

# My City



JULY  
AUGUST | 2025

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JULY | AUGUST | 2025

Hello, Charlotte. We haven't put an issue out since 2020 (during the pandemic). Thank you for reading our "comeback issue". Sincerely. This edition features Jason and Rachelle Atkins on the cover. Read the article. They're great. As always, we have "Micro Monsters" (a comic strip by Martin "the Clown" Barry) and an advice column by him, too. There's an article about Gus Engstrom and one on Jason Herring, too. Read also about some of Charlotte's not-so-hidden gems and make sure to catch the event listing.

Enjoy today and every day,  
Ellen Gurley and the other My City Magazine personalities

[www.MYCITYMAGAZINE.net](http://www.MYCITYMAGAZINE.net)

704.575.6611

Twitter: mycitycharlotte

Instagram: mycitymagazinecharlotte

like us on Facebook



• **MEDIA KITS** with advertising information can be obtained by contacting [ellengurley@gmail.com](mailto:ellengurley@gmail.com).

• **COVER ILLUSTRATION BY:** Sarah Pollock Art

# CONTENTS

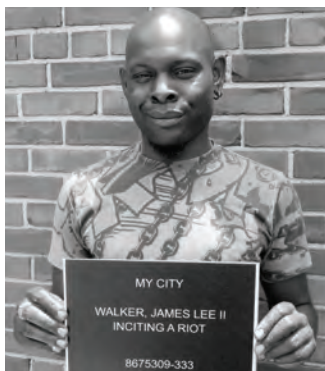
## My City

Letter From The Editor	2
Contributors	4
Ask the Clown Advice Column	5-6
Micro Monsters	6
Jason & Rachelle Atkins	7-9
Jason Herring: Ten Millimeter Omega Recordings	10-11
Events In Your City	12-17
Powertakeoff: The Loudest Band the World	18-21
Not-So-Hidden Charlotte Gems	22-24

# CONTRIBUTORS



Photographer



Columnist



Columnist



Webmaster



Owner / Editor



Magazine Layout Designer



Cover Illustrator



Columnist



Comic Strip  
Illustrator / Columnist



Comic Strip Illustrator



Columnist

My City

# WHAT DO I KNOW? I'M JUST A CLOWN

JULY | AUGUST | 2025

ADVICE FROM MARTIN "THE CLOWN" BARRY



Dear Clown,

I take an annual trip with friends to varying destinations. We started this as a way to stay current with each other since we have scattered across the country since graduating high school. There have been highs and lows for each of us along the way, and, until recently, this event always finds us helping each other along. The last few trips were a bit awkward since one of our friends started complaining about all the money spent attending past events. As a group, we have always planned gatherings that had very low expense. A few of these have even been held at a friend's parents' house or one of our own homes where we could all stay overnight. We are considering excluding our complaining friend this year since they have already started mentioning expenses by email. We have collectively covered travel expense for this person a few times and we have never mentioned it or asked to be paid back. Would you exclude this person?

Signed, Friend 7



Dear Friend 7,

Your situation is not exactly easy. This person has been included for what is apparently a long time. There may be some unrelated reason that this complaining has surfaced. Have they changed jobs? Have they had to pay medical expenses? Is there some other cause that is making them worry about seemingly low expense? If there is not an underlying cause and they are complaining just to complain, then move forward with leaving them off the invite list this year, but assure that the entire group agrees. If something else is the cause for complaint, reach out and help where you are able. That is the reason we have friends.

Best of luck, Clown



Dear Clown,

My sister-in-law has recently identified as an anti-vaxxer. Every "fact" she mentions is false narrative from internet content and recent propaganda. This would not be a big concern except



for the fact that she is now pregnant with my niece or nephew. I am afraid that her beliefs will put this child in danger of suffering from treatable disease. What can I do?

Signed,  
Concerned Future Aunt



Dear CFA,

Efforts to help people find facts and logic are never wasted. The key here will be presenting information discreetly and without being argumentative in any way. The most important person concerned here has not even been born yet. Gather facts from past statistical data showing reduction or elimination of disease, the risks and outcomes of infection, and the long-term risk that this child will face without vaccinations. Discuss this in private with your sister-in-law and be prepared to debunk false information. Should she become argumentative, recommend some time to breathe and continue the discussion again. Please encourage her to discuss this with a pediatrician as well.

Take a shot, Clown



Dear Clown,

My friend, let's call him "K," is currently dating a woman that is rather suspect. On four separate occasions, I have seen her out with other men during the day. I have not observed any affectionate contact between her and these other men;

however, her body language seems to suggest that there may be a concern for K. K has been talking about leveling up this relationship recently and I don't want to see my friend get hurt. Should I tell him what I have seen?

Signed,  
Looking Out

**A** Dear Looking Out,

I can appreciate that you want to protect your friend. The problem here lies in gathering facts. Are these occasions work related or client entertainment? Are any of these contacts family or friends? You said that you have not observed affectionate contact, so that provides a ton of space for fact finding. You might consider a casual "by the way" mention for one of these occasions with your friend, but do not include any personal perspective or concerns. This way, if your friend has any worries, he will be able to address these directly with her.

Cheers! Clown

**Q** Dear Clown,

Someone I love dearly has set aside all their potential for an undeserving person. Their relationship places limits on her ability to interact with friends and family as her partner is

always looking through her phone and email. I saw her recently at the grocery store and asked if she could get coffee IN the store. She seemed very nervous about this and mentioned that she had to be home at a specific time from shopping. This was not the first time she behaved this way and several of our friends have observed the change in her behavior. She has always been a bright, cheery and free presence and this changed after she got involved with her current partner. While none of us have seen physical evidence of abuse, we are worried for her in this current situation. How can I help her?

