



‘CERTIFIED LOVER BOY’

READ MORE ON P. 12

*Visit table of contents for contest info
sponsored by American Campus*

Vol. 34, Issue 6
Sept. 21, 2021
NINERTIMES.COM

NT

NINERTIMES

NINERTIMES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
April Carte
editor@ninerimes.com

EDITORIAL

Tyler Trudeau COMMUNITY EDITOR
Madison Dobrzanski NEWS EDITOR
Hiral Patel OPINION EDITOR
Emily Kottak A&C EDITOR
Bradley Cole SPORTS EDITOR
Max Young COPY EDITOR
Niyathi Sulkunte PHOTO EDITOR
María Solano VIDEO EDITOR
Brandon Mitchell LAYOUT EDITOR

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Jessica Ceballos NEWS

Isaac Naylor OPINION

Jake Pierce A&C

Bryson Foster SPORTS

Isabella Perryman COPY

Elizabeth McGuire VIDEO

Sunya Hadavi LAYOUT

Zoya Zalevskiy LAYOUT

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Kathryn Caudill, Niti Panchal,
Sam Perry, Gabie Stanfield,
Gabe Lapalombella, Vinny
Vaccaro, Drew Fitzgerald

COVER DESIGN

Brandon Mitchell

COVER PHOTO

Album cover courtesy of
Republic Records

Norm graphic courtesy
of UNC Charlotte

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Megan Reid
mktdirector@unc.edu

MARKETING STAFF

Olivia Lawless, Stacy Fernandez

NEWSROOM 705.687.7150
NINERTIMES.COM/STAFF
TWITTER @NINER_TIMES

LOCATED ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE STUDENT UNION

Niner Times • Uptown Audio
Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine
Media Marketing • Technical • Midas
Magazine

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEWS

PAGE 3 Honoring founder's day on 75th anniversary

PAGE 4 April 30 memorial to break ground in 2022

OPINION

PAGE 5 Oppressive & unconstitutional

SPORTS

PAGE 6 Alumni spotlight: Jason Schultz

PAGE 7 Road woes

PAGE 8 Getting to know Ryan Ashburn

ARTS & CULTURE

PAGE 10 Interview with director Jonah Feingold

PAGE 12 Album review: 'Certified Lover Boy'

OVER THE NEXT THREE ISSUES FIND THREE
HALLOWEEN-THEMED LOGOS FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN SCAROWINDS TICKETS

THIS WEEK'S LOGO: 

SPONSORED BY AMERICAN CAMPUS

NINER TIMES

@niner_times



UPTOWN
AUDIO

@uptownaudio



SANSKRIT
LIT ARTS
MAGAZINE

@sanskrituncc



NINER MEDIA

@UNCCMEDIA



Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

HONORING FOUNDER'S DAY ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Chancellor's installation ceremony postponed, Founder's Day still to be recognized on Sept. 23

by Madison Dobrzanski
News Editor

On Sept. 1, Chancellor Gaber sent an email to UNC Charlotte students, faculty and staff announcing the cancellation of her installment ceremony scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23, the 75th anniversary of the University's founding. Thursday is still being marked as Founder's Day and there will be no classes.

According to Buffie Stephens, director of media relations and issue management, the Office of University Events in the Division of Advancement, who planned the event, canceled the Chancellor's installation. However, they will continue to lead planning for the rescheduled installation.

The decision to reschedule the installation was considered carefully, as Covid-19 cases continue to rise. "Since we are still experiencing significant community spread, welcoming guests from across the state and country is not advisable at this time. There is nothing more important than the well-being of our community," said Stephens.

Although the installation ceremony was canceled, there will be events for Founder's Day.

Stephens highlighted a community service event at 2-3 p.m. at the Hauser Pavilion to assemble and deliver care packages to local community members, including Niner University Elementary, Care Ring, Crisis Assistance Ministry

and Hope Vibes. Other events include a drop-in event at the Popp-Martin Student Union from 1 - 2:30 p.m., with Chancellor Gaber, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Kevin Bailey, SGA, as well as a "Conversation with Chancellor Gaber" via Zoom at 6p.m..

Founder of UNC Charlotte Regarding Founder's Day, below is some information about UNC Charlotte's founder, Bonnie Cone.

The Cone Center website says that Bonnie Cone, also popularly known as "Miss Bonnie," was born in Lodge, S.C. She was the youngest of four children born to Addie Harter and Charles Jefferson Cone. Three of the four children entered the teaching profession, as well as three of the grandchildren.

Cone founded UNC Charlotte on Sept. 23, 1946. She was passionate about education and inspired students not to give up on their hopes of getting an education. According to the Cone Center website, some of the students inspired were many Charlotte businessmen who call themselves "Bonnie's Boys" and tell stories about Cone, "talking them out of dropping out when the hours seemed long, and the way ahead looked bleak."

In 1943, according to the Cone Center website, Cone was teaching in the Navy V-12 program at Duke University during World War II. Cone

briefly worked in Washington in the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, studying mine detection reports in 1945. In 1946, in her role as director of the Charlotte Center, she realized that the Charlotte area did not have a higher education facility for returning war veterans and high school graduates who lived in the Charlotte area.

In a page entitled "Remembering Bonnie Cone on Founders Day," published by Inside UNC Charlotte on Sept. 23, 2020, alumni recalled memories of Cone.

Ellison Clary, '68, met Cone at Garinger High School, where Cone spoke at an assembly, asking, "How many of you have not committed to a college?" When people raised their hands, Cone said, "I hope you will come to Charlotte College. And, if you do, we will be part of the statewide university system by the time you graduate."

After contemplating the choice to attend college, Clary applied and was accepted. "It was 1963, and tuition was \$125 per semester," said Clary. When he graduated in 1968, Charlotte College had become UNC Charlotte, the fourth campus in the statewide university system.

Mike Wilson, '93, was a first-generation college student with a scholarship to the university. "She said to me, 'Mr. Wilson, is it more important to you to be a part of something that

someone built for you, or is it more important to be a part of building something yourself?" After contemplating his place at UNC Charlotte, he decided to stay and work with his friends to better the university and himself. He was student body president and helped bring the Student Activities Center/Dale F. Halton to fruition.

