

# THE JOHNSONIAN



## “Save Winthrop Tennis” receives push back from Winthrop University officials

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Task force members who are a part of the “Save Winthrop Tennis” initiative said they have faced opposition from Winthrop’s president and Board of Trustees.

Winthrop’s Board of Trustees announced its decision to cut the university’s tennis teams in a board meeting on June 19. Tennis coaches and athletes were informed of this on June 18, by Winthrop University’s Athletics Director Ken Halpin. Both tennis coaches confirmed that before that date, they were never notified that their program was going to be cut.

On May 21, Halpin said in an interview with a Rock Hill, South Carolina-based radio station WRHI, “we are always evaluating everything...the impact...not just financial but social, healthwise, all the elements of every single program we offer. We are always evaluating [whether] it is continuing to feed our mission. What I’m thankful to say is that...when this fiscal year ends it’s been my understanding...Winthrop is going to end this year at a balanced position financially and no one has to go away...we are in great shape right now.”

“We needed to immediately and long-term reduce spending in a couple different areas of the athletics department. So what we did as a senior staff in the athletics department was figure out how to reduce spending to the degree we needed to,” Hank Harrawood, Winthrop’s deputy athletics director, said. “We needed to cut over \$600 [to] \$700,000 in spending. We look fiscally at a bunch of different options. The official decision was made by the board. Athletics made the recommendation and the board accepted that.”

Justin Oates, Winthrop’s vice president for finance and business affairs, explained that the athletics department has been in a deficit and has been looking at its budget for a couple of years prior to the tennis teams cut.

“Last year was an interesting year because we operated under two modes between July 1 and Mar.15 or so we operated as normal. It wasn’t until March and COVID hit that drastic conversations started to take place,” Oates said. “Technically the athletics department has been looking at their budget over the last two years and been sharing data and talking to the Board of Trustees about different kinds of models. We set a number for athletics and meeting that number, I think they felt like tennis was the best approach. The conversation has been going on for two years but COVID kind of made it real and made us make quick decisions.”

Julie Busha, a Winthrop alumna and “Save Winthrop Tennis” member, expressed concern about the board’s decision to cut the tennis teams.

“This board was not given any pre-read documents by the athletics department. They didn’t even know that teams could be eliminated in the agenda, it [just] said athletic update,” Busha said. “The night before the board meeting...they received the copy of the resolution. That’s the only knowledge [given to the board]. There was no content, feedback, presentation, anything to back up what they were going to be told. Vital information was withheld... and that donors had already come forth, along with a USTA grant, to contribute over \$500,000 toward court renovations. Those are significant omissions to say the least, and I view false and withheld information as being an ethical issue the university needs to address. There should be no tolerance for what transpired in June.”

According to a source close to the board, members understood that the difficult decision regarding Winthrop tennis was crucial in ensuring to affect the least amount of people while maintaining the university afloat. However, the source addressed that members of the full board were pushed to make the decision to cut tennis in order to financially help the school without any content or presentation to back up the decision. Along with this, they were never informed of alternatives or of the USTA grant that could be



granted to fix Winthrop’s tennis courts. The source also confirmed that the financial plan created by “Save Winthrop Tennis” was not given to them to overlook or consider.

According to a source close to the tennis coaches, the athletics department tried to work with USTA for two summers in a row but had to meet a list of requirements before granting the \$500,000. In the summer of 2017, USTA asked for a list requirements which include to provide a facility sketch, send in pictures of the courts, and ask for quotes to get courts done. However due to drainage problems, USTA wanted an engineer to create a plan which would have cost more money for the department. This caused the conversations to stop. Conversations again picked up in the Summer of 2018 but nothing came of it.

“Perhaps cutting a team was the easiest thing to do to help make up the fiscal mismanagement of athletics department budgets over multiple years, which ironically was cited in the committee meeting minutes as the reason for the cuts to begin with,” Busha said. “Given the directive to Dr. Halpin to make cuts didn’t seem to happen until shortly before the meeting, how much due diligence was truly done?”

Chairman Glenn McCall confirmed this overextension of the athletics budget in the June 19 board meeting, according to the meeting minutes posted on the Winthrop’s Board of Trustees website.

“During this morning’s meeting, the committee reviewed the athletics budget; a budget that has been overextended for many years,” McCall said, according to the meeting minutes. “This overextension of the budget is not a result of COVID-19. While COVID-19 exacerbated the budget difficulties, structural imbalances are at the root of the problem...Dr. Ken Halpin, his coaches, and staff have been working hard to raise private funds as well as cut their costs. But, those measures are not enough.”

“Fundraising is a big part of what athletics is doing but fundraising it two-fold. Fundraising supports the operation...but also big for their facilities,” Oates said. “Fundraising supports not only operations but their facilities...so supporting their facilities is another thing they fundraise for. It’s big in the athletic world and they are definitely working towards that but again it’s balancing a number of aspects.”

According to a source close to the tennis coaches, the coaches and Halpin never worked together to fundraise for the tennis teams.

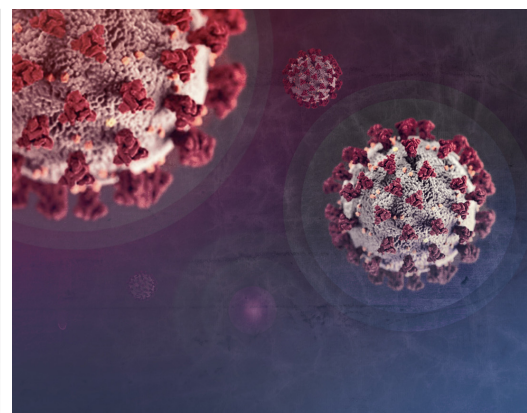
Halpin was requested for a comment but he never responded.

In an effort to salvage Winthrop’s tennis teams, a group of alumni worked together to create the organization “Save Winthrop Tennis.” The group worked to raise money and a plan to present to the board after their decision to cut the tennis teams in June.

According to Busha, the organization raised almost \$800,000 and “had financial analysts develop a comprehensive, self-sustaining plan that proves the University will be net positive for years to come by reinstating the program,” she wrote in an email.

The five-step financial plan made by “Save Winthrop Tennis” was based off of the operational

▶ see [Tennis](#) pg. 2



Graphic Courtesy to Winthrop University

## Student body opinion about COVID-19 testing

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As of Oct. 30, according to scdhcc.gov, there are 167,057 positive COVID-19 cases in South Carolina.

While public universities in South Carolina like the University of South Carolina, Clemson and College of Charleston are requiring COVID-19 testing for on-campus residents, and in some cases all students, faculty and staff, Winthrop University is not mandating COVID-19 testing for anyone on campus, although they strongly advise testing for those who show symptoms or have experienced exposure.

An online survey conducted by The Johnsonian was sent out to the faculty, staff and student populations asking if respondents believe Winthrop should mandate COVID-19 testing. Of the 250 responses so far, 51.6 percent said they do think Winthrop should mandate COVID-19 testing for all faculty, staff and students.

Emma Crouch, a freshman integrated marketing and communication major, responded that she does believe Winthrop should enforce consistent COVID-19 testing. “I think it would be a good idea to ensure consistent COVID testing to ensure everyone’s safety. Even if it wasn’t at the school, everyone giving a positive or negative test result will make it easier to ensure that everyone will be okay and cause less of an outbreak,” Crouch said.

Because COVID-19 testing is costly and involves a lot of resources Winthrop is unable to provide at this time, another option could be the requirement of students to acquire testing elsewhere, whether that be at DHEC’s pop-up location at the Winthrop Coliseum or in another testing facility of one’s choosing off-campus.

“I don’t personally believe that the testing should be mandated for everyone because firstly I would assume there are a finite number of tests. Secondly, a test only really gives you information about that moment,” Austin Curtis, a senior exercise science major, said. “For instance, if someone tests negative, they could easily come into contact with the virus moments later. So, the test would give someone a somewhat false sense of security. I would also have to know the efficacy of the test I’ve been given. I wouldn’t like to get a false positive test and fall behind

\*To read the full story scan [The Johnsonian’s website QR code](#) below\*





◀ Tennis from front

costs and expenses from coaches. When the presentation was made the group stacked up a revenue of \$635,000 from private donors. The group would host at least five tennis tournaments that would generate about \$25,000 and host summer clinics to generate around \$15,000. The group also planned on generating a revenue of \$30,000 to \$35,000 from pledges and \$20,000 from crowdfunding per year. From the presentation it states, "Our goal is to generate at least \$125,000 from court sponsorship (full potential of \$270,000) and \$12,000/year from businesses sponsorship/advertisement."

The presentation is 26 slides long and details a restructuring plan for women's and men's tennis over a six year period. It also includes that one quote obtained from a company would repair the courts for \$600,000.

"I think their plan gravitated towards the \$600,000 number...but you have to think it's \$600,000 plus times every year it exists. Just to define one year doesn't get us anywhere because it brings us right back to the same position," Oates said. "That's like a \$15 million endowment. That excludes the tennis courts."

