyathi Sulkunte

THE CHOICE BETWEEN CLOSURE AND COVID-19

A case against in-person instruction amid the pandemic

by Isaac Naylor
Staff Writer

The university leadership is stuck in a holding pattern—waiting things out before they potentially get better, worse, or (God forbid) ugly. While COVID-19 cases in the city gradually climb, the situation on campus could mimic that or take on its own character. Our campus is isolated but still porous; the train station, bus lines and roadways are the major ways in and could deliver COVID-19 faster than an Amazon Prime package.

An in-person visit to class in the fall could lead to an in-person visit to the hospital later despite class delays until Oct. 1. We need a complete shift to online classes for the entire semester. Of course, this will intensify the digital divide, harming poor and rural students disproportionately more. But, it will save lives.

At this point in the pandemic, hosting classes in-person would mean greater risk. This is not a game of chance anymore, it is a game of time and certainty now. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains, “the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.” There is no place more cramped on campus than inside dormitories and classrooms. The CDC goes on to say, “indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces where it might be harder to keep people apart and there’s less ventilation.” So, if the CDC says that staying confined to indoor public spaces is a bad idea, then I think we ought to listen.

Nothing has changed since March 20, when students were kicked off of campus last semester. If anything, the situation has gotten much worse. According to the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Mecklenburg County has had 26,683 total confirmed cases since mid-March and 331 deaths as of Sept. 11. The county has seen an average of 103 daily new cases over the past two weeks. The state figures have reached 182,617 cases overall and 3,044 dead according to data from the New York Times.

I’m not trying to fear-monger; this is just an objective reality. We all saw what happened to Chapel Hill. According to the Daily Tar Heel, UNC-Chapel Hill had developed four “clusters” of COVID-19 on its campus last month, thanks in large part to off-campus parties. This was why after just one week of classes, the UNC-Chapel Hill leadership sent out a message

to all of its undergraduate students shifting in-person classes to remote instruction effective Aug. 19. If you think that can’t happen here, then give it time.

In addition, the UNC-Chapel Hill CV-19 Dashboard reports that 1,101 students and 64 faculty have been infected at Chapel Hill since February. That translates to a 15 percent positive infection rate of all students who have received testing since July 1. Occupancy for campus housing has fallen from 91.2 percent on July 20 to just 12.9 percent on Sept. 11.