Cone held the title of director

of Charlotte Center, became president after the institution's conversion to "Charlotte College" and served as acting chancellor during the college's transition to the "four-year, state-supported UNC Charlotte in 1965 that we see today."

To learn more about Bonnie Cone, visit bonniecone.uncc.edu.



Photo of Bonnie Cone, photo courtesy of UNC Charlotte



APRIL 30 MEMORIAL TO BREAK GROUND IN 2022

Construction for the April 30 ‘Constellation Garden’ is set to begin next year

by Kathryn Caudill
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Niner
Nation Remembers

In Jan. 2020, Emeritus Chancellor Dubois accepted the Niner Nation Remembrance Commission’s recommendations for the memorial to honor the tragic events of April 30, 2019. This communal and interactive memorial begins April 30, 2022 in Belk Plaza between the ellipse fountain and the Kennedy Building.

The Niner Nation Remembrance Commission, a jury of design and advisors, is overseeing construction. The dean of arts and architecture, Brook Muller, facilitated the commission.

Muller spoke with the Niner Times to provide an update on the construction and design of this powerful memorial.

Currently, the design team members are in the schematic design phase and are meeting every other week. The commission ensures that as the project develops and the budget is met, the power behind the memorial is not lost and remains pure.

“It’s becoming more and more real,” said Muller.

The project utilizes an array of different field specialists working to create an interactive art feature with a budget of \$2,000,000.

“We have a good team that is sensitive,” said Muller. “We have landscapers, architects and an art studio working together.”

The commission selected TEN X TEN Landscape Architecture and Urbanism, Hypersonic Collaborative

and Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture as the finalists of many local and national submissions. The finalists and design plans for the memorial were announced on April 30, 2020, during the Day of Remembrance on campus.

The memorial itself is called a “constellation garden,” and it will have moveable lighting elements. The lights will be an abstraction of the stars from the night sky from April 30, 2019. The stars from that night were hemispherically mapped and placed as lights on the structure to achieve this.

The structure is also interactive, meaning that touching the structure will activate it, allowing for the lights to change. The more people who touch it, the more dynamic the lights will be. The memorial will also have concrete and stone benches for observers to sit and contemplate both the events of that day and the future. These design choices were intentionally chosen and will work to create a message.

“The memorial is a dialogue where the lights represent the celestial, starry heavens, while the concrete and stone represent grounding,” said Muller.

There will be a plant palette surrounding the memorial that will be “symbolic of hope, anguish, sadness and resilience,” said Muller.

This story, told through the design, will work to honor the lives of Reid Parlier and Riley Howell, the

two students whose lives were taken as a result of the shooting, those injured and all members of the UNC Charlotte community who were impacted.

The commission consulted the families of both Parlier and Howell regarding the design and message of the memorial to best honor their lives.

Muller describes the project as “sensitive and poetic. It speaks to tragedy, allows for reflection, remembrance, and coming to terms.”

Muller hopes that the structure will bring “contemplation and reflection” to those who view it for years to come.

During the events of April 30, Muller was in Oregon, where he was the director of an environmental sustainability program; however, he was “CC’d” on numerous emails about UNC Charlotte and the events taking place.

“I could see how caring this community was,” said Muller.

Even though it is only his third year at UNC Charlotte, Muller said that “It is truly an honor to play a role in the realization of the project that will be an enduring, beautiful landscape for years and years.”

The memorial will break ground on the third anniversary, April 30, 2022, and the completion date is not yet confirmed.

OPPRESSIVE & UNCONSTITUTIONAL

How abortion bans will impact the reproductive rights of women in Texas and possibly other red states

by Niti Panchal
Intern

On Sept. 1, 2021, the United States Supreme court shocked the nation after failing to block a Texas bill that bans abortions after the six-week mark. The new law, Texas Senate Bill 8 (SB8), is highly challenged by public health officials and organizations dedicated to protecting female health. One question that is going around is: how is this new bill going to affect the well-being and access to healthcare in the future.

The seven million Texas women had their reproductive rights, and right to privacy stripped away. This law forces women to carry through unwanted pregnancies, or the Texas government will punish them for getting abortions.

The bill refers to the abortion cut-off as the moment doctors detect a 'fetal heartbeat' in the uterus. This goes against medical knowledge. According to Live Science, the embryo has no organs at six weeks, and its "fetal heartbeat" refers to electrical pulses shared between cells. The new definition ensures that the embryo is seen as a viable fetus; however, most miscarriages happen at the first 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Through *Roe vs Wade*, the Supreme Court and Congress determined that a viable pregnancy has been reached at 22 weeks as the risk for a miscarriage significantly decreases by then. SB8 rolled back one of the most important aspects of *Roe vs Wade*, thus removing its status as precedent.

