



GROUNDBREAKING BLACK TV SHOWS



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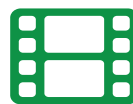
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POLICE BLOTTER

1/28: Alarm Fire/Arrest

Officers responded to to East Deck II in reference to a pull station that had been activated. One subject was transported to Mecklenburg County Intake, and issued a trespass order.

1/29: Loitering/Arrest

Officers responded to the lightrail platform in reference to a subject urinating on the platform. One subject was transported to Mecklenburg County Intake for an outstanding warrant and issued a trespass order.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte



NEWS

How UNC Charlotte became the only UNC institution with a spring break

Spring break will be held from Feb. 8-12

by Megan Bird
News Editor

Photo of Fretwell during spring,
courtesy of NT files

In keeping with the abnormalities of this past year, UNC Charlotte's "spring break" will occur only 3 weeks into the spring 2021 semester. Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber announced on Jan. 11 that the break would be moved from late March to Feb. 8-12, making UNC Charlotte the only university in the UNC System observing a spring break. The decision was made in deference to advice from the Student Government Association (SGA) and Mecklenburg County health officials.

"We heard overwhelmingly from SGA about the importance of maintaining a weeklong break for the student body during this upcoming semester," Gaber wrote in her Jan. 11 announcement. "To honor that request in the safest possible way, the break will occur from Feb. 8-12, rather than March 29-April 3 as previously listed."

UNC Charlotte also scrapped its earlier plans to move classes online after the late March break. Instead, the semester would begin remotely and return to some in-person instruction on Feb. 22.

"In Mecklenburg County, the positivity rate has continually remained among the highest in the state and projections anticipate the peak of the virus in early February," Gaber explained.

In a Faculty Council meeting on Jan. 28, Gaber added that the administration wanted to allot time for students and faculty to quarantine after spring break without "multiple pivoting" between entirely remote and partially in-person instruction. Thus, spring break was moved to the penultimate week of online instruction, allowing a week afterwards to quarantine before in-person classes.

"I recognize that it's not ideal; I recognize that virtually no one would call that spring break," conceded Gaber.

The decision was announced nine days before the beginning of the semester, when many professors had already finalized their syllabi. Faculty Council President Dr. Joel Avrin did not respond by presstime to questions about whether faculty were consulted about the earlier spring break.

Gaber, who has made a concerted effort to engage with student leaders since beginning her role as chancellor in July 2020, met with members of SGA in early December to discuss the spring calendar.

"Student leaders such as myself

*"We heard overwhelmingly from SGA about the importance of maintaining a weeklong break for the student body during this upcoming semester. To honor that request in the safest possible way, the break will occur from Feb. 8-12 rather than March 29-April 3 as previously listed."
-Chancellor Gaber*

were extremely concerned about the prospect of a semester with no spring break, especially after the burnout, mental fatigue and mental health concerns that all arose from our fall schedule, and we advocated vigorously to keep it," added SGA Pro Tempore Dick Beek-

man in a post on Reddit. "It's my personal opinion that while having spring break so early in the semester is not ideal, a poorly timed break is far better than no break at all."

According to Student Body President Tahlieah Sampson, the administration also considered removing spring break and replacing it with several

"mental health days." Student leaders pushed back, noting that UNC Charlotte students had experienced both a school shooting and a pandemic over the course of two years and needed a week-long break.

"SGA is advocating for the stay of spring break as much as we can (pushing hard!)," Sampson told the Niner Times in December. "Gaber and Bailey have done a great job listening to that concern and have been supporting that sentiment."

Following spring break, on-campus residents and students and faculty with in-person classes will be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test in conjunction with the return to some in-person instruction on Feb. 22. According to Provost Joan Lorden, 12% of classes are following the traditional face-to-face format, and another 12% are considered hybrid classes, with online and face-to-face components.

"The only thing that will change in the future is if we find Feb. 22 that cases have gone up," said Gaber during the Faculty Council meeting. "We've learned not to hold our breaths with this virus."

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SGA creates new complaint form for students

Students can use this form to voice their concerns about the fall 2020 semester

by Jessica Ceballos
Asst. News Editor

As we enter this new semester, UNC Charlotte's Student Government Association (SGA) has created a way for students to confidentially notify the SGA of their individual struggles from the fall 2020 semester through an academic complaint form located in Niner Engage.