One of the task force members, Gabriel Dias, a Winthrop alum, met with Winthrop's Interim President George Hynd on July 7 to go over details of the unfinalized "Save Winthrop Tennis" plan.

"We had a one-hour meeting. It was about a month after the program got cut," Dias said. "That was the first time he was able to discuss with someone from the task force about the subject. The first time he actually learned from us about what we were doing and trying to achieve and his reception through the message was very positive. He told me that if we were able to do something like that we were able to bring the program back being financially independent. The chances of us being able to bring it back [were] very very high," Dias said. "The issue happened after that when he had a meeting with the Board of Trustees."

Halpin and Harrowood met with Busha and three other task force members via a zoom call to listen to the task force go over their plan and presentation on Aug. 11.

Busha wrote in an email, "Halpin told us that he had until December to make cuts, but claimed he did it quickly to serve in the best interest of the athletes. He did say he was willing to 'work with us even though our goals may not align with the direction of the board and athletics department.'"

On Aug. 18, Hynd sent a letter out stating that Winthrop has no intention of reinstating the program.

"The funds raised by the alumni and friends, mostly through pledges, have used Winthrop's name without our permission to fundraise for a program that was eliminated because of its inherent and associated costs," Hynd wrote.

"I don't know what happened and why he turned around so quickly and completely decided to go against the cause. That happened and whenever we saw the letter it was very very upsetting for us," Dias said.

In response to this letter, Busha sent out a letter from the task force.

"Our letter solicitations to prospective donors are, and have always been, fact driven, yet often include positive personal stories of how wonderful our Winthrop experience was for us personally," she wrote. "Never have we misrepresented ourselves as the university, but rather an advocacy group to reinstate the tennis programs to the university. In fact, the US Patent and Trademark Office does not grant Winthrop University exclusive rights to the Winthrop name."

One of the fundraising efforts for the organization was a GoFundMe page. Clayton Almeida, a task force member and Winthrop tennis alum, said he was contacted by the website to shut down the campaign in mid August.

While in a meeting with Hynd on Aug. 19, Almeida claimed that the president's office requested the shut down of the campaign. According to Almeida, Hynd said that they contacted the S.C. Department of Education to let them know the campaign was not created by Winthrop.

Hynd's office advised The Johnsonian to use previous remarks made about the tennis teams elimination.

In an effort to show all the fundraising efforts and plans made by "Save Winthrop Tennis," several people, including Busha, requested to be able to present their plan to the board.

"First we met with some board members individually, Gary Williams [told us] 'if Chairman McCall feels something for us to review. He will give it to us,'" Busha said. "He wasn't even willing to look at it and he put back everything on McCall on whether it was sent to the full board or put on the agenda. I requested that it go to the full board in August. We had had requests to meet with the board but those requests had been blocked."

An email from the board said individual members cannot speak for themselves unless approved by McCall.

"Per Board policy, the chair speaks for the Board. Individual trustees do not comment to the media unless directed by the chair," the email said. "If you have questions, you may submit them to trustees@winthrop.edu and the chair will either answer the question or refer them on to individual committee members."

Questions were sent to the email; however, the board has not responded.

According to Busha, Hynd and Vice-Chair Kathy Bigham made the decision to block five members of the task force from participating in a public hearing via phone call or Zoom on Sept. 25.

Bigham was not asked for comment due to the deadline of this story.

"I suppose they expect a distinguished alumnus like Kerion Ball to travel from London during a pandemic to speak for three minutes in person, while board members are allowed to participate via Zoom," Busha said. "I brought up that point specifically more than 24 hours before the meeting with the university's leadership, but it changed nothing."

Ball was a tennis team captain, student government president and keynote speaker at Winthrop's 2012 Convocation.

South Carolina Legislator Seth Rose requested on behalf of "Save Winthrop Tennis," if they would be granted more time in an effort to present to the board.

"I made a request for the tennis alumni who were raising money to present to the board of trustees and was basically told that speakers are only given two minutes to speak. So I said 'Well how about give them five minutes. Can you give them minutes? Or 10 minutes to present to you about the things they are doing?'" Rose said. "[The task force] understands that difficult decisions are being made but we also understand that at some point COVID will pass and revenues will go back to normal. 'It was we are going to raise money. We are going to do these things we want to work with the athletics department but give us a date when revenues have gone back to normal."

"I understand difficult decisions have to be made but you can make these decisions in an open and transparent way and not alienate alumni of this great institution to be treated like this," Rose said. "It cannot be allowed that an organization that has gone to Winthrop and is raising money and they ask the board of trustees to give them five minutes and that's rebuffed. That's appalling. If they can do this to tennis alumni they can do this to anyone. It's really disappointing. It should be alarming for every student."

Busha expressed her concerns regarding the board meeting and how some members of the task force were not able to attend.

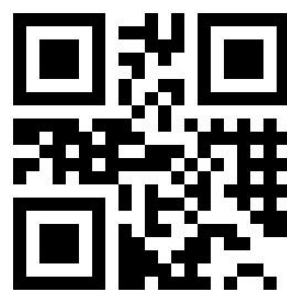
"Three members live several states away and two live internationally. Despite members of the board of trustees themselves having the option to participate for the entire meeting via Zoom from their homes across South Carolina, the university set a clear message that even during a pandemic, anyone wishing to give a public statement must do so in person," Busha wrote in an email. "No consideration would be made for those in unique circumstances."

Busha was the only one able to attend to give her timed three-minute speech. She spoke about freedom of speech, concerns over governance practices and highlighted key omissions and factual data that were not presented to the board in June regarding tennis.

# 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 the data visit our website by scanning the QR code provided



## About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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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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## WU talks the importance of voting

Winthrop students talk about the importance of voting and what issues are important to them this election

Sean Miller  
staff writer



**Celina Brown**

sophomore human nutrition major

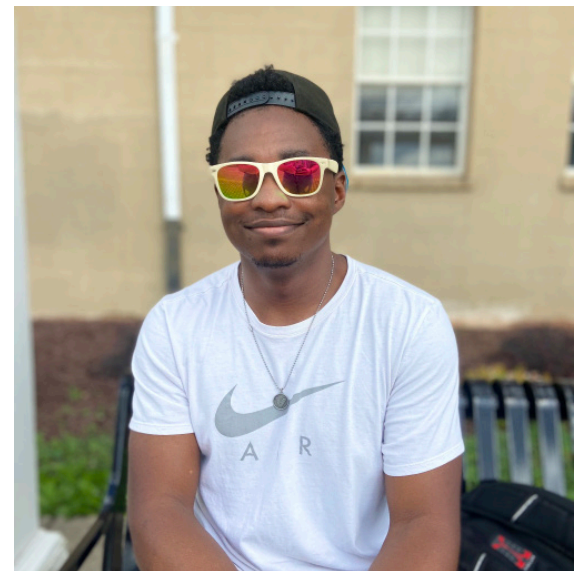
*"I've voted [in-person] via the voter registration office. Everyone has a voice and everyone's voice deserves to be heard. Voting is just another form of a voice."*



**Jordan Davis**

freshman musical theater major

*"Black issues are the most important thing and social issues in general. We have a lot of social issues."*



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

**Brendan Ebron**

senior music education major

*"The most important thing for us right now is the economic issues in America as well as candidates that are running for president and vice president and other local governments."*



**Breanna Freeman**

freshman mass communication major

*"I feel like it's really important for this election because stakes are so high and I feel like it's really important to have your voice heard."*



**Princess Hovery**

sophomore special education major

*"I just want to have my voice in it, and I want to be able to say that I contributed to it and that the next four years will hopefully be a little bit better."*



**Noah Smith**

freshman music education major

*"I feel since I've become of age for voting that my one vote doesn't make an impact whether or not I am Republican or Democrat or whoever I choose."*

## Free speech vs. hate speech

Winthrop University held panel to discuss the difference between free speech and hate speech

Sarah Hassler

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The Winthrop Board of Trustees created a resolution affirming free speech at Winthrop. The resolution states, "the Board is committed to free and open inquiry and expression for members of its campus community except as limitations on that freedom are appropriate to the functioning of the campus and permissible under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

In short, the resolution says that all faculty and students on campus have a right to freedom of speech so long as their speech does not impede on the freedom or rights of others in a manner that could be considered threatening. However, different people have opposing viewpoints about what they deem as "free speech" and "hate speech."

In order to help clear up the contradictions about what free speech actually means, the town hall held a virtual meeting on Oct. 27 entitled "Diversity Dialogues" where they discussed the differences between free speech and

hate speech.

"Today, we are in a most challenging time where words matter. Words are probably the most dangerous weapon in the world. They can hurt, they can kill, they can incite riot, they can promote peace, they can make peace, they can create an environment for love. Most importantly they can create an opportunity for understanding," said Interim President George Hynd.

In our current political landscape, discussions about the boundaries of free speech are more important than ever.

"During the summer, faculty, staff and students were greatly impacted by the social injustice and racial tension happening in this country. As a result the campus community expressed interest in having a safe space where we can have an open dialogue about ways in which we can bring about healing and understanding to our community," said Chisa Putman, senior solicitor for the City of Rock Hill.