Additionally, identifying a pregnancy

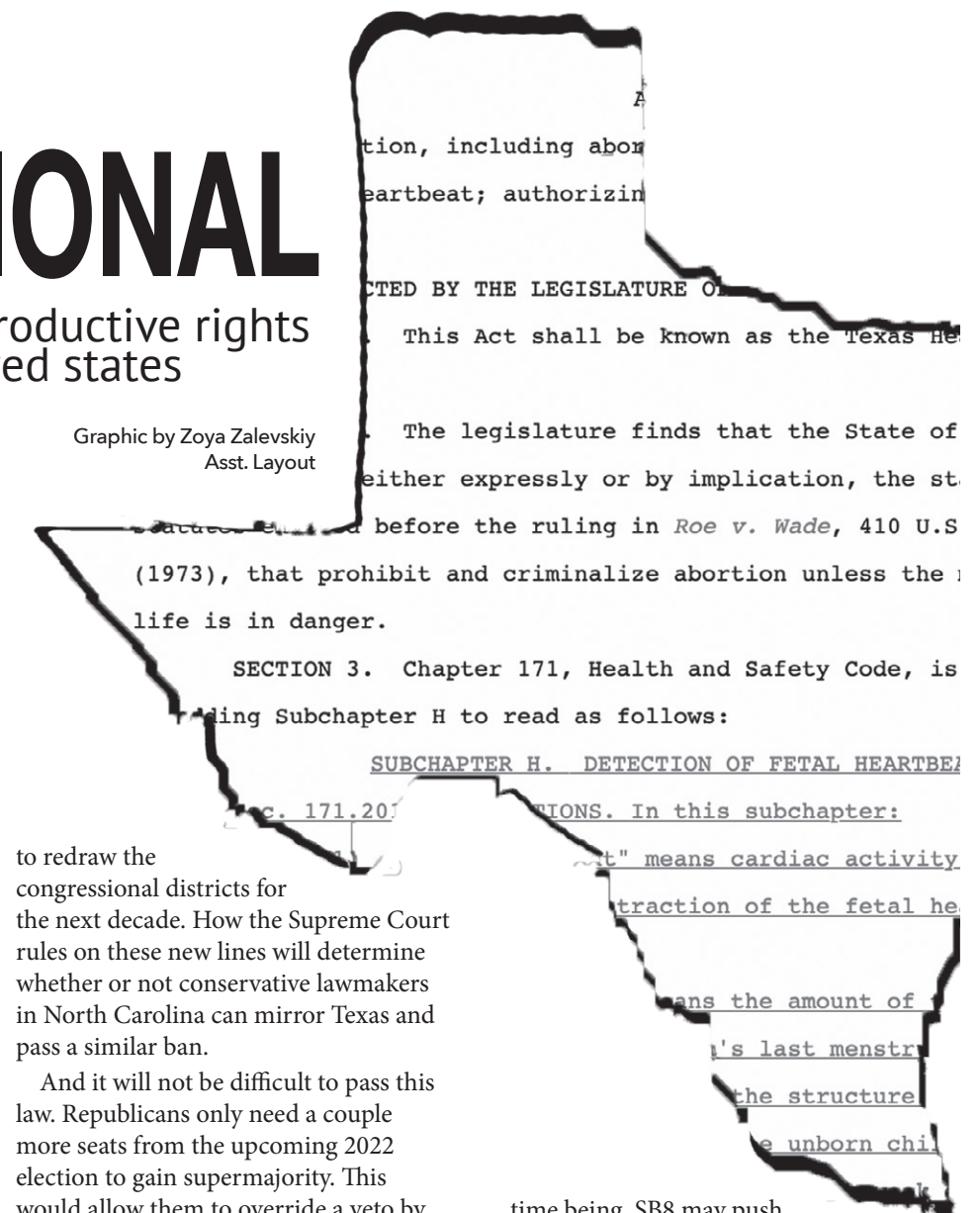
before six weeks is unusual and often not the case for most women. The pregnancy is generally found out at seven weeks, according to the American Pregnancy Association. Should a woman realize she is pregnant before six weeks, receiving abortion services in Texas is extremely difficult. Health information provider Healthline says that there is a 24-hour wait period after an initial consultation and sonogram before receiving an abortion. This gap, combined with the limited number of clinics that provide this service in Texas, makes accessing abortions before the six-week deadline almost impossible.

This law not only stripped away the rights of women in the clinic but also in public too. Instead of state officials facilitating the bill's enforcement, Texas is encouraging the public to take part. According to CBS News, a \$10,000 bounty incentive is given to public citizens as part of private lawsuits to report any individuals they believe in having been involved in aiding an abortion. This bounty puts women and others at risk of being constantly monitored as strangers are allowed to have a say in their lives and their choices.

This leads us to the question: how does this law affect abortion laws in North Carolina as a fellow red state? Although abortions are currently legal, anti-abortion lawmakers agree with SB8.

This Supreme Court ruling came out at a time when North Carolina's Republican-led state legislature prepared

Graphic by Zoya Zalevskiy
Asst. Layout



to redraw the congressional districts for the next decade. How the Supreme Court rules on these new lines will determine whether or not conservative lawmakers in North Carolina can mirror Texas and pass a similar ban.

And it will not be difficult to pass this law. Republicans only need a couple more seats from the upcoming 2022 election to gain supermajority. This would allow them to override a veto by North Carolina's Democratic Governor Roy Cooper, who has blocked abortion restrictions in recent years.

Fortunately, the Justice Department and Attorney General Merrick Garland filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Texas, claiming SB8 was enacted "in open defiance of the Constitution." According to NPR, Garland mentioned how the law deputizes private citizens "to serve as bounty hunters authorized to recover at least \$10,000 per claim for individuals who facilitate a women's exercise of her constitutional rights." However, for the

time being, SB8 may push other red states to pass similar laws in the event of Texas winning the lawsuit.

The repressive law is simply an abuse of power and will disproportionately affect women of color, single mothers and poor women. They will be forced to look into child care and struggle to work. It also risks the quality of life that these women will experience, as they do not have the means to look after their children as red-state support is minimal.

CLARIFICATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S OPINION STORY, 'PINK SLIP REQUESTED,' CAN BE FOUND AT [NINERTIMES.COM](https://www.ninertimes.com)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

JASON SCHULTZ

THE CHARLOTTE ALUM IS THRIVING IN THE NASCAR MEDIA WORLD

by Bradley Cole
Sports Editor

Jason Schultz, a 2019 graduate of Charlotte, works as a producer with Dirty Mo Media. Photo courtesy of Jason Schultz.

When Jason Schultz watched a NASCAR race for the first time at a young age, he was hooked.

He happened to watch a race with his father on a random Sunday afternoon, and since then, he hasn't missed many races.

All these years later, the UNC Charlotte alum has already achieved a lifelong dream only two years out of college: working in the NASCAR media space. Schultz is currently a content producer/videographer for Dirty Mo Media, an original content company created by one of motorsports' most popular figures in Dale Earnhardt Jr.

"I started watching NASCAR in 2005," said Schultz about finding his fandom for the sport. "I just remember my dad was watching, and I just happened to sit down and watch. I don't remember missing a race, technically, since."

A love for media

Not long after starting to watch the sport, Schultz started to love the media side. As an early user of Twitter, he was able to see media members cover the sport around the country. Even though he wasn't yet a teenager, Schultz already had a good idea of what career path he wanted to pursue.