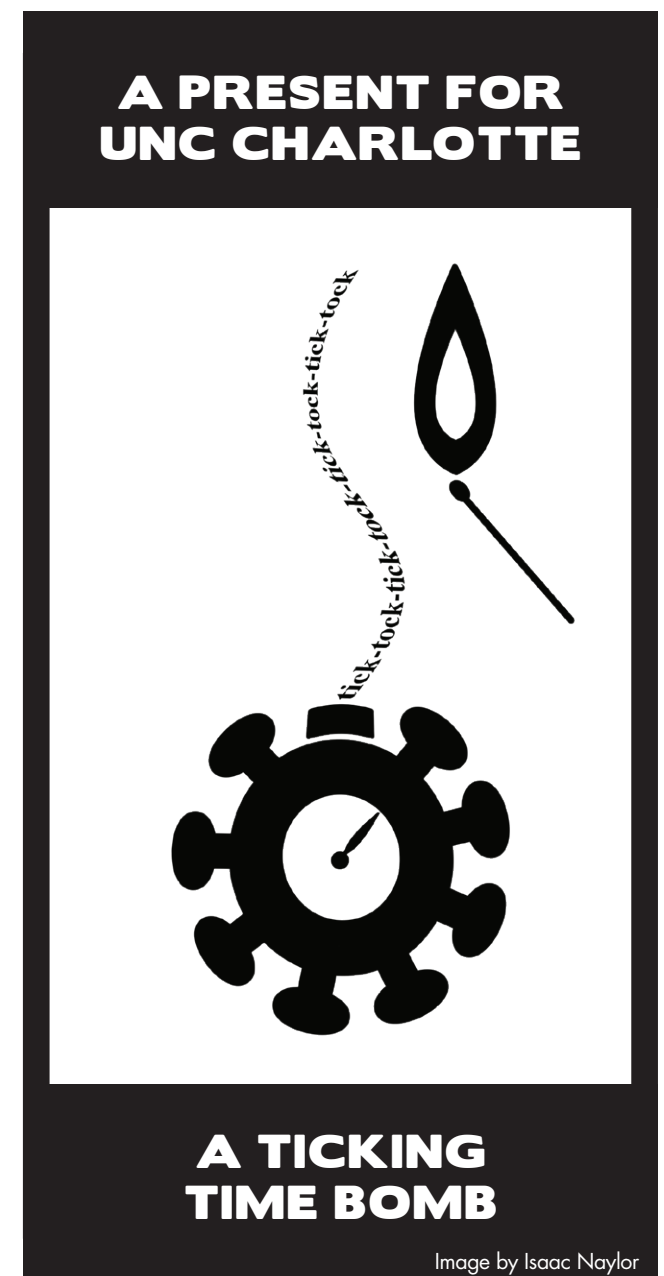
COVID-19 has already made its debut in our campus community this semester, too. According to the Charlotte Observer, our university has seen its first “cluster” of COVID-19 infections with 8 students living off-campus testing positive. A few days later, the UNC-Charlotte COVID-19 Dashboard recorded a total of 25 students and 52 employees testing positive for COVID-19 from July 1 to Sept. 6. The Niner Times reports 38 new cases since Sept. 7. Do you still think it can’t happen here?

Even still, the university is not defenseless. Some of the tools UNC-Charlotte has in its arsenal against COVID-19 are testing and contact tracing, but these methods are not flawless. Last month on a podcast for the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) said, “one of the things that is still not perfect is the time lag between when you do a test and when you get the result back.” Fauci also said, “if you have to wait several days [for the test], then it kind of obviates the underlying reason for doing the contact tracing.” A time lag of several days gives COVID-19 a chance to hop from the infected to the healthy. And, for those who are asymptomatic, the virus could have a field day.

Kudos to the university for mandating a mask policy and simplifying mail services to avoid the spread of COVID-19. But, I doubt that will be enough to stop an outbreak with 29,615 students recorded on UNC-Charlotte’s Fall 2019 university profile. The university should wait until a vaccine is developed and widely available. That might not be until spring or summer next year, but it will ensure the safety of the university community—if that really is a top priority.

All you can do is wash your hands, wear your mask and socially distance 6 feet apart from those around

you according to CDC suggestions. Do your part. It won’t guarantee the prevention of a campus outbreak, but at least you can say that you weren’t part of the reason why everyone else got sick. Stay safe out there.





»»»» A STEP FORWARD »»»»

Charlotte 49er football showed grit on the national stage in a tough loss to Appalachian State

by Bradley Cole
Sports Editor

When the Charlotte 49er football team left Boone on Sept. 7, 2019, they had just lost to Appalachian State for the second year in a row.

The game was a barnburner with a 56-41 score in favor of the Mountaineers but was a step in the right direction for the 49ers. They showed they could hang with one of the most consistent programs in the country.

Almost a year later, on Sept. 12, 2020, the 49ers almost left Kidd Brewer Stadium victorious but yet took another step forward. The 49ers lost to App State 35-20 in a tough matchup and were only down a point going into the fourth quarter. The Mountaineers were ranked 20th in the country going into the game. The matchup was televised on ESPN2.

"It was a hard-fought football game," said 49er Head Coach Will Healy of the loss. "I'm proud of our guys and excited about where our team is but today App was definitely the better football team."

A long road

After the App State loss in 2019, the football program won a school-record seven games and made their first bowl appearance in school history. Charlotte showed they were ready to compete with the best of the best.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic caused some schedule changes for the 49ers, Charlotte had the chance to show what they were about. In a span of a month over the summer, head coach Will Healy and his staff added two nationally-ranked opponents in North Carolina and Appalachian State.