Sincerely, Worried

**A** Dear Worried,

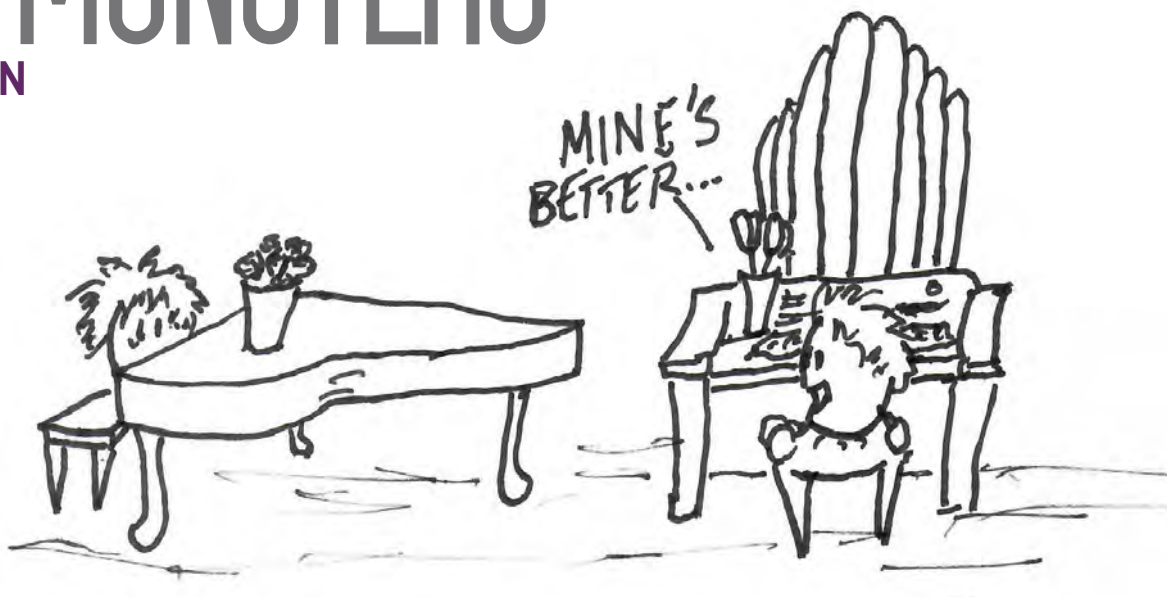
Outwardly, it seems that your friend is serving a narcissist, and they are suffering mental abuse at the very least. This is a delicate situation since you do not want them to suffer further abuse, and you do not want to make them feel bad for their choices. Frequently, people in this situation need to be told that you see them and their suffering. Start there and be gentle. Tell her you miss her. Remind her of times she was bright and cheery and contrast this with your latest interaction. Give space where she needs and help her come to terms with getting out of this.

Stay kind, Clown

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at [martin.barry@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.barry@yahoo.com).

# MICRO MONSTERS

BY: THE CLOWN



# JASON & RACHELLE ATKINS

WORDS: ELLEN GURLEY | PHOTOS: DANIEL COSTON



Jason Atkins,  
aka Greazy Keyz,  
has quickly become a

household name. He is the beloved organist for the Charlotte Checkers (for ten seasons and counting), the Charlotte Knights, AND the Kannapolis Cannonballers. There is a whole section dedicated to his fans in The BoPlex referred to as the Greaz Pit and a burger named after him called The Greazy Cheese. The energy is always electric when he is in any arena or stadium and when I tell you that this man doesn't "need" any more press, I'm serious. Almost every newspaper, online magazine, radio station, and blogger in town has done a piece on him. He doesn't "need" any press, I just like talking to him and about him. He's probably one of the most wholesome vibes around town.

When he is not the acting MVP for regional sports franchises, he is the host of a podcast, "Local Music Somewhere" on rBeatz Radio. Interviewing other area musicians, Jason is engaging and warm. As of recent, he has had Jay Garrigan from The-Eyebrows, Bruce Hazel of Temperance League, and the legendary percussionist James Brock as guests. He is happy to share this platform with other people in the music industry. He will never run out of content as his list of friends in town is neverending.

You can catch him at his decades long residency at Smokey Joe's Café on Monroe with the band the Smokin' J's Tuesday nights. Music is how he makes a living. It takes up a whole lot of his time. That's okay with his adoring wife, Rachelle. It is a cliché, but behind every great man is (an even) great(er) woman. She has supported him every step of the way and, now, he can return the favour. Rachelle, after years of working in construction, completed a degree in creative writing and just published her first book. I call it the first because there is NO way that the people are going to let her stop at just one.

Sleep like Starfish is a memoir by Rachelle, or Shel, as her close friends endearingly call her. This is a must read. She takes us on a journey through a challenging childhood, emotional adolescence,



and, now, a triumphant adulthood. The bravery that it took to publish this piece of work is awe inspiring. Excelling in a male dominated field, she has put herself to the test, and is making an A+ all while navigating empty nesting and a medical history that baffles ("Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, chronic inflammatory response syndrome, Epstein-Barr virus, AND breast cancer"). Jason is right by her side, making certain that she doesn't ever feel unsupported. I can tell you that this is a power couple; again cliché, but true.

There are a number of bookstores that carry Sleep like Starfish including mainstay Park Road Books.

She has done a slew of book readings and will be traveling to Cincinnati and Louisville soon to appear to some other future fans. I am so proud to know both Jason and Shel personally and you can get to know them, too. These are the most humble people you will ever meet and their legacy (children) are growing up to be fantastic (and also humble) musicians, models, and photographers. Follow Greazy Keyz plus his beautiful authoress wife on all of the socials and at a game or reading soon. You'll be glad that you did.



# JASON HERRING

## TEN MILLIMETER OMEGA RECORDINGS

WORDS: ELLEN GURLEY | PHOTOS: DANIEL COSTON



For most of Jason Herring's life, he has been involved in music.

Whether it be in bands, as a DJ, running his own record store (the former Milestone Records), or operating his record label, he has had his hand in getting tunes in folk's ears for decades. He has seen the evolution of a number of aspects in the entertainment industry. Heck, when he got started, there was no internet. If you wanted someone to come

to your show, you had to physically hand them a printed flyer and personally invite them. If you wanted someone to hear your music, you had to give them a cassette or compact disc. That tape or CD was made at a studio and the time spent there was precious.

Now-a-days, most artists don't even (have to) publish (physical) albums, what with all of the digital options of getting your music to the people (see: Amazon, Anghami, Apple Music, MediaNet, Boomplay, Deezer, Instagram, Facebook, Adaptr, Flo, YouTube Music, iHeartRadio, Claro Musica, iTunes, Joox, Kuack Media, CD Baby, NetEase, Qobuz, Pandora, Saavn, Spotify, Tencent, Tidal, TikTok, and other ByteDance stores). But Herring does.

Morphing from an analog beginning to today, Herring can boast a home recording catalog that is quite impressive. Celebrating twenty five years, his record label has been cranking out quality, indie releases for dozens of regional acts. He has been instrumental and consistent in promoting and successfully pushing out music with his platform using his skill at remaining relevant while sharing his gifts of marketing.