"Not many 11-12-year-olds think about what career path you're gonna take, but I thought it would be awesome to go to the track and be interested in NASCAR but do it for a career," said Schultz. "That was always the idea. If I could combine those two things, that would be the ultimate dream."

Instead of waiting around to grow up and get a degree to work in the sport, Schultz took matters into his own hands. He created his first racing website titled "Turn4RacingNew.com" before the 2012



NASCAR season started. On the site, Schultz wrote previews, recaps and gave opinions on the sport. The blog ended up getting up to 100,000 views and gave him more opportunities in the journalism world.

"I started writing articles just for fun but also because I enjoyed being a part of the conversation about the sport through social media," said Schultz.

Finding his place

After covering the sport from the journalist's perspective, Schultz started to venture into other areas. In high school, a new goal emerged: working in the PR side of NASCAR.

Thanks to his prior work online throughout the years, Schultz built a credible network of connections. One of his most important ways of connecting with people in the sports was working with the annual Drive for Autism Celebrity Golf Tournament, where he provided

social updates for the tournament.

Before heading to the Queen City for college, Schultz covered a race at Dover International Speedway in 2016, as Drive For Autism sponsored the race.

There, he was able to connect with Mike Davis, the managing director of the Dale Jr brand, and co-founder of Dirty Mo Media with Dale Jr.. At their meeting in a Media Center, Schultz made Davis aware of his interest in potentially working with Dirty Mo Media.

"The biggest thing was coming to Charlotte and networking," said Schultz. "Showing my willingness to work."

In just his second semester at Charlotte, Schultz earned an internship with Charlotte Motor Speedway, working with the communications team. In that same semester, he started freelancing with Dirty Mo Radio, working on the "JR Motorsports Up Front" and "Fast Lane Family" podcasts.

After working through two internships,

Schultz kept working his way up with Dirty Mo Media. Once he graduated in December of 2019, he joined the company as a full-time producer and videographer.

Schultz's duties with Dirty Mo include producing one of the company's most established podcasts, "Door Bumper Clear," a weekly podcast hosted by Casey Boat and NASCAR spotters TJ Majors, Freddie Kraft and Brett Griffin. He has also produced episodes of "The Dale Jr. Download," a podcast hosted by Dale Jr. and Mike Davis that brings in a new guest from the motorsports world every week.

Even though he is only two years removed from graduating, Schultz has achieved many dreams he's been chasing since he first fell in love with NASCAR.

"I think it was a master plan that was influenced by putting in the work, networking, building the skills and getting the experiences," said Schultz. "I was able to present to Mike Davis and Dirty Mo that I was graduating college and that I would love to start full-time work. It was never a guarantee that would happen. That was always the dream, but it turned into a master plan, and it worked out."

Although Schultz never set a plan, he knew he wanted to stand out and do something different in the media space for the sport he loves. And with Dirty Mo Media, he has found his place to do just that.

"I always had the creative mindset of 'be different...be unique.' That's why I love what Dirty Mo Media does. It's different content. It's not the same old boring NASCAR talk. It's vibrant, compelling, unique and interesting," said Schultz. "It means a lot to look back and see all the hard work pay off," said Schultz.

ROAD WOES

CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL STRUGGLES ON THE ROAD IN LOSS AT GEORGIA STATE

by Sam Perry
Staff Writer

Charlotte's Jalar Holley goes for a tackle during Charlotte's 9-20 loss at Georgia State.
Photo courtesy of Charlotte athletics/Sam Roberts.

On Saturday, Sep. 18, the Charlotte 49er football team traveled to Atlanta and took on the Georgia State Panthers at Center Parc Stadium, losing 9-20. This was the Niners' first loss, moving them to 2-1 on the season, while this was also the first win of the year for the Panthers to 1-2.

"Missed an opportunity. Humbled, frustrated, but not deterred. The response for what happened tonight is going to be the most important part," said Head coach Will Healy after the game. "Credit to them for making it hard on us."

This was Charlotte's first challenge on the road, and it looked like the team missed the home crowd's energy in the first two games of the season.

"You get thrown adversity. That's when you show your true character. It's easy to be happy go lucky whenever you are winning. But now let's see your real character when you're in the loss column," said quarterback Chris Reynolds.

First Half

The first quarter of the game was a more defensive battle, with both teams having two drives that all ended in punts.

Georgia State opened up the second quarter with a 13-yard run and looked like they might have figured it out. But on the next play, Panthers running back Destin Coates had a breakaway run with nobody between him and the end zone. But Charlotte's defensive back Jon Alexander was able to chase him down and force a fumble after he ran for 64 yards getting the Niners possession.

That fumble opened up a touchdown drive for the Niners that featured back-to-back fourth-down conversions. That ended with a 36-yard touchdown pass from Chris Reynolds to Elijah Spencer, getting the Niners on the board first leading 7-0.

A few drives later, Georgia State answered back on a two-play 68-yard

drive. That started with a 33-yard pass from the Panthers' Darren Grainger to Ja'Cyais Credle. They scored on the next play with a 35-yard touchdown pass from Grainger to Jamari Thrash. Tying the game 7-7 with four minutes left in the half.

Second Half

After a four-minute scoreless possession from the 49ers, the Panthers on the offensive side had bad luck with the ball getting snapped past the quarterback, where he had to run into the end zone to recover the ball. The 49ers were credited with the safety, giving them a 9-7 advantage.

The next drive becomes the turning point.

Charlotte got to 4th and 1 and called a rushing play that ran to the side and was stopped instead of calling a play where you are moving forward the whole time.

After the turnover on downs, the

Panthers marched for 66 yards scoring on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Grainger to Credle. But when kicking the extra point, Charlotte could block to keep the score to 13-9.

The Niners on the next drive drove down the field for 63 yards in five minutes, but a costly fumble forced by Georgia State's Blake Carrol changed possession. The third quarter ended with the Panthers having possession leading 13-9.

The Panthers opened up the fourth quarter driving down the field and were getting ready to put the Niners away. Still, Alexander came up big again, getting another takeaway with an interception.

