

THE JOHNSONIAN



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Winthrop alumnae claim sexual assault investigations involving athletics department were mishandled

Trigger warning: mentions and describes stories of rape and sexual assault.

Evan Santiago
staff writer

Former student-athlete claims sexual assault investigation involving faculty member was mishandled

Former student-athlete Eleanor “Ellie” Marindin, 22, is speaking out about the alleged mishandling of her sexual assault case at Winthrop University.

Marindin, who claims to have been sexually harassed and assaulted by a faculty member, wrote in a blog post that the investigation led by the Office of Human Resources reached an unfair conclusion and failed to carry out appropriate disciplinary action against the faculty member in question.

Marindin, a former lacrosse player for the women’s lacrosse team at Winthrop, wrote a detailed account of various encounters involving a faculty member at Winthrop University. The encounters were featured in a blog post titled “The Power of Moments,” which was authored by Marindin and published in August of 2019.

During an interview with The Johnsonian, Marindin identified the faculty member in question as a faculty member within the Winthrop Department of Athletics. To avoid legal ramifications, The Johnsonian has opted not to publish the name of the accused faculty member.

A cease and desist letter on this article, which called for the determination of this story and was sent to The Johnsonian by the faculty member’s attorney, also identified the faculty member in question as the subject of the sexual misconduct investigation.

“After an extensive investigation, including interviews with multiple former and current student-athletes who had interacted and worked [with the accused] during his tenure at Winthrop, it was determined that there was no ‘sexual harassment/assault’ by [the accused] as had been alleged by Ms. Marindin and others,” the faculty member’s attorney wrote in the cease and desist letter.

The investigation found the faculty member innocent of Marindin’s allegations on the grounds that there was not enough evidence to prove his actions were of a sexual nature.

In official documents pertaining to the case, which were provided by Marindin, investigators concluded, “...the policy and law require that we must have evidence demonstrating a violation by a preponderance of the evidence. In the end, the evidence did not rise to that level, despite the fact we believed you were touched in an

undesirable manner.”

The faculty member in question is still employed by Winthrop University and has maintained his position within the athletics department.

Marindin claimed in an interview that the alleged sexual harassment began in November of 2018 after she went to see a team doctor at the Winthrop Coliseum for a concussion she incurred during a practice. Marindin says she was lying on a table in the training room when the faculty member came in and approached her with a towel meant to help block out light to her eyes.

Before leaving the room, Marindin says the accused faculty member stroked her leg and said, “Feel better, gorgeous.”

“Even in my delusional state, I knew this was mad weird and proceeded to text my house group

hug.”

After the alleged encounter with the accused faculty member, Marindin recovered from her concussion for the month of November and traveled home for winter break during the month of December.

When she returned to Rock Hill for the spring semester of 2019, the alleged harassment from the faculty member escalated to assault, Marindin said in the interview.

On Jan. 17, 2019, Marindin visited the Winthrop Coliseum with a peer to be seen by a female athletic trainer. While waiting alone in a separate room, the accused faculty member approached Marindin to greet her with what Marindin described in her interview as “an intimate hug.”

Marindin alleges that the contact became inappropriate when, during the hug, the faculty member’s hand

involving students,” Faust wrote in an email to The Johnsonian. “If the complaint involves both students and employees, the investigation is shared.”

Faust, who was appointed Title IX coordinator in 2012, says she oversees Title IX compliance across a multitude of aspects, including the compliance of Title IX within the athletics department at Winthrop.

“My responsibility is to ensure students and employees receive training related to Title IX, have policies and procedures in place to comply with federal law, that we provide support services, that we maintain multiple ways for students and employees to report violations, and that we investigate and take action when indicated,” Faust wrote. “I also oversee our efforts to comply with Title IX compliance in athletics.”

Marindin claims that her investigation, conducted by the Office of Human Resources, was primarily led by LeeAnn Pounds. According to the Winthrop University website, Pounds is employee relations manager. She is also listed as a Title IX investigator under “Reporting Options” for employees at Winthrop.

According to records pertaining to the case, Pounds conducted the investigation in her role as employee relations manager and not as a Title IX investigator.

Marindin claims that a Title IX investigation never took place. A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to Winthrop University for misconduct complaints made against the faculty member who was investigated was denied.

Despite the faculty member’s status as an employee of a public institution, the Office of Internal Audit and Compliance at Winthrop University cited S.C. Code § 30-4-40(2) as the reason for the denial, which states that the records we requested are “Information of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute unreasonable invasion of personal privacy.”

According to Faust, Winthrop University sees less than a dozen Title IX investigations a year.

“It really varies per year but we average less than 10 Title IX investigations per year,” Faust wrote.