Herring is the front man for his own band, The Mystery Plan, alongside his lovely wife and a handful of talented friends. When he is not DJing or writing new songs, he is behind the computer working to keep new releases of other acts on his label. It's a fulltime job. One





cannot just put out an album and expect it to sell itself. He gets that and he is good at it.

When I say that Ten Millimeter Omega Recordings has put out countless albums, I'm not exaggerating. I couldn't count them all. Not only does The Mystery Plan (and his previous bands including The Interstellars, Muchacho and Moonburn) have over twenty releases, Herring has a slew of other acts on the label (Heart of a Ghost, Micah Gaugh, Miami Dice, Ania, VonFunkHauser, the Dirty Drummer, Baleen and Cement Stars - just to name a few). He seems to be doing it naturally and tirelessly.

The machine, that is Herring's momentum, almost came to a screeching halt on April 29th of 2023. He

collapsed in front of God and everyone at one of his live shows. It was a widow maker; the worst of the worst heart attack. The world almost lost a great talent. We would've been robbed. The doctors brought him back, several times, from an almost certain death. Luckily for us all, he is still here and shows no signs of slowing down (and there is no omega -end- in sight; pun intended). With his beautiful daughter going to college this fall, he is celebrating the best days of his life and it is a wonderful thing to behold. Catch him at a show and buy some vinyl or follow the label on Facebook, Apple Music, Tidal, and Bandcamp, if you can keep up.

[www.TenMillimeterOmegaRecords1.bandcamp.com](http://www.TenMillimeterOmegaRecords1.bandcamp.com)

# EVENTS IN YOUR CITY

JULY | AUGUST | 2025

## SUNDAYS:

### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- [www.CharlotteFootballClub.com](http://www.CharlotteFootballClub.com) @ Bank of America Stadium: 8.03 11:59pm vs. Chivas Guadalajara / 8.24 7pm vs. New York Red Bulls
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com) @ Truist Field: 7.20 5:05pm vs. Durham Bulls / 8.03 5:05pm vs. Rochester Red Wings / 8.17 5:05pm vs. Memphis Redbirds

### BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 Restaurant: ½ wine by the bottle
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle
- Sun., July 27th @ Symphony Park: 12pm Peruvian Festival

### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Comet Grill: Omari & the Hellhounds
- @ Heist Brewery / Barrel Arts: 3rd Sundays (until Dec.) 1-5pm Eternally Grateful (Dead covers) + guests & vendors
- @ Smokey Joe's: 6-9pm James Brock & friends + pot luck dinner
- Sun., July 13th @ the Amp Ballantyne: Leftover Salmon, the Infamous Stringdusters, Kitchen Dwellers
- Sun., July 27th @ PNC Music Pavilion: Parkway Drive, Killswitch Engage, Prevail, Beartooth

### COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 7.13 Shelly Belly / 7.20 Chico Bean / 7.27 Arnez J / 8.03 Tony Baker / 8.17 Greg Warren / 8.31 Shuler King
- Sun., July 6th @ Booth Playhouse: the Kemet School Presents: Blues for Mama

### MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ the Levine Museum of the New South: 1st Sundays free admission / 1/2 off admission (every Sunday thereafter)
- @ the Mint Museum (Uptown): 1-4pm free admission for kids + hands-on art activities, yoga & more

### DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Dish: 2nd & 4th Sundays 3pm "Go-Go Gary" w.DJs Lee Lally (Adverb) & friends
- @ Merchant & Trade: 2-6pm DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Petra's: 1st & 3rd Sundays "Hazy Sunday" feat. DJs Ray & Probably Will (enter via back alley)

- @ Reggae Lounge: 3rd Sundays 5-10pm Mad Max Presents: "Retro Sundays" w.Deejay Kross (+ Ludi & dominos)
- @ Starlight on 22nd: 4-8pm Soul Sundays w.DJs Guy Nowchild, Cree, J-3, Vincent Tyson, James Bethea

### FILM:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 2nd Sundays 2pm the [www.ClassicBlackCinemaSeries.com](http://www.ClassicBlackCinemaSeries.com) - August: Princess Tam Tam

## MONDAYS:

### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: trivia night w.Merely Players

### BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: ½ wine by the glass
- @ Lebowski's: 1/2 off bottles of wine

### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Evening Muse: 7:30pm Find Your Music open mic
- @ Morningside Pub: 9pm open mic night & snack potluck
- @ Petra's: 7-10pm Bill Hanna Legacy Jazz Jam
- @ Smokey Joe's: 1st Mondays Jamorah

### TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ Oak Steakhouse: 11am Ben's Friends (sobriety meetings for individuals in food service)

### DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ VINYL: alternating weeks: DJs (Justin) Aswell & Trife
- @ Snug Harbor: 8pm All my Friends are Fly w.DJ See Bird Go & guests

### KARAOKE:

- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm karaoke

## TUESDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com) @ Truist Field: 7.01 7:04pm vs. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp / 7.29 7:04pm vs. Rochester Red Wings/ 8.12 7:04pm vs. Memphis Redbirds

# My City

## BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 7th Street Public Market: 5-7pm the Assorted Table Wine Shoppe Weekly Wine Tasting (\$5, 5 wines + nibbles)
- @ Cornelius Draffhouse & Bottle Shop: 1/2 off wine
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: "NoDable Series" (new beers released in their taproom 4pm) / Tap Room open 4-9pm / Tin Kitchen food truck 5pm
- @ Rhino Market(s): 1st Tuesdays of the month beer tasting
- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 10% off bottles of wine

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Comet Grill: Red Rocking Chair
- @ Crown Station: 8-12pm open mic/improvised jam w. Jay Cooper & friends
- @ the Evening Muse: 1st Tuesdays Tosco Music open mic
- @ Moochie's Tavern: open mic night
- @ the Neighborhood Theatre: 7.01 Faster P\*ssycat, Super Suckers / 8.12 Atmosphere, Cypress Hill
- @ PNC Music Pavilion: 7.08 Styx, Kevin Cronin, Don Felder / 7.29 Rod Stewart
- @ Smokey Joe's: open mic night w. the Smokin J's
- @ VisArt (Video) Café: 2nd Tuesdays 7:30-9pm Mike Strauss Trio w. guests
- Tues., July 15th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: the Head & the Heart
- Tues., July 22nd @ Knight Theater: the Wallflowers
- Tues., Aug. 26th @ Ovens Auditorium Brit Floyd (a Pink Floyd tribute)

## COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm comedy open mic

## DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ Orosoko Soundbar: 6pm-12am DJ Shanti Love
- @ VINYL: alternating weeks: DJs (Justin) Aswell & Trife

## KARAOKE:

- 1st Tuesdays @ Petra's: Piana Bar Karaoke w. Ryan Stamey

## WEDNESDAYS:

## SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteFootballClub.com @ Bank of America Stadium: 7.16 7:30pm vs. DC United

- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 7.02 7:04pm vs. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp / 7.30 7:04pm vs. Rochester Red Wings / 8.13 7:04pm vs. Memphis Redbirds

## BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: 1/2 wine by the bottle
- @ the Butler's Pantry: 4pm "Wine Not Wednesdays" (\$10 wine tasting)
- @ Central Coffee: 15% off of pounds of coffee
- @ Dilworth Neighborhood Grill: 1st Wednesdays www.CarolinaBrewMasters.com meeting
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: Tap Room open 4-9pm w. Food Truck Tin Kitchen (5pm) / Run Club 6:30-8:30pm
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 7-11:45pm open mic hosted by Jade Moore
- @ Starlight on 22nd: 7-10pm open mic
- @ VisArt Café: 1st Wednesdays Lovell Bradford Trio jazz jam
- Wed., July 16th @ Amos' SouthEnd: Mates of State
- Wed., July 16th @ PNC Music Pavilion: Big Time Rush
- Wed., July 23rd @ Knight Theater: Ryan Adams
- Wed., Aug. 13th @ Middle C Jazz: 6pm House of Funk curated by Stefan Kallander

## COMEDY | THEATER:


- @ the Comedy Zone: 7.23 Gabriel Rutledge / 8.20 Uncle Lazer
- @ Crown Station: open mic comedy

## DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ VINYL: 8pm-1am "Wednesdays on Wax" feat. DJ That Guy Smitty w. residents & guests - 1st Wednesdays Jay Cooper (VonFunk Hauser), 2nd Wednesdays Danielle Kharman, 3rd Wednesdays Scott Slagle, 4th Wednesdays Will Gilreath (Probably Will) 8.13 LNMental (Ellen Gurley)

## KARAOKE:

- @ Petra's: karaoke w. Klaytastic



**SADU**  
BODY MODIFICATIONS

**PROFESSIONAL BODY PIERCING & FINE JEWELRY**

Experienced Piercers • Safe & Sterile • Award-Winning

[www.sadupiercing.org](http://www.sadupiercing.org)

1515 Central Avenue  
Charlotte, NC

Services By Appointment - Book Online

## THURSDAYS:

### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- [www.CharlotteFootballClub.com](http://www.CharlotteFootballClub.com) @ Bank of America Stadium: 7.31 11:59pm vs. FC Juarez / 8.07 11:59pm vs. CF Monterrey
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com) @ Truist Field: 7.03 6:05pm vs. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp / 7.31 7:04pm vs. Rochester Red Wings / 8.14 7:04pm Memphis Redbirds
- @ Armored Cow Brewing: 7pm Trivia Night
- @ the Common Market (Oakwold): 7-9pm trivia
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: 7pm Mindless Minutia trivia

### BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- [www.PBSCharlotte.org](http://www.PBSCharlotte.org): 8:30pm Charlotte Cooks
- @ Birdsong Brewing: 3-10pm open / 3pm Thirsty Thursdays (new releases) / 6:30pm brewery tours
- @ Bottled & Tapped: 1/2 price wine
- @ Cabarrus Creamery (Concord): 7-9pm Thursdays Cabarrus Homebrewers Society

### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Marquee: Rhythm 4U Band feat. Erika Morrison
- @ Smokey Joe's: 9pm-12am Shana Blake & friends' "Menagerie"
- @ Queen City Grounds: open mic
- Thurs., July 10th @ the Amp Ballantyne: Najee, Regina Belle
- Thurs., July 10th @ the Neighborhood Theatre: Scythian

- Thurs., July 24th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: Whiskey Myers, Josh Meloy, the Droptines
- Thurs., July 31st @ Ovens Auditorium: Vince Gill
- Thurs., Aug. 7th @ Knight Theater: Postmodern Jukebox
- Thurs., Aug. 14th @ PNC Music Pavilion: Toto, Men at Work, Christopher Cross

### COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 8.07 Tip Harris feat. the Haha Mafia / 8.14 Ashley Hesseltine / 8.21 Sam Tallent / 8.28 Shuler King

### MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 6-10pm 3rd Thursdays free: Gantt After Dark
- @ Levine Center for the Arts: 12pm 3rd Thursdays Take an "ArtBreak"

### DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood): 9-11pm DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ the Music Yard: 2nd Thursdays "Reset" w. DJs Probably Will (Will Gilreath), AXNT, FZXXX
- @ Pinhouse: "Cigar Vibes" w. DJ Stacey Blackman
- @ Scorpio: 10pm School of Drag hosted by Erica Chanel - Dorm Thursdays (free with student ID)
- @ VINYL: DJ (Justin) Aswell

### KARAOKE:

- @ Hattie's Tap & Tavern: 9pm-1am karaoke

### FILM:

- @ Camp NorthEnd: 8:30pm "Crossroads Cinema" 7.03 Legally Blonde 2, 7.10 Holes, 7.17 the Dark Knight, 7.24 13 Going on 30, 7.31 Shrek 2, 8.07 the Parent Trap, 8.14 Bad Boys 2, 8.21 the Incredibles, 8.28 Barber Shop 2

## FRIDAYS:

### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- [www.CharlotteIndependence.com](http://www.CharlotteIndependence.com) @ American Legion Memorial Stadium: 8.15 7pm vs. Westchester SC
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com) @ Truist Field: 7.18 7:04pm vs. Durham Bulls / 8.01 7:04pm vs. Rochester Red Wings / 8.15 7:04pm vs. Memphis Redbirds
- Fri., Aug. 29th @ Bank of America Stadium: Dukes Mayo Classic

### BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- @ 2161 Hawkins St.: 5-10pm SouthEnd Food Truck Friday
- @ Armored Cow Brewing Co.: 5-9pm University City Food Truck Fridays
- @ Hi-Wire Brewing: 5:30-9pm SouthEnd Food Truck Fridays
- @ Duckworth's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle

### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Comet Grill: the Lenny Federal Band
- @ PNC Music Pavillion: 8.01 Thomas Rhett / 8.08 Neil Young & the Chrome Hearts / 8.22 Jason Aldean
- @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: 7.25 Goo Goo Dolls, Dashboard Confessional / 8.22 the Red Clay Strays
- @ Substrate: 7pm Cosmic Collective
- Fri., July 11th @ Middle C Jazz: two shows 5:30pm & 8:15pm - Vincent Ingala
- Fri., July 18th @ Petra's: Sam Bettens
- Fri., July 25th @ Ovens Auditorium: Intocable
- Fri., July 25th @ the Rooster (Gastonia): Badd Wolf & DJ Lucifer
- Fri., July 25th @ the Underground: Hudson Westbrook
- Fri., Aug. 29th @ Knight Theater: the Magic of Motown (a tribute show)

### PLAY OR POETRY READINGS | BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ Camp North End: 3rd Fridays Off Broadway Page to Stage

### COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 7.11 Big Jay Oakerson / 7.18 Chico Bean / 7.25 Arnez J / 8.01 Tony Baker / 8.08 Tip Harris feat. the Haha Mafia / 8.15 Christian Johnson / 8.22 Sam Tallent / 8.29 Shuler King
- @ the Common Market (SouthEnd): 7pm open mic comedy w. Jacob Manlucu
- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 3rd Fridays 8pm comedy open mic

### MUSEUMS | ART:

- in SouthEnd: 1st Fridays Gallery Crawl
- 2nd Fridays @ Oak Street Mill (Cornelius): art, music, & vendors

### TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 4:20-5:20pm High Time Happy Hour - 20% off all herbal delta & CBD products
- Fri., Aug. 15th @ the Comedy Zone: 7pm Eric Eaton (magician)

### DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ AC Hotel Charlotte Ballantyne: 7pm DJ Jason Herring (Jah-Sun Rising)
- @ Dilworth Tasting Room (Plaza-Midwood): 8pm-12am DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Marquee: DJ C-Rob
- @ the Reggae Lounge: "Fyah Fridays" w. DJ Dr C & guests
- @ TCB Hundred Bar & Grill: 7-9pm "Pull up Fridays" w. DJ Stacey Blackman
- @ VINYL: DJ A-Minor
- Fri., July 11th @ the Music Yard: Jody Wisternoff

### SPEAKERS:

- Fri., Aug. 8th @ Knight Theater: the Last Podcast on the Left

### FILM:

- @ the Spoke Easy: B-Movie Fridays


## SATURDAYS:

### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- www.CharlotteFootballClub.com @ Bank of America Stadium: 7.05 7pm vs. Orlando City SC / 7.12 7:30pm vs. New York City FC / 7.26 7:30pm vs. Toronto FC / 8.16 7:30pm vs. Real Salt Lake
- www.CharlotteIndependence.com @ American Legion Memorial Stadium: 7.19 7pm vs. Hearts of Pine SC / 7.26 7pm vs. Richmond Kickers / 8.02 7pm vs. Texoma FC / 8.09 7pm vs. Greenville Triumph SC
- www.CharlotteKnights.com @ Truist Field: 7.19 6:05pm vs. Durham Bulls / 8.02 6:05pm vs. Rochester Red Wings / 8.16 6:05pm vs. Memphis Redbirds

### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ PNC Music Pavilion: 7.26 Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Turnpike Troubadours & more / 8.09 Dierks Bentley
- Sat., July 19th @ the Common Market (Oakwold): the Mystery Plan



PROVIDING THE BEST  
COFFEE BREATH IN  
CHARLOTTE FOR  
OVER 16 YEARS

ELIZABETH AND  
PLAZA MIDWOOD'S  
OG COFFEE SHOP

Central Coffee Company  
719 Louise Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204  
☎ 704.335.7288 📷 @centralcoffeeco.  
www.centralcoffeeco.com

- Sat., July 19th @ the Fillmore: Ocean Alley
- Sat., July 26th @ the Rooster (Gastonia): Nail Bite, Dying Oath, Saint Diablo, Traverse the Abyss, Strange Culture
- Sat., July 26th @ Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre: "Weird Al" Yankovic
- Sat., Aug. 9th @ Knight Theater: Bill Pinkney's Drifters, the Tams

#### COMEDY | THEATER:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 7.12 Big Jay Oakerson / 7.19 Chico Bean / 7.26 Arnez J / 8.02 Tony Baker / 8.09 Tip Harris feat.the Haha Mafia / 8.16 Christian Johnson / 8.23 Sam Tallent / 8.30 Shuler King
- Sat., July 12th @ Booth Playhouse: the Floyd's Baby Boy – the stage play
- Sat., Aug. 23rd @ Knight Theater: Heather McMahan

#### MUSEUMS | ART:

- @ ClearWater Artists Studio: every 2nd Saturday 10am-4pm Open Studios
- @ the NASCAR Hall of Fame: 2nd Saturdays interactive program exploring racing

#### TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ the Common Market (Oakwold): 10am-4pm VnylWrks record pop-up w.Japanese vinyl & more
- @ the Local Pick Up (Rock Hill): 11am-6pm musical instrument consignment
- @ the Rooster (Gastonia): 1st Saturdays "Misfit Market" (records, collectibles, makers & more)
- @ Spandex City Comics: 11am Pokemon league
- Sat., Aug. 16th @ the Comedy Zone: 6pm Eric Eaton (magician)

#### DANCE MUSIC | DJS | BURLESQUE | DRAG:

- @ the Milestone: 7.26, 8.23, 9.20, 10.18, 11.29, 12.20 "Digital Noir" w.DJ Spider & guest
- @ Folia: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10pm-1am DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Marquee: DJ 360
- @ Substrate: 3rd Saturdays "LoveLee Days" w.DJ Adverb (Lee Lally) & friends / last Saturdays w.DJ Saudade (Don Poush)
- Sat., July 12th @ Blackbox Theater / Cue: "BCB vol.2" feat. DJs Mike Soden, Phat Rabbit, Tober & Skinner
- Sat., Aug. 30th @ Snug Harbor: 9pm-2am "Off the Wall – Annual Michael Jackson Tribute" w.DJs Chief Rocka Aking, Justice, DK (Danielle Kharman), Foundaceton

#### SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS:



#### SPORTS | ACTIVITIES:

- Thursdays-Sundays [www.FunnyBus.net](http://www.FunnyBus.net) (starts @ 7th Street Station)
- Historic Uptown Neighborhood Tour [www.CharlotteNCTours.com](http://www.CharlotteNCTours.com) (daily)

#### BEER | WINE | FOOD:

- Tuesdays-Saturdays @ Great Wagon Road Distillery: tours
- Fridays & Saturdays 10pm-4am: Food Trucks on Freedom
- Southern Food Bicycle Tour [www.CharlotteNCTours.com](http://www.CharlotteNCTours.com) (daily)

#### COMEDY | THEATER:

- July 11th-19th @ Theatre Charlotte: Student Theatre Guild – Catch me if you Can
- July 18th-20th @ Belk Theater: Ain't Too Proud – the Life & Times of the Temptations
- July 25th-26th @ Theatre Charlotte: TCJR – Finding Nemo, Jr.