Charlotte's offense couldn't get points on the board on their next drive.

Georgia State capitalized on this with a 13 play 92-yard touchdown drive that lasted for seven and a half minutes. The Panthers scored on a 13-yard touchdown

run by Jamyest Williams, taking a 20-9 lead.

Charlotte couldn't answer back and fell 20-9 after turning the ball over on downs.

Takeaways

"The Panther's offensive game plan was executed flawlessly."

The Niners this season have had issues stopping the run, so Georgia State focused on running the ball early, forcing the Niners to sell out against the run, which opened up the passing game for the Panthers. Nineteen of Georgia State's first 24 plays were running plays which was why the next drive after that, they were able to score on two 30+ yard passing plays.

"We thought one of the keys to the game was gonna be stopping the run," said Healy. "The one-on-one 50/50 balls were just as important. We gotta make some plays on the ball in the air."

'Jon Alexander and Markees Watts shine for the defense.'

Alexander was all over the field on defense for the Niners, with the chase down forced fumble and the interception preventing two touchdown drives for the Panthers. Watts had a huge sack on the opening drive which forced the Panthers to punt. Alexander had six total tackles, one interception, and one forced fumble. Watts had 13 tackles and one sack, which resulted in a loss of four yards.

What's Next?

"We've been tested, we've had some highs, we've had some lows. Unfortunately, tonight is one of the lows. But I think we will find out a lot about this football team by how we respond," said Healy.

Charlotte comes back to Jerry Richardson Stadium to host Middle Tennessee on Friday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. that game will be televised on the CBS Sports Network.





GETTING TO KNOW RYAN ASHBURN

THE NINER TIMES SITS DOWN WITH THE NEW CHARLOTTE HEAD WOMEN'S GOLF COACH RYAN ASHBURN FOR A Q&A

by Gabie Stanfield
Intern

Ryan Ashburn Charlotte head shot.
Photo Courtesy of Charlotte Athletics.

Head women's golf coach Ryan Ashburn's debut season here at Charlotte is quickly approaching. In April, Ashburn joined the team as the head coach after spending her last three seasons coaching at UAB. After the cancellation of last season due to Covid-19, the anticipation for this season has been building.

Ashburn started her time as an assistant coach at Campbell in 2014. Following this stint, she became an assistant coach at Baylor and eventually traveled to UAB to become the head coach. Ashburn led UAB to two tournament titles in her second season as their coach.

Ashburn shows a glimpse into how she and the team are feeling about this new era for Charlotte golf.

Gabie Stanfield: What was it about coaching that lured you in?

Ryan Ashburn: I never thought of being a coach, to be quite honest. When I played down at Stetson University, I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do after college, and someone said to me, "you know Campbell has this great opportunity, there's an assistant position open and I think you should go and try it out." It was weird coaching people who I just played against about three months prior, but the relationship aspect [of coaching] is what kind of kept me. I had the opportunity to assist with the men's team, so the number

of things I learned in my first year there pretty much checked me in and made me so excited. I just like helping people and seeing them get better.

GS: What made you choose Charlotte, and what sort of things about our golf program spoke to you initially?

RA: My parents grew up in Virginia, but my family lives in Virginia and North Carolina. I spent a little bit of time up here when I was younger, so I was kind of familiar with the area of Charlotte. The school itself is what made me choose Charlotte. It's got a good history of academics and sports, and while the women's golf program didn't have a very long history, the history it did have was good, and they produce success here. When I set foot on campus, I was amazed by all of the buildings and the campus itself, even though it was a little eerie because when I came to my interview. It was during Covid, and there wasn't a single person walking around campus. But the atmosphere in the athletic department and the



relationships I saw with everyone joking around, I was like, "that's something that I really want to be a part of." Everyone spoke so freely to each other; there was no "this person is up here, and this person is down here," and because of that environment, I knew that I could potentially be successful here and that these people were going to help me along the way.

GS: With this being your first season here at Charlotte, what will you use from your past success with UAB this season?

RA: I think it goes back to the relationship aspect. I love getting to know people and deep diving and figuring out who they are and what makes them tick, and this year it's pretty unique. We have six transfers. We have a whole new team, and I am sure people will realize that we've all only known each other for about two to three weeks, but I feel like this team has been here for four years. The way that they have clicked, I just haven't seen anything like it. There are only six people, but there are no outliers; they love spending time together, which can be uncommon with small teams. Getting to know more about them, about their game, bettering them not only as an athlete but as a people, and giving them the tools they need to be successful are things I plan to do.

GS: Having a team filled with such young players, how are you



New golf coach Ryan Ashburn while at UAB.
Photo courtesy of UAB.

expecting them to step up?

RA: The cool thing is while there may not be one specific leader yet, they've all encouraged each other. I think we've realized we're all in the same boat, not only them but myself and Ellen [Secor] as well. We're all figuring things out together. I don't know as far as expectations go for this first tournament; I will see what happens.

GS: After a two-year hiatus that has led to anticipation building, what are your expectations for this season?

RA: With our strength of schedule, I have pretty high expectations. We're playing against the top power five teams in the country in every tournament. While some people see that as intimidation, it's vital for us and our ranking system works. But this team is good enough, and just from what I've seen in practice and qualifying, they're more than capable of competing with some of these best teams in the country. So I have high expectations, and we, as a team, expect a lot from ourselves.

GS: After being away from North Carolina, where you began your coaching career, you missed the number one thing?

RA: I would definitely say the people. North Carolina is obviously a very scenic

place, and I love exploring. Still, the people in this state, I feel like you can't beat that southern hospitality where everyone's willing to help. I've also been able to see more of my friends and family in the last three months than I have in the last three or four years.

GS: What has been your favorite part about the city of Charlotte so far?

RA: Definitely the food in the city. Everything revolves around food.

GS: What impact or legacy do you hope to have on the girls on the team and the team's history as a whole?

RA: As successful as the team was before I got here, they took an individual to regionals and not a team. They were trending in that direction, but because of outside entities, they never got there, so that is kind of our first goal this year. We know we're good enough to make it to the postseason. As far as the team goes, when they leave, I want people to say this is the best four years, or however many years, that they spent here. I want them to have learned a lot and be prepared for when they go out into the world—whether that involves pursuing golf or other aspects.