After one of the weirdest off-seasons in recent memory, Charlotte faced Appalachian State on a rainy Saturday

afternoon in front of 50 parents and relatives of Appalachian State players, instead of thousands of people.

It was a different atmosphere. There were no screaming fans, snap counts were easier to hear and you could even hear the players talk throughout the game. Running back Aaron McAllister felt a big difference in this year's matchup against App State compared to other years.

"The difference is better execution and guys wanting to win," said McAllister. "We didn't have distractions from any fans. We were locked in and brought our own juice."

Charlotte stood up to the challenge and showed off why the program is starting to become a well-known name.

In the tough loss, Charlotte stayed within striking distance of the Mountaineers. The 49ers struck first and were only down by four points at halftime. That scene was a lot different from last year where the Mountaineers led the 49ers 28-13 at halftime.

The Mountaineers only lead the 49ers 14-13 throughout the third quarter after a Charlotte field goal. A couple of minutes later App State's Zac Thomas threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to Thomas Hennigan. With now a 21-13 lead, it appeared the momentum started to shift in Appalachian State's favor.

Seconds later, Charlotte's biggest play came. McAllister took a kick return 97 yards for a 49er touchdown and App State suddenly only led 21-20. That kick return was the longest in school history.

Charlotte's scoring magic then ran out. Appalachian State scored two more times en route to their win.

However, a lot of new names made a splash for Charlotte.

Transfer Tre Harbison rushed for 87

yards and one touchdown. Fresh man tight end Taylor Thompson led the team with 62 receiving yards. Defensive back Ben DeLuca, who missed all of the 2019 season, had 16 total tackles and caused a fumble early in the game. Transfer Tyler Murray had a fumble recovery, forced fumble, 14 tackles, and interception in his debut.

A bright future

Even though a win wasn't added in the win column, the 49ers showed that their 7-5 season in 2019 was not a fluke. After creating a buzz in 2019 both on and off the field in 2019, Charlotte created more buzz in just their first game of the season.

With fresh new jerseys that arrived just a day before the game, there was a lot to be excited about for Charlotte going into the game.

The excitement translated onto social media as well throughout the afternoon. The 49ers were trending on twitter with a video of linebacker Peter Agabe dancing all over the field on camera right after a Niner touchdown.

"I don't know what was going on through his head," McAllister joked after the game. "They said bring your own juice, but they didn't say anything about all that. But everybody has their own way of expressing how they feel."

Even after a loss, the 49ers now know they will have a lot of different playmakers moving forward this season. Unlike last year's loss at Appalachian State, Healy believes there's something to happy about.

"Total different environment this year compared last year" said Healy. "Last year I had to worry about them taking it as a moral victory because of what happened the year before that (against Appalachian State). This year I don't have to worry about that."

Healy knows there's still some work to be done to get to the status of team's like Appalachian State.

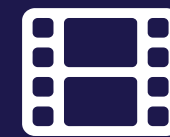
"We didn't play our best and to beat them we have to play our best," said Healy. Obviously we are not where they are. We have a long way to go but what a good test for our program."



Photo courtesy of Charlotte athletics

CHADWICK BOSEMAN

HIS LEGACY AND IMPACT



A&E

by Gabe Lapalombella
Intern

In late August of this year, we were all shocked at the passing of actor Chadwick Boseman due to colon cancer. Ever since his diagnosis in 2016, Boseman went on to make four films of incredibly different calibers. In telling the story of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, both “Avengers Infinity War,” Endgame and even “21 Bridges” and the most recent “Da 5 Bloods,” he flexed his acting muscles. Each of those films had metaphorical battles, but off-screen he was fighting a completely different battle. While fighting a battle no one expected, he never let on to the public the devilish battle he faced. Even before his diagnosis, Boseman managed to craft a career that will be talked about due to its significance both culturally and industrially.

