

THE JOHNSONIAN



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A call to support local businesses



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Sub Station II owner wants his local restaurant incorporated into the Winthrop meal plan

Chase Duncan
staff writer

For the past 30 years, Sub Station II founder and owner, Charlie Ruffalo, has been attempting to integrate his and other small businesses on Cherry Road into the Winthrop meal plan. Three decades worth of Winthrop presidents and board members have resisted his efforts.

“It started with President DiGiorgio,” Ruffalo said, recounting the beginning of his decades-long struggle for partnership with Winthrop University. “They didn’t have restaurants on campus at that time, it was just Dinkins and the cafeteria. The timing seemed perfect to introduce us to the meal plan, but when I would go to Dr. DiGiorgio and ask him, he would just blow me off.”

Today, Winthrop’s campus is host to several franchisee dining establishments such as Subway, Einstein’s Bagel and Chick-fil-A. Students can select meal plans

that include a set amount of prepaid meal swipes that can be used at these select eateries.

“Around the same time I started approaching DiGiorgio about partnering as a food service, he began inviting a friend of mine who managed Burger King to start a business on campus,” Ruffalo said. “When my friend asked why he wouldn’t consider my restaurant, he would just say ‘Oh, well that’s different.’ I could never get a reason why he did not want to partner with me.”

Ruffalo founded Sub Station II in 1975 with his two brothers and established the Rock Hill location in 1986. He has since cut ties with the corporate aspect of the franchise, and now solely operates the Cherry Road property. Under his management, the eatery has twice earned the Small Business of the Year award from Rock Hill and York County’s Chambers of Commerce, as well as secured the award for Best Sub/Sandwich Shop in York County 20 times.

Winthrop students are

a common sight within the establishment, making up about 18% of the store’s sales during a semester, according to Ruffalo. Winthrop students, faculty and administrators all receive a 10% discount on purchases, provided they inform the cashier ahead of time of their Winthrop affiliation.

The deli-themed diner provides a convenient and reasonably priced alternative to the corporate, franchise-based restaurants offered on campus.

“We love seeing new students inside the restaurant,” Logan Mccuin, a Sub Station II employee said. “A lot of the Winthrop students we see in the shop end up becoming regular customers or even come in multiple times a day. We’re very appreciative of their patronage.”

Despite the support Sub Station II, along with other small Rock Hill businesses, have shown Winthrop neighbors, the university administration has shown little interest in returning the favor.

“About 15 years ago, myself and five other business owners got together with Dr. DiGiorgio to talk about a ‘College Town’ concept, like Five Points in Columbia. This was around the same time the city of Rock Hill started the Old Town project and the city was pushing the agenda for [a] college town too, but it never went anywhere because Winthrop didn’t want it to happen,” Ruffalo said.

“For the whole 34 years I’ve been here, Winthrop has almost always come to me asking ‘What can you give us? What can you do for us?’ instead of approaching as a partnership, Ruffalo said. “The administrations, and I hate to say this, they never look to partner with outside entities.”

Family-owned businesses need support from their communities now more than ever. As a major part of Rock Hill, Winthrop moving to incorporate local restaurants, like Sub Station II, could have a positive impact on not only the businesses but the whole community.

Wavering Confidence in the United States Postal Service

Elijah Lyons
copy editor

With less than 50 days until the upcoming election, drastic shifts in voting procedure due to the pandemic have finally begun to come into focus.

Sometime during the weeks leading up to the election, Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez, an assistant professor of political science, will visit his Charlotte, North Carolina polling center and cast his ballot.

With controversy swirling around the validity of mail-in-voting and daily headlines on the subject circulating national media, Ranallo-Benavidez will choose to skip the crowds, vote early and watch as the voting machine swallows his ballot.

“I do personally just want to physically be there and watch my ballot go into the machine,” he said. “I’m hoping that figuring out a day to go on like a Saturday or Sunday morning and get it done before the election can give me both the peace of mind in knowing I have voted and it is counted and I didn’t have to put myself in danger of catching the coronavirus.”

It is hard to say whether the 80 million other Americans who choose to mail in their ballot will have the same level of confidence their votes will be counted.

The United States Postal Service has experienced extreme delays and faced nearly \$13 billion in financial losses due to a decline in overall mail volume due to the pandemic.

In the lead-up to an incredibly high-stakes presidential election this November, concerns have been raised regarding the postal service’s ability to handle an exponential increase in absentee early voting.

▶ see [USPS](#) pg. 2

‘A matter of public health’: Director of Health Services discusses COVID testing

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The Johnsonian sat down with Jackie Concodora, director of health and counseling services, to discuss how Winthrop tracks and reports COVID cases on campus. To read and listen to the complete interview, visit mytjnow.com or scan the QR code



Concodora

Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University



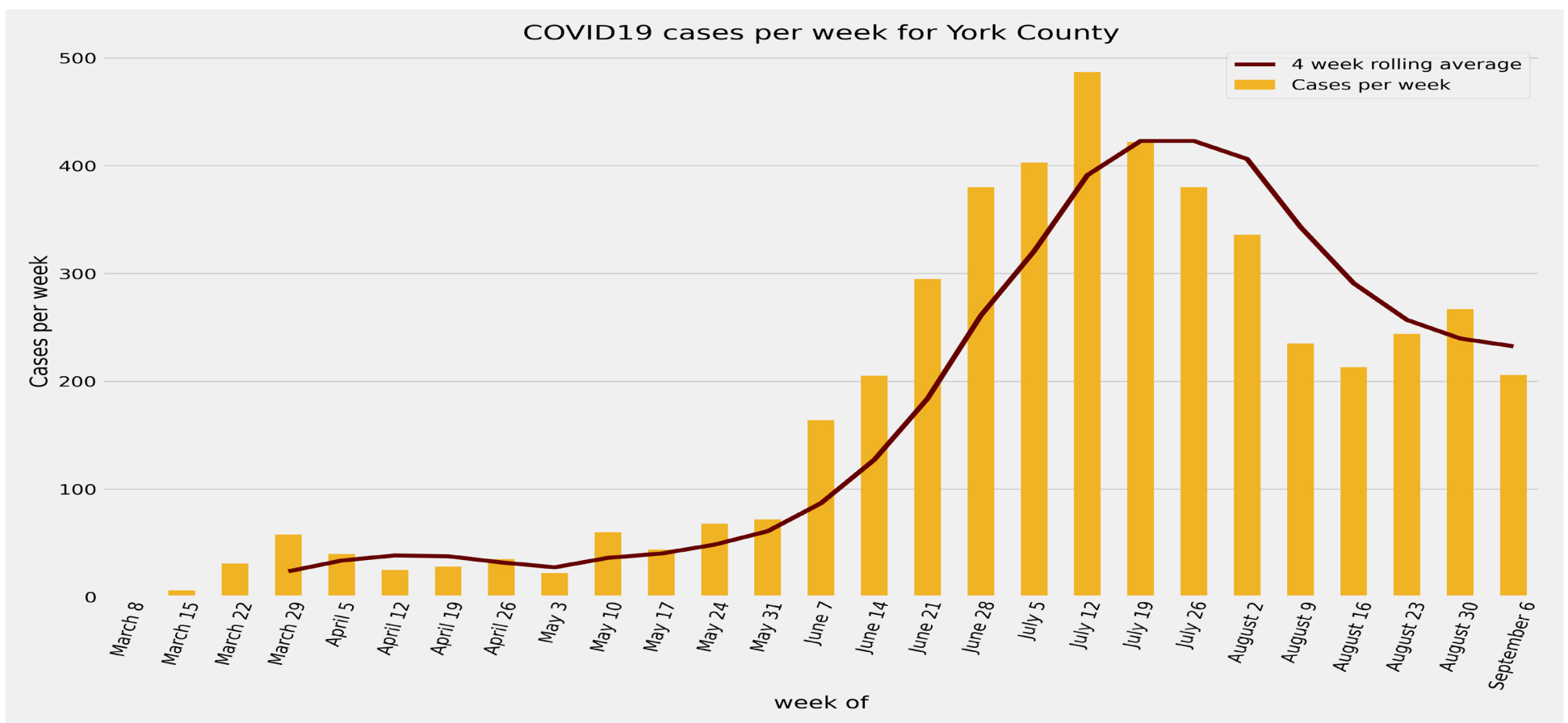


September 16, 2020

the Johnsonian

COVID-19 data

During the pandemic, The Johnsonian wants to keep you up to date with the number of positive cases in the York County area. Each week we will have weekly data charts informing you of what is new.



To see more data visit our website by scanning the QR code provided



◀ USPS from front

In response, many states began working towards an expansion of mail-in voting services.

On April 8 U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted out his concerns regarding these efforts, “Republicans should fight very hard when it comes to statewide mail-in voting. ... Tremendous potential for voter fraud, and for whatever reason, doesn’t work out well for Republicans.”