SEPTEMBER 23 - 26 MOVIES AT THE UNION THEATER



IN THE HEIGHTS



TAG



F9

FREE WITH UNC CHARLOTTE STUDENT ID • \$2 ALL OTHERS
SHOWTIMES: studentunion.uncc.edu/movies

CAN'T DECIDE WHERE TO LIVE ? COME CHECK OUT UT AND UT NORTH

University Terrace North 4BR 4BA



Starting at \$475/month

University Terrace 4BR 2BA



Starting at \$415/month

WALK TO CAMPUS • RENT/OWN • FREE PARKING
NEXT TO CIRCLE K, BESIDE UNCC • CALL TODAY 980-226-1071

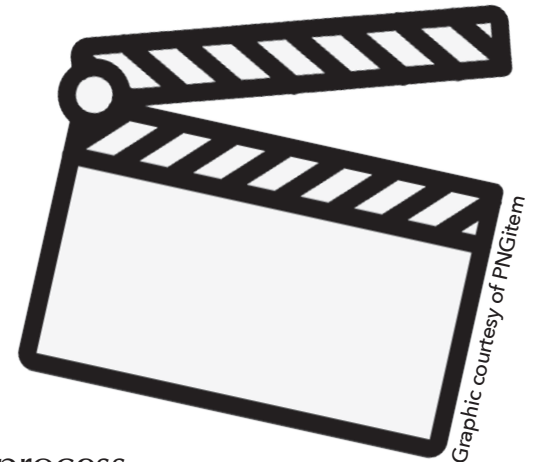
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WRITING ABOUT IMPORTANT EVENTS ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY?



THE NINER TIMES MIGHT BE FOR YOU!

Email editor@ninertimes.com for
information on how to get involved

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR JONAH FEINGOLD



Director Jonah Feingold sat down with the Niner Times to discuss his film making process

by Gabe Lapalombella
Staff Writer

This year has given me the opportunity to cover an array of film festivals. From Sundance to SXSW to Fantasia, I've had the privilege to review a variety of films. Having recently covered this year's Tribeca International Film Festival, I had the chance to see one film that stuck out to me. As soon as the credits rolled on "Dating & New York," the newest romantic comedy from IFC Films, I was eager to talk to the talent behind it. To coincide with its theatrical and streaming release, I had the chance to sit down with Director Jonah Feingold and talk about this very special movie.

Gabe Lapalombella: What were some of the films that inspired you to write this story?

Jonah Feingold: I would say the main films on the more mainstream side are "When Harry Met Sally," "You've Got Mail" and, on the more obscure side, movies like "L.A. story" and "Modern Romance," which is an Albert Brooks film. As well as even more obscure 1950s MGM era type movies like "His Girl Friday" and there's a little bit of "Pulp Fiction" too. There's even a little bit of classical Disney in there. So it's sort of a hodge-podge mix, which was all in the execution of the movie.

GL: What was that process like of making a dating app, "Meet Cute," your third main character in the story?

JF: We wanted to have a magical app because sometimes your phone and your apps do feel magical, and there's nothing

like your photo memories popping up and being like "Hey, remember that time you were with your ex from five years ago? Really happy on this bridge in San Francisco?" I'm like, what is this phone doing? What is the role of this? Why are you telling me this? With the app "Meet Cute," we did two things. One was, we had to kind of put on our programmer hats and say, what does a dating app look like? And how does it work? And big shoutouts to my editor, Hannah Park, and my graphics designer, Gustavo Rosa, who really helped craft the way this app moved and the rules of the app, which is much much harder than anyone thinks to do. But the second thing we wanted to do was interfere with the romantic life of the character. Hey, did you talk to this person yet? How are you feeling about them? It was a way to sort of having the audience check-in with our characters' emotions in a really modern way, basically replacing the scenes wherein a typical rom-com you'd have a scene where the protagonist talks with her friend and asks "how's it going with that guy?" It's the app being like, do you have feelings for this person still? And if so, where do your allegiances lie with them?

GL: Can you talk about what the process is like to come up with those different subversive choices for characters?

JF: That's a great question. For something like the plant shop scene, the idea was