It is important that campuses

such as Winthrop allow freedom of speech among students so that differing opinions can be heard and people can be free to speak their minds, but there comes a point where free speech becomes hate speech. According to Scott Huffmon, professor and director of the Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, hate speech is speech that is specifically targeted at a certain group or person to threaten or intimidate them. A person can say something offensive, and they still technically have the right to say it, so long as their speech is not negatively affecting anyone. However, that does not mean that a person will not experience consequences for saying or doing something offensive.

"When society makes it clear that your words and deeds do not represent what we accept for somebody who we want to participate with us in society then we send a message that the law cannot, because the law is limited by the constitution," Huffmon said. "It is really society that's going to shut these people down, even though the law protects them."

The resolution states, "members of the campus community are free to criticize and intellectually challenge those with opposing views, they may not obstruct or otherwise significantly interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. When engaging in public commentary, all Winthrop employees must clearly state that their opinions are their own and not those of Winthrop University."

It is imperative that all members of the campus community keep in mind that there is a difference between having a provocative, thoughtful discussion in which differing opinions are shared, and the spewing of hate speech that causes people to feel unsafe. The resolution was put in place to make sure that these ideals are upheld.

The resolution was approved on Aug. 25. Lastly it states, "the Board has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it."

# Mandatory furlough impacts students

*Winthrop University implemented a mandatory furlough to reduce costs*

**Mari Pressley**  
staff writer

Winthrop put a mandatory furlough into effect from Sept. 1, through June 30, 2021, a decision that was made to reduce costs without interfering with students and programs.

“The reason we implemented furlough was to close a budget gap between our revenues and the budget we had developed for the year. ... We establish a budget well over a year in advance. We are starting to work on our fiscal year [2022] now and so we have estimated revenues that will come in and when we have a reduction in revenues then we need to find a way to reduce our costs,” Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Adrienne McCormick said.

“A lot of our costs are baked in because we can’t just let go of faculty if we have fewer students, so the furlough program was really about helping us close the gap between some of our fixed costs for the year [and] reduced revenues as a result of reduced enrollment.”

“When we look at the revenues, our revenues are dropping. I’m forecasting 12 to 13 million dollars ... this year and that’s across the tuition and fees. Which again, it’s driven by our undergraduate, went down about 5%,” said Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, CFO Justin Oates. “Our tuition and fee revenue went down about 5 million dollars. That

definitely impacts the University because when you drop 5 million dollars, it’s not like you can drop expenses down 5 million dollars right away.”

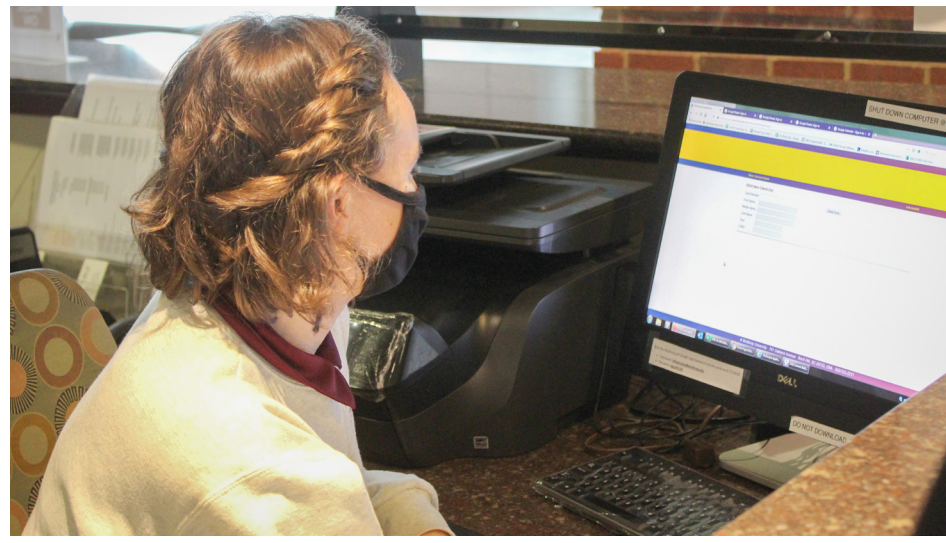
While furlough has had a negative effect on Winthrop faculty and staff, it has been implemented to benefit the institution financially.

“It benefits the institution by making sure that we don’t run in the red by 3 million dollars because we have to balance our budgets annually. This year we instituted a furlough and we also had money coming from CARES acts to help us close our revenue gap. So, that’s why we implemented a furlough because it’s a short term solution when your revenues are not going to cover costs,” McCormick said.

“I don’t think furloughs [were] necessarily intended to help students, it was intended to help the University get through a very tough fiscal year so that we can continue to educate students in a positive way. Because again, if we didn’t reduce the expenses then we would have to reduce it in other places which may impact students if we spent less money on faculty or training ... If we didn’t reduce it in furloughs, we might have to reduce it in student impacting ways. And again, this is a way that does impact our employees and faculty.”

The mandatory furlough came as a decision that was not meant to affect students. However, student employees have seen a shift since furloughs have gone into effect.

Logan Pender, a sophomore



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

**Though furlough is meant to reduce costs, some students and faculty have been negatively impacted by it.**

international education major and international global studies minor who works at the Starbucks Coffee located in the DiGiorgio Campus Center, said, “Before the furloughs, I was working about 38 to 42 hours a week just because I do support [myself]. I don’t have any outside support. So, clocking hours did kind of meet ends for me. However, I did take off two days. But when the furloughs kicked in, they decreased my hours a lot more all together by another two days. So I’m only working Sunday through Wednesdays now and even those hours have been slashed a little bit.”

“Right now, we are making plans for the transition after Thanksgiving to back to remote learning for the remainder of the year. So at that point in time, because there will be so fewer students on campus, we will not have the same number of entities on campus open for the same hours like eating establishments, like the West Center will be on reduced hours. It will be open, but not at the same level it is now and since students are often employed in either eating establishments or in areas on campus that could impact their employment. But there has been no overarching

policy that says students’ hours should be cut,” McCormick said.

“COVID is impacting student employment because we’re only in phase two,” Oates said. “In order to work in phase two, you have to be able to socially distance. I know we have been allowing some students--if the job fits, to work from home. ... COVID has definitely impacted student employment but furloughs is not impacting student employment because furloughs are for full time employees and temporary employees but not students.”

“As an institution overall, we are looking for ways just to be more efficient and make sure that we are ensuring the financial stability of the institution as a whole. So, that’s the goal we are all working on right now. ... There has been no overarching institutional decision to cut back on student employment other than just what’s driven by the changing conditions as a result of the pandemic which is impacting everyone.” McCormick said.

Just as furloughs have had an adverse effect on faculty and staff, student employees are finding themselves facing similar experiences as a result of COVID-19.

# Police blotter

*A round-up of crime reports on campus, 10/18-10/29*

**Sarah Hassler**  
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On Oct. 18, an officer responded in reference to a report regarding a female who had been overheard screaming on the phone that she was going to kill herself. When the officer made contact with the subject, she stated that it was the anniversary of her boyfriend’s suicide and that she had been having suicidal thoughts. The subject voluntarily went to PMC for further treatment and evaluation.

On Oct. 22, a complainant came into the police station to file a collision report. The complainant stated that his car was parked overnight, legally, in the Lee Wicker parking lot. In the morning, when he went out to his vehicle, he noticed there was some damage. The vehicle looked as though it had been struck by another vehicle which caused some damage to the front bumper on the driver side. The unknown suspect who hit the car did not leave any contact information or notify authorities of the accident. The RO initiated a collision report and also initiated a victim’s notification report to the complainant.

On Oct. 24, an officer responded in reference to three subjects who had come into



Maggie Claytor/The Johnsonian

Markley’s. One of the subjects picked up a piece of fruit, and when he was informed that he would have to pay for it, he put it back which then contaminated the rest of the fruit. When the subject was told this and told to wait for the campus police to arrive, the three subjects left the area. The officer was unable to locate them afterward.

On Oct. 24, an officer responded in reference to a subject who had been intoxicated. The

officer had already had previous encounters with this particular subject. The subject behaved aggressively and seemed distraught. The subject made comments about not caring and wanting to hurt himself. At that point, the subject was taken into protective custody and a minor struggle occurred. The subject had injuries prior to the struggle on his hands, knees and feet, and was taken to PMC. The subject was charged with disorderly conduct.

On Oct. 27, an officer was on patrol when he took notice of a suspicious vehicle following a subject on Cherry Rd. The officer made contact with the driver who claimed that he was an employee of New Hope and that the subject he was following was a runaway that he was attempting to gain custody of. The officer notified RHPD and they responded to the scene. The subject was EPC and taken to further evaluation and treatment by RHPD.

On Oct. 29, a police report was placed for an account of mischievous behavior. An officer responded in reference to a subject taking an SCDC traffic cone into her room. The officer made contact with the subject who stated that she did not realize that it was against the law for her to take the cone. The officer then advised the subject that she could be charged with petty larceny. The subject will be referred to the Dean’s office.