This notion that voting by mail disproportionately benefits Democrats over Republicans is largely unsubstantiated, and a large number of Republican figures vote absentee or by mail, including President Trump himself just last year. The largely conservative state of Utah has voted entirely by mail for years and continues to elect conservative and Republican candidates year after year.

Just days later, outgoing Postmaster General Megan Brennan told a house panel that the postal service would likely run out of money by the end of the year without intervention from congress and the president in the form of a \$25 billion bailout in emergency funds and another \$25 billion to modernize the service.

In late May it was announced that Louis DeJoy, a businessman

and Republican fund-raiser that donated \$1.2 million to the Trump Victory Fund, would be the new Postmaster General. Under DeJoy’s new leadership this summer, the Postal Service began to undergo several cost-cutting measures and policy changes.

The service began cutting hours and overtime to postal workers and encouraged staff to leave unsorted mail at the end of the day, furthering delays, and even removed approximately 671 high-capacity letter sorters. Most notably, images began to circulate in national media of blue drop-off boxes being removed ahead of the election.

“Trump appointed a Trump donor as the postmaster general and clearly the postmaster general has been implementing a bunch of policies to slow down the post office and to lessen their work speed,” Zander Orlin, a junior theater tech and design major, said. “Plenty of people and I have experienced that shipping has been very slow.”

In letters sent to 46 state governments, the Postal Service advised that, “there is significant risk that the voter will not have sufficient time to complete and mail the completed ballot... in time for it to arrive by the state’s return

deadline.”

This followed a recent internal audit that claimed one million ballots were sent late to voters during the 2020 primary, according to The New York Times.

Just days before DeJoy was set to testify before a senate panel, “Twenty-three postal executives were reassigned or displaced... Analysts say the structure centralizes power around DeJoy, a former logistics executive and major ally of President Trump, and de-emphasizes decades of institutional postal knowledge,” according to Salon.com

DeJoy has since promised to pause all internal changes to the Postal Service leading up the election - without confirming whether efforts would be made to reverse the changes already in effect.

“While we have had a temporary service decline, which should not have happened, we are fixing this,” DeJoy said.

Due to complications with the postal service, Orlin plans to vote in person on Nov.3.

“It’s my first time voting and secondly I think it’s very important for as many people to vote as possible right now, especially if you’re liberal-leaning,” adding

that although he is comfortable with this approach to voting for himself, “I wouldn’t necessarily suggest to go and do that because COVID is still a thing and there are immunocompromised people.”

Ranallo-Benavidez acknowledged the existence of some dissatisfaction among young people about the choice of presidential candidates this election.

“Not every election is about the presidency,” Ranallo-Benavidez said, adding the fact that incredibly important policy change occurs on the state and local level too. “If you want to reform policing that’s something that’s going to be handled by your local police chief, your mayor and your city council - the people you’ve probably heard the least about in this election. So getting informed and going to vote for those issues matters too.”

No matter what your reason for voting this November, it is important to register to vote, craft a feasible voting plan, and get informed on the issues that matter most to you, because, “everything is on that one ballot,” Ranallo-Benavidez said.

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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LETTER POLICY

Letters and feedback can be sent to editors@mytjnow.com or by mail at The Johnsonian, 104 Campus Center, Rock Hill, S.C. 29733. Comments submitted online at www.mytjnow.com may be printed as letters and may be shortened for space and edited for clarity. Please include

your name, major and year if you are a student; your name and title if you are a professor, or your name and profession if you are a member of the community. Letters, cartoons and columns reflect the opinion of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of The Johnsonian Staff.

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Walk2Campus may have some competition

The new off-campus apartments called The Nest at University Center, located at 412 Technology Center Way, are a new competitor for the Walk2campus apartments.

Gabrielle Reed/The Johnsonian

The Nest at University Center, a new off-campus housing option adjacent to Winthrop's campus, will be open by the fall 2021 semester

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Winthrop students will soon have a new option for local off-campus housing. The Nest at University Center will be ready for move-in at the start of the fall 2021 semester. These luxury apartments pose a possible threat to Walk2Campus apartments, which Winthrop students have frequented for years. "Located just steps from the Winthrop University campus and within University Center, The Nest is the perfect off-campus housing destination to support an active academic and social lifestyle," reads the thenestrockhill.com website. "You'll love coming home to our spacious fully-furnished and open floor plans coupled with modern high-end finishes. When you're not spending time in your new home, you'll love lounging by the pool,

working up a sweat in the fitness center or exploring the many shops, restaurants & entertainment just steps from your front door." The nuance and aesthetic of The Nest apartments are already starting to appeal to current Walk2Campus residents. "We spend a lot on rent for what we're given," Zander Orlin, a junior theatre tech and design major, said. "First of all, the layout of the website design [for The Nest] is so much more professional and also easy because on the [Walk2Campus] website, it's harder to find the portal for your account." On top of The Nest's website appearance and overall professionalism, current Walk2Campus students also think The Nest's apartment sizes and amenities are superior. "There's four baths [in The Nest's four-bedroom layout] and we only have two in our four-bed-

room," Miranda Campagna, a junior theatre education major, said. Campagna is also hopeful about the overall safety The Nest will be able to provide to future renters. "I feel like anyone could get into [Walk2Campus] if they wanted to. Because although we do have keycard access into the building, a lot of times people hold the doors open for other people," Campagna said. "And like, say we order Postmates; sometimes, they can make it in the building even though they don't have a key card and that to me doesn't sound very safe." Lauren Pilling, a junior theatre education major, recalled the first day she moved into her Walk2Campus apartment. "When we walked into our apartment, we had this overwhelming smell of cigarettes that had been in the couch when we moved in and there was just dirt everywhere," Pilling said. Walk2Campus residents pay

about \$575 per month in rent for a twelve-month lease for a four-bedroom apartment. The Nest tenants will pay about \$650 per month for a four-bedroom apartment. "[The Nest's rent] is still not that bad, that's a hundred more dollars [than Walk2Campus rent] for a nicer and bigger apartment... if I wasn't in a lease, I would move in there," Pilling said. "Although, I would like to praise Walk2Campus for how they handle the issue with pool parties happening during COVID. I think they are taking good COVID measures." It is important to Winthrop commuters to have ample options for local, off-campus housing, and with the addition of new apartments adjacent to campus on top of the already present, Walk2Campus apartments, Winthrop commuters will have plenty of options for the fall 2021 semester and onward.

Winthrop Student Council launches first Garnet Table Talk

The Council of Student Leaders is hosting talks to help students adapt to virtual learning and life on campus



Connor Brandenburg
staff writer

To help students adjust to their 2020 college experience, Winthrop's student council created a monthly event called Garnet Table Talk where students are able to voice their concerns about their Winthrop experience amidst COVID-19. The topic of each month will vary from residential life to class instruction, depending on what is relevant. "This is our way to not only listen to students, but have students heard by other administrators as well," Brandon Jackson, student council president, said. On Sept. 10, Jackson and student council vice president, Ravyn Cunningham, held their first Garnet Table Talk, focusing on how students have been adapting to remote learning. While students understand the importance of COVID-19 precautions, remote learning has

introduced new dynamics in their college careers. "Now more than ever, you are personally responsible for your education. So I used the syllabi provided to me to outline what I have due and it has made it easier to prioritize classes and assignments," Ethan Lehr, sophomore business administration major, said. Because of the increased responsibility upon students this year, time management has become even more important in maintaining classes and assignments. The Garnet Table Talk attendants went over the correlation between time management and responsibility, and how this year may help students in their future careers. "Long-term, it will prepare you for the workforce. I think now a lot of companies and industries are starting to focus on remote work," Jackson said. Though time management is essential to remote learning, Jackson and Cunningham made sure to also

address the negatives that students have experienced as a result of virtual learning. The lack of socialization in asynchronous learning has created a divide between students and their professors, as well as each other. While Zoom meetings provide a little bit of interaction between students and professors, in-person learning makes it a lot easier to socialize with fellow students and professors. But nowadays, in-person learning is not feasible for all. For those students with all virtual classes, they are missing out on the full college experience. "Social development is just as important as the form of education that you may receive," Jackson said. The miscommunication possible in asynchronous classes can also further disconnect students from their professors. With varying workloads, professors may not realize their students' stress. "Since [students] are at home,

[professors] may assume that they have more free time, when in reality they have more things going on," Cunningham said. During the Garnet Table Talk, the validity of synchronous classes and their safety was also addressed. Attendees said they felt safe in their classrooms, and that their synchronous classes were their favorite of the semester. The circumstances from quarantine and COVID-19 introduced a new lifestyle to Winthrop, but students are resilient and will adapt to these new circumstances. "These precautions are necessary to hopefully return to a life of normalcy," Lehr said. To further help return campus life to normal, Jackson and Cunningham look forward to continuing the monthly Garnet Table Talks to support students in their endeavors on campus.

Alumni Association prepares WU for the polls

Winthrop University's Alumni Association hosted a virtual panel with the Department of Political Science to inform the Winthrop community about what voting will be like this November

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Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Winthrop's Alumni Association partnered with the department of political science to host their Elections in the Time of Coronavirus: Voting in the Midst of a Global Pandemic event via Facebook Live on Sept. 2. John Holder, Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez and Scott Huffmon were the panelists for the event.