- July 25th-27th @ Halton Theater: Parr Arts & Humanities Series Presents: the SpongeBob Musical
- July 29th-Aug. 31st @ Booth Playhouse: Immediate Family (written by Paul Oakley Stovall / directed by Phylicia Rashad)
- July 29th-Aug. 3rd @ Belk Theater: Life of Pi
- Aug. 12th-17th @ Ovens Auditorium: the Book of Mormon

**SYMPHONY | OPERA | DANCE:**

- Aug. 28th-31st @ Bojangles Coliseum: Cirque Du Soleil : OVO

**MUSEUMS | ART:**

- Liberty Walk: self-guided tour of the American Revolution – [www.CharlotteLibertyWalk.com](http://www.CharlotteLibertyWalk.com) / [www.HandHeldHistory.com](http://www.HandHeldHistory.com) [contact@meckdeck.org](mailto:contact@meckdeck.org)
- THRU Aug. 31st @ the Mint Museum (uptown): Annie Leibovitz: Work
- THRU Sept. 21st @ Mint Museum (uptown): Collidoscope – De La Torree Brothers retro-perspective

**TRADE | INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:**

- THRU July 5th @ Route 29 Pavilion: [www.QueenCharlotteFair.com](http://www.QueenCharlotteFair.com)
- Aug. 16th & 17th @ First Ward Park (NEW LOCATION): the 26th Anniversary [www.CharlottePride.org](http://www.CharlottePride.org) Festival
- Aug. 29th-Sept. 1st in downtown Matthews: [www.MatthewsAlive.org](http://www.MatthewsAlive.org) Festival



- *If you would like to see your event on this listing, simply email the info to [ellengurley@gmail.com](mailto:ellengurley@gmail.com) .*
- *Always check with the venue before you plan your outing for any cancellations.*
- *Media partners, please do not copy and paste our exhaustive event listing onto your own website or into your own publication. Thank you for respecting the hard work.*
- *To receive a monthly event newsletter, email "subscribe" to [ellengurley@gmail.com](mailto:ellengurley@gmail.com).*



# POWERTAKEOFF: THE LOUDEST BAND IN THE WORLD

BY: BRANDON LUNSFORD | PHOTO CREDIT TO: DIANA KOLB, KELLEY MARIE YOUNG & NICK SAKES



For the last two years, I have trekked up to Minnesota in late May to see the best music festival around. It's called

Caterwaul, and it's not easy on the eardrums. The organizers would bristle if you called it

a "noise rock festival", although they freely admit on their website that many of the bands are noisy, and that they "definitely rock." I have always been drawn to the catharsis of noise, and I like it as loud as possible. I've seen some of my favorite bands in the genre at Caterwaul, including Oxbow, Brainiac, Thrones, Part Chimp, Big'N, Buildings. I travel up to the Upper Midwest to see bands like this, but I also go because it's the only chance I ever get to see my friend Gus Engstrom's band powerTakeOff. For the second consecutive year, the loudest band of all in a festival full of them was this three-piece from Concord, North Carolina. There are some seasoned veterans of listening to this kind of music at Caterwaul, and I watched many of them grope for their ear plugs or simply flee when ptO's wall of sound commenced. Both years the bands played outside in residential neighborhoods, and people probably thought they were under siege from an invading army.

It's really hard to describe what kind of music powerTakeOff makes, and Gus likes it that way. They aren't really "noise rock," but they make a lot of noise. They aren't metal or punk, but they draw a lot of

inspiration and ethos from that world. They aren't necessarily drone or doom or sludge, but they certainly utilize that crushing repetition and downtuned heaviness. Above all else, they are just LOUD. They are the loudest band I've ever seen live, and I've seen Swans at Tremont! The band has gone through myriad lineups, and the Caterwaul version of the band is the loudest one of all. Gus is the core member on bass, and Trevere Thomas (formerly of Hex Machine and currently playing in Today is the Day) is on guitar. The group is rounded out by drummer Travis Kuhlman of the aforementioned Buildings, whose brutally slow drumming is perfectly syncopated with the swirling noise. The deafening churn of Engstrom's bass rumbles over everything in a repetitious roar, while the squalling feedback blistering from Thomas' guitar is almost as loud. It is amazing to watch these guys prepare for their set, arranging various pedals and wires for maximum intensity. They have a fair amount of amplifiers, but they don't come with a mountain of them. In fact this year they used the ones that were on the stage when they got there. "We just turned them up a lot," Gus told me. For the second straight year, I spent this time grinning maniacally, because I not only knew what was coming, but I knew that no one else really did. There were all kinds of different bands at Caterwaul both years, but none of them sounded anything like powerTakeOff.

I first saw ptO at the Milestone many years ago, but it is a rare sight indeed to see them now. Those consecutive Caterwaul appearances are the only two shows the band has performed in the last seven years, and it's not certain when they will play again. Distance makes it a challenge, as Thomas is in Richmond, Kuhlman resides in Minneapolis, and Engstrom is here in Concord. The bigger challenge, however, is that Gus is emerging from a period of seclusion and slowly reinventing himself, much as powerTake-off is. His life and his music have always been defined by grief, pain, and loss, but the last couple of years since he brought ptO back have been unforgiving. "This past year, I put out three powerTakeOff records, and it all came out of death and misery and despair and all of that," Gus tells me. "It follows you around a little bit, and I'm ready to put that baggage down and move on. But I don't think it'll change the way I feel. I'm just tired of everywhere I turn, it's like people are dying."