According to a Reddit post by SGA Pro Tempore Dick Beekman, the SGA created the form for students to "bring to the attention of Student Government any serious issues you face." The form was created by the Academic Affairs Committee within the Senate with the support of the Provost. The primary author of the act was Jeremiah Williams, and it was passed on Oct. 29, 2020.

The form was created in response to disruptions to the fall semester caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A common complaint was that professors did not observe the break on Sept. 28-29 that was intended to allow students to move on campus. Students reported on Reddit that they stressed over moving on campus, keeping up with attendance in virtual classes and completing assignments that were due on those two days. This stress caused high traffic of corre-

spondence with the SGA, with students complaining about professors' expectations during a time of turbulence.

"While we do not have the unilateral

"While we do not have the unilateral authority to immediately and directly change any situation on our own, we are dedicated to using this tool to engage in meaningful conversations with faculty and administrators in order to address significant, unfair practices within the classroom."

-SGA Pro Tempore Dick Beekman

authority to immediately and directly change any situation on our own," wrote Beekman, "we are dedicated to using this tool to engage in meaningful conversations with faculty and administrators in order to address significant, unfair practices within the

classroom. Furthermore, we recognize that the inherent power structure within a classroom may cause some students to feel intimidated to address concerns with their professors directly."

This form is distinct from the Student Grievance Procedure as outlined by the University Policy: 411. The academic complaint form is addressed by the SGA and located through Niner Engage while the Student Grievance Procedure is addressed by the University.

To fill out the form, students will need their name, a UNC Charlotte email, the class name and section, the class Class Registration Number (CRN), and the professor's name to complete the form and submit your complaint. Information will not be shared with faculty unless the student gives explicit permission to the SGA.

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THE DEBATE ABOUT SPRING BREAK

Opinion editors discuss the placement of spring break on the Spring 2021 schedule

by Hiral, Opinion Editor (Affirmative)
Milo Cain, Asst. Opinion Editor (Negative)



Negative:

A late break; No, a normal break that is all I ask for. While it is important to understand that this decision is one that was made for the sake of preventing infections, I do not believe that this strategy is good for the total wellness of students. The reality is that for both students and faculty, the trek from the fall semester through winter break and into the spring semester has done little to ease the intense burnout and strain that has resulted from our isolation. The reality is that for many students and professors alike, Zoom fatigue and the isolation that comes with the current circumstances have led to an intense period of burnout that is unlikely to go away with an early spring break. In a recent editorial in the journal cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking by Dr. Brenda K. Wiederhold, the root of zoom fatigue in which the idiosyncrasies that are brought about by these digital technologies for the brain to attempt to correct idiosyncrasies may lead to greater strain

and exhaustion. In addition, the placement of a later spring break would give the UNC Charlotte community an opportunity to rid themselves of the remnants of the Christmas infections that swept the country and instead of giving them time for the numbers to subside. This extra time before the student population is released before spring break gives time for a greater amount of people within the university community to be vaccinated. While most of the university community falls within group 3-5 of the vaccine groups, it would ultimately be better for the overall community if we waited to release the students for a break. Ultimately the timing of this article gives no time for any sort of change to occur. That being said, it is important that the Gaber administration remember that while the health and safety of our students is the highest priority, we should also be vigilant of how these decisions affect our mental health.

Affirmative:

A lot of us are on the side of wanting a later spring break. I see why Feb. 8 to Feb. 12 is considered early, maybe it could have been pushed to the middle of February, but an early spring break is a lot more productive than we think it is. It's colder than usual around this time, so I'm sure most of us will be staying home since many spring break activities aren't available at the moment. Students can rely on this break as a mental health week to be lazy and catch up on sleep or even work extra hours for a bigger check. Students can focus on housekeeping, catch up on assignments or start on some of their assignments early so that they can have an easier rest of the semester. This break being early is intended to make sure students stay safe as it is difficult to vacation at such a time of the year. As we are more likely to stay home, this prepares students at UNC Charlotte to be safe later in the month when we start in-person classes and the campus is likely to be open to events and extracurriculars. Last year, at the

start of the COVID-19 outbreak, many college students still went out for spring break despite the health guidelines encouraged by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because they either didn't care about getting infected or believed that they were invincible. Because of this, NBC reported back in March 2020, that the number of COVID-19 cases had approached around 60,000 a few weeks after COVID-19 was considered a global pandemic. Now, the CDC reports around 26 million cases in the United States, so imagine the increase in the number of people infected after a regular spring break. This will bring us farther away from the regular summer that we hoped for last year. I personally think that it is better to follow guidelines, give up some adventures, and prioritize the other important things in life now so that the world can have some time to go back to the way it was before.