Lori Tuttle, Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Reunion Giving, was instrumental in the planning and execution of the event.

"In brainstorming topics for our Facebook Live sessions, an election year panel seemed like a relevant topic given that we are in an election year that will be very different due to a global pandemic," Tuttle said. "Winthrop has an amazing political science department with a wealth of knowledge. I knew alumni would have an interest in hearing from professors.

"The vision for the event was a non-partisan discussion led by a panel of professors to share

insights on how the voting process may be different and the impact the pandemic would have on the mechanics of voting."

Jennifer Leigh Disney, professor, Political Science Department Chair and director of the Women and Gender Studies program, was the panel moderator for the event.

"Let me begin by saying I know that many of us have been touched by COVID-19 in a variety of ways. We may have lost loved ones or know someone who has lost loved ones as a result of COVID-19, and so we would like to begin by offering our condolences," Disney said at the start of the event.

"In addition, 2020 is an Election Year, and so many people have questions about how to ensure our personal safety and the security of our votes while voting during a global pandemic, so we thought this would be an outstanding time to host a non-partisan panel helping people of all ideologies and all political parties understand their options and actually create a voting plan for 2020," Disney said.

Holder, a political science professor and advisor for the

Winthrop College Democrats, was the first speaker of the night. He spoke on the topics of voter registration and voting absentee, among many other details pertaining to how the polls will operate this upcoming November.

"I think it's most important for people to realize that voting will be very different this year," Holder said. "More people will be voting by mail, or will be voting ahead of Election Day, and fewer people will be voting the traditional way, by going to a polling place in their neighborhood on Election Day. I would advise people who want to vote absentee to start the process of getting the ballot now."

The next speaker of the night was Ranallo-Benavidez, a political science professor.

"This is the centennial of women's right to vote. This is the largest expansion of the franchise in U.S. history, especially when we think about the fact that until 1920, women weren't allowed to vote and now they make up a disproportionate size of the electorate. They're about 51 percent of the population," Ranallo-Benavidez said.

On top of speaking about the gender gap, Ranallo-Benavidez also spoke on the effects diversity has on the election and the history of American voting.

Huffmon, a political science professor, Director of the Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research and director of the Winthrop Poll, was the final speaker of the evening. He spoke on the topic of public opinion polling.

Using data from the 2016 election, Huffmon informed event-attendees about what kind of variables have an impact on polling numbers. "When you do a poll, you have to screen, obviously, for registered voters, screen for likely voters, and then wait by registered voters on the bases of sex, race and age."

As a result of the efforts from the Alumni Association and the expertise of the professors in the political science department, those who tuned in to watch the event Elections in the Time of Coronavirus event are prepared to cast their ballot on time and in the right place for the 2020 election.

DSU takes students 'into the unknown'

The DiGiorgio Student Union hosted a cultural event to inform the Winthrop community about campus operations amidst the pandemic

Mari Pressley
staff writer

The DiGiorgio Student Union presented "Into the Unknown" on Sept. 8. The cultural event, lead by the DSU Lectures and Diversity Committee, was held in Tillman Hall, as well as broadcasted via Zoom.

Approximately 164 students watched the event virtually and nearly 70 students participated in person.

The host of the event was Tommy Ray Davis, chair of the DSU Lectures and Diversity Committee. The panelists included Chelsea Havner, Winthrop University Bookstore manager, Aba Hutchison, marketing specialist for Winthrop Dining Services, Shardae Nelson-Johnson, Office of Accessibility, Tiffany Alexander, Center for Career Development and Internships and Jessica Hudgens, Health and Counseling Services.

The panelists covered a lot of information, answering questions on topics ranging from mental health and COVID-19 testing to professionalism and involvement opportunities.

The purpose of the event was to answer students' questions on how the campus will be operating with the many new changes, operations and guidelines due to COVID-19.

Students were able to submit their questions both beforehand and via text message during the event.

"What I expected for [students] to get out of the event was pretty much a general understanding of what life will be like in the midst of COVID-19 on Winthrop's campus because I know a lot of people, especially the freshman ... they are kind of robbed of that first-year experience," Davis said.

"I think Winthrop has done a

good job of trying to supplement that by having these virtual events and allowing us to do certain things," Davis said. "I really want

people, especially freshmen, to understand that even though we're in the middle of uncertain times, you still can have that college experience and college is still what you make it."

Because of COVID-19, many questions were brought up about campus safety procedures and their effect on campus life.

First-year student and forensic chemistry major, Zharyn Butler, said, "I learned that Winthrop

procedures, ... they want you to stay safe and also enjoy the activities and enjoy life on campus but not to spread COVID at the same time."

DSU has had to make many changes this year to accommodate students throughout the pandemic.

"We have different stuff that we're doing throughout the semester to keep people feeling like it's still exciting," Angelo Geter, director of campus programming, said. "It's different, we can't all be together but we're still trying to create that atmosphere and keep that energy high for everyone."

Junior psychology major, Courtney Franklin, said, "I'm staying optimistic by of course going to all of these events virtually, trying to stay focused on my classes, wearing my mask... meeting up with a few people but [still] social distancing."

Geter advised on how students can still have a pleasant experience at Winthrop this year.

"To me, the full college experience is what you put into it... there's still things to do," Geter said. "Nothing has stopped, it's just pivoted. Instead of things just being shut down, we just kind of have changed how we are operating. I think you just have to stay plugged in and glued to how people are operating now in order to get what you want."

really cares about their students and [wants] the students to understand that COVID is real.

In that, they want to expose



Photo courtesy to DSU

The DiGiorgio Student union is putting their best efforts forward in planning socially distanced events for Winthrop students.



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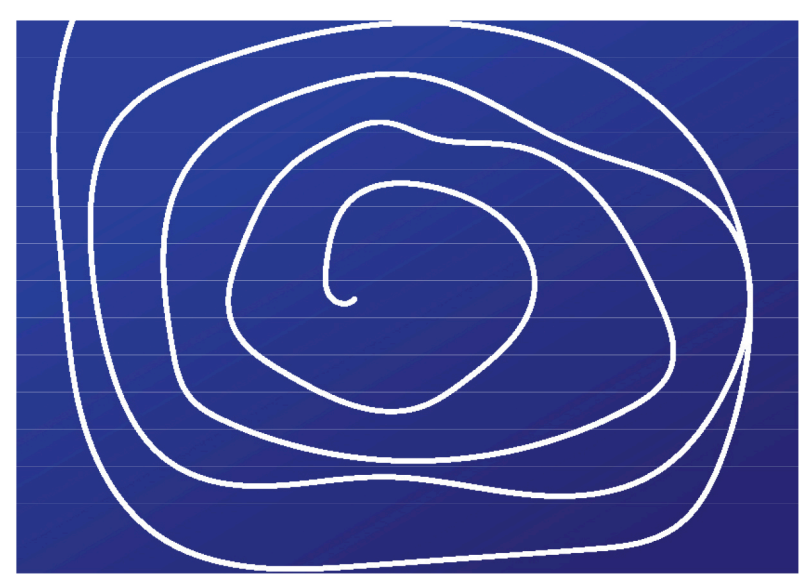
The coiling beast

150-foot siphonophore might be the longest marine creature ever

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Recent footage captured by a research vessel deep below the ocean surface off Australia's western coastline may have captured the longest recorded sea creature to date. Scientists aboard the research vessel Falkor identified the swirling, string-like organism as a specimen of the siphonophore species, *Apolemia* and estimated the creature's length to be approximately 150 feet long.

Siphonophores are an order of deep-sea predators that are composed of thousands of genetically identical zooids that band together to complete the necessary life functions of a uniform organism, similar to coral. Unlike many other colonial organisms, the individual zooids of a siphonophore can mutate to alter their cellular features, thus increasing the overall diversity of the colony, according to siphonophores.org, a site written and maintained by Casey Dunn of The Dunn Lab at Yale University. Due to this, species of siphonophore often come in a wide array of bizarre shapes and sizes, despite their genetic simplicity.



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

The expedition that documented the coiling beast was organized by the Schmidt Ocean Institute, a private non-profit group focused on advancing and promoting oceanographic research. The organization provided the research vessel and remotely operated equipment that made the expedition possible.

Researchers aboard the Falkor, with help from the remotely operated deep-sea robot SuBastion, captured 181 hours of ocean footage and traveled to depths of nearly 15,000 feet below sea level in the Cape Range and Cloates Canyons region, according to an article by Devi Lockwood for the New York Times. The spiraling siphonophore was encountered on

the return voyage to the surface, at approximately 2,000 feet below sea level.

"Most scientists had drifted out of the control room," Nerida Wilson, leader of the expedition and senior scientist at the Western Australia Museum, said in an article for The Guardian. "The word soon spread and people came pouring into the control room to share the excitement. It was amazing to see this huge organism spread out like a spiral UFO, hovering in the water column. We couldn't believe what we were seeing."