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# The Ironclad Beetle

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

The Ironclad Beetle is famously known for having the ability to be run over by a Toyota Camry and survive. The beetle is known for the hardened casings on each wing that interlock and support the beetle's exoskeleton. So what else is differentiable about the ironclad beetle?

The ironclad beetle can withstand forces up to 39,000 times its own body weight because of the hardened casings on its exoskeleton. An analysis of the beetle's elytra, the hardened casings on top of each forewing, shows that the shields interlock like a 3D jigsaw puzzle and can deform under enormous weight without losing their shape. The elytra fit with the rest of the beetle's exoskeleton like a suit of armor. The hard shell serves the purpose of protecting the beetles' organs. Entomologists who try to mount these beetles for display usually wind up with their steel pins bent or snapped in half.

Most other beetles only live for several weeks or months. The ironclad can live for up to two years and they are found mostly in oak trees on the Pacific Coast of North America. They can be found in the central part of Texas and southern Mexico. Ironclad beetles also cannot fly. There are actually several different species of ironclad beetles. The life cycle of these beetles is similar to the life cycles of other insects, including eggs and larvae. However, little is known about the actual biology of the ironclad beetles. The larvae and pupal stages have been found in pecan trees. Pecan trees



Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

serve as a developmental sight for the beetles. Adult ironclad beetles have been found in oak trees in the College Station, Texas area. The adult beetles have been known to feed on the lichens that grow on the trunks on the oak trees.

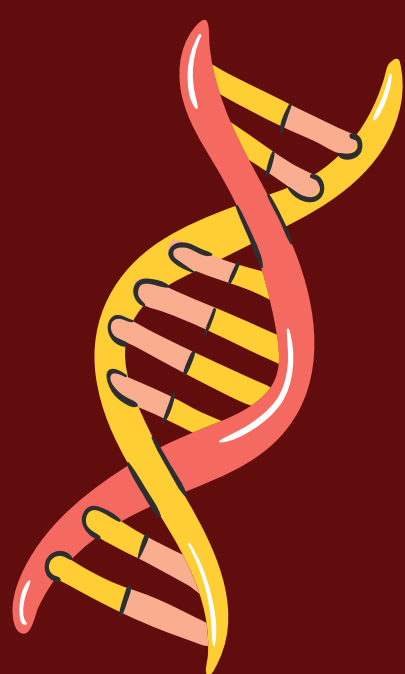
The beetle's wing cases, which fit together like puzzle pieces, connect by the sutures being joined together. Sutures are defined by Lumen Learning as, "rigid immovable connections holding bones tightly to one another." The sutures of the beetle, which are

called blades, are similar to the sutures found in the human skull.

By mimicking the interlocking nature of these protective layers found in the ironclad beetle, scientists and engineers could build better aircraft and armored vehicles. These better designed aircraft and vehicles would help give the United States Air Force and army a better advantage. The Air Force is currently doing research on the ironclad beetles that they invested \$8 million. This project is to help them understand the outside layers of the ironclad

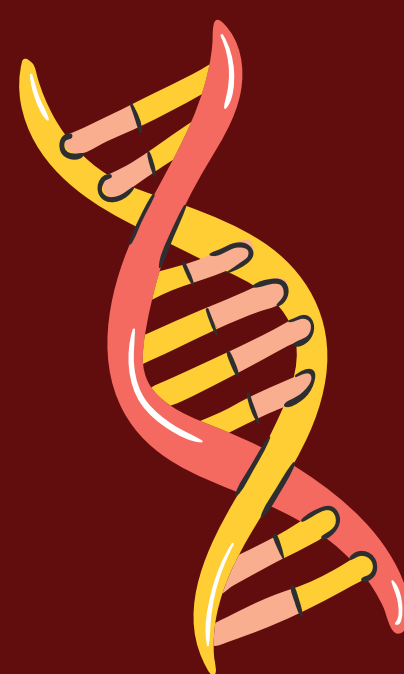
beetle, specifically the elytra, and how to design aircraft and armored vehicles built like the beetles.

The ironclad beetle is unique from other beetles because of its hardened casings, elytra, connected to its exoskeleton. The ironclad beetle is also not easy to kill, as it can withstand forces up to 39,000 times its weight. While not much is known about the beetle, hopefully entomologists and scientists will be able to study the beetle more closely to learn more about the insect.



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# SPORTS the Johnsonian

November 4, 2020

## Go big or go home Softball “super seniors” are looking forward to their fifth year

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Rarely do we get second chances in life, but with the NCAA allowing seniors to return for a fifth year due to the spring 2020 season being cut short, several student-athletes couldn't run out on that opportunity. Ansley Gilreath, Madyson Watson and Ashley Westbrook are three softball players who have chosen to return for a fifth year at Winthrop.

The team was 12-11 after their last game on March 11, and all three players were enjoying their first day of spring break at Florida's Disney Springs when the cancellation news hit.

"I remember the look Coach Thees gave me and I just knew. It was over," Gilreath said.

At the time, nobody knew if they would ever get to play together again, and if they did get the chance, there was the possibility that not every senior would come back.

"I had worked so hard for something that had just been taken away from me and I didn't even get a say in it," Gilreath said. "I knew that this was the best deduction considering the outbreak of [COVID-19], but that didn't stop the tears from flowing... I just kept reminding myself of my favorite bible verse 'God is within her, she will not fail.' -Psalm 46:5."

Even though Gilreath misses interacting with classmates and professors during in person classes, staying an extra semester for one final full season of softball was "an easy choice." After graduation, the biology major is planning to attend medical school in the fall of 2021.

"I look forward to being able to finish out my college career with my sisters on and off the field. Personally, I hope to break the single season and career home run records as well as make it to over 100 career RBIs and hit over .300. Go big or go home," Gilreath said.

Gilreath, an infielder, currently has 78 career RBIs, and in 2020 she led the team with a career-high batting average of .391, ranking her 6th in the Big South.

Practices are now organized into smaller groups to avoid the whole team being close together constantly. Only four girls are allowed in the locker room to change at a time, and masks must be worn any time players are in close proximity to each other.

"If we come in for a huddle we have to stay 6 feet apart and mask up. It's very different but I'm grateful we still get to play," Gilreath said.

Gilreath's most memorable times at Winthrop actually happen off the field, like watching movies or eating with her teammates.

"I love that I got to experience this team in college. These girls will be my friends for life and they will be in my wedding," Gilreath said.

Westbrook's hectic internship and mounds of paperwork for her teaching certificate are definitely keeping her busy until the spring season, but luckily she still has her teammates to help her through it all.

"My teammates are very supportive and always ask how my day was at school and if I am still enjoying everything I am doing," Westbrook said.

A catcher and utility player for the Eagles, Westbrook's busy schedule leads her desperately awaiting her return to the field after not being able to finish the spring 2020 season.

"Softball has always been something that was an 'escape' from everything else going on in my life, and to think that this 'escape' wasn't going to be there for me was hard to grasp," Westbrook said.

Westbrook is ranked fourth on the team with a .329 batting average and is the 10th player in program history to reach 100 career RBIs. She also ranks in the top-10 of seven all-time categories with 3rd in slugging percentage, 6th in hit-by-pitch, 7th in RBI and home runs, 8th in doubles and 9th in on-base percentage and batting average.

"The thing I look forward to most is watching how well we are going to compete with each other and against the other teams. Our team chemistry this year is probably the best it has been in a while, and when we are on the field, we always are giving everything we have for the person beside us," Westbrook said.

Unlike her teammates, Watson was not planning to stay at Winthrop for fall 2020, let alone spring 2021. She already had her entrance into the police academy lined up, so she was determined not to go through another year for her bachelor's degree, so she was "finishing whether [she] liked it or not."

"I am working on my master's in social work which I never planned on getting. So now I will be looking for a graduate position after this spring to help coach and help to get my last year of master's paid for," Watson said.

Unfamiliar with the workload of a master's degree, Watson's assignments are also proving to be a new adjustment this semester.

"I have way more paper writing which I am not the best at, but I work hard at it," Watson said.

Watson's bachelor's in sociology with a concentration in criminology will give her a wide range of careers to choose from, so she "plans to get a job in a substance abuse center, addiction prevention, developmental disabilities, special investigations, or something with mental health."

With this year posing many new challenges, one thing that Watson is trying to do is keep up with her younger teammates.

"I have had three surgeries and I am the oldest player on the team, so I try to still beat the underclassmen and show them that even the oldies can hang," Watson said.

A pitcher on the team, Watson drove a career-high of 16 RBIs in 2019 over 37 games, and came close to matching that with 13 RBIs in just the 23 games of spring 2020.

One of Watson's best games in the short 2020 season was against Delaware State on Feb. 21 when she drove in a career-best of five runs and had her first multi-



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian  
in the Big South Conference," Watson said.

After beating Longwood in the first game of the Big South Championship two years ago, but ultimately coming up just short during Head Coach Windy Thees' first season at Winthrop, the Eagles are ready more than ever to bring home the championship.

homerun game of her career.

Approaching her final softball season, Watson is really looking forward to traveling to Miami, FL to play and to College Station, TX to compete against Texas A&M. Aside from winning the Big South Championship, Watson also hopes to take an SEC win.