Photo courtesy of Adi Cohen via Unsplash



NINER SPORTS ROUNDUP

by Miles Ruder
Asst. Sports Editor

The Charlotte 49ers had a successful weekend. Men's basketball defended home court while the women's tennis and volleyball teams earned big wins on the road over ACC opponents. Here's a breakdown of all of the Charlotte sports over the weekend.

Basketball

Charlotte's men's basketball team continues to improve as the season progresses with their two-game sweep over FIU. Jahmir Young led the way in the series as he led the team in scoring in both matchups, including his first career double-double in the first with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Despite trailing at halftime in the second game, the 49ers defended home court behind the stellar defensive play in the second half.

"For us to hold them to 26 points in the second half shows the intensity picked up defensively," said Head Coach Ron Sanchez. "We were a lot more aggressive and contested their shots a lot better."

Since the disappointing 61-37 loss to UAB on Jan. 15, the 49ers are 4-1 with their only loss coming to FAU in overtime.

Meanwhile, women's basketball played valiantly on the road against Western Kentucky but came up winless as the 49ers fell in triple overtime at the buzzer in the first matchup. Octavia Jett-Wilson scored the potential game-winning shot with two seconds left in the third overtime, but Meral Abdelgawad drilled a three-pointer at the buzzer to stun the 49ers.

The second matchup ended the same as the first, with Raneem Elgedawy hitting the game-winning three-pointer for the Lady Toppers, handing the 49ers back-to-back one-point losses.

Despite the two close losses, Charlotte

remains in second place in the East Division of the Conference USA, only trailing Middle Tennessee, who Charlotte will host next weekend.

Tennis

Men's tennis had a busy but successful weekend, sweeping Furman 5-0 and defeating Georgia State 4-2.

The 49ers won four singles matches and two doubles matches, which was needed to seal the victory.

Despite losing the doubles matchups and Henry Lieberman losing in straight sets to Vazha Shubladze, Georgia State's top player, the rest of the team closed out their matches to earn the four points needed to win. Olle Wallin and Ben Wayand both lost the first set of their singles matches but stayed strong and won the final two to earn points for Charlotte.

Women's tennis had a successful weekend as the Niners defeated Virginia

Tech, 5-2. This victory marks Charlotte's first win against an ACC opponent since 1990 against Wake Forest.

The 49ers swept in all three doubles matchups for the first time this season. Ruxi Schech was also able to knock off the Hokies top player in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3.

Volleyball

Charlotte's volleyball team followed their win over Davidson up with a solid showing against Clemson. Despite falling in the first matchup, the 49ers responded by winning the rematch later that day.

Charlotte won the opening two sets in the first matchup against Clemson but couldn't close the match out in the final three sets, losing 3-2. The 49ers remained strong and defeated Clemson in the second game, 3-1.

Emani Foster, who earned C-USA Freshman of the Week last week, led the team in kills over the weekend with 42

between both games. Foster also led the team in aces with seven.

Their games against Clemson was the last out-of-conference matchup of the season as conference play will begin next weekend when they take on Marshall on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8.

Track and Field

Charlotte's track and field team continues to shine on their season as the team finished with four first-place finishes and seven second-place finishes at the VMI Winter Relays. The team also set 22 personal records over the weekend, including four from Thomas Olesen in 60m, long jump, high jump and shot put.

The men also walked away with top two spots in the men's pole vault with first place going to Jacob Davis and runner-up going to Marcus Hesske.

The women finished with the top three spots in the mile run, led by Sophie Ritter, who won the event with a time of 4:56:36. Louise Lounes earned second with a 4:58:28 time. Chandler Horton rounded out the top three with a time of 5:02:25.

Sophomore Eve English placed first in the high jump while Maci Bunting earned second place in the same event. Alex Wolf finished second in the long jump in the women's competition with a personal record distance of 5.63m.

Looking Forward

Men's golf will be heading down to TPC Sawgrass for their first tournament of the season while women's soccer begins their season against Kennesaw State. Men's soccer will have to wait a week for their season to start as their bout with Mercer on Feb. 5 was canceled.