The research team's estimation of the string-like cluster's length overthrows the previous record for the longest marine creature,

held by the lion's mane jellyfish, by about 30 feet. By comparison, the most massive known animal in Earth's history, the blue whale, grows to a maximum of 100 feet long.

The expedition into Western Australia's ocean depths also yielded discoveries of up to 30 new species of assorted deep-sea animals and documented several known species that had not been known to dwell within the region. This included "an octopus squid, a long-tailed sea cucumber, glass sponges and the first giant hydroids – a colony of animals that looks like an upside-down jellyfish – ever seen in Australia," according to an article by Ian Evans for The Guardian. The research team also recorded the temperature and pH levels of the mission's region.

"What's fascinating about this particular part of the world is that it has not been explored," Jyotika Virmani, executive director of the Schmidt Ocean Institute, said in an article for the New York Times. "Any time people go down into the deep sea, it's so vast and yet so unexplored that it's very easy to make new discoveries and to see something we've never seen before. It is like being on a new planet."



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

Whenever you buy a new Apple product the company is providing an extra service for free. As of Sept. 2019 you will be provided a free year of Apple TV+.

DNA Analysis

Should you use online DNA genetic testing services?

Shyanne Hamrick
staff writer

Direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies like 23andMe and Ancestry.com are trending genetic services that can unearth a lot about us, from our family history to our predispositions to certain illnesses.

The process for genetic testing is relatively simple — after purchasing the testing kit, consumers will mail in a DNA sample, which involves collecting saliva via a tube or swabbing the inside of their cheek. A laboratory will then extract DNA from cells provided within the sample for analysis before providing the results to the participant on a secure website.

"For some individuals, this has been a great benefit, because they have found family members that they have always been searching for," Kathryn Kohl, an associate professor of genetics at Winthrop, said. "But for others, this has caused some distress...some people may also feel proud or happy to contribute their DNA to databases that are used for genetics research. 23andme is one company that allows consumers to opt-in to this research program."

Consumers of these genetic services may discover unanticipated truths about

themselves or their families. However, once these discoveries are known, they cannot be undone, according to the privacy statement from Ancestry.com.

Our DNA contains valuable personal information about us — much more than just our eye color, hair color or biological sex. Therefore, many individuals also express concern for the potential usages of our genetic information within the databases of these companies.

"Some individuals fear that having DNA in a database could have negative repercussions in terms of health insurance or employment, for example," Kohl said. "However, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in both cases. However, GINA does not prevent life or long-term care insurers from using genetic information when making coverage decisions."

Not to mention, the infamous Golden State Killer was found through reverse-engineering of genetic genealogy information within the database for GEDmatch. Meaning, a forensic genealogist used the DNA of relatives within the database to identify the DNA from the crime scenes.

Although genetic genealogy and consumer genetic testing are beneficial to multiple

fields of science — especially forensics — some individuals continue to voice concerns regarding the privacy of this information.

"Most companies will provide detailed privacy statements...and many will allow consumers to opt-in or out of some privacy aspects. For example, 23andme consumers can either elect to have their saliva sample stored for future use or discarded after analysis," Kohl said. "However, even if the saliva sample has been destroyed, your genetic information (sequence data) would still be stored within the company's database. Typically, these databases are advertised as being highly secure with limited employee access."

As of 2019, more than 26 million individuals have provided their DNA to commercial databases for ancestry and health, according to an article by Antonio Regalado for MIT Technology Review.

"I do not recommend using a DTC genetic test to learn



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

anything about your health," Kohl said. "Few people have the background knowledge in both medicine and genetics to be able to properly interpret that information without the assistance of a medical professional, and this can cause unnecessary worry or misplaced complacency, depending on the results."

Most professionals advise that while genetic testing can be informative, individuals should remain cautious about sharing their genetic information to consumer companies.

"These types of genetic tests can be fun — I certainly enjoy looking at my Ancestry.com DNA results — but you should always read the fine print when registering for one of these services," Kohl said. "Make sure you know how that company will use your genetic information...to ensure that you are completely comfortable with what you are agreeing to because nothing is more personal than your genetic information."

SPORTS the Johnsonian

September 16, 2020

Youth sports in Rock Hill

Recreational sports and Rock Hill schools adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic

Lily Fremed

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When the country went into quarantine six months ago, many children, young adults and professional athletes lost the freedom to practice, compete, or simply play outdoors. Slowly, those freedoms are being regained with new safety routines.

John Taylor, Rock Hill's sports, recreation and tourism director, provided information for

Rock Hill Herald reporter Alex Zietlow's update on York, Chester and Lancaster county's plans for reviving sports tourism in the aftermath of COVID-19.

According to The Herald, a month after the start of the pandemic, Rock Hill was forced to cancel 20 sporting events, leading to a loss of roughly \$9 million in economic impact. Since the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center's reopening on July 9, it has hosted numerous basketball tournaments. Within six weeks of reopening, the facility generated almost \$6.9 million between jobs created, hotel stays and visitors dining at Rock Hill restaurants.

"Of course, our revenues are climbing back up, but we've got a big hole to climb out of," Taylor told The Herald.

Back in May, "Gov. Henry McMaster signed an executive order allowing youth sports competition with or without spectators to begin June 15, following social distancing guidelines," Zietlow wrote.



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

According to the City of Rock Hill website, there are many events this fall that community members can register for. Adults can participate in kickball, while youth sports include football, basketball, volleyball, soccer and softball. Tennis is also offered for all ages.

While there has been great concern about how high school, college, professional and community sports would continue during the COVID-19 pandemic, children's play time and physical education has also been impacted.

After young students returned to campus on Tuesday, Sept. 8, John Kirell, principal at Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School, was able to describe how things are running on campus.

"[The] PE model looks very different, obviously, than it would have looked in the past," Kirell said.

He explained that with not enough time in the school's daily schedule to disinfect the physical

education room after each class, all PE is now outside.

"The district allowed flexibility with mask policy," Kirell said. "Students have mask breaks for outdoor recess and PE."

All students have PE for forty-five minutes a week, which is a step down from state policy.

"A mandated hour for K-5, but understanding the situation we find ourselves in, the state has relaxed that," Kirell explained.

Physical education is not the only opportunity for students to play during the school day. Recess is still happening, with the length of time for each session varying by grade.

"All early childhood, 3-year-olds to kindergarten, have two 15-20 minute recess blocks a day," Kirell said. "All first to fifth [graders] have one 20 minute block of recess a day."

After each recess period, teachers are responsible for disinfecting all equipment. Kirell said he went to The Home Depot himself and

bought high-powered disinfectant sprayers for his staff to use.

"Monkeybars, slides, basketballs, soccer balls, hula hoops, and jump ropes. Everything gets sprayed down," he said.

Aside from exercise activities, the schools in the district had to reconfigure their in-person class schedule as well.

Kirell said Ebenezer Avenue Elementary is at "60 percent capacity from total traditional enrollment, and only 50 percent of those students come each day."

The entire district uses "A and B cohorts" to ensure there is enough space for social distancing between students and staff on campus. In addition, approximately 42% of students district-wide chose to be online five days a week.

Although not a part of the Rock Hill Schools, Macfeat Laboratory School, located inside the Withers Building on campus, also implemented safety precautions before allowing their preschool and kindergarten students to return.

While in the classroom, students must wear masks, but they have the ability to roam free without masks while on the playground. Macfeat staff must always wear their mask inside the building. Similar to Ebenezer Avenue, all outside play equipment is sprayed down daily upon the students' departure.

Class sizes have been limited and only two students are allowed at each play station at a time to permit social distancing.

Panthers making progress in Rock Hill

York County Council passes tax deal, City of Rock Hill approves street names

Matt Shealy

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After David Tepper purchased the Carolina Panthers in 2018, Rock Hill mayor John Gettys sent him a letter offering up the city as a new home for the team's training camp.

"I knew that the reason the Panthers had always used Wofford is because of the former owner Jerry Richardson's relationship with Wofford, having attended it and started his business in the Spartanburg area," Gettys said. "Mr. Tepper didn't have that relationship."

Gettys said he had read that the Panthers' deal with Wofford was expiring in the coming years and felt like there could be an opportunity for Rock Hill to pitch itself as a well-suited community to host the team's training camp in the future.

Two years later, ground is getting cleared between Cherry Rd. and Dave Lyle Blvd., not only to make room for an NFL-worthy training facility, but to house the Panthers' office headquarters as well.

Before work could begin, the York County Council had to approve a tax deal that would make moving the Panthers to Rock Hill worthwhile for billionaire businessman David Tepper. In April, the group voted 4-3 in favor of the financial plan that requires Rock Hill to waive 100 percent



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

of its property taxes from the Panthers project for 30 years, the Rock Hill school district to waive 75 percent and York County to waive 65 percent.

"It begs the question, 'Do you believe that the Panthers will still be in Rock Hill in 30 years when the payoff happens?'" York County Council Chairman Michael Johnson said.