Marindin claimed that Faust was aware of the incident report and recalls her sitting in on a meeting with Pounds and Marindin. Marindin said she was unaware of Faust’s position or duties as Title IX Coordinator. Marindin claims that this meeting was the only interaction she had with Faust throughout the course of the investigation into her alleged assault.

Faust has neither confirmed nor denied her presence at the meeting or whether or not she was aware of Marindin’s allegations at the time.

According to an investigation summary provided by Marindin, there was not enough evidence to

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Evan Santiago/The Johnsonian

Two former student-athletes are speaking about their experience with the university’s investigation process involving their sexual assault cases.

chat all about it,” Marindin wrote in her blog post about the alleged incident.

After being seen by the team doctor, Marindin attempted to make her way home when she claims to have seen the faculty member in question walking ahead of her in the parking lot.

In an attempt to avoid contact with him, Marindin says she stopped and pretended to look at her phone, hoping the tactic would create enough distance between herself and the faculty member. In an interview with The Johnsonian, Marindin says the attempt to avoid contact with him was unsuccessful.

Before parting ways, Marindin says the faculty member went in for a hug. She detailed the alleged incident in her blog post.

“I kept a wide berth from him [while we walked] and once at the top, crossed paths to get to my car,” Marindin wrote, “...but not without him pulling me in for an awkward, one-armed, and much-too-long

slid down her back and patted her buttocks twice. Marindin immediately turned to her peers for guidance, who advised her to report the incident.

Marindin reported the incident to her coach the same day.

“I made the call, the report was filed, and I was in a meeting with three of the most important people for the case by 2 o’clock that afternoon,” Marindin wrote in her blog post.

Marindin’s case was investigated by the Office of Human Resources at Winthrop University. According to Kimberly Faust, who is the vice president and chief of staff at Winthrop and also operates as the Title IX Coordinator, an investigation led by the Office of Human Resources is not uncommon.

“The Office of Human Resources, Diversity, and Wellness takes the lead in investigations involving employees. Student Affairs staff take the lead in investigations




 ◀ **Investigations** *from front*

charge the accused faculty member with misconduct. However, Pounds was made aware of “similar allegations” and several other instances where the same faculty member may have possibly exhibited inappropriate behavior with other female athletes.

The summary dated March 18, 2019, and signed by Pounds, also details that Pounds interviewed a number of coaches, staff and former student-athletes about the claims.

“Diligent efforts were dedicated in taking the necessary time to gather relevant information about your allegations, the similar allegations of your teammate you brought to our attention and the possible existence of similar conduct by [the faculty member] involving past Winthrop female student athletes,” Pounds wrote in the summary.

“...Yet the policy and law require that we must have evidence demonstrating a violation by a preponderance of the evidence. In the end, the evidence did not rise to that level, despite the fact we believed you were touched in an undesirable manner,” Pounds continued.

The summary mentions Winthrop University Director of Athletics, Ken Halpin, who played a role in reviewing Marindin’s case. Halpin also concluded that while the touching was undesired, there was not enough evidence to prove that a violation of the sexual misconduct policy occurred.

“Upon review of the investigation report and recommendations, the Athletic Director and Vice President, Dr. Ken Halpin has concluded that while there was undesired touching by [the faculty member] there was not a preponderance of evidence that the touching was of a sexual or intentional nature that violated Winthrop’s policy against sexual harassment,” the summary outlined.

Although the investigation was led by the Office of Human Resources, the summary explains that Marindin could have chosen to challenge the outcome by submitting an appeal to the Title IX Coordinator, Faust, within seven days of receiving the investigation conclusion.

Marindin did not submit a request to appeal the decision.

The same document states that the investigated faculty member was ordered to undergo counseling on appropriate boundaries to maintain with students.

“Despite the lack of a finding of a violation of Winthrop’s sexual harassment policy, [the faculty member] is being counseled about appropriate boundaries to be respected with student athletes

as far as acceptable locations of touching in social interactions and appropriate topics of conversations,” Pounds wrote.

The Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy for Winthrop University cites “intentional and undesired physical contact” and “comments about an individual’s physical appearance” as examples of sexual harassment.

The policy also states that “Non-consensual sexual contact is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by a man or a woman upon a man or a woman that is without consent and/or by force.”

The policy defines consent as needing to be “clear, knowing, and voluntary” and states that “the individual giving consent must be active, not passive.”

For Marindin, the investigative process took a toll on her mental and physical health. However, she says that speaking out, no matter the determination of officials, was important for her peers and for herself.

“My voice deserves to be heard, and it will be,” she wrote in her 2019 blog post. “Our voices matter, and if by speaking up I can help more voices be heard, then I will have accomplished what I hope to.”