The losses started coming in 2009 when his father Terry died. Terry Engstrom had worked for Pizza Hut since the 1960's, and the family moved from Junction City, Kansas to Concord in 1979 so that he could run some franchises here. Gus later went back to Kansas for college, but he eventually returned to North Carolina to be close to his family. He saw tons of great shows in

both places in the 1990s, and he's probably seen most every band that I love in an intimate setting somewhere. This was a very different time in musical history; Nirvana had opened the door for major labels to sign lots of weird and noisy bands, and kids like me who grew up on Van Halen and Def Leppard suddenly had our eyes opened to underground rock music. A lot of these bands came from the Midwest or the Pacific Northwest in cities like Minneapolis and Seattle, places with cold or rainy weather and wide open spaces and not much to do but learn to get drunk or play guitar (or both). PowertakeOff feels like a weird loud band from Kansas more than it feels like a North Carolina band, or more specifically a Charlotte band.

Charlotte has never really been a magnet for weird music or weird people, although there was a time when these young noisy bands came through here. Clubs like the Milestone, 1313, the Park Elevator, and the Pterodactyl saw some incredible lineups in the late 1980's and early 1990's, and even when I came to Charlotte in 1996 we had places like Tremont Music Hall and Fat City to see weird bands play. You might assume underground bands full of the rebellious sons and daughters of buttoned up banking executives might pop up everywhere, but Charlotte never grew its own scene of music like that. The most obvious exceptions are legendary sludge band Buzzov-en and punk icons Antiseen, but for the most part the city didn't birth the same kind of bands and music labels that others did in the 1990's. Outside of the Milestone, the rest of those aforementioned venues are all long gone, and there aren't many places to nurture local weirdos or attract tours featuring this kind of music.

Gus had seen some amazing bands, but he was never actually in one until the mid-2000s when he was in his early thirties. "I didn't think I could do it," he said. "And then I finally got tired of being on the sidelines and decided, well maybe I can do this." His first outfit in Charlotte was Horse Thief, where he played guitar alongside Mike Earle on bass and vocals and Scott Wishart on drums. They played shows all over town but

never managed to get anything recorded, and the band soon fizzled. After his father died in 2009, Gus was grieving when he was approached by Rob Davis, vocalist and guitarist for local noise band Grids, to play bass. Gus had only played guitar before, so this was new territory; it turned out to be the instrument he was made for. Grids had already put out a couple of EPs that year, but the grueling and pummeling bass he added to the mix really enhanced their sound. The 2010 album *Kansas*, named after Gus' home state, is a masterpiece and one of the better records to come out of Charlotte in recent years. The band broke up right after it came out but in this album, especially the brutal final track "Drilling" and its nasty rumbling groove, Gus had found a blueprint for what would become powertakeOff.

What does the name mean, you ask? A power take-off is a method for taking power from a source, such as a running engine, and transmitting it to an application such as an attached implement. It is most commonly a splined drive shaft installed on a tractor or a truck, and it can be pretty dangerous. On the cover of the *Cacophony* record that ptO put out last year, there was an old pocket knife with a saw-blade on the other end. "That knife belonged to my grandfather," Gus tells me. "My mother told me that he kept it around in case he ever had to free himself from a power take-off on a piece of equipment, he could cut his wrist off, he could cut his elbow off, or he could cut his arm off."

Farm machinery and heavy equipment has always been one of the inspirations for Gus, which hummed all around him when he was a kid in Kansas being around his grandfather. Honestly, powertakeOff kind of sounds like something you might find blaring away in the corner of a barn so loudly that you have to yell to hear yourself over it. Gus admits that it leaves a lot of people feeling completely unsettled, which is by design. He mentions some of his biggest influences, one of which is Gluey Porch Treatments-era Melvins. That makes a lot of sense, as the trio from Washington state basically invented the genre of slow, heavy, and repetitive in the



mid 1980's. Dirgy, sludgy, whatever you want to call it; it originates from Black Sabbath melded with the second side of Black Flag's *My War*, which the Melvins blended to inspire Kurt Cobain and tons of other musicians to this day. Gus also mentions Slint's 1991 album *Spiderland* as a major influence, which surprised me more. It is a brooding and sinister and often beautiful record that many credit with inventing post-rock, but I never thought of it necessarily as heavy. *PowertakeOff* is more about creating an atmosphere than just being loud though, and that album definitely creates an atmosphere.

Rainer Frons had founded the independent Learning Curve Records in Minneapolis in 2000, and he loved the *Kansas* album. He told Gus that if he ever had anything else to put out to let him know, and that resulted in the first *powertakeOff* track "Plow Share", which ended up on the *Butcher's Waltz* split with *Seawhores*, *Gay Witch Abortion*, and *Skoal Kodiak* in 2011. Gus has remained close to the Minnesota label ever since, and his band was a natural fit when Frons helped create *Caterwaul* in 2022. The first incarnation of the band that recorded "Plow Share" was Gus on bass, guitar, and vocals and Rick Contes, a bandmate from *Grids* and a member of *Young and In The Way*, on drums. Gus' vocals are more like hearing someone lecture you in a sneering tone than "singing," and they fit perfectly over the pounding tempo he creates. More members would eventually cycle through the band over time. Adam Marx on guitar and Matt Culler on drums joined to record the first full-length *powertakeOff* album, *This is Late*, re-released in 2014 on Learning Curve with former *Harvey Milk* drummer Kyle Spence producing. *My City* Magazine did a profile of Gus that year, and it seemed like the band was on its way up.

Gus wrote and recorded that music while going through another family tragedy, however; his sister Tara was dying of terminal cancer. "The record came out while my sister was in the hospital dying. So that record, all these records, have been shrouded in a lot of bad, negative shit. It's heavy and fucking weird and repetitive." At this point it started to seem like his life was getting heavy and weird and repetitive. After playing some shows around town (including the one where I first encountered them at the Milestone) and recording a split single with *Multicult* in 2016, the band went into hiatus. Gus settled into a caretaker role for his mother Sandy Engstrom, and he wasn't thinking as much about the future of *powertakeOff*.