"The Hive was built and then the Hornets moved out of The Hive and moved to New Orleans and then back to Charlotte to Spectrum [Center]," Johnson said. "The Charlotte Knights stadium that was in Fort Mill – how long was that in existence before they left and moved to downtown [Charlotte]?"

"These arenas don't typically last for decades – plural – before the owners want something new. I don't blame them for wanting something new, but I think that

was really at the heart of the debate – whether or not this was a sustainable project for the full 30 years," Johnson said.

Despite his concerns, Johnson also described the Panthers as probably being "the best thing to happen to Rock Hill – ever."

"On the other side, if the Panthers live up to their obligations and do all the things they say they're going to do, this is going to be a fantastic development," he said. "I think the county was just very concerned about the length of the terms [and] the fact that 30 years is a long time for taxes just not to get collected."

The city of Rock Hill approved several future street names for the site in August. One Carolina Drive, Keep Pounding Way, and Blue and Black Blvd. will all be utilized, as well as Hiram Way, to honor the family of Hiram Hutchison, who sold the property to the Panthers.

"I thought that was a very nice touch, to sort of recognize the history of the property itself," Mayor Gettys said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panthers don't expect to hold their first training camp in Rock Hill until the summer of 2023, as opposed to the original plan that suggested the facilities would be ready for the team to use by the summer of 2022. Nevertheless, Gettys said he thinks it is possible some facilities will open before then.

"The first phase of this complex will be the corporate headquarters and the training facility, along with another building for Atrium Health," he said. "All that should be finished well in time, it's just [that] training camp only comes in August of every year. My hope is a good bit of this will be up and running even before their first training camp."

Gettys said that now that the Panthers have broken ground and begun to work on the facility, he hopes they can "tie down all the loose ends between the city and the Panthers in the next 30 days or so."

"Once all that's done, I do think you'll start to see the Panthers become more involved in matters in the Rock Hill community that are substantive like a relationship with Winthrop and how some Winthrop students can get internships and things of that nature," he said.

New gamers on the block

Winthrop Esports adds new players, will begin competing in Valorant and Rocket League

Matt Shealy

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As the only varsity sports team competing on campus this fall, Winthrop Esports is adding two new games to its repertoire: Valorant, a tactical shooter game released in June 2020, and Rocket League, a vehicular soccer game.

To ensure a full roster for these games, Head Coach Josh Sides had to recruit some new players. The group of students includes two freshmen, two transfers and a “walk-on” Winthrop student. Here’s what Sides had to say about his new players.

• **Brock “Twice” Cheung**, Sophomore, Valorant, Jefferson City, MO (University of Missouri)

“Brock was originally a player I was recruiting for St. Ambrose a few years back for Overwatch. He ended up going to Mizzou last year to play Overwatch but left before the start of the Spring semester. When over the summer he decided to switch games to Valorant and we decided that Valorant was a game we wanted to compete in, it seemed like a good fit to reopen conversations with him. He has the type of skills that work universally in any FPS [first-person shooter] game – aim, reaction times, fast decision making – and he is a good team player as well. I’m excited to see what this team can accomplish in the first year.”

• **Jared “Hound” Pickens**,

Freshman, Rocket League, Plano, TX (Lebanon Trail HS)

“Jared is an extremely talented Rocket League player. He excels in the 1v1 game, so he still has some developing to do in adapting to the 3v3 team play style, but he should have no problems adjusting. He is also a great teammate, somewhat of a team joker/class clown type that keeps everybody laughing and in good spirits. Hound was also a recruited prospect in football with a few walk-on offers – most notably with [Southern Methodist University] – pre-COVID-19. So, if Winthrop decided to add a football team, we might have a dual-sport athlete.”

• **Brady “The Hitman” Peek**, Sophomore, Rocket League, Goode, VA (Southern Virginia University)

“Brady is an excellent Rocket League player with a great competitive mentality. He comes from a family of Winthrop Eagles athletes, with [his] mom Courtney playing softball, [his] dad David playing baseball, and most recently [his] brother Zach playing baseball as well. Once we decided to add Rocket League to the games we compete in, it opened the opportunity for Brady to transfer in from SVU and continue that legacy.”

• **Noah “Murmur” Smith**, Freshman, Rocket League, Tega Cay, SC (Fort Mill H.S.)



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

“Noah, or Lightning McMurmur as we have come to call him, is a local Rocket League talent. He has been active in local events and that’s how he initially caught my attention. He has a lot of potential as a player and I believe he will put in the work to grind and achieve that potential.”

• **Christian “Far Too Busy” Morris**, Junior, Rocket League, Winthrop University

“Christian is a current Winthrop student that we are currently trialing with the team. He is a talented and highly ranked Rocket League player who happened to

reach out to me in an email with interest in trying out for our new Rocket League team. That email led to a conversation and then a tryout, and now he is working with the team. This is why I encourage any players on campus who are highly ranked in their game like Christian – [who is] in the top 1% – to reach out. It may or may not result in a tryout, but it never hurts to shoot that shot, and I like to be aware of what talent and interest exists naturally on our campus.”

Eagle of the week

Michael Smith is ready to get back on the field

Matt Shealy

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“Looking back, it is hard to pick my most memorable moment because soccer and Winthrop have given me so many. If I had to choose something though, it would probably be the endless post-game celebration after a good win with the boys. You get a special feeling being out there on the pitch, and working hard for a win makes it that much better.”

Michael Smith, senior, is headed to the soccer field for his last season at Winthrop.

Like many others across the country earlier this year, Smith searched for ways to keep busy in quarantine.

“I spent most of my time working and going to do outdoor activities such as hiking. Work helped pass the time by, but being outdoors was always nice because of the change of scenery,” Smith said.

During the 2019 season, Smith started in all 17 games he played. As a six-foot-one defender, he scored his first collegiate goal on Oct. 1, 2019, in a 2-1 loss at Mercer University.

Over his four years at Winthrop, Smith has assisted numerous shots on the field, including the game-winning goal on Oct. 13, 2018 at Campbell during his sophomore year.

No. 23 on the field, Smith recorded the second greatest amount of playing time for the Eagles in 2019, accumulating 1,495 minutes by the end of the

season.

For Smith, soccer is not just about game time, though game day is his favorite, but instead the game has helped him grow in other areas of his life.

“I have benefited the most in communication with others because I have always been working with others in sports to reach a common goal,” Smith said.

Prior to his time at Winthrop, Smith was a four-year varsity letterman at Nation Ford High School. In 2016, he was captain of his team and made All-State.

Smith’s soccer success in high school led him to the 2017 Clash of the Carolinas, where he was named MVP.

As a young child, Smith and his family moved from New York to South Carolina. “Winthrop was a chance to stay nearby home and play soccer at the collegiate level,” Smith said.

Although Smith has not won an award for his skill on the field at Winthrop yet, he still has one more season. “Hopefully something is in the near future,” he said.

Having an idol to look up to as an athlete can be very inspirational. Even though they play a different sports, Smith named LeBron James as his favorite player for reasons beyond basketball.

“He is one of a kind, in my opinion, not only because of what he does on the court, but also because of the example he sets in communities and for my generation,” Smith said.



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

The Eagles finished 5-10-3 overall for the 2019 season, winning more away games (3) than home games (2). The team welcomes 12 freshmen this season for a total of 26 players.

Despite the 2020 soccer season (along with all fall sporting events at Winthrop) being postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eagles did not give up their practice plans.

“As of now we will be practicing and training as if this is an extended preseason in preparation for league play in the spring,” Smith said. “It is definitely an adjustment but we

are all just happy to be back out on the field.”

As Smith works towards completing his Business Management degree, he also plans to continue playing soccer after he graduates.

“I would love to play for a club hopefully near the Charlotte area because I see Charlotte as my home,” he said. “Playing professionally has always been a dream and to achieve that would be amazing.”

Boycott Mulan?