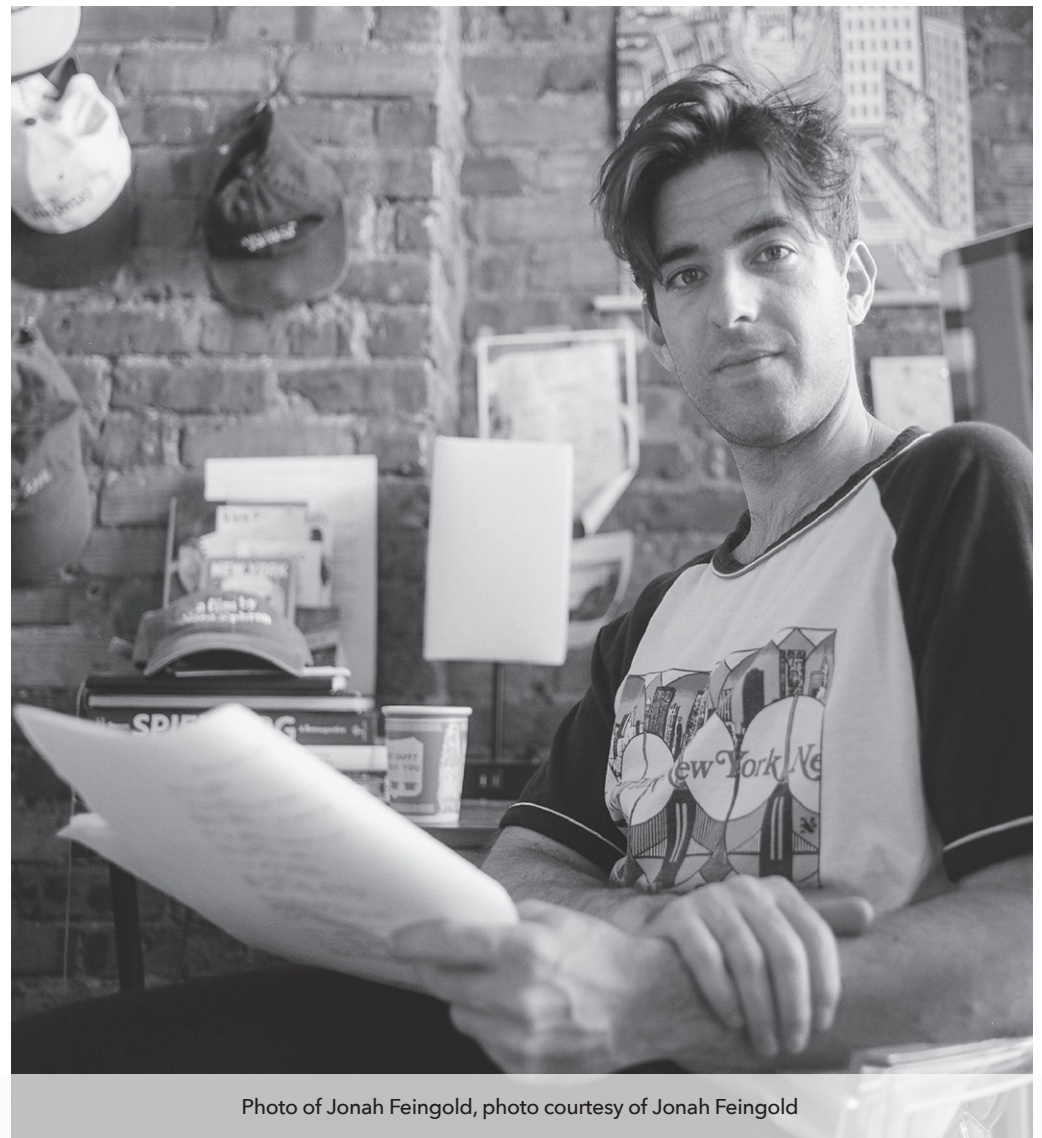


Photo of Jonah Feingold, photo courtesy of Jonah Feingold

to subvert expectations. What are the tropes of those classics? And then to your point, what is the overall meta point of those scenes? So I don't want to spoil that scene, but in the plant shop something unique happens when Wendy runs into her ex, something slightly magical. What is the correlation between what we experienced in real life and what actually happens in romcoms? You know, one of the funny things is I don't know, we've all had exes before, but like, we always joke to each other, oh my God, that person looks exactly like me, or they're just dating me in a different form. Well, what does that look like on camera? And I think to subvert the genre, it's understanding the trope in and out, and then being able to break that role down. It's kinda like what they say about filmmaking.

GL: Can you talk a little bit about how you found your cast, particularly Francesca and Jaboukie?

JF: I didn't discover Jaboukie, but I was introduced to him through his one single scene in a movie called "Someone Great" and I thought he was incredible. It's on Netflix, but he has one scene. He steals the scene and steals the movie in my opinion. Obviously, I mean, Brittany Snow is a dear friend. I love her in that film as well, but Jaboukie just stuck out to me. I was like, who is this? He's so interesting to watch and I really just wanted to work with him. Then I found out about Jaboukie, one of the biggest people on Twitter, and I'd been off Twitter for many years so I decided to go check him out.

JF: Francesca, similarly I had seen in "Stranger Things" season three, and she had totally stolen that role. She had this presence as a sort of a supporting character, but a supporting character where she just shined through. I thought there was so much more she's

destined to do. Them together seemed like a couple that you believe would try to date, but maybe probably wouldn't work out. That's sort of the impetus for their discovery and their chemistry and they're very different actors too. Jaboukie comes from comedy and Francesca was classically trained and Jaboukie was a former film school student. We always joked on set that two years prior, he was a PA on an indie movie, on a student film and Francesca was doing a play at NYU. So it was kind of a perfect dichotomy that just had a vibe and an energy that we got really lucky that it worked out.

GL: What do you hope that us Millennial and GenZ audiences or even older audiences take away from the story?

JF: I hope that people get a glimpse into the complicated world of modern dating, but they also are not scared. The idea is that there's all that minutiae things that happen, and the point is we all go through it. We all go through the doubt of if we're ever going to find the one, or should we send that text or missing somebody and, you know, looking at someone's Instagram and yearning for them. And I want people to know that that's normal to think about, but I also

want them to just have a good time. I am all about escapist cinema. My favorite movies are "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Night The Museum" and even "Men in Black," these movies that you can just turn on and lose yourself in because of the blocking and the score and the world that you create. I hope people just enjoy themselves and they can escape whatever reality, if they're trying to escape for those 91 minutes. And At least hope it makes them a happier person or instills some element of optimism into their life.