“My voice deserves to be heard, and it will be. Our voices matter, and if by speaking up I can help more voices be heard, then I will have accomplished what I hope to.”

-Eleanor Marindin

Pounds and the faculty member in question have declined to offer comment on Marindin’s case.

Faust did not immediately respond to a request for comment on this investigation.

Marindin graduated from Winthrop University in May of 2020 and lives on the coast of North Carolina with her cat, Cheddar.

Victims of sexual misconduct at Winthrop University can explore reporting options by scheduling an appointment with the Office of Victims Assistance or by filing a report online. Victims have the option to complete the online form anonymously.

Former Winthrop student alleges mishandling of Title IX investigation into gang-rape involving student-athletes

Summer Phillips, a former student at Winthrop University,

says she was gang-raped by three student-athletes in February of 2017. Phillips, who claims she was incapacitated during her assault, says that Title IX investigators were negligent and mishandled the case.

In an interview with The Johnsonian, Phillips identified Title IX Coordinator Kimberly Faust and Assistant Dean of Students Miranda Knight as individuals involved in her investigation, among others.

“They [Faust and Knight] knew my story, they knew what I had just endured, and chose to look the other way,” Phillips said. “It just seemed the whole time as if they didn’t want the case to go anywhere.”

In documents given to The Johnsonian by Phillips, Knight is the only person listed as a Title IX investigator. However, in an email sent by Knight, Dr. Renae Myles, who works for the athletics department, was replaced by Employee Relations Manager and Title IX Investigator LeeAnn Pounds to assist in the investigation. This was done to avoid what Knight describes as a conflict of interest.

“Since Dr. Myles works for Athletics and the respondents are athletes, we really thought more about it and thought that to make

me for oral sex,” Phillips told investigators.

Phillips claims she woke up the next morning feeling sore and wearing just her shirt and her underwear which contained spots of blood. She was not fully aware that all three men had raped her until the morning after the incident when one of them asked her if she was actively using contraceptives.

“The only thing I remember him saying as he walked [out of the house] with me was ‘We wanted to ask you last night, but we didn’t want you to be angry, are you on birth control?’ I said yes and went home,” Phillips wrote.

Phillips stayed in contact with one of the men throughout the day via text message as she attempted to piece together what happened.

“Throughout the day he would reply and he confirmed that all three did have sex with me, and no one used protection,” she wrote in her statement.

Phillips reported the incident five days later, on March 1, 2017. Phillips met with Knight and Myles for a Title IX investigative interview on March 7, 2017.

Phillips says she felt as though priority was placed on protecting the three men who assaulted her instead of disciplining them.

“I don’t think they actually cared about me at all,” Phillips said. “I felt like their main priority was to protect these guys.”

Phillips also claims that investigators placed pressure on her to prove how much she drank the night of her assault.

“They wanted to bring in a specialist to confirm I was actually drunk,” Phillips said in an interview. “Miranda [Knight] asked me to go to the gas station and take a picture of what I drank. It just all seemed so doubtful.”

In an email obtained by The Johnsonian, Knight wrote to Phillips on March 27, 2017, to request photographic documentation of what she drank the night of her assault.

“Is there any way you can either bring me the empty bottle of Mad Dog that you drank or send me a picture of it? I need to know what you had and the size that it was,” Knight wrote in the email.

“A lot of the time they were grilling me on what I drank,” Phillips said.

Documents from the initial Title IX interview conducted by Knight and Myles, who was later replaced by Pounds, cites 10 separate instances where Phillips’ drinking or incapacitation was mentioned, including a note that states, “Dean Knight asked Summer to rate her own capacitation—1 being not drunk, 10 being completely incapacitated (passing out or blacking out)—Summer said 9-10.”

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About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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IT struggles to fix campus internet connection issues

Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Students across campus have struggled with poor internet connection for the past two semesters, particularly Phelps residents

Bryn Smyth

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Internet connection across campus, particularly in Phelps Hall and The Courtyard, has been of poor quality for the past two semesters after the university lost its network engineer.

Students, particularly on-campus residents, have suffered from numerous internet connection-related inconveniences amidst online learning. It is likely the internet connection issues will continue for the rest of the semester as the Department of Computing and Information Technology awaits funding.

“Phelps has had a lot of trouble with their WiFi system. Phelps and The Courtyard have been two areas that have suffered a lot this entire academic year,” said Patrice Bruneau, assistant VP for computing and information technology.

“We’ve had hiccups once in a while, but it’s been stable. Most of the time, we don’t hear from Thomson or West Center or other places like that. We don’t hear from Lee Wicker that much anyway, and that’s the building right next to Phelps.”