Many are boycotting the Disney remake due to its controversial star

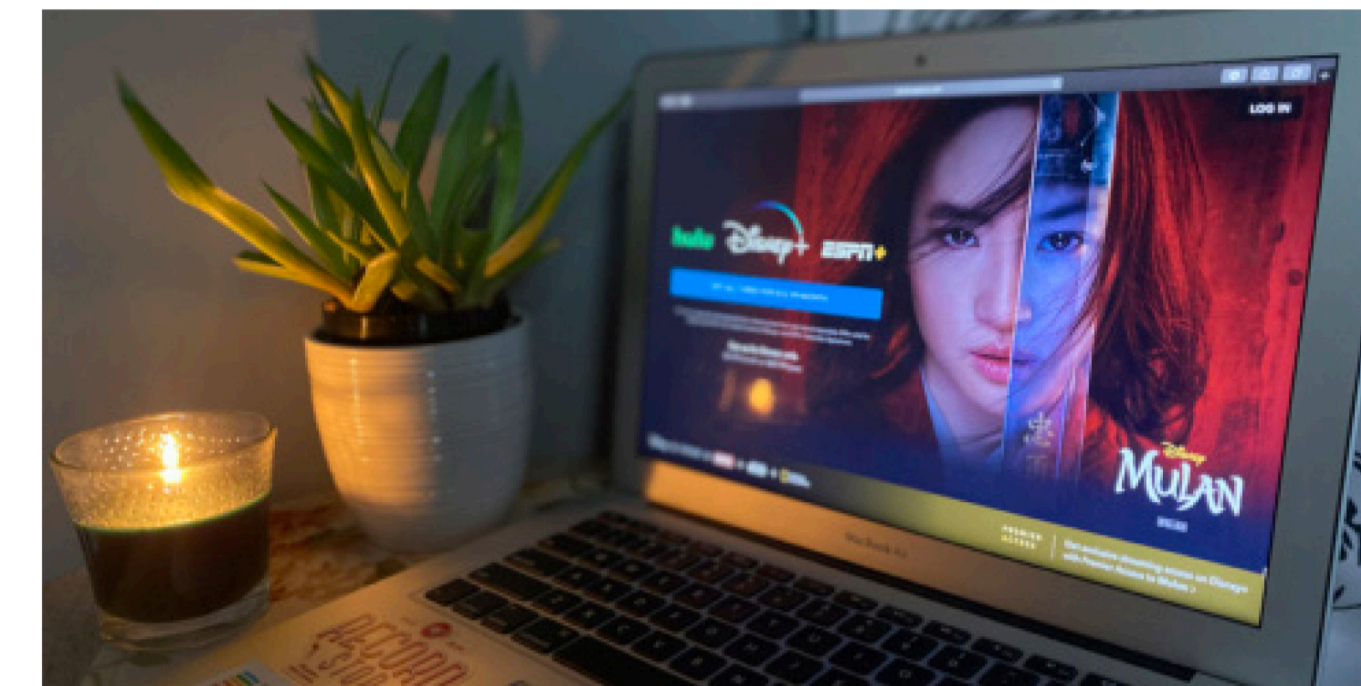
Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Disney fans and fans of *Mulan* have long awaited the release of the 2020 remake. The movie was released on Disney+ on Sept. 4, and many were upset at the \$30 price tag. This \$30 is in addition to the Disney+ subscription price of \$7 per month. Some have chosen to boycott the movie because the lead actress has spoken out in support of the Hong Kong police and because the filming of the movie took place in a region plagued by allegations from human rights groups that a number of the Uighur people are being held in re-education centers.

#BoycottMulan has been trending on Twitter since the beginning of September due to the discovery that the main actress Liu Yifei, who plays Mulan, said that she is in full support of the Hong Kong police. Protests have been occurring in Hong Kong since late 2019 because of an amendment that was proposed which would allow extradition to mainland China.

Even though Hong Kong is in China, they operate on the “one country, two systems” principle. This principle states that even though Hong Kong, which is a democracy, is in China, which is communist, they are both allowed to have different governments.

The protestors of the Hong Kong democracy movement are protesting the bill because they are afraid that Chinese law enforcement could detain anyone from Hong



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Kong. Even though the bill states that only people that have committed crimes can be detained in mainland China, opposers of the bill argue that the Chinese communist government will detain anyone they want to. Not only those that have committed crimes, but political activists as well.

It is obvious why people are upset at Yifei for supporting Hong Kong police. The police have been known to get violent during arrests and detainments. A man detained at a Hong Kong police station in August of last year said “I felt my legs hit with something really hard. Then one officer flipped me over and put his knees on my chest. I felt the pain in my bones and couldn’t breathe. I tried to shout but I couldn’t breathe and couldn’t talk.” Another man, who was arrested at a protest, said,

“Immediately I was beaten to the ground. Three of them got on me and pressed my face hard to the ground. A second later, they kicked my face...The same three [Special Tactical Squad members] kept putting pressure on my body. I started to have difficulty breathing, and I felt severe pain in my left rib cage... They said to me, ‘Just shut up, stop making noise.’”

Fans are also boycotting *Mulan* because the end credits of the movie thank four Chinese Communist party propaganda departments, more specifically the region of Xinjiang where the re-education centers are said to exist. Human rights groups have alleged that in that region, a number of people — including many Muslims — are being imprisoned and subjected to human rights abuses. According to a report shared by NPR in July,

“the suppression of Muslim minorities in China has now reached the level where it meets the United Nations definition of genocide.”

China calls these camps re-education facilities, even though things such as sexual abuse, torture and forcible eating of pork is taking place in these camps.

While not everyone is aware of the trending #BoycottMulan movement, Disney fans, fans of the original *Mulan*, and even activists are spreading awareness of it. Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong tweeted on the day of the film’s release, “This film was released today. But because Disney kowtows to Beijing, and because Liu Yifei openly and proudly endorses police brutality in Hong Kong, I urge everyone who believes in human rights to #BoycottMulan.”

Who’s Coming to a theater near you?

Movie theaters around the country are reopening with new health and safety guidelines, but will people risk their health to see a movie?

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

Since March, movie theaters across the country have remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but near the end of August, theaters in the United States slowly began to open back up in hopes to make up revenue lost over the past six months.

“Safety is the first priority and then the second is, of course, to be the right cinema experience for people to spend a good two hours in the dark, to sit and forget all the crazy issues that are going on around the world,” said Mooky Greidinger, CEO of Cineworld Group, which owns Regal Cinemas, in an interview with Deadline.

Following individual state and local guidelines, theater chains such as AMC and Regal began reopening their U.S. theaters in late August each with similar new health and safety protocols.

“The protocols they are putting together are derived from advice and guidance from health authorities such as those from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,” said David Goldsmith, an occupational and environmental epidemiologist at George Washington University,



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

in a video about the new health and safety protocols on the Regal Cinemas website.

New AMC and Regal safety protocols include: requiring all customers to wear face masks while in theaters (which may be removed when eating or drinking), reducing auditorium size by blocking off surrounding seats in auditoriums with reserved seating, temporarily disallowing refills on popcorn and drinks, are ensuring hand sanitizing stations readily available.

AMC and Regal theaters are also taking measures to circulate more fresh air in auditoriums by upgrading air filters in certain theaters and are staggering screening times to allow for deeper cleans of each auditorium. Click either AMC or

Regal to see each chain’s individual safety procedures.

But even with all the safety protocols in place, will people still venture out to see movies as theaters reopen?

“For the longest time, ever since they closed and up until now, I’ve been wanting them to reopen, but following some sort of social distancing guideline so people don’t have to worry about possibly getting Corona, even if you have to wear a mask or something,” said Sam Stoever, a freshman graphic design major.

For many, seeing a movie during the summer is a break from the heat and provides those in small towns, who would otherwise be at home all day, with something to

do.

“Especially in Summerville, where I was before Rock Hill, there’s nothing to do during Corona because everything was closed,” Stoever said. “There’s just so much not available anymore, that you’re just stuck at home.”

While theaters have been closed over the past six months many anticipated summer blockbusters have had their release dates rescheduled for later in the year. Other scheduled releases, such as *Mulan* and *Bill and Ted Face the Music*, have instead opted for digital home releases.

Will straight to digital releases continue to be the new normal as theaters reopen?

“I guess it’s a good idea, but at the same time if it’s a digital release and I can just wait for it to be released on Hulu or Netflix — unless I really want to see the movie — I’m probably not going to buy the digital release,” Stoever said. “The whole reason I would go to the movie theater is for the experience of a movie, because it’s completely different from watching a movie at your house, or on your phone.”

The Regal Manchester theater in Rock Hill reopened on Aug. 28, and is currently screening *The New Mutants*, *Tenet*, *The Personal History of David Copperfield* and *Unhinged*.

Understanding Hispanic Heritage

The history and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

Aerieal Laymon
staff writer

Every year Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 and ends on Oct. 15. According to hispanicheritagemoth.gov, “The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 and ending on Oct. 15.”

Sept. 15 is a significant day for the Hispanic culture because it is the day of independence for several Latin American countries. According to Oprahmag.com, other countries like “Mexico, Chile, and Belize became independent on the 16th, 18th, and 21st,” respectively.

There are many ways to explain what Hispanic Heritage Month is. The Hispanic heritage “is a period meant for recognition, education, and celebration” of Hispanic culture and acknowledges the impact of the Hispanic culture on America. According to census.gov, “Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes and celebrates the contributions Americans tracing their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South American and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean have made to American society and culture.”

As reported by nbcnewyork.com, it has been “a national celebration to honor the history, culture, and influence of past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Cen-

tral, and South America.” For over “40 years,” Hispanic Heritage Month has been a big celebration throughout America. This celebration instills pride and joy for many Hispanics. The creation of this holiday has brought out the importance of diversity everywhere.

Many events take place in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Usually, the Smithsonian hosts a Hispanic Heritage Month community day every year. The events that normally take place allow people to learn more about the culture. Many of these even contain food, music, and performances. According to Si.edu, people can “create art inspired by Latinx artists, learn to draw the human figure

in motion, and move your body during performances and workshops with the Washington Ballet and the Discovery Theater.”