His breakout occurred in 2013’s film “42,” which told the story of acclaimed baseball player Jackie Robinson. With this being his breakout performance, it really put Boseman on the map for a lot of people. Though now, there’s a more important significance of this film due to his passing occurring on Jackie Robinson day. After rewatching the film, there’s a poignancy to his portrayal. Much like Robinson, Boseman was someone who never stood in the spotlight of fame and indulged. He was someone who became a silent hero who was admired by critics and fans alike. In his portrayal of real-life figures such as James Brown and Thurgood Marshall, Boseman brought humanity and incredible charisma to each performance. It wasn’t until 2016’s Black Panther, that Boseman launched to superstardom.

Black Panther was a role that opened many fans’ eyes to the type of performer that he was. Besides cultural significance, the mere idea of this character was a role model for a younger generation. While it was a huge staple in the black

community, it essentially transcended the mere concept of race. This was a character that folks young and old responded to with a charismatic enthusiasm that Boseman leaned into as a performer. Though through every public appearance by Boseman showing the infamous “Wakanda Forever” symbol, we thought of it as one thing. Someone who wanted to portray his stardom, but now it reads as someone fighting the inevitable villain of cancer and not letting his fans know. With one simple gesture, there’s now a bittersweet sadness to his impact.

In early 2018, Boseman and his co-stars (Lupita Nyong’o, Danai Gurira) went on to

SiriusXM radio to promote Black Panther. Here, in a single moment, is one of the only times we see this man breakdown. In not even discussing himself, but discussing two young boys who passed away from cancer before filming release. At the time not even knowing of Boseman’s battle, you see his caring nature for other people. He never let his image falter of a “King,” “Baseball Player” etc. to his young fans. If you haven’t seen this interview (which clocks in at less than three minutes) I highly recommend a watch.

In short, the point I want to make about this legend is rather simple. Even in being in the public eye, no one knew the

struggles he was going through. After a variety of performances that showed his range as an actor, no one would’ve guessed he was struggling on the inside. Everyone considered him to be studying for a role, when in fact he was fighting for his life. My point is that even if you are a movie star, no one will know the pain you go through even in creating art. Chadwick Boseman gave off a hard work ethic and delivered fans several years of entertainment. Speaking as a fan of his work (like many) his talents and abilities will surely be missed, as well as the prospect of his future endeavors. Rest in power, King. You may be gone but will never be forgotten!



Chadwick Boseman as Black Panther, photo courtesy of imdb.com



TAKE A DIP

TOP FIVE CHICKEN NUGGET SAUCES

by Brandon Mitchell
Asst. Layout Editor

Chicken nuggets are amazing. They're my go-to comfort food. Regardless of the situation, my mood is lifted after consuming some of those magical processed patties. Yet, nuggets are nothing without a proper coating of sauce. Here are my top five sauces to pair with a nice crispy cutlet.

1. Special Sauce

Chick-fil-A, McDonald's and every other major food chain has a special sauce, and they are all basically the same. It's always a mixture of mayonnaise, thousand island dressing and some other classified ingredient. This mass conformity amongst fast food conglomerates is due to the concoctions undeniable deliciousness. It is the cool teenage brother of Sweet and Sour and has more than earned its spot at the top.

2. Hot Mustard

This is a personal favorite of mine. It's only available at McDonald's and doesn't have as appealing of a name as

some of the others on this list. However, its flavor palette is simple enough to be enjoyable after ten sauce-covered mouthfuls but complicated enough to never disappoint. Before doxxing me for putting this on the list instead of honey mustard or barbecue, go try it. It'll change your life.

3. Ketchup

Ketchup is here solely due to its cultural presence. It isn't even that flavorful, but it tastes like home. No matter where you are in the world or in your life, it will be there for you. It is a friend in times of success and failure. It loves you and itself deserves to be loved.