"I have an ACC [win], now I need an SEC. A personal goal for me is to end the overall season with an era of 2.00 and to go undefeated

## Esports preparing for playoffs

After a rough start to the season, Winthrop's Rocket League team sets their sights on the playoffs

Alex Romano  
staff writer

Following a rough 2-2 record to start the season, the Winthrop Rocket League Team turned it around in the past few games, achieving a two-game win streak with victories against Penn State University and Ohio State University. These two wins brought the team much closer to having a successful season.

"We kinda got off to a rough start to this season, but it's always nice to win your games against teams that have big name recognition like that," said head coach Josh Sides.

Sides said the goal for the team is to make the playoffs, which after a rough start to the season means that they will have to win six out of the next eight games.

"We have a great group of guys and we've been practicing really hard the past couple of weeks trying to make this final push for playoffs. The guys are putting in a lot of time and effort to make sure we're ready for our matches the next couple of weeks," Sides said.

Although the team is on a win streak right now, this season does have its challenges in that not all the players competing on the team are on campus.

"One of the big things that we emphasize here at Winthrop is our culture, and a lot of that is being able to interact with each other. That's a lot harder to do when you have players who are remote. It has definitely impacted the ability for our teams to gel," Sides said.

In addition to some players competing off-campus, the fact



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian  
that some of them are first-year students poses a difficulty for the team as well.

"There's obviously something to be said about coming from high school to college, just in general. It's a big change. A lot of people struggle their freshman year, and then [when] you add a sport on top of that it makes things even more complex. The awesome thing about being in our second year as a team is that we have players that have been through it already and can help the new guys along," Sides said.

While Winthrop also competes in Valorant, League of Legends and Overwatch, there are no upcoming competitions for those teams at this time. "A lot of the competition for the fall semester happens early on in the semester so we're past competing with League of Legends," Sides said.

"We're hopeful that we can make the playoffs, make a big run, and make the CRL tournament. That's the big tournament for Collegiate Rocket League," Sides said.

To keep up with the team, follow the Winthrop Esports account on Twitch at twitch.tv/winthropesports. Games are held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

# Gregg Marshall: “A good dude”

*Torrell Martin speaks up for Gregg Marshall after recent allegations*

**Matthew Shealy**  
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From 1998 to 2007, Gregg Marshall served as head coach of the Winthrop University men’s basketball team. Guiding his players to seven NCAA Tournament appearances during a span of nine seasons, he had arguably become the greatest coach in Big South history by the time he left Winthrop in April 2007 to coach at Wichita State University.

In early October, reports published by The Athletic and Stadium revealed that Wichita State was internally investigating Marshall after current and former players at the school alleged he had been physically and verbally abusive.

Another report from The Athletic brought forth allegations from former Winthrop players as well, which stated that Marshall had teased a player about their mental health, told a player he would send them “back to Africa,” and put his hands on players on multiple occasions.

Torrell Martin, a Winthrop basketball alumnus, said he never experienced Marshall do anything out of the ordinary during their four years together.

“When I came [to Winthrop], me and Marshall developed a good relationship on and off the court – I used to babysit his kids,” Martin said. “I do believe that Marshall, the guy that I know, and his family all together were just great people, and they always brought the best out of everybody.”

Martin played at Winthrop from 2003 to 2007, scoring over 1,000 points and helping lead the Eagles to three Big South Tournament Championships and their first-ever NCAA Tournament victory in 2007 with a 74-64 upset over Notre Dame. He was inducted into the Winthrop Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016 after having played eight years of basketball at the professional level in Europe.

“Of all the coaches that I’ve had – after leaving college and going pro – [Marshall] might be one of the more milder coaches I’ve encountered, because these coaches in different countries are a whole [other] level,” Martin said.

While Martin described Marshall’s coaching tactics as “unorthodox,” he said he never heard him use racist or sexist language as other former players

have alleged. He also said he never experienced Marshall physically abuse anyone while he was a student at Winthrop.

“Marshall would yell, but the only thing he did was, if we had any situation, we would get removed,” Martin said. “I remember one of our biggest situations, he just had an assistant coach get the player out of there. That was how it [was] handled when we were in any film session.

“Then on the basketball court, we ran. That was it. We ran, or you were dismissed. That’s all it was.”

Martin talked fondly of the locker room relationships at Winthrop and said he and his teammates were “a deep joking team.” He said the coaches were involved as well.

“We literally had jokes on all of the coaches, and it was based off of their attributes and how they were – how they talked, how they moved. That’s what we did for camaraderie,” Martin said.

“We all did things to be a family...my dad prayed for us in [a] group before games. Our vibe was different. I can’t vouch for how folks [are] moving now, but how we were, it was just a different thing. And that’s why we won three of them things back-to-back-to-back.”

Martin said that some things that are a problem today were “not even close to an issue back then” because of the style of guys that he and his teammates were. He also said he related to Marshall’s intensity.

“I think when you’re a naturally aggressive type of person, it’s easy to pin a certain type of way on you,” Martin said. “But when you’ve had success and you’re already a naturally aggressive person like a lot of the young Black males [on the team] are, it’s kinda like, listen, there’s a lot worse out here in these streets. We’re happy to be here and we want to win.”

“Ultimately, Marshall’s a little older and I think maybe the era that we had was just different from this era, and everybody experiences individual differences.”

Martin said his image of Marshall and Marshall’s family is “really good” because of the way they always treated him.

“Everybody’s personal experiences are their personal experiences, so I can’t really speak on [anything] but mine, and mine’s only been great.”



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

## Eagle of the week: Katie Weber

**Matthew Shealy**  
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Before taking up running, Katie Weber was a dancer. She danced for 13 years before giving it up her freshman year of high school to place her full focus on running.

From Columbia, Weber started running cross country in seventh grade. She attended Irmo High School, where she said she really enjoyed her running experience.

“One of my proudest accomplishments is, my sophomore year of high school I went to State as an individual,” Weber said.

Along with making it to the state meet, Weber received multiple academic awards in high school.

She said when she began considering running in college, she applied to a handful of schools and sent emails to coaches. While Anderson University was her number one choice for a while, she said she ultimately “fell in love” with Winthrop.

“I sent an email to Coach Paxton and I said that I was touring the school and wanted to meet to him. I gave him all my times and stuff and he met with me – that was right before my senior year.”

Last year as a freshman at Winthrop, Weber only got a taste of what it’s like to be a college athlete. After participating in cross country events last fall, Weber said she did not run indoor track, giving her a redshirt season for that event.

Weber said she was primed to have a really good outdoor track season when the coronavirus canceled the remaining spring events. However, her freshman year was not a waste.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

“I learned a lot of time management things,” Weber said. “It was difficult to balance running and school, and I have really high aspirations for myself academically. That’s one of my really big priorities.”

Now as a sophomore, Weber said she’s looking forward to improving as a runner.

“I want to do better and improve on what I did my freshman year,” Weber said. “I was really happy with it, but it wasn’t quite what I wanted, so I want to do better. And I just really want to run and have a season.”

Aside from running, Weber said she likes to read and go hiking. She doesn’t have much of a race-day routine, but an interesting thing about her is that she triple-knots her shoelaces before competitions, though she said it’s not because she’s had a shoe come off before.

“I’m just so worried that it will,” she said. “That’s one of my superstitions – I have to triple-knot my shoes.”

After college, Weber said she wants to go to school for physical therapy to get her doctorate.

“Maybe one day [I’ll] coach cross country and track in high school. I think that would be fun too, but that’s kind of all up in the air.”



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

# A&C the Johnsonian

November 4, 2020

## A cabaret of creativity

**Jeb Bartlett**  
staff writer

As theaters around the country remain closed due to COVID-19, with some productions moving fully online, the Winthrop University Musical Theatre Workshop intends to present eleven solo performances on the Johnson stage this month.

Many have had to adapt their plans due to COVID-19, and the Winthrop Musical Theatre Workshop is no exception.

“Initially we were going to do ‘Another Opening’, which was going to be a series of opening numbers from musicals and all that; but COVID happened. So instead, each of us in the class is actually putting on a solo cabaret performance,” said Allyson Baumgartner, a junior theatre performance major. “Each of us have completely crafted these shows by hand. We’ve written a script, we’ve created our own theme, a couple of us have actually created characters that they’ve based their whole shows on.”

For Baumgartner, creating her own show involved reflecting on personal struggles of always coming up just a little short.

“I am actually doing a show based on my performance in academic and arts arenas, and how a trend throughout my life has been just missing the mark of winning,” Baumgartner said. “My show really outlines my struggle with being second best, and how it’s taken its toll on me mentally; and how as of recently, as I’ve matured, I’ve kind of grown out of that and found happiness just where I am.”

Another student who will be performing their own show during the cabaret is Sebastian Sowell. Sowell’s show is entitled “The Golden

Token” and will chronicle their life following the theme of feeling like the “only one.”