Another event that takes place annually are the Hispanic Heritage Awards. According to Hispanicheritage.com, the “Hispanic Heritage Awards were established in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan to commemorate the creation of Hispanic Heritage Month in America. Since that time, the Hispanic Heritage Awards are considered among the highest honors for Hispanics by Hispanics.” Some of the best Latino performers come to this event to celebrate the Hispanic heritage. These award ceremonies are “supported by nearly 40 national

Hispanic-serving institutions who co-host the program.”

This year because of the circumstances, many events will be moved to virtual events. Events like #MiCultura2020 Celebration Kick-Off, Reading is Power, w/ Dr. Khalid White, Making Change Happen with Mariela Romero, and Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples w/David Escobar will be taking place virtually starting on Sept. 15. Events like these push the importance of diversity and also show diversity has grown in America. It is important for people to know Hispanic heritage and to learn about other cultures. For more information on other events that will be taking place visit diversitybestpractices.com



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

What color is English?

Gen Z is saying English and blue have the same “energy,” what does that mean?

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English is blue and math is red, but I can’t exactly tell you why. The internet has seen a trend fueled by Generation Z in recent months of odd statements relating Thursday and November, or 5x5 and Friday, but the only real explanation that they offer is a similar “energy” or “vibe” that they get from the random associated items.

If so many people find themselves agreeing with such nonsensical statements, there must be some sort of explanation, right? Chloe Pennington, a junior criminology and political science major at North Carolina State University, said that it reminded her of a video that she watched in her high school English class about synesthesia.

According to Psychology Today, synesthesia can be simply defined as a neurological condition that means “when one sense is activated, another unrelated sense is activated at the same time.” In this way, people with the condition can relate certain senses to other concepts and senses that they perceive, such as seeing colors when listening to music. Pennington said that, while some people’s experiences are much more defined than others, “everyone has it a little bit.”

While synesthesia may provide some explanation to this question, another answer may be the way in which we were raised and taught



in school. In a survey of 241 people on Instagram, 93 percent said that science is green and 78 percent said that math is red. When answering these questions herself, Kate Durgin, a junior theatre studies major at Wagner College, said that she was reminded of her notebooks that she used for each subject.

She also tried to explain her answers by referring to popular phonics systems and even the fact that she is left-handed, but ultimately she said, “I think so much of it is just based on our childhood experiences and what something feels like... if you asked someone these questions who grew up with a very different education system they would probably have very

different answers.”

So, there may be no definite answer for why science is green, it’s just intuition. Out of 241 people, 63 percent agreed that English is blue, but later in the survey, 68 percent said that language arts is yellow. These two subjects are arguably the same in our country’s school systems, but the majority of people surveyed said they are instinctively represented by different colors in their minds.

While these opinions may lack clear logic, an individual’s feelings are often steadfast and hard to argue. Carrington Wigfall, a sophomore theatre tech and design major at Winthrop University, said that “whenever it comes up, my opinions are solid. I can’t

Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

change it...someone told me once that science isn’t green and that’s impossible.”

In the midst of conducting the survey on Instagram, two people who accidentally voted for purple instead of green as relating to science were adamant enough to send a direct message and clear their name of their mistake. They couldn’t just move on and keep scrolling, they had to take time to make sure that the “right” opinion was heard.

Pennington said “I feel like everybody has a very specific view of everything in their head...the way one person might feel is completely different than the next person and...there’s no right or wrong.”

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September 16, 2020

Temptations during remote learning

What temptations students deal with during remote learning

Mary Hicks

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For many students, remote or hybrid learning can make it difficult to focus and practice self-discipline.

A recent video floating around on TikTok depicted a girl struggling to complete an online assignment at home due to being tempted to pick up the marijuana she had sitting right next to her laptop.

While it is unknown as to how many Winthrop students will face the temptation to smoke during the fully remote time towards the end of the semester, when it comes to marijuana users in general, “about three in ten (29%) participants are smoking more weed than normal during the pandemic,” according to an article on studyfinds.org.

Although it is understandable why more people would be smoking during a pandemic due to the stress and anxiety, smoking marijuana, as well as vaping, is now far more dangerous than it already was before COVID-19.

“What happens to your airways when you smoke cannabis is that it causes some degree of inflammation, very similar to bronchitis, very similar to the type of inflammation that cigarette smoking can cause,” Albert Rizzo, M.D. and chief medical officer for the American Lung Association told CNN. “Now you have some airway inflammation and you get an infection on top of it. So, yes, your

chance of getting more complications is there.”

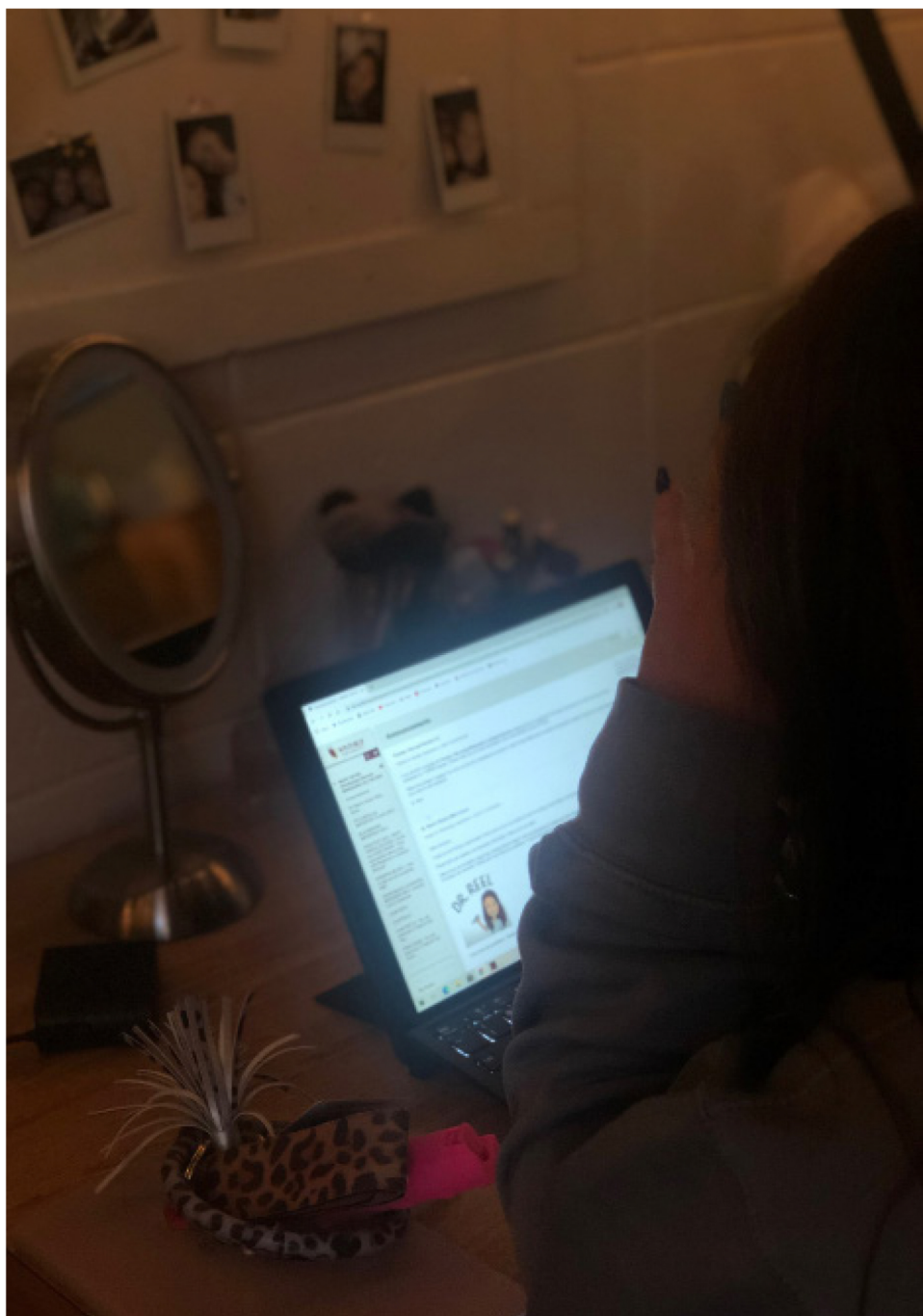
Not everyone can relate to this temptation in terms of using marijuana specifically, but remote learning can bring a wide variety of other things that commonly distract students from completing assignments or at least drag them out longer than they should.

Snacking throughout study time is nothing new for students, however since the pandemic began, even more people throughout the country have been eating a greater amount of junk food. In a survey reported by Food Manufacturing, 32% of Americans are snacking more during the pandemic than what they were before.

Regardless of whether it is cannabis, junk food, social media or YouTube that causes temptations, most everyone has something they struggle with during online classes.