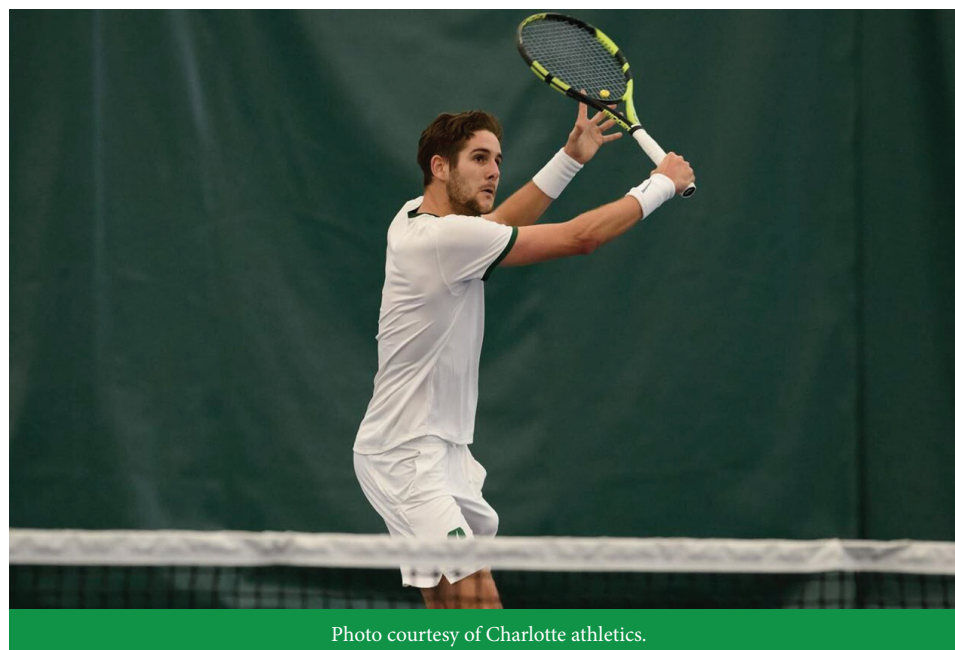


Photo courtesy of Charlotte athletics.

BECOMING A LEADER

by Bryson Foster
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Athletics
Jada McMillian (15) dribbles up the court against Marshall.

When watching a Charlotte game, number 15 is all over the court and is doing whatever she can to get the Niners a win. That number 15 is Jada McMillian, who has been a catalyst for Charlotte's women's basketball team after being more of a role player in her first two seasons.

McMillian, a junior guard at Charlotte, has started to come into

her own this season and has led to her taking a leadership position for the team. So far this season, she is at 194 points scored, which has almost tied the number of points she had last year at 200. McMillian has taken the challenge of leading the team and is excited for what is to come.

"I am finding myself more as a player on the court," said McMillian. "I feel as

though I am playing my role."

At a young age, McMillian wasn't sold on the game of basketball and there was a point in time she may never have played. A couple of months after her father asked her if she wanted to play, she made a decision that would put her on a path to greatness. She never looked back and it has changed her life for the better.

"My dad asked me if I wanted to play basketball one day, and I originally said no because I was so shy," said McMillian. "A couple of months passed, and I changed my mind and thought it would be fun."

McMillian's father and mother were talented athletes in high school and passed down those same genes to her. Sports have always been a deep fabric in the cloth that makes up her family. This resulted in a very successful high school basketball career that would lead to an offer to play at Charlotte under head coach Cara Consuegra.

In high school, McMillian would lead the team to a 115-10 record in her four seasons there. She was also the main catalyst to get Northwest Guilford high school to their fourth North Carolina state championship game. Under her high school coach she would learn almost everything that she knows about being a player but most importantly a person.

"My high school coach taught me almost everything I know about the game and most importantly what goes on outside of basketball," said McMillian. "I learned how to win and I know what it takes to and what I have to do to get us there."

At Charlotte, McMillian has started to come into her own this season as she is putting up great numbers that have led to a numerous of wins so far this season. The junior has had some great performances so far such as 31 points against UAB as well as 26 points against Marshall.

Head Coach Cara Consuegra has been pushing her to step out of her comfort zone into a leadership role for the team.

"She has embraced everything that we have needed her to be," said Coach Consuegra before the team's WKU series. "We have challenged her to become a bigger leader and she has risen to the challenge."

McMillian has a great philosophy when it comes to finding ways to make the team better. She tries to encourage her teammates who may be having a bad game by trying to uplift them. McMillian is also

leading the team by example which has been huge for some of the younger players on the team.

"Just staying in players' ears who may be struggling has helped because we are picking them up when they get down," said McMillian. "I try to encourage others on the court."