The next phase of *ptO* would be kicked off by the person who wrote that article in 2014, Kathleen Johnson. Kathleen had been a music writer in Charlotte for years, and had gotten the urge to make some music herself. She decided that the band she wanted to join was *powertakeOff*. Gus had first met Kathleen when he was in high school at the Milestone, and back then she was the beat writer for the *Charlotte Observer* and was known as Ken Johnson. Ken had since transitioned to Kathleen, and she was known as one of the champions of independent music in the city. "I owe a lot to her," Gus says. "She started in on me during COVID about wanting to hang out and do stuff, which turned into jamming, which turned into recording. She bugged the shit out of me before I started wanting to make music again." With Kathleen on guitar and other contributors like *Wishart* and *Stanley*, the band recorded *Cacophony* with Scott Slagle and Spence in 2023. The album is full of covers of bands that influenced Gus like *Black Flag* and *Drunks With Guns*, but rendered in the *powertakeOff* style. It ends with a



particularly haunting track called "TIWNKM," which features Gus and Kathleen repeatedly stating "Today I Will Not Kill Myself" until their voices began to merge and swirl all around your ears. The intention was to make it sound like your inner mind was taking over to convince you, and it works. Unfortunately it also proved devastatingly prophetic, and Gus found his path once again shrouded in tragedy.

Kathleen Johnson took her own life in May of 2023, and Charlotte lost an incredible writer and music lover. "She didn't understand the world," Gus reflects. "The world was, unfortunately at that time, kind of becoming weird.. She didn't know where her place was...I don't think she felt comfortable in her own skin." Gus felt he owed it to her to finish the Cacophony record, and it came out in 2024 on Reptilian Records. That was the beginning of a prolific recording period for powertakeOff, with Cacophony followed in short order by the WILL EP and the Bethany single. The end of a long hibernation of 5 years from playing live music came that year at Caterwaul, and the band recorded and released their set later as Live in Minneapolis. The band seemed to have finally unlocked its ultimate potential for aural assault with the lineup of Thomas and Kuhlman, and Gus seemed like he was back in the saddle. Then came the heaviest blow of all; his mother Sandy passed away in January of this year.

This loss seemed to bring back the others in his life, and it all seemed to wash over him at once. Gus was very close to his mother, and she always supported his music. "I'm not sure how my Dad felt about it, I'm not really sure he cared for it," he says. "But my mom took us to see Iron Maiden for the Powerslave tour at the Coliseum on Independence when I was a kid. I don't think at that point I'd ever been to an arena show before. I mean, I had the last 10 years with my mom... I guess when it was time to let her go, I wasn't ready to let her go. And that's a hard lesson, I think, for anybody." Since he had cared for his mother for the last decade and it seemed to have become his purpose, he wasn't sure what to do anymore. What would the next phase of his life be? Would he ever outrun all these grim losses of people he cared about?

The grief has lessened a bit over the weeks, and the powertakeOff show at Caterwaul was a great release for Gus. It seemed almost louder and more intense than the year before, and I wasn't sure that was possible. "Now it's like trying to find it back like, who am I now, right? And, you know, sky's the limit as far as that kind of stuff... I can pretty much do anything," he tells me. There are plenty of great new ptO records to listen to, but hopefully the future will bring the chance for more people to see them live. I have been fortunate enough

to see the only two powertakeOff shows in the last seven years, but I may have been the only one from Charlotte to have seen them both. The hope is that Kuhlman and Thomas can come down for a round of shows at some point, but it's not the first priority. Gus used to want to get in front of as many people as he could, but now he would rather not just play to anyone; he wants it to be something special. Even though powertakeOff might not get back to the stage in Charlotte soon, Terminally Agitated just might. This is Gus' new solo persona, and he's trying to get a show scheduled in the near future. It won't be ptO, but he promises it will be just as loud (maybe even louder he says, of which I still doubt the possibility).

The question is, will people in Charlotte be there to see it? I bring up the fact that there really aren't any weird loud bands around here at the moment, and not just around here but anywhere. Were the 90's and 2000's the peak of the bands that weren't afraid to be unsettling, that didn't sound like everything else? Gus quickly responds, "Well this is the bullshit answer but, there ain't no money or popularity in it. There were some actual attractive girls at our shows at Caterwaul, which was the first time we probably ever played in front of people that were like, attractive and actually not knuckle draggers or weirdos. But normally, that's the kind of stuff that you get at this. There isn't a scene for that here, and, you know, we're all used to playing to nobody and clearing the room if there is somebody. All these younger bands, everybody's trying to be popular. I mean, you go to any of these bars here on any given night, and that's what they're trying to do, is be popular.... I want to be, like, reluctantly popular, you know?" Whenever those kinds of bands do occasionally come through Charlotte, it seems like no one turns out to see them, which lessens the possibility that they ever come through again. Outside of Snug Harbor and the Milestone there doesn't seem to be any venues left to even book outsider bands. Gus says "it's just different now, you know, and the scene's different, and I'm 53 years old. We always complain about shows never coming through Charlotte, but the people that would come out are old, like me. They're like, well, I've gotta get up early in the morning."

If any of you young kids or jaded old punks do feel like coming out to a show in Charlotte and seeing a band that doesn't sound like anyone else, or if you just feel like getting your ears blown out, consider coming out to see powertakeOff or Terminally Agitated if you find them on a bill. Everyone in Charlotte should be doing their part to make sure that Gus Engstrom becomes as reluctantly popular as he wants to be.

You can find ptO in digital and analog format here:

<https://power-take-off.bandcamp.com/>

<https://reptilianrecords.bandcamp.com/album/cacophony>

<https://learningcurverecords.bandcamp.com/album/this-is-late>

<https://learningcurverecords.bandcamp.com/album/multicult-power-take-off-split-7>

# NOT-SO-HIDDEN CHARLOTTE GEMS

## EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> VINTAGE

ELIZABETH  
1950 EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 28204

Tucked on a street behind Heroes Aren't Hard to Find Comics, this shop carries records, preowned clothes, knick-knacks, quirky housewares, and much more. Go thrift and maybe take some of your collection up there to sell.

V



## < SANCTUARY IMPORTS ^

PLAZA-MIDWOOD  
822 LAMAR AVE., 28204

Just shy of the railroad tracks, heading into town, this eclectic store offers crystals, candles, art, jewelry, tarot readings, and much more. The staff is informative, eager to help, and very friendly.

## VINYL >

**SOUTHEND**  
1440 SOUTH TRYON STREET,  
SUITE 105, 28203

Known for their focus on all genres of music, VINYL is a restaurant/bar that has an impressive cocktail program, delicious food (easy to share) and DJs every night. If you go on Wednesday nights, the DJs (booked by That Guy Smitty) only play records.



## < THE RAT'S NEST ^

**NODA**  
442 EAST 36TH STREET, 28205

Owned by the folks that also own the Thirsty Beaver and the Topsy Burro, this vintage store has graphic tees, button-down shirts, more pre-loved cowboy boots than you can shake a stick at, and a whole lot more. They are located behind the Evening Muse.