The internet connectivity issues continue to plague residence halls largely due to the university’s lack of a network engineer.

“About a year ago, we lost our network engineer, and that’s the one person on campus that deals with network and WiFi and everything related to the network,” Bruneau said. “That was unfortunate, but that’s the way it is. We started the search, and we had selected someone, but unfortunately, it was the first week of March [also known as the start of the pandemic], and then the hiring freeze

happened.

“Unfortunately, even though we had selected someone, we were not able to hire a replacement. So, we’ve had to make do with some knowledge. We have one technician that knows enough to kind of do the first level of defense.”

Because the internet connectivity problems are most prevalent in the residence halls, students who live on campus often find themselves having to complete their schoolwork or attend their online classes in other parts of campus such as the library, West Center, DiGiorgio Campus Center or other academic buildings.

“The connectivity issues have been happening since last semester. It’s very inconvenient, especially when I log onto Zoom for classes. When I try to log on, the internet is either very slow, or I keep getting disconnected while in class. Now, I try to do all Zoom classes away from my room. I usually go to DiGS to get major work done,” said Tatianna Davis, a Phelps resident.

Due to the internet connectivity issues, some students find themselves returning home on the weekends in order to have reliable internet connection while working on assignments, which further detracts from their college experience, which has already taken a hit from the pandemic forcing many classes to be online.

“I have gone home almost every weekend this semester so that I don’t have to worry about a lack of [internet connection] while I complete my projects, which is yet another downside to this. It makes it even more difficult for me to make friends as a freshman when I’m gone all the time,

especially because I live two hours away from campus,” said Ainsley McCarthy, a Phelps resident.

The Department of Computing and Information Technology has put forth significant effort in operating smoothly while no longer having a network engineer, but there is a possibility that the internet connectivity issues will continue for the rest of the semester.

“I reached out to an external contractor and asked if they can help me because we don’t have anybody on campus anymore who can help, and there’s no sign of being allowed to replace them,” Bruneau said. “So they did come and fix a few things, and there were lots of problems last fall, and there are fewer problems this spring.

“We replaced some equipment based on the research from the external contractor, and we even asked them to do a total network assessment of the entire campus. So this is where they use their engineers, and they come on campus, and they put devices that monitor things, and they started in November and completed the assessment at the end of February.”

Upon completion of the campus-wide network assessment, multiple issues with the network were found, and it is very costly to address and fix each issue. But Bruneau is working on having these issues fixed as soon as possible.

“I had a meeting about the assessment last week, and we decided on three things to work on immediately,” Bruneau said. “One is the WiFi itself ... I believe that we will have funding to work on that.

“I don’t know what the cost is yet, but that’s where we are now ... I’m proposing to use the same process

and upgrade all the other buildings, and until I get the cost, I have no concrete information, but my plan would be to fix it this summer.

“And then when we get to the fall, and we will actually have good, reliable WiFi, hopefully, people will not have to work online, and so it will be less of a problem. But still, it’s very important to have a strong signal.”

Winthrop students who have been most affected by the internet connectivity issues have made multiple attempts to contact the IT department and have not heard back. However, the department is working on the situation.

“I have not had access to the WinthropSecure WiFi since the beginning of the semester. It simply won’t connect,” McCarthy said. “So, we have had to rely on the WinthropGuest WiFi instead, which is very unreliable.

“We have contacted IT many times, and they either do not respond or try to say that it’s fixed when it’s not. In order to get work done, we have to either use a hotspot — I had to get one specifically because of this — or go to DiGs during open hours.

“This has made it extremely difficult to complete work, especially proctored tests. Four out of five of my classes are held online right now. I know that other people in Phelps have had the same issue.”

The Department of Computing and Information Technology is hoping to have these internet connectivity issues resolved this summer so students can return to campus in the fall able to complete their work wherever they please on campus, including their dorm rooms.

Atlanta shooting at three spas leaves eight dead

Eight people died in three shootings at spas across the Atlanta metro area; many believe that the shootings were race-related

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Eight people, six of whom were Asian women, were killed in three shootings at spas near and in the Atlanta area on March 16.

Police officers initially discovered five people shot at a massage spa in Acworth, Georgia, about 30 miles north of Atlanta. Two victims were found dead at the scene, and two others died later at the hospital.

Less than an hour later, Atlanta police officers responded to another shooting at the Gold Massage Spa in Atlanta, Georgia, where three women were found dead. Moments later, officers received reports of a third shooting across the street at Aromatherapy Massage, where one person was found dead at the scene.

The suspect, a 21-year-old white male, was arrested and taken into custody later that night. A 9mm handgun was found inside of his vehicle.