McMillian has the utmost trust in her team as well as the coaching staff who is always behind their players. McMillian talked about how coach Consuegra has given the team her trust and has handed the reins over to the team. She expressed how important this has been.

"She is a mother away from home because she treats us like we are her own kids," said McMillian. "We can come to her about anything and it leads to us trusting each other."

This strong start has been a positive sign for what is to come with the program. McMillian has dominated on the court and has continued to stay positive off. Consuegra sees that McMillian has found the balance between when to be laid back and when to get fired up.

"Jada got into the huddle the other week against UAB and lit into the team," said Coach Consuegra. "That is what a leader should do is to speak up when something has to change."

The goals for the rest of the season is of course to win Conference USA and as well as punching their ticket to the NCAA tournament. McMillian though wants to continue to get this team better as a whole as well as taking strides for the future of the program. McMillian has already been named to the NCAA's weekly Starting 5 in January but is hungry for more.

"We are taking it one game at a time," said McMillian. "We are headed in a great direction."

Looking back, McMillian has had to thank her parents for all of her success. From an early age they were her biggest supports and encouragers.

"My parents have shaped me into being a strong-minded person," said McMillian. "Positivity continues to help me today."

McMillian holds an unbreakable mindset, which is one of positivity. Even in the tougher moments, McMillian keeps going.

"She is going to continue to keep growing," said Coach Consuegra. "We are very proud of Jada but we know that she is going to keep pushing."



SIX GROUNDBREAKING BLACK TV SHOWS

A look at the history of Black entertainment on the small screen

by Amir Daniels
Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, let's look back on seven African-American shows that broke barriers when they premiered and are still popular today in syndication.

The Jeffersons

Three years after "Sanford and Son" premiered, Norman Lear, struck gold again, this time with "The Jeffersons." A spinoff of "All in the Family" the show follows George Jefferson (Sherman Hemsley), a rich dry-cleaning owner, living in a deluxe apartment in the Sky (The Upper East Side of Manhattan) with his wife Louise "Weezy" Jefferson (Isabel Sanford). They are accompanied by George's mother, Olivia Jefferson (Zara Cully), their son Lionel (first by Mike Evans and later Damon Evans), and housekeeper Florence Johnston (Marla Gibbs). Throughout the show, the characters experience racism despite the success of George's business—but will stand for what is right whenever someone disrespects them. "The Jeffersons" premiered on Jan. 18, 1975, running for 11 seasons and 253 episodes, which until 2012, was the longest for an African-American cast.

Must-see episode: "Lionel Cries Uncle; Season 1, Episode 7"

Louise's brother Uncle Ward makes a visit to the Deluxe Apartment in the Sky. Ward has a lot of knowledge

having worked as a butler for a white family. However, his occupation is the target of George and Lionel's jokes, who call him an Uncle Tom, much to the annoyance of Louise and Ward. At the same time, Lionel is on the verge of getting expelled from school after getting into a fight in the cafeteria. Instead of taking responsibility for his actions, Lionel considers dropping out of school until he gets a stern lecture from Uncle Ward.

The Oprah Winfrey Show

On Sept. 25, 1986, Oprah Winfrey made history, becoming the first African-American woman to host a nationally syndicated daytime talk show "The Oprah Winfrey Show." For 25 years, Oprah interviewed celebrities from NBA legend Magic Johnson to former President Barack Obama. She encouraged viewers to read with her in the "Oprah's Book Club" segment, and introduced the phrase "You get a car!" during giveaways. When the show ended in 2011, it aired 4,561 episodes and won 47 Daytime Emmys.

Must-see episode: "Live from Forsyth County; Season 1"

During its 25 years on the air, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" touched on serious topics. Five months after its premiere, the show took a big risk when it did a taping in Forsyth County, Georgia. For 75 years, no

African-American had stepped foot in the small town and when the residents learned Oprah was coming, they were not happy. Despite their threats, Oprah knows change is coming to Forsyth County, whether the town is ready or not.

Static Shock

Virgil Hawkins (Phil LaMarr) is your average teenager, getting through high school, hanging out with his best friend Richie Foley (James Marsden), and helping his father,

with Robert Hawkins (Kevin Michael Richardson) at the community center. Then Virgil's life changes when he develops electrokinesis during the Big Bag and has to defend the Dakota from evil. However, whenever troubles arise in the Dakota, Virgil becomes Static Shock and with the help of his sidekick Gear (Richie's alter ego), they help restore peace. Created by Dwyane McDuffie, the show was the first cartoon to center around an African-American superhero. It premiered on Sept. 23, 2000, running for four seasons, 52



episodes, and won a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Music Direction and Composition in 2004.