Everyone has different study styles and ways that they learn. Some tips to get focused and resist temptations might include placing your smartphone out of sight and away from your workspace, setting a timer to complete tasks (even if you actually do have time to waste) and planning out a particular time slot to scroll through all the social media posts or funny videos you want to enjoy.

Another powerful way to increase concentration and self-discipline is to wake up early (before 8 a.m.) and treat that first hour upon waking as a quiet time to meditate. Meditation does not have to be a far-out, psychedelic experience. It can be reading a physical book



that gives you a sense of wisdom and peace, taking a walk or simply sitting quietly, just as long as you have a bit of introspective time to

reflect, refocus and recharge your batteries to take on the challenges of the day.

Questioning the cost of collegiate clothing

The need for a student discount on WU merchandise

Mary Hicks

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Many students at Winthrop can relate to feeling a bit discouraged upon walking into the bookstore, seeing the hoodies, t-shirts and other goodies, but knowing the prices are just too high to splurge.

By the time tuition is covered, books are paid for, parking and all sorts of various fees are also paid, very rarely is money left to be spent on collegiate apparel.

Every time a student sports their collegiate clothing, they are not only proudly representing their school, but they are acting as walking billboards for the institution. Because of this tool of advertising, and the fact that tuition, fees and textbooks are so costly, shouldn't students be given a couple of items as they finish out their senior year, or at least a proper discount?

Sure, a t-shirt or two may be given to each freshman during welcome week, but what about those farther along who have worked hard to cover costs every semester? This could actually be something that would shine a spotlight on the university because it brings about more attention and publicity. Although the Winthrop Barnes and



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Nobles bookstore has continuous sales, one would think that students might get a greater or more exclusive discount. Each semester, whether paid out of pocket, taken out in loans, covered by scholarships or a little bit of everything, students and/or their families contribute to the vast amount of funding the university consumes.

Though universities all over the country may be taking a hit financially right now (as so many busi-

nesses, organizations and citizens are), there is no doubt that Winthrop University is still bringing in a tremendous amount of money.

One of the most overpriced items that the bookstore sells is the simple and classic Chicka-D corded crewneck sweatshirt, which is priced at about \$60. In comparison, Harvard University sells a similar vintage crew sweatshirt through its student-run store, theharvardshop.com, which is

priced at just \$34.99. While Winthrop is also an amazing school filled with enlightening course materials and professors, this information is a pretty surprising contrast, considering how prestigious and prominent of a university Harvard is.

With this comparison in mind, it may not be far-fetched to demand a student discount, gifted items for seniors or lower prices, at least. After all, wearing WU apparel is a form of telling friends, family and anyone who may see you walking by to check out Winthrop University.

Another factor and reason Winthrop might want to consider reworking on apparel prices is because of the fact that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, which means many students who were already struggling financially are likely to be having an even more difficult time.

With all that is going on today, not only would it help students if greater clearance prices or a student discount were implemented, but it would also motivate more people to buy merchandise, which would in turn create more revenue for the university during these challenging times.

Ramen, Red Bull and replenishing food security

A look into the problems food insecurity causes for college students

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Food insecurity is defined as not being able to have consistent access to healthy or affordable food.

According to a research study entitled *Hunger on Campus*, 48% of college students across the United States faced food insecurity in 2016. Of those students, 22% identified as routinely going without food and 12% of community college students reported facing food insecurity.

Winthrop requires students who live outside of the commuting distance to live on-campus for freshman and sophomore year. Meal plans are required during the mandated on-campus residency. This allows students to have consistent access to food, whether that be at Thomson, Markley's, or any other on-campus dining option.

Students who live off-campus may experience more food insecurity than on-campus residents, reported *Hunger on Campus*. This could be because students are not expected to purchase meal plans, which grant them access to campus food services. Without a guaranteed source of food, students will not be able to consistently access healthy and affordable meals.

Food insecurity affects more than just students' abilities to purchase or consume food. 81% of the students interviewed by *Hunger on Campus* reported that their academic performance was declining and 25% of these students consequently dropped their classes, both to save on tuition costs and to

bring up their overall GPA.

Food insecurity can also lead to deficiencies in vitamins and minerals, which can damage the immune system. Nutritional deficiencies can also impact sleeping patterns, endocrine levels and mental health. Stress levels would rise, further impacting students' ability to perform academically.

Rock Hill has a total population of 76,159, according to the 2020 Census. Feeding America reported 18% of Rock Hill's citizens face food insecurity. 30% of the people impacted by local food insecurity are children under the age of 18.

With nearly a quarter of Rock Hill's population facing food insecurity, something has to be done. *Hunger on Campus* suggests that more schools create food pantries to better assist their students. Planting community gardens would also be a cost-effective way to help students gain access to healthy foods.

Even though food insecurity is prevalent on college campuses throughout America, it is not due to student laziness. *Hunger on Campus* reported that students facing insecurity had paying jobs (56%), had purchased meal plans (43%), were eligible for food stamps (25%) or received additional tuition assistance (52%). Students are working incredibly hard to balance academics and personal life, let alone worrying about where their next meal will come from.

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, a professor of Sociology at Temple University, had an interesting viewpoint when it comes to how the general



Emma Crouch/ The Johnsonian

public assumes student poverty begins.

"Efforts to increase college completion rates must be broadened to include attention to material hardship," Goldrick-Rab wrote in the December 2017 issue of *Educational Researcher*. "Stereotypes of undergraduates eating ramen noodles and couch surfing work against this."

According to Feeding America, there were 316 food pantries on college campuses nationwide as of October 2019. 129 food banks affiliated with Feeding America are actively searching for new ways to help students gain access to food and housing resources. Winthrop University has one of these pantries.

Winthrop's food pantry is located in the Office of Student Affairs in DiGS 238. Students may take what they need without worrying about payment. While there, students can select from a large collection of dry goods, nonperishables and food seasonings (salt, pepper, syrup, etc.).

To inquire about donating to Winthrop's food bank contact Sheila Higgs Burkhalter, the Student Affairs Vice President, via email at burkhalters@winthrop.edu. You can also call the Office of Student Affairs at 803-323-2251. Students are also encouraged to reach out to Student Affairs if they are in need of resources to end food insecurity.

Gamers: detached from reality

A look at video games and mass shootings

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Many politicians claim that violent video games, not a lack of gun restrictions, lead to mass shootings and crime among young people.

Although video games contribute to the psychological state of young people and can attract teens to guns, the most obvious cause of mass shootings is access to guns.

ABC News reported on a study about the connection between racial bias and video games which says, "when such an act of violence is carried out by a racial minority, individuals may not feel compelled to seek an external explanation because the race of the perpetrator fits their stereotype of what a violent criminal looks like."

From the lack of solid data and evidence, video games seem to be an excuse that many fall back on when they want to avoid talking about gun laws as well as because of racial bias and stereotypes.

Yet, is it still reasonable to suggest that constant video game playing can lead to an altered state of mind? It isn't just violent video games that can have a psychological impact on children and young people.

The early 2000's game *The Sims* had a way of shaping the way people view others, along with life in general. As children played



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

The Sims, they built the houses they wanted, along with their *Sims* characters' social lives.

Now adults, many of them have come to realize that their homes, relationships and lives have been the opposite of what they expected. According to *The Guardian*, "The Resolution Foundation, a housing think tank, reported in 2018 that up to a third of millennials will rent for their whole lives." Although millennials are the largest generation, they are also considered the poorest and farthest in debt than those before them.

This is not to say that video games take precedence over gun laws when it comes to the cause of mass shootings. After all, even if an individual was negatively impacted by violent video games,

there would undoubtedly be fewer cases of these horrific tragedies if it was more difficult for that person to possess a gun.

For those who are already in a more vulnerable state of mind, however, and are already fascinated by violence, video games only add to the psychological problems and outward behavior.

"Die, die, die," the Parkland school shooter wrote in a story for language arts class in middle school. His explanation: It was a line from his "Call of Duty" warfare video game booklet," Megan O'Matz wrote in an article for the *Sun-Sentinel*.

This subject of gun rights may be difficult for Americans because America is a democracy in which there are many freedoms, but a

fine line exists that is important to balance on like a tightrope. To make matters more unclear, it is still somewhat subjective and difficult to gather solid data in regards to whether or not video games are actual causes of mass shootings.

Still, a reasonable assumption to make might be that if a more extensive procedure existed for those purchasing guns with the accompaniment of regulations or standards that might be in place for parents who have children and guns in the same house, the country would surely see a decrease.

However, whether it is an excessive intake of video games (violent or not), movies, television, YouTube, TikTok or any social media platform, screen time makes a huge impact on people of all ages, but especially children, teens and young adults. After spending hours consumed by anything, we as humans tend to view life and other people in that way, just as if we are using a filter on Snapchat or Instagram.

It can be incredibly easy to view everything else through that same lens that we see via our screens, so it's important to be aware of how our minds are impacted after those hours of viewing that feel like minutes. Balance is truly necessary, so take time to be fully present. Go outside and stop to smell the roses...literally.



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