Cherokee Co. Captain Jay Baker said that the suspect admitted to planning the shootings and claimed that he saw the spas as a “temptation that he wanted to eliminate” due to “sexual addiction.” The police captain went on, describing the suspect as “fed up and at the end of his rope” and said it was too early to determine if the attacks were racially or politically motivated.

Baker’s and other comments from Atlanta police officials have come under fire from civil rights groups and activists, who link the attack with the rise of anti-Asian American sentiment in the United States.

“Hypersexualization of Asian American women is part of the racism towards Asian Americans, and

to say that sexual addiction is an excuse or a reason to go on a mass killing rampage is ridiculous,” said Helen Zia, political activist and author, in an interview with “CBS This Morning.” “He’s going to take the word of a mass shooter, who happens to be white, against the lived experience of the Asian-American community.

“I couldn’t believe that a police captain was recounting the bad day that the killer had, without a shred of empathy for the really bad day that the eight victims and their families had and the incredible grief that the whole community is going through.

“And this is the kind of thing that makes people question law enforcement and whether they are really there for the people that they are supposed to be protecting.”

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif, has also said that she believes that the three Atlanta shootings were race-related.

“I do strongly believe that this is a hate crime,” Chu said. “This is a 21-year-old white male who chose, as his first victim, a business that was called Young’s Asian Massage. Then he drove for 27 miles to another spot where he hit two more Asian spas.

“If his only problem was sex addiction, then he could have had his choice in those 27 miles of any place that he could have gone to.”

Last month the nonprofit organization Stop AAPI Hate released its annual report that tracks discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and said that it has received over 3,000 firsthand reports of anti-Asian hate from across the country in the last year since March 2020, compared to the around 100 reports in previous years.

Police Blotter 03/10

A roundup of crime on campus

Sarah Hassler
staff writer

On March 10, Assistant Chief Yearata and Sergeant Geraldts had responded to 1029 Park Avenue Extension in reference to locating a suspect at his residence. This was so that the officers could serve the suspect with a previous arrest warrant for assault and battery (third degree) and a previous arrest warrant for assault and battery (second degree).

Upon arriving, the officers noted the overwhelming odor of marijuana coming from within the residence.

Yearata and Geraldts had Subject #1 exit the residence and take a seat on the front porch.

Due to the overwhelming odor of marijuana coming from the residence, that a search warrant for the residence could be compiled. Subject #1 then admitted to smoking marijuana earlier in the day. However, Subject #1 stated that he would not consent to a search of the residence by the officers.

Yearata then had Sergeant Sullivan respond to the scene in order to assist Geraldts with securing the residence. During this time, Yearata returned to the Winthrop University Police Department in order to document the incident and complete a search warrant for the residence and any

individuals on the property.

Yearata was advised that another roommate might be asleep inside. Yearata then conducted a sweep of the residence to make sure nobody was left inside. Upon doing so, he located two individuals, Other #1 and Other #2, asleep in the back-left bedroom.

While Yearata was conducting a sweep of the residence for individuals, he noted the following items in plain view: a tray with marijuana and rolled marijuana cigarettes on it, a plastic container with marijuana in it, a plastic baggie containing marijuana, a plastic baggie containing cocaine and a digital scale with marijuana residue on it.

Due to the amount and type of illegal narcotics located during the execution of the search warrant, Yearata contacted the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit (YCMDEU) and requested assistance from their agents. A short time later, YCMDEU arrived on the scene and assessed the situation and incident. During this time, YCMDEU and Geraldts discussed the situation with Subject #1, Subject #2, Other #1 and Other #2.

During the course of the investigation, officers requested voluntary permission to search the subject's

bedrooms. The subjects voluntarily consented to a search of their bedrooms.

Afterward, officers conducted another search throughout the residence and bedrooms. Besides some various drug paraphernalia, such as bongos containing marijuana residue and pipes containing marijuana residue, the officers noted numerous wax paper sheets spread throughout the residence that contained the remnants and residue of marijuana THC dabs. Subsequently, all items located within the residence were seized as evidence and transported back to the Winthrop University Police Department by Sullivan in order to be inventoried and placed into evidence for future court proceedings. During this secondary search, Subject #1 and Subject #2 made statements regarding being in possession and owning the various seized items, including the illegal narcotics.

Upon returning to the Winthrop University Police Department, Yearata, Sullivan and Geraldts photographed various items of evidentiary value and then placed them into evidence for future court proceedings.



Safe Passage Incorporated gains new executive director Adrienne Woods

Safe Passage Inc., fights for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence

Taylor Sallenger
staff writer

Safe Passage Inc. recently welcomed Adrienne Woods as executive director of the agency, which provides support to victims of abuse and violence.