Must-see episode: “Sons of the Fathers; Season 1, Episode 8”

Virgil and Richie hang out all the time, but Virgil has never been to Richie’s house. Virgil learns the truth when he goes to Richie’s house for a sleepover, and overhears Richie’s father making a derogatory comment about him and African-Americans. The sleepover is canceled and Richie, fed up with his father’s bigotry, runs away. However, he is captured by Ebon and Shiv, two gang bangers who are looking to settle a score with

Static. With his son missing, Sean must work with Robert and put his biased views behind to find Richie and make amends with Virgil.

That’s So Raven

Raven Baxter (Raven-Symone) is navigating through life in high school, hanging with her best friends Chelsea Daniels (Anneliese van der Pol) and Eddie (Orlando Brown), and dealing with her family; chef Victor (Rondall Sherdian), future lawyer Tanya, and prankster Cory (Kyle Massey). Unlike other teenagers, Raven can see the future for only

five seconds. Created by Michael Poreys, “That’s So Raven” premiered on Jan. 17, 2003, and was the first Disney sitcom to have an African-American female as the lead. By the time it aired its final episode on Nov. 10, 2007, it became the first Disney sitcom to reach 100 episodes.

Must-see episode: “Country Cousins; Season 3, Episodes 27-28”

While digging through a box, Raven discovers a photo of her Auntie Faye, Uncle Delroy (both played by Symone), and cousins Vicky (Kym Whitley) and Betty Jane (Giovonnie Samuels) from her mother’s side of the family whom the Baxters have not seen or heard from in a long time. When Raven and Chelsea travel cross-country to see her extended family, they learn that they have been at odds with Victor, who has been accused of stealing their gravy boat during their last visit. Knowing the truth, Raven must find the missing gravy boat to settle the feud and clear her father’s name.

Black-ish

Dre Johnson (Anthony Anderson) is living the American dream married to a beautiful wife, Rainbow Johnson (Tracee Ellis Ross). You meet five kids, Zoey (Yara Shahidi), Andre Jr. (Marcus Scribner), Diane (Marsai Martin), Jack (Miles Brown), and Devante (Austin and Ben Gross), living in a classy neighborhood. The premise of “Black-ish” centers around Dre trying to create a sense of culture in his family, who are black growing up in a predominantly white neighborhood. Dre’s attempts to establish a cultural identity usually land him in trouble, both at home and at work, but it’s for a good cause.

Must-see episode: “The Nod; Season 1, Episode 3”

While attending a science fair at Junior’s school, Dre walks past a father and gives him the nod—also known as saying “Hello” in the black community. But to Dre’s shock, Junior does not know what the nod means. To fix the problem, Dre and Pops (Laurence Fishburne) try to expand Junior’s social circle but with mixed results. Meanwhile, Rainbow wants to inspire Diane to become a doctor.

The best way to encourage Diane is by bringing her to the hospital on Rainbow’s worst day on the job.

All American

Based on the life of former NFL linebacker Spencer Paysinger, this sports drama follows the life of Spencer James (Daniel Ezra), a superstar football player who transferred from South Crenshaw to Beverly Hills High. Spencer has dreams of winning a college scholarship and playing in the NFL. However, he will have to overcome several obstacles, including racism, street violence and living with two families; his mother, Grace James (Karimah Westbrook) and brother, Dillion James (Jayln Hall) in Los Angeles and the Bakers in Beverly Hills.

Must-see episode: “Championships; Season 1, Episode 16”

Spencer is one game away from leading Beverly High to its first state championship. The only team standing in their way is South Crenshaw High, Spencer’s former school. Extra motivated to defeat his former school, Spencer becomes aggressive in practice, and Coach Baker (Taye Diggs) is concerned that his emotions may get the better of him during the game. His worst fears come to light when Spencer dishes a devastating tackle on South Crenshaw quarterback Chris (Spence Moore II), paralyzing him. Devastated, Spencer leaves the field and is on the verge of quitting right when an unexpected person from his past convinces him to get back on the field.