“Tokenism is defined as kind of like the performative way of presenting diversity, when there’s not really diversity,” Sowell said. “So, in my life, as I explain it in the show, these various experiences I have with being the ‘token’ and being the only one, and how that has impacted me in a positive way and in a negative way; and basically how, through each year of college, I chose to view tokenism, and how I wanted to carry myself being the only one in a lot of spaces. As I proceeded into college, I realized that I don’t want to be alone, I don’t want to be that one person all of the time.”

For Baumgartner, being able to perform her show in-person and on the Johnson stage means a lot. “I think it’s really important – specifically I’m home this semester, so going on the mainstage is going to be a really emotional moment for me,” Baumgartner said. “It’s going to be a really incredible moment when I’m going to feel home again.”

Along with being able to perform onstage, Sowell was also excited by the opportunity to create a show of their own.

“I think it’s also important, with this project in particular, being able to create our own show and our own thing I think is really special, because we’re doing what we love but we’re also making it our own thing,” Sowell said.

The Winthrop Musical Theatre Workshop will be presenting the solo performances from Nov. 13-15. Although the in-person audience is by invitation only, performances will be live streamed for free.

*The Winthrop Musical Theatre Workshop will be presenting eleven solo performances of shows students have created themselves*



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

## Out of the frying pan and into the fire

*How Winthrop freshmen have been facing everyday stress*

**Emily Curry**  
staff writer

Nov. 4 is National Stress Awareness Day, a time to take a good look at how we are living our lives in a world that has seldom been as stressful as it is now. Stress is something that everyone, young or old, student or employee, has to deal with.

Sometimes, stress can be a good thing. It encourages us to complete assignments and other obligations we have to ourselves and to others. But if we’re not careful, stress can take control of our lives.

On college campuses across the country, including Winthrop University, students are just as susceptible to stress as ever, perhaps even more so as a result of COVID-19. The group that is likely the most susceptible are this year’s freshmen.

The high school class of 2020 had quite a rocky finish to the end of their high school careers. Many had to finish their senior years online. Proms were canceled, diplomas were sent in the mail and families and loved ones couldn’t attend graduations, if they were held at all.

College hasn’t started off so smoothly either. Orientations were held virtually, and the usual fairs and events that showcased everything campuses have to offer had to be moved online. Transitioning to a new environment while dealing with the effects of COVID-19 has not been easy.

According to Camryn Harsey, a freshman special education major, one of the more stressful differences between college and high school has been living at school. She believes that “having that separation between school and where you sleep and where you hang out is necessary.”

Another freshman, Steffan Mayrides, a dance education major, feels that his newfound freedom has caused a lot of stress. He explained that “my procrastination loves to kick in...with all this freedom, I think I’ll just do it later. I eventually will do it, but it stresses me out that I push it off to the side and I can’t get out of that loop.”

COVID-19 has added to this stress in many ways, whether it be the concern that Winthrop’s campus might see some spreading as more students start coming back, or just the way it has caused many classes to be held virtually rather than in-person. ▶ see Fire pg. 9

## Which Chris is the worst?

**Allison Reynolds**  
staff writer

A recent poll on the internet concluded that between the four Hollywood Chrises (Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Chris Pine, and Chris Pratt), Chris Pratt is the worst one. Why was he voted as the worst Chris?

Many people voted Pratt as the worst Chris because of the fact that he attends Hillsong, a church known for being anti-LGBTQ+. Pratt is also known for being Republican and a Donald Trump supporter.

Another reason why people have seen Pratt as the worst Chris is because he was absent from a recent “Avengers” reunion to raise funds for Joe Biden’s campaign. People are mad at Pratt for not being at the reunion because he is not being politically active.

Pratt was also voted as the worst Chris because of how he compares to the other Hollywood Chrises. Evans has stated that he is pro-LGBTQ+ and for Roe v. Wade. In an interview with Playboy in 2012, Evans said, “It’s insane that civil rights are being denied people in this day and age. It’s embarrassing, and it’s heart-breaking. It goes without saying that I’m completely in support of gay marriage. In 10 years we’ll be

ashamed that this was an issue.”

In April 2020, Hemsworth began offering free guided meditation on his app, Centr, specifically for kids struggling with anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many actors and directors, specifically those that work in the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies, have rushed to support Pratt when he was voted as the worst Chris. Mark Ruffalo (Bruce Banner/the Hulk), Zoe Saldana (Gamora), Robert Downey Jr. (Tony Stark/Iron Man), Karen Gillan (Nebula), James Gunn (director of the Guardians of the Galaxy movies) and Anthony and James Russo (directors of multiple MCU films such as “Infinity War” and “Endgame”) have all come forward in support of Pratt. However, these people are under fire with Pratt. Why?

Fans are upset because there was no uproar when those such as Brie Larson (Carol Danvers/Captain Marvel), Tessa Thompson (Valkyrie), Zendaya (MJ), Anthony Mackie (Sam Wilson/Falcon) and Elizabeth Olsen (Wanda Maximoff/Scarlet Witch) were being harassed on the internet. Many of them were harassed on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. The only person who came in support of these actors was Don Cheadle (James Rhodes/War Machine).

Even though Pratt is receiving support from some of his fellow co-stars from the MCU universe, it’s not necessarily playing in his favor.

Downey’s support is being questioned because of a picture that the actor posted on Instagram defending Pratt. Fans believe that Downey edited fellow Marvel actor Tom Holland (Peter Parker/Spider-Man) out of the picture. In other pictures/videos from the set of “Avengers: Infinity War”, Holland is standing in between Downey and Pratt. However, in the one that Downey posted on Instagram, it’s just him and Pratt.

Saldana’s support is also being questioned because of a movie the actress did in 2016. The film titled “Nina” is a biopic about Nina Simone, a singer and civil rights activist. Saldana received criticism for this role because of the dark makeup, false teeth and prosthetic nose she wore to resemble Simone.

While Pratt was voted as the worst Hollywood Chris, it’s not necessarily a shocker. There are also several instances to back up the internet’s decision in making Pratt the worst Chris. Even though Pratt is considered the worst Chris, this decision will probably not affect his career, especially with the MCU.

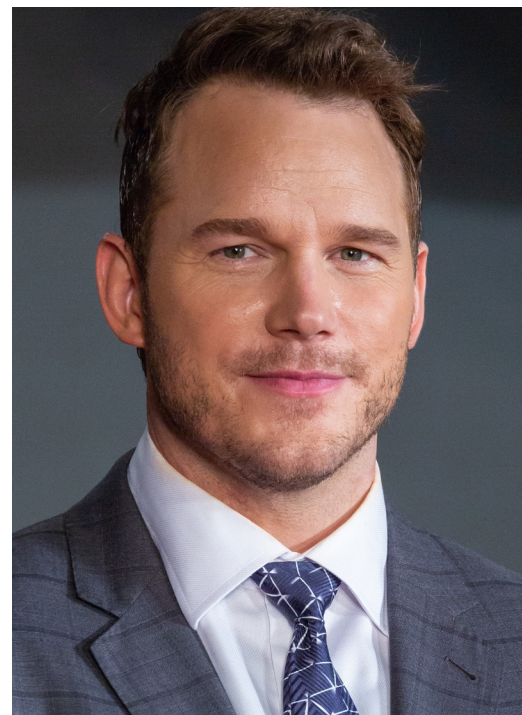
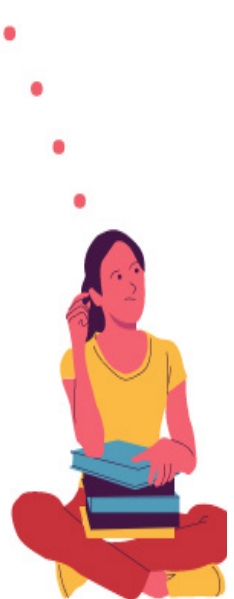


Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia





Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

# Artist Spotlight: TikTok talent takes the virtual stage

*Gabby Gonzalez continues to grow as the world of theatre is redefined by the pandemic*

**Chloe Wright**  
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For sophomore musical theatre major Gabriella “Gabby” Gonzalez, her career started with the song “Happy Birthday.”

Today, Gonzalez said she would describe herself as a “theatre nerd,” but she wasn’t always so passionate about the subject. Her interest in theatre came from her siblings, she said, who encouraged her to audition for her first show when she was in sixth grade.

“I went up and sang ‘Happy Birthday’ and I was cast in the boys ensemble of Guys and Dolls,” she said, laughing.

After that, her devotion to theatre grew. She attended a performing arts high school in Charlotte, North Carolina, “not even knowing you could go to college for theatre,” she said. She now continues studying musical theatre at Winthrop, but said she has also been “starting to branch out more” as an artist.

One of the ways that Gonzalez has seen recent success is through the app, TikTok. She has amassed 35.9 thousand followers on her account @gabriellam.gonzalez thus far and said she has been able to meet several of her musical idols through the platform.

Another opportunity she recently earned through the app was the chance to play the female lead role of Veronica Sawyer in a fully digital production of “Heathers: The Musical,” put on by Russo Richardson Productions.

“Heathers: The Musical is based on the movie [of the same name],” Gonzalez said. “It’s about this high school and there’s some classic mean girls...but there’s a little bit of a twist because there’s some death and some murder.”