The agency was established 25 years ago, and its mission statement is "Empower the survivor. Eliminate the abuse. Engage the community. Engender change."

Safe Passage fights for the rights of those affected by domestic violence, sexual abuse and child abuse. The agency educates people in identifying red flags in relationships that could eventually lead to abuse. They also provide emergency shelter, care and support for those affected by violence.

Woods was the regional attorney for the South Carolina Department of Social Services and worked as a child advocate for the Council of Children's Rights with the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law. As a native to the Carolinas, she received her law degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law.

Woods is admired by her colleagues,

who recognize her passion for helping and empowering those in need and giving a voice to survivors of abuse.

"Adrienne brings a wealth of experience to Safe Passage in staff development, legal work in advocating for children and vulnerable adults and collaboration with multiple agencies," said Judy Longshaw, board chair of Safe Passage and Winthrop's news and media services manager.

Winthrop students are comforted by the idea of someone like Woods serving the area in such a delicate manner. With some college campuses being a hub for sexual assault, knowing that there is an agency like Safe Passage with someone like Woods in charge provides students with much-needed comfort that there is a dedicated person who would be able to help them in abusive situations.

"I feel safer knowing that there is a person that knows the field and knows what they're doing. It is very comforting. If something were to happen to me or my family, I know that I'd be in good hands," said Destiny Middleton, a freshman psychology major.

Other Winthrop students are thankful for someone with so much experience and passion who dedicates their life to helping others, especially women, through such difficult experiences.

"It gives me hope that an educated woman gives her time and effort to help other women and their families through hard times. In the world that we are in, no one wants to help each other. Knowing that there is someone who is selfless enough to do that is amazing," said Aliya Busbee, a sophomore psychology major.

Rock Hill is lucky to have someone like Woods working in the area and serving the community in such a positive way. In a time where women are finally encouraged to get help for the abuse that they may have gone through in both the past and the present, it is important that there is an agency such as Safe Passage present in the community.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, abuse or domestic violence, Safe Passage has a 24-hour hotline, (803) 329-2800.



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Eagles to find new nest at The Perch

Sean Miller
staff writer

Ground has been broken on an exciting new development near Winthrop that has been long in the making. The Perch will be a "22,000 square foot two-story building that's going to sit on the corner of Oakland and Cherry Road," said Andrea Walters, the marketing and leasing manager for the Warren Norman Company.

"It's going to be a multi-tenant building, and we anticipate that we'll have some restaurants and retailers on the first floor and then some office and other potential retail leases on the second floor. The redevelopment is also going to include the 5,000 square foot former Coca-Cola bottling plant building."

The name of the new development was decided upon by Winthrop professors

Jane Thomas and Stephanie Lawson, both of whom are professors in the College of Business Administration. After months of deliberation and student input, The Perch seemed to be a fitting name for the new buildings that would be frequented by Winthrop Eagles.

The project is scheduled to be wrapped up by January of 2022, pending any delays caused by bad weather or construction.

New development, in downtown Rock Hill is expected to be a trendy new area for students to enjoy

The Perch will likely become a popular venue for students to frequent and will host an array of activities for people to pass the time.

"The development will also feature an artificial turf outdoor games area with traditional lawn games and the ability to host live music and other exciting events," according to an announcement on the Warren Norman Company website.

Rock Hill, with its

proximity to Charlotte and its being home to Winthrop University, is an ever-growing city with plenty of new developments on the horizon. The Perch is one of the most prominent and attractive.

Winthrop students and Rock Hill residents alike are excited about the new development by the Warren Norman Company and anticipate that it will be a trendy addition to the community. Many are hoping that

it will be attractive to prospective students.

It sounds like a really cool idea and I think it will attract new people to the area. It'll be a fun spot to hang out with friends and do some shopping," said CJ Johnson, a junior music major.

The Perch is expected to be a hub for Rock Hill residents, visitors and students.

In the same document, investigators noted that assault was already taking a toll on Phillips.

“[Phillips] still feels like part of it is her fault for drinking so much,” the document states. “She told herself, ‘I did it to myself.’”

According to the Winthrop University Student Sexual Misconduct Policy Repository, the assessment of incapacitation is a normal procedure in investigations where drug use or alcohol consumption played a role in a policy violation.

During a Title IX investigation, the university says it considers three questions to determine if mutually established consent was confirmed before sexual activity took place: “Did the person initiating sexual activity knowingly incapacitate a person and then engage in sexual activity? Did the person initiating sexual activity know that their partner was incapacitated? And if not, Should a sober, reasonable person in the same situation have known that their partner was incapacitated?”

The repository states that if any of these questions can be answered in the affirmative, then “mutually established consent was absent.”