**Read the full story at
NinerTimes.com**



CICELY TYSON: MORE THAN AN ACTRESS

The life of a pioneer for Black women in acting

by Gabe Lapalombella
Staff Writer

Cicely Tyson was a true icon in the entertainment industry. Besides being an Oscar-nominated actress and Tony award winner, she was a true pioneer in the acting community. My first encounter with her work came way back in my grade school years. When I first saw her TV film “The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,” it felt like more than just a history lesson. Her performance was something truly cerebral that allowed me to understand an experience. There’s true honest humanity in the role that reflects on the person and who she was.

“I’m very selective as I’ve been my whole career about what I do. Unfortunately, I’m not the kind of person who works only for money. It has to have some real substance for me to do it,” she told The Associated Press in 2013. That quote says so much about Tyson as a performer and expresses how against the norm she really was. This fight against the standard started back in the 1970s when women of color started getting very different roles. She was incredibly particular about the roles that she chose. It was this mindset that got her inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1977.

What has to be said and admired of Tyson, was how she fought to her beliefs in the harsh entertainment field. She was someone who stuck to the idea of not being cast in a narrative box. She refused to stay in the type of role that was being forced on Black actors of the time. Throughout her career, Tyson stayed in the types of roles for what the industry calls a “character actor.” Many diehard film fans knew her work but it wasn’t until 2011 when she reached out to the mainstream audiences.

When she starred in director Tate

Taylor’s film “The Help,” she received many accolades being a part of the ensemble cast. Unlike her early career, you could tell that she was enjoying every role she selected. Two years after the accolades from “The Help” in 2011, she made a grand return to the Broadway stage with the role in Horton Foote’s “The Trip to Bountiful” which won her the next step in her numerous accolades. They started with a Tony win after a 30-year absence from Broadway. It was a role that Tyson notably responded to by playing it again in a Lifetime TV adaptation of the same name.

While being an actress that was consistently working, she was also active in a variety of organizations. Varying from The Human Family Institute and American Family Institute, she was always an advocate. Being “picky” as some called it in her choice of roles allowed her to fight for causes that she believed in. She was a fighter for Black people and individuals who had been under-represented within the industry.

Even as she reached the age of 96, she was still a loud criticizer of the inadequacies of the industry. Appearing in a variety of content from both film and television, she was able to be incredibly particular about the roles she chose. In the early stages of her career, some would consider that to be her detriment. Thankfully, Tyson persevered and became a performer who was able to be selective, but always picked roles that spoke to her. As someone who’s only skimmed the legacy of this massive talent, I can’t wait to read her memoir “Just As I Am.” Cicely Tyson was more than just an actress, she was a fighter and advocate for what she believed in.



Photo of Cicely Tyson
Courtesy of Elle.com



MINI WAFFLE MADNESS

Trying mini waffle maker recipes

by Emily Kottak
Lifestyle Editor

Photos by
Emily Kottak

Waffle Icon
courtesy of Freepik

Zucchini Parmesan Recipe
by Nicholas Day via Food52.com

For Christmas, I got a mini waffle maker. I love trying new recipes but not when they are super complex and time consuming. However, waffles are one of my favorites and I was determined to pin down easy, somewhat healthy and delicious recipes to try. I tried 2 recipes: one sweet and one savory. I will be providing recipes and directions for each waffle as well as my experience and the final results.

I have tried this recipe with pancakes before and fairly enjoyed it. However, I had a bit of a difficult time with this mini waffle recipe. Since there is no flour, the waffle is very “eggy” and not quite as fluffy as

a typical waffle. I have not tried this recipe before with chocolate chips and this time I did. I think the chocolate chips made a huge difference and added an extra tinge of sweetness without being too sugary. I just sprinkled a little bit of chocolate chips since the waffle is small and I think that’s what made the waffle.

The problem I ran into with this recipe was that the outside cooked much faster than the inside. While the outside was becoming golden brown and starting to get crispy, the inside was still uncooked and had some liquid presence. Since there was raw egg in the waffle, I didn’t want to stop cooking it but I also didn’t want

the outside to burn. I think the main reason for this problem was because I was not used to using a mini waffle maker and accidentally added too much batter than the maker could handle. This is why I recommend 1 tablespoon of batter when filling the maker; try to ensure the lid can close all of the way.

Other than this solvable issue, I enjoyed this waffle. It is a simple and fairly healthy recipe and is great for a quick, on the go snack or breakfast.