Gonzalez said she started the audition process by submitting a video to their casting call through TikTok. Since then, she and the cast have been rehearsing through Zoom and individually recording each part of the show at home.

Before the show’s opening night on Oct. 30, Gonzalez said, “We aren’t really going to know what any of the songs are sounding like until the premiere because we have never gotten to sing any of them together.” This is just one of the many challenges that she said the show’s team faced during this process.

Gonzalez said one of the hard-



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

est parts of being in a virtual production like this is the fact that not everyone can be in the same room together. “We have to kind of relearn everything,” she said, “we’re out of our comfort zones.”

Beyond the trouble this makes in rehearsing the content of the show, she also said, “In theatre, one of the most fun things about being in a show is creating cast bonds,” but with cast members spread throughout several states and Canada, this has been somewhat of a challenge.

Fortunately, Gonzalez said social media, specifically TikTok, has made it possible for the cast to connect with each other and share in this experience of keeping theatre alive while traditional stages remain closed.

“I think the coolest part [of virtual theatre] is being able to be in a show with people from all

around,” Gonzalez said. “It’s really cool just to be able to do theatre with people from everywhere. Everyone kind of does theatre differently, so hearing people’s stories... is just so fulfilling because you’re like ‘Yeah...theatre is everywhere, entertainment is everywhere.’”

And theatre does continue to persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic as companies and performers like Gonzalez learn new skills, find new ways to perform and continue to grow with the changing industry.

“I’m holding onto the hope that theatre is going to come out stronger than it was before,” Gonzalez said. “I’ve just grown so much as a person with theatre and I don’t think that I would be where I am in life if I didn’t say, ‘Hey, let me be an apple seller,’ in sixth grade.”

◀ Fire from pg. 8

Isabella Fleischer, a freshman early childhood education major, explained how COVID-19 has made her life more stressful simply because of “the unknown of when everything will go back to somewhat normal.”

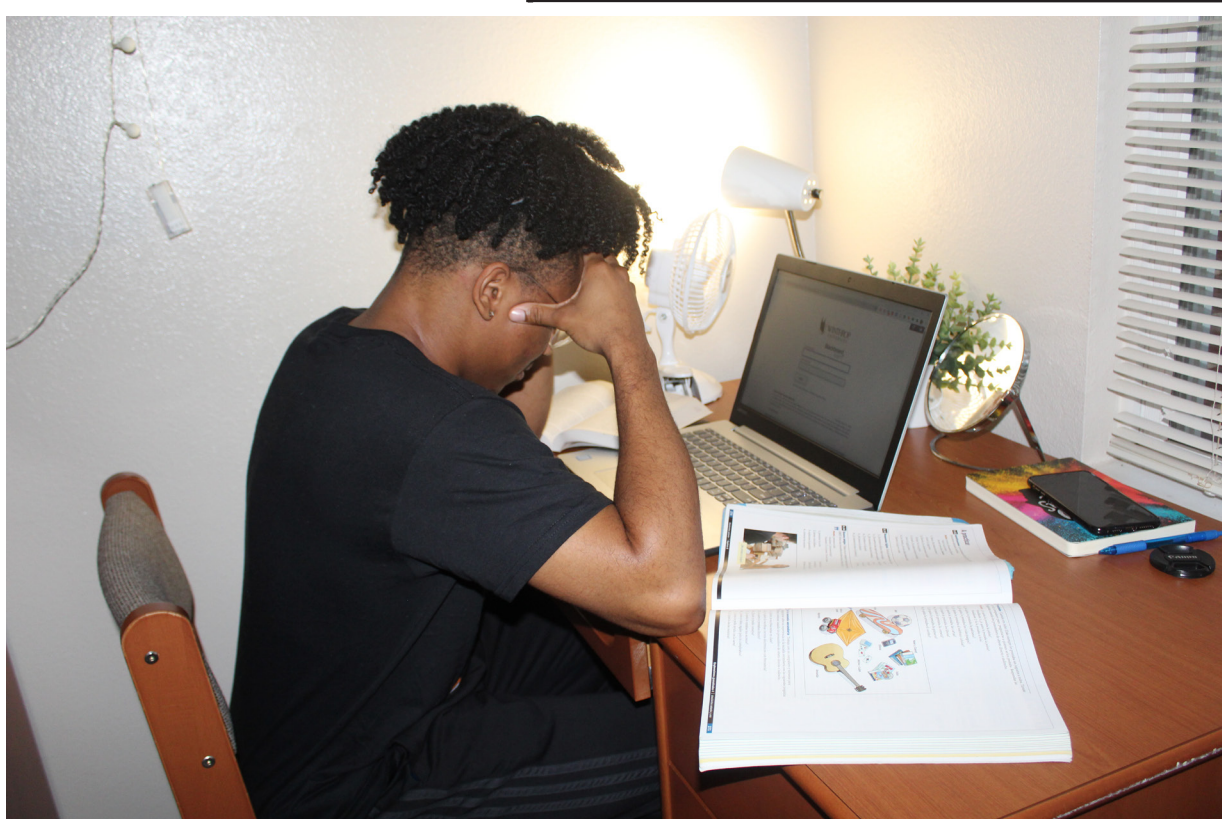
No matter how bad stress becomes, there are many techniques that can be used to help deal with it and make it work in your favor. For instance, Fleischer said that “a change of scenery helps me when I’m stressed out, leaving my room or leaving the apartment, and being outside is always helpful.”

It can be little things like leaving your workspace for a minute or two, getting a snack or taking a quick walk that can help clear your mind and put things into perspective.

Another strategy can be to plan out everything that needs to be done. Harsey said, “I try and plan my week at the beginning, and I use checklists,” and similarly, Mayrides said, “I make a mental list of everything I need done and when it’s due, because if I write it down it’s not going to work.” Everyone is different, so everyone will accommodate their stress in different ways.

But what’s most important is that we do accommodate stress. As awful as it may sometimes be, it’s just a part of human nature. If we don’t accommodate it, then it can become crippling and ruin the way we work.

So, consider using National Stress Awareness Day to take a deep breath, get some fresh air and remember that you can control your stress, and you’ll become much better for it.



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

November 4, 2020

## Win or lose, Jaime Harrison's "New South" may Record-smashing campaign shows promise for future democratic mobilization in South Carolina

Elijah Lyons  
staff writer

For the first time in almost two decades, a democratic challenger is neck-and-neck in the race for a South Carolina senate seat, threatening to knock down longtime Republican incumbent, Lindsey Graham. The Jaime Harrison campaign raked in a record-smashing \$57 million in fundraising from July to September, a fact that provides support for Harrison's vision of a "New South" being built.

South Carolina has traditionally been a straight-ticket, deep red state. A Democratic governor hasn't been elected since Jim Hodges in 1998, and election season after election season, the state elects Republican representatives and senators. Then, two years ago, South Carolina's first congressional district, encompassing much of the Charleston area, elected Democrat Joe Cunningham, signaling a shift in the appetite for Democratic representation.

I travelled to Columbia on Oct. 26 to attend Mr. Harrison's Midlands drive-in rally and concert. Gleaming sedans, trucks, and vans parked behind Jaime Harrison yard signs in a grassy field behind Charlie W. Johnson stadium at Benedict College. By the time I arrived, just thirty minutes after the gates opened and a whole hour before the event began, the field was almost full. Within twenty minutes, the lines of overflow vehicles were piling into every parking lot available, tuning their radios to 90.1 FM, where the event's sound was being broadcast to ensure all attendees could hear.

Despite strict Covid-19 safety guidelines requiring attendees to remain in their vehicles save for a bathroom break, the event felt energetic and welcoming.

Masked Harrison volunteers of all colors, shapes, and sizes mulled about, offering swag and chatting with attendees through their open car windows. Charleston native Charlamagne the God emceed the event and a number of Black South Carolina council members and representatives gave speeches, including Columbia Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin. The event also featured performances by a gospel group and concluded with a performance by award-winning rapper Common.

Though night had fallen by the time Jaime Harrison took the stage, attendees were far from tired, as a trumpeting chorus of car horns serenaded his much-anticipated entrance.

"My friends, things are changing in South Carolina. The winds of change are blowing and they are blowing through South Carolina," he said, "and that is why on November 3 there's going to be a lot of people shocked."

Harrison acknowledged that many voters will rightly be fixated on the results of the presidential election.

"But my friends," he said, "The real story of Nov. 3 is... Oh my God, what happened to Lindsey Graham?"

Harrison spoke a bit about his background, a story of working-class struggle that must feel familiar to many South Carolinians. He was born to a teen mom, just 15 years old, and was raised by his grandparents, neither of whom had an education past the eighth grade.

"They didn't have a whole lot of education and they didn't have a whole lot of money, but they were rich," he said. "They were rich in terms of their values. They taught me the value of working hard and they taught me the value of helping other people."

Harrison spent a good deal of time attempting to draw a dis-

inction between his own character and that of Lindsey Graham.

"It seems like our senator doesn't understand the dignity of hard work. Because instead of working hard for South Carolina, he goes golfing with the President," he said. "Lindsey Graham hasn't had a town hall in South Carolina in over three years."