The interview document also states that during the week following her assault, Phillips missed most of her classes, stayed in her room and would constantly replay the incident in her head. The document notes that Phillips initially requested that her attackers be expelled from Winthrop.

“If Summer had the choice, the guys would be gone—expelled,” the document states.

However, a separate document obtained by The Johnsonian lays out a different course of disciplinary action to be made for the accused rapists in an alternative resolution.

According to the Policy Repository, “Alternative Resolutions” are pursued when an Investigator or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator believes alternate measures of disciplinary actions

should be explored. As defined by the Policy Repository, if the incident meets certain criteria and the reporting party agrees, an alternative resolution is implemented, and the investigation concludes.

The Repository cites “Whether the misconduct occurred while the reporting party was unconscious, physically helpless, or unaware that the prohibited conduct was occurring...” as an instance where alternative resolutions may be deemed appropriate.

Phillips eventually chose to pursue an alternative resolution rather than a university charge.

As a part of the agreement, each of the three athletes was ordered to make appointments with a local counselor in order to complete an assessment. In addition to several other stipulations listed in the agreement, each individual involved, including Phillips, was placed under a strict non-communicative mandate which prohibited in-person contact as well as contact through third-parties, call, text or social media.

The document states that Phillips would attend counseling at Winthrop University through Health and Counseling Services or through alternative counseling providers. The document also mentions that her counseling would “include an examination of her relationship with alcohol and other substance.”

Although the alternative resolution states that the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at the time, Bethany Marlowe, determined that a violation of the Student Conduct Code could have occurred, the document does not mention the suspension of the athletes from their respective teams or from Winthrop.

Knight declined to comment on claims from students who had negative experiences with the school’s investigative or reporting process.

Faust did not immediately respond to a request for comment on this investigation.

According to her Twitter account, Bethany Marlowe retired in August of 2019.

Phillips never graduated from Winthrop University and now lives on the West Coast. She speaks out for fellow survivors of rape through activism and by sharing her story. Her most recent Instagram bio reads, “I am choosing to use my own story of rape and healing to help others feel not so alone in this journey. And all the glory goes right to Jesus.”

Victims of sexual misconduct at Winthrop University can explore reporting options by scheduling an appointment with the Office of Victims Assistance or by filing a report online. Victims have the option to complete the online form anonymously.

Unreleased survey reveals sexual assault statistics and student perception of safety at Winthrop

A campus climate survey conducted in 2017, which was never publicly released, highlights statistics related to student perception of safety at Winthrop University.

The Johnsonian obtained the survey by filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the university.

In September of 2017, Winthrop enlisted 3rd Millennium, a third-party service provider that specializes in campus climate surveys, to measure levels of student perception of safety on campus. The results of the survey were never publicly published.

Kimberly Faust, who serves as the Vice President and Chief of Staff in the Office of President and the Title IX Coordinator for Winthrop, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on why the survey was never publicly released.

According to the survey, 64%

of respondents agreed with the statement: “College officials should do more to protect students from harm.” However, the survey also states that there is a positive perception of support provided to students who are “going through difficult times.”

The results of the survey also show that 35 students (2.86%) reported at least one instance of being touched by faculty and staff in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, while 14 students (1.2%) were threatened with retaliation for not being sexually cooperative and 15 students were offered better treatment if they were sexually cooperative.

The survey identified 130 student participants who described instances of sexual assault, but only 10 of them reported their assaults to Winthrop University authorities. Reasons for not reporting sexual assault to Winthrop authorities included “Didn’t feel important,” “Embarrassment and fear,” and “Didn’t want to get in trouble.”

Of these 130 students, 75 of them (57%), said these instances took place on campus, with the majority of them occurring in residence halls.

According to the survey, “51 students reported that they were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because they were passed out, drugged, drunk or incapacitated or asleep.”

The conclusion of the survey indicates that despite the low percentage of sexual assault reporting to Winthrop authorities, 82% of students who were involved with an investigation would still recommend the disciplinary process to other victims.

Victims of sexual misconduct at Winthrop University can explore reporting options by scheduling an appointment with the Office of Victims Assistance or by filing a report online. Victims have the option to complete the online form anonymously.

Winthrop University Office of Victims Assistance

Phone Number: 803.280.9467

Email: jacksoni@winthrop.edu

National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline

800.656.HOPE (4673)

Safe Passage Inc.

24 Hour Hotline: 803.329.2800

Toll Free: 800.659.0977

Administration: 803.329.3336

Fax: 803.329.3515

Email: staff@safepassagesc.org

Winthrop loses in first round

Success for Villanova leads to an early exit for the Eagles

Matthew Shealy
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The Winthrop men's basketball team came up short in its upset attempt last Friday, losing 73-63 against Villanova in the NCAA Tournament's Round of 64.