This recipe was definitely one I was not used to. I’ve never made a savory waffle before and so this was a first. Though I feel like I used a lot of dishes for this recipe and many

ingredients, I was very pleased with the result. Unlike the banana waffle, this parmesan zucchini waffle came out of the maker light, fluffy and golden brown. I sprinkled parmesan on the top for an extra flair and added marinara sauce on the side to dip the waffle in, making it almost like a pizza. The sensation of biting into a waffle and having a savory taste fill your taste buds as opposed to sweetness was strange, but the waffle was still good. However, I do think I prefer the sweeter recipes even though I was pleasantly surprised by this waffle.

Banana Waffles

Ingredients

- 1 egg
- 1 banana (preferably ripe)
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- Chocolate chips (optional)

Begin by peeling the banana and mashing in bowl (avoid lumps)

Add 1 egg to mixture and whisk thoroughly

Sprinkle ¼ tsp of cinnamon into bowl

Add chocolate chips and whisk into mixture (optional)

Spray waffle maker and put 1 tablespoon of mixture into pan

Cook 3-5 minutes or until golden brown



Rating



Zucchini Parmesan

Ingredients

- ½ cup shredded zucchini
- 1 Egg
- ¼ cup milk
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese
- ½ cup flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper

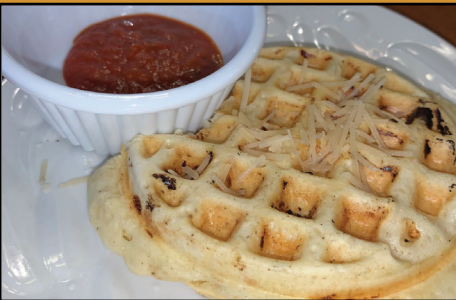
Directions

Whisk egg in bowl and then add milk and parmesan

Combine flour, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Mix well and stir into a large bowl with egg mixture.

Add zucchini and toss well until combined
tablespoon of mixture into pan

Cook 3-5 minutes or until golden brown



Rating





by Emily Kottak
Lifestyle Editor

Photo of iced coffee
courtesy of pixy.org

Like many other college students, I found myself turning to coffee each morning as a source of energy. My love for coffee began last fall and I have definitely experienced some great and not so great cups of coffee. Call me picky but I like what I like and, as a fairly new coffee junkie, I've experienced a lot of trial and error. I've realized that what I typically end up falling back on is a vanilla iced coffee with a splash of almond milk. But I will say this: not all iced coffees are made equal.

Let's start with everyone's favorite: Starbucks. I'm going to be honest, when I first started drinking coffee, I thought Starbucks was amazing. I loved all of the drink options and how they offer dairy alternatives such as almond milk which is my personal favorite. However, it was hard to figure out what to order. I never knew how many pumps of vanilla to add in order to find the balance of not too sweet and not too bitter. Starbucks also automatically adds their classic syrup to iced coffees. I found this syrup to taste quite artificial and would usually omit it from my order. Also, Starbucks is expensive so I always result to using gift cards when I have them.

Now, here's the catch. Starbucks sells iced coffee at grocery stores that you can purchase and make your own. I do really like this Starbucks iced coffee—I buy the unsweetened blonde roast. I think the reason I like this Starbucks iced coffee is because it's not too strong and I add my own almond milk and creamer that I know I like. Don't get me wrong, I won't stop going to Starbucks but it's definitely not my first choice.

Moving on to another popular iced coffee choice: Dunkin' Donuts. I was really slacking on Dunkin' and never really gave it a chance until recently—and wow, I was missing out. Dunkin' coffee tastes so fresh and has the perfect balance of sweetness and coffee. I tried their french vanilla iced coffee with almond milk and loved it. The other good thing about Dunkin' is the quantity and price. A medium sized iced coffee at Dunkin' is \$2.49 and the cup is a decent size. It seems quite larger than Starbucks' grande size, though I am not sure how many ounces each is. I think Dunkin' coffee just tastes better and is very customizable and much easier to order.

Finally, Panera coffee. Panera was one of the first places I tried iced coffee at and I think it's delicious. I think Panera iced coffee is comparable to Dunkin' in that the flavor is perfectly balanced and fresh and the size is decent as well. Panera coffee would probably be my second favorite iced coffee spot, second to Dunkin' Donuts.

I know iced coffee continues to become more and more popular. However, if you are picky like me, it can be difficult to pinpoint and find exactly what brand, flavor and type you like. After much trial and error I have narrowed it and really found what I love. Though any iced coffee will do if I really need it, it is important to try out different options and see what you like.

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