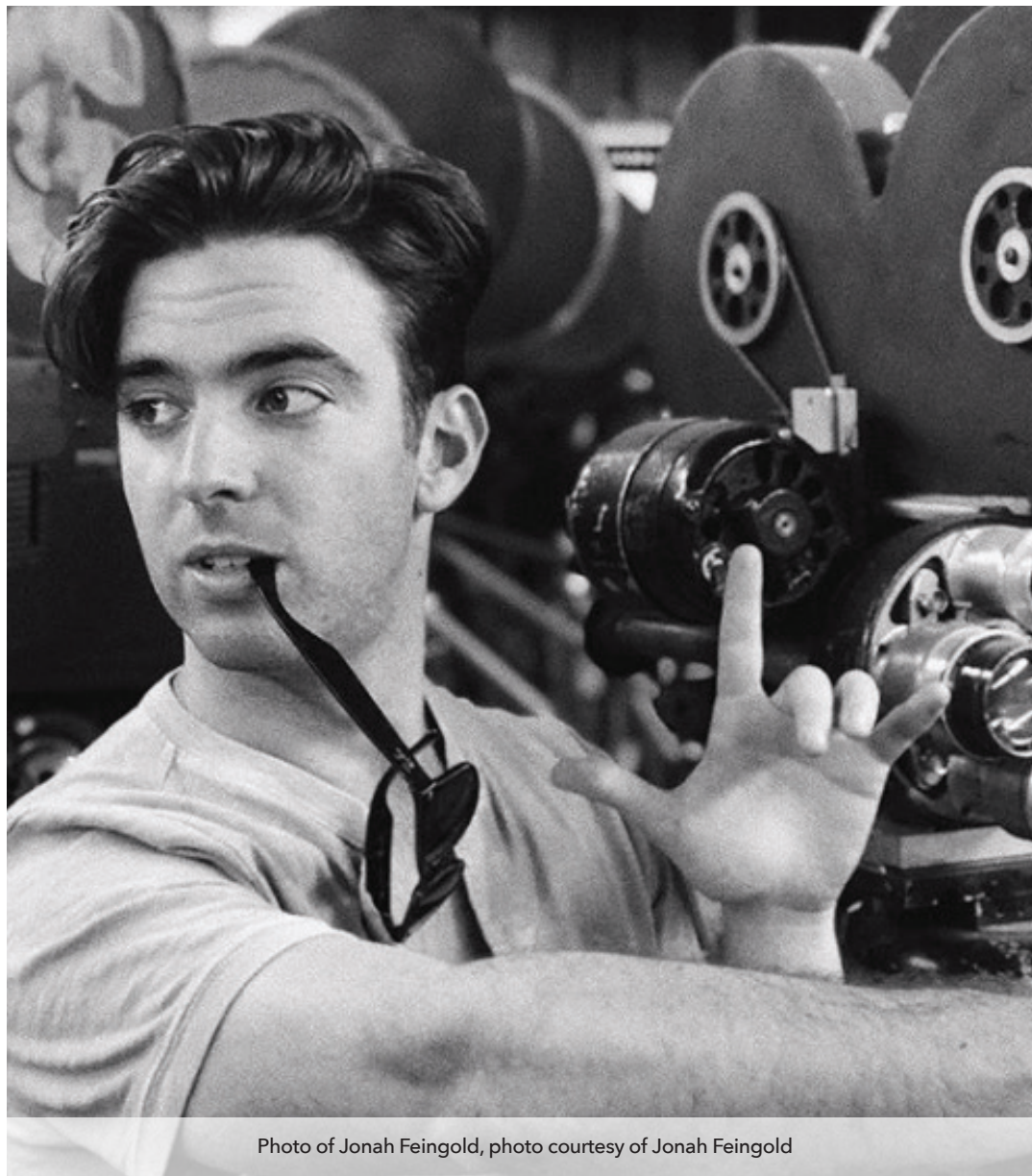


Photo of Jonah Feingold, photo courtesy of Jonah Feingold



NOW HIRING

- servers
- busboys
- cooks

Flexible hours, No tip sharing.

arsalco@aol.com
or apply in person at
230 East WT Harris Blvd.
(Behind Walgreens)

UNC CHARLOTTE'S STUDENT PODCAST NETWORK



LISTEN AT
UAPODCASTS.COM

ALBUM REVIEW:

CERTIFIED LOVER BOY

How does Drake's newest studio album hold up to its competition?

by Vinny Vaccaro
Intern

Graphics courtesy of
Republic Records

In the wake of reinvigorated long-time feuds with Kanye West and the release of his respective album, "Donda," Drake has come out with a new album of his own entitled "Certified Lover Boy" or "CLB" for short. The two albums were released almost simultaneously. Each is created by well-known artists who have been on bad terms for over a decade. As a result, there has been much debate and discussion about these albums and which is better. I have heard these discussions quite a few times, so to settle this, I will review "CLB" in a similar way to how I reviewed "Donda," to offer my perspective on a new album once again, and give my personal opinion on the debates as to which one is better.

When I first gave "CLB" a listen, I was impressed with its

somewhat generic but exciting introduction, as it jumps right into the music with a catchy track called "Champagne Poetry." I was fascinated by this track's "broken" style, for lack of a better term, as it has inconsistent cutoffs and repeats almost like an imitation of a record scratch. However, the rest of the song got me in the mood to continue listening to the album. This was a great introduction, which unfortunately cannot be said about "Donda," so Kanye has already been one-upped in that department. As for the rest of the tracklist, I think there are many more solid songs, with much less of the mediocre padding that plagued "Donda," which is a plus in my book. My favorite tracks on this album were "Papi's Home," "Love All," "Way 2 Sexy," "N 2 Deep,"

"Pipe Down" and "Fountains." Outside of these notable songs, I enjoyed much of the rest of the album, especially its variety in styles.

With all the good in this album, there is some bad, although not nearly as much as in "Donda." My least favorite song in this album was "TSU" because of its ridiculous and sluggish introduction. It not only felt very cringy to listen to but also completely took me out of the experience since it came immediately after "Way 2 Sexy," which was much more groovy and upbeat. Outside of that, there were a few tracks I did not like, namely "In The Bible," "Knife Talk," "7 a.m. on Bridle Path" and "Race My Mind." These tracks were not bad per se, but they did not have anything special going for them, and when they did have

something unique, they were implemented way too late to catch listeners' attention. These moments only accounted for a small portion of this album as a whole, so these issues were more like minor inconveniences rather than complete experience killers.

"Certified Lover Boy" provided me with a great experience that I do not regret partaking in. In terms of emotion and meaning, the feelings I got from "CLB" and "Donda" were entirely different but good in their own ways. "Donda" was very touching, primarily because of its purpose as a tribute to Kanye West's late mother, and a lot of the songs themselves were good. Still, there were too many mediocre tracks that overshadowed the good parts. "CLB" to me had a much more consistent quality

and kept me banging my head in enjoyment. I got lost in the many exciting sounds that "CLB" provided, and there were not many songs that I disliked in a significant way, which is something I cannot say about "Donda."

All in all, I am happy that the fan bases of both Kanye West and Drake got new material from their idols. I hope that peaceful discussion between the two fan bases will be the key to fully grasp the meanings, shapes and colors that both albums display. There is plenty of good to say about both albums, but in terms of the raw content of each, I think "CLB" comes out on top in terms of quality, production and a large selection of tracks that are actually worth everyone's time.



/10