Entering the contest, the 12th-seeded Eagles were viewed as a team capable of beating a higher-seeded team, especially once they were paired with the 5th-seeded Villanova. The Wildcats, without their top guard Collin Gillespie (torn MCL), had lost their previous two games, including a first-round loss in the Big East Conference Tournament against eventual champion, Georgetown.

Earlier on Friday, several teams pulled off surprise wins, including 12th-seeded Oregon State (over 5th-seeded Tennessee), 15th-seeded Oral Roberts (over 2nd-seeded Ohio State), and just before Winthrop and Villanova tipped off at 10:10 p.m., 13th-seeded North Texas (over 4th-seeded

Purdue). North Texas' victory gave Winthrop fans even more hope for their team, because if the Eagles could get past Villanova, they'd be favored to beat the Mean Green in their next matchup and have a strong chance of making the Sweet 16.

However,

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the focus quickly shifted back to the Wildcats who jumped out to a 13-4 lead over the Eagles and held a 16-6 advantage with 13:46 to go in the first half.

The Eagles rallied back with a 16-5 run, including seven points from DJ Burns and 3-pointers from Kyle Zunic, Russell Jones Jr. and Adonis Arms, to take a 22-21 lead with six minutes left before halftime.

The score remained tight for the remainder of the half as the teams exchanged leads and combined to make nine of their

last 15 shot attempts of the period. As a halfcourt heave from Winthrop's Josh Corbin clanked off the front of the rim, the buzzer sounded, and Villanova took a 34-33 lead into the

locker room.

While Winthrop managed to keep the score close, it never recaptured the lead in the second half, shooting just 27.6% from the field compared to the Wildcats' stellar 45%.

The Eagles also found themselves in foul trouble early, including Burns, who was disqualified after recording his fifth foul with 4:39 remaining and

through big-man Jeremiah Robinson-Earl.

Winthrop's Burns, Kelton Talford and Chase Claxton all took turns attempting to guard Robinson-Earl, but containing him proved to be a challenge. He truly did it all for the Wildcats, leading his team in points (22),

rebounds (11), and assists (six) while also recording three blocks and one steal.

Winthrop's Chandler Vaudrin

led the Eagles in rebounds (11) and assists (seven), and his nine points once again put him near a triple-double.

However, his five turnovers and 2-of-10 shooting performance were not enough to lead Winthrop to victory.

After the loss, several Winthrop

players took to Twitter to express their emotions.

"Gave it all I had for my guys. Appreciate the support from

everybody all season! This [is] only the beginning though, stay tuned," sophomore Chase Claxton tweeted.

"Thank you God for everything! Back to work," sophomore Russell Jones Jr. wrote.

"I'm not done. Trust me," tweeted redshirt senior

Adonis Arms, leaving room for speculation about a

potential return to Winthrop next year given that the NCAA has granted all rostered players this year an additional season of eligibility.

Winthrop finishes the season with a record of 23-2 and maintains just five losses in its last 48 games.

Michael Yelton/The Johnsonian

Records set at Track and Field Winthrop Spring Invitational

Lily Fremed
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The Eagles met under overcast skies to compete in the Track and Field Winthrop Spring Invitational against UNC Asheville, Gardner-Webb and Coker on Saturday, March 13. Winthrop finished strong, capturing six events and setting two school records with four individuals setting personal bests.

Three first-year collegiate athletes made notable contributions to the Winthrop men's team, with Austin Spencer coming in first for the 3,000m with a time of 8:58.64, Triston Morgan finishing third with a personal

record in the 400m and Jacob Furland taking second in the hammer throw with a school-record hurl of 56.08m. Furland also finished third in the discus throw with a 40.45m throw.

Graduate student Liv Paxton was the women's leader of the 3,000m with a time of 9:59.62 and was "pretty pleased" that she broke a school record previously earned by Jeanne Stroud in 2013.

Junior Olivia Esselman also ran the 3,000m, coming in third and setting a personal record time of 10:31.38.

As the season goes on, Paxton plans to shift her focus from the 3,000m and look towards setting records in the

5,000m, 10,000m, and possibly even the 1,500m races.

Going from cross country season directly to track, Paxton does not find the transition too difficult as she prefers track season racing.

"Training is different because we go from doing everything on the grass [or] golf course to everything on the track. I just have to focus on being a bit faster and focusing more on pace," Paxton said.

Another graduate student, Evan Hailes, took first place in the triple jump with a distance of 14.44m.

"Taking first was definitely a blessing because I worked hard during the off-season on mentally

preparing myself and getting faster and stronger. I'