With that, Harrison touched on the historical significance of his campaign, and furthermore, his intentions to make history.

"This was the seat of Strom Thurmond. This was the seat of John C. Calhoun. This was the seat of Ben 'Pitchfork' Tillman." Harrison said. "South Carolina will become the very first state in history to have two African-American senators serving at the same time."

The legacy held within that particular senate seat is bound by the chains of oppression and stained by the mark of those segregationists that came before, but Harrison has worked and campaigned to present a path forward for his community.

"We are going to close the book on the Old South, and write a brand new book called the New South," he said. "A New South that is bold. A New South that is diverse. A New South that is inclusive."

Jaime Harrison may very well lose his senate race against Lindsey Graham. In fact, by the time you read this, the election will already have been decided. But all may not be lost, and the promise of the Harrison campaign will still remain. The waves of democratic energization will continue to ripple across the lowcountry, up through the sandhills and to the highest peaks of the Appalachia, all whilst incessantly lapping at our coastal shorelines until election season rolls around once again.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Despite denying gay people the acceptance of basic human rights, Tobin has a point. Francis' quote is fairly unclear. Reportedly, the footage used in the documentary was from a 2019 Televisa interview which aired without the portion of the interview where Francis speaks on civil-unions, according to Paul Elie of the New Yorker.

However, it is important to note that there is a sentence left out of the interview where Francis, after endorsing civil-unions, says, "That does not mean approving of homosexual acts, not in the least."

► see [Pope Francis](#) pg. 11



## Pope Francis' Endorsement of Same-Sex Civil-Unions

*In a new film Pope Francis is seen seemingly endorsing same sex-civil-unions, but does this mean change in the church platform is imminent?*

Jeb Bartlett  
staff writer

In the new documentary "Francesco," which premiered at the Rome Film Festival near the end of October, Pope Francis is seen seemingly endorsing same-sex civil-unions publicly for the first time during his papacy.

During a press conference in 2013, Francis, responding to a question about whether there was "gay lobby" in the Vatican, said, "If someone is gay and is searching for the Lord and has a good will, then who am I to judge him?" This quote, coming only four months into his pontiff, was received as somewhat progressive in comparison to Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, who, in a 2005 document, said men with "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" shouldn't be priests. Francis has instead taken the stance that gay clergymen should be forgiven, and their

"sins" forgotten.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, before becoming Pope Francis, served as Archbishop Buenos Aires where he publicly urged other bishops to lobby for same-sex civil-unions.

Now, Francis has again made seemingly supportive comments about same-sex civil-unions, this time in the form of a 2019 interview clip seen in the new documentary "Francesco," a film following people whose lives have been directly impacted by the Pope. "Homosexual people have a right to be in the family. They are children of God," said Francis. "They have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out of the family or made miserable over this. What we have to make is a law of civil coexistence, for they have the right to be legally covered. I stood up for that."

Francis' statements were

received fairly positively, but based on his history, that was to be expected. "It's pretty consistent though with how he's been since he's been elected. He's very much fronting and bringing to the front what I would argue is one of the essential parts of Christianity and that's that God loves us just the way they are," Thomas Bolin, a St. Norbert Theology and Religion professor, told Fox 11 News.

In a post to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence website Thomas Tobin, a conservative bishop of Providence, Rhode Island, indicated that he feels Francis' statement needs clarification. "The Pope's statement clearly contradicts what has been the long-standing teaching of the Church about same-sex unions," Tobin said. "The Church cannot support the acceptance of objectively immoral relationships."



Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

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# Bias training during social distancing

## How does virtual learning impact bias training within the workplace/schools?

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

Unconscious bias training is designed to expose any implicit biases within a setting, to challenge how the people involved think, and to ultimately eliminate any potential discrimination.

Unconscious bias training has been used in settings such as office buildings, schools, and medical offices. The goal of these exercises is to ultimately erase any prejudices (race, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, etc.) that employees may have. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how businesses and schools are handling discrimination.

It is important for schools and the workplace to try eliminating any biases that may be lurking unchecked. Age, race, religion or any other category used to divide people does not determine their ability to work or learn, but unfortunately one's reputation can be hinged upon their identity. In many cases, qualified individuals of color may be passed up for a job because someone less qualified of a different race applied.

With virtual learning, teachers in particular are at an interesting point in bias training. Students of different ethnicities or students with "ethnic" sounding names may be discriminated against in a traditional school setting. Microaggressions based on a student's identity can be delivered by students and teachers alike, leading to ostracization and bullying. With virtual learning, these realities have both improved and regressed.

In a traditional classroom, teachers can physically see their students and associate a face with the work being produced. During virtual learning, however, everything is based on Internet connection and attending Zoom meetings. This discriminates against students who may not be able to



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

afford Internet access, or students without a steady place to work. Racially, teachers can discriminate against the name that they see attached to any work submitted.

Because these teachers cannot meet their students face to face, their own opinions cannot be formed. Everything is assumed based on information gathered from Zoom meetings and Blackboard submissions. Certain names may cause teachers to assume that a student is of a certain race/gender. Any biases the teacher holds against these groups may cause unfair grading.

In the workplace, employers can make these same assumptions. If someone holds prejudice against Latinx employees, for example,

they may be less likely to hire someone with a surname they perceive to be of Latinx origin. Someone with a name that strongly reflects their ethnic or religious background may be faced with stereotypes of how these groups perform in the workplace.

Bias training is something that is necessary for the modern workplace, especially in such a diverse nation as the United States. In an era of social justice and equity, it is imperative that employers teach their employees how to address and correct any bias they may see or personally hold. It not only creates a more inclusive workplace environment, but it gives employees life skills to carry on throughout their career.

Prejudice is something that is, quite frankly, outdated. In today's world, there is no room for racism and xenophobia. Today's workplace focuses on collaboration and innovation - even in the middle of a pandemic. How would discriminatory behavior coincide with these values?

away without having sources is because, "people are gullible and they don't do proper research. They just listen to what people tell them and just believe it."

Franchesca Ross, a sophomore psychology major, says that the reason that the candidates can get away with not having sources is, "that's what this country is built upon. Just straight cis-gendered white men saying whatever they want and then other white men agreeing with them." Ross also says it depends on whatever political party the candidate is in. "Democrats are always interrogated about where they got their information from, but Republicans are rarely ever asked about it."

Political candidates are not held to the same standards as college students in terms of having sources to back up what they're saying. College students cannot turn in an essay without including a works cited page, but presidential candidates can talk through a whole debate without evidence to back up what they are saying.

Those who are being considered to lead the country should not have the option to say things without providing evidence. America's leaders must be held to a higher standard than college students.



Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

### ◀ Pope-Francis from pg. 10

That cut sentence is incredibly important because it shows that despite Francis' position on same-sex civil-unions being one of acceptance, he, and the Catholic church, continue to view the way same-sex couples show affection in a negative light. This sentiment feels as if it undercuts his entire previous statement. While it's absolutely imperative for same-sex couples to continue to have their unions normalized by the world and church alike, approving only of their celibate union and not how they prefer to express their love is hardly close to anything resembling equality.

Hopefully Pope Francis' recent comments will help continue to normalize same-sex unions throughout the Catholic church and world, but there is still a long way to go in terms of fully gaining acceptance.

# Debating without sources

## Why are presidential candidates and college students not held equally accountable?

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

Often presidential candidates, especially during debates, have a tendency to make statements without providing proof.

College students cannot submit an essay without a works cited page, providing the professor with a list of sources where the student received their information. How is it possible that a college student is required to provide sources for an essay, but someone who may end up running the country doesn't have to provide source material?

Websites such as politifact.com and CNN.com have been fact checking assertions made by Donald Trump and Joe Biden throughout the 2020 presidential debates. During one of the debates, Trump said to Biden, "you are going to extinguish 180 million people with their private healthcare that they are very happy with. You're going to socialist medicine." This turned out to be false.

Biden's proposed healthcare plan calls for creating a public option, a government-run plan that would be available on the Affordable Care Act exchanges, and Biden has stated that he would not eliminate private insurance.

Trump also said to Biden, "you



Photos Courtesy of Wikimedia

did a crime bill. 1994. Where you called them super predators. African Americans. Super predators. And they've never forgotten it." This also turned out to be false.

It was Hillary Clinton who used the term 'super predators' in a 1996 speech she did in New Hampshire in support of Biden's 1994 crime bill. During one of the debates, Biden said, "Trump is going to be the first president of the United States to leave office having fewer jobs in his administration than when he became president." This turned out to be true. Since president Harry Truman, who left office in 1953, every president has added jobs.

The main reason why college students have to provide sources in

their essays is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's words and passing them off as your own. If a college student is caught committing plagiarism, they could be expelled from their university.

Plagiarism not only looks bad on the student's record, but also the university's. Having a student commit plagiarism on their campus discredits the university. A college student committing plagiarism can ruin their reputation. Not only can their reputation be ruined in terms of going to college or graduate school, it can also ruin their reputation in terms of their career.

Stefani Cabusora, a freshman biology major, says that the reason presidential candidates can get



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