4. Ranch

Firstly, there is bad ranch and there is good ranch. I'm talking about good ranch. Chicken and ranch go together like peanut butter and jelly. It's a classic and a staple of the working class. If your immediate thought was "eh, bleu cheese is better," check your privilege.

It would be higher on this list, but its flavor profile is a bit overwhelming after a certain number of nuggets.

5. Sweet and Sour

It's a people pleaser. It gets the job done. No one is excited for it, but no one is disappointed either. It's better than most options out there, but it should not be your favorite. If it is, you probably still have your mother book doctor's appointments for you and don't know how to do laundry on your own. Grow up.

I hope this list has expanded your perspective a little bit. If it didn't, reread it. Reflect on it. Some people's personal growth takes longer than others, and that's okay. Life's a marathon, not a race. Now that you've improved yourself, go get yourself some nuggets. You deserve them.

7 Vegetarian/Vegan dishes you can find almost anywhere

by Julianna Peres
Lifestyle Editor

Photo courtesy of Shelley Pauls via Unsplash

When I say "vegan" or "vegetarian," the first thing that comes to mind for many people is "tofu." Yes, tofu is wonderful, but it's not the only food available to non-meat eaters. This article is for anyone who wants to know what you can eat (on a budget) that does not include animal products.

Pasta: These can be made of durum wheat flour (ie. your typical pasta) or they can be made from vegetables (for example, zucchini noodles). You can cook your pasta with olive oil and garlic or marinara sauce.

Snacks: Oreos, Pringles, Sour Patch Kids, Nature Valley bars, Fritos, Nutter Butter, Doritos, Chex Mix, Reese's Cups, M&Ms, Dots, Swedish Fish, Animal Crackers, Sun Chips. Any of these snacks can be found in the vending machines on campus. You know, it isn't necessarily true that every vegan has to eat fruits and vegetables all the time.

Sandwiches: These can be any kind of sandwich combination from peanut butter and jelly, vegan cheese with tomato and basil, avocado and jalapeño, chickpea salad, lettuce with sun-

dried tomatoes and coleslaw, mushroom patty, to tofu with grilled potato and red peppers.

Beans: Can include kidney beans, string beans, pinto beans, or even lentils. Of course, if you want to make a bean salad, add corn, cabbage, red onions, or even bell peppers. When mixing beans, and the like, always strain them first then add salt, vinegar, olive oil and whatever other dressing or spices you like!

Hummus: Did you know that Walmart alone carries over nine different flavors of hummus? A few of my personal favorites, from the brand Sabra, are chipotle hummus, sun-dried tomato, olive tapenade, roasted garlic, lemon, caramelized onion, and, of course, plain. Hummus goes well with pita bread or chips and can taste either as strong, or bland, as you'd like.

Seafood: This can be anything from lobster to clams, as long as they haven't been breaded.

Tofu: Types of tofu that you can find at your local grocery store (always ask where their 'vegan section' is!) are meatballs, organic silken tofu, tough cubed

tofu with balsamic vinaigrette, thin sesame ginger tofu, and grilled sesame tofu. Not to mention the many "Tofurkey" branded meatless meat options: Italian sausage, apple maple breakfast sausage, deli slices, frankfurters, smart bacon, and chorizo.

Whether you like to cook or like to order take out, I hope that this article got you thinking about how to maintain at least half-stocked pantry. Unfortunately, it's true that some shops are running low on canned goods, but there's always online ordering and curbside pick-up. Not every vegan is healthy and not every omnivore is unhealthy. Keep in mind that just because you enjoy a nice salad, doesn't mean that you can't also enjoy a good old-fashioned hotdog! always online ordering and curbside pick-up. Not every vegan is healthy and not every omnivore (person who eats meat, vegetables, dairy, and all other foods) is unhealthy. Keep in mind that just because you enjoy a nice quinoa, cucumber, tomato, black olive, and zucchini salad, doesn't mean that you can't also enjoy an old-fashioned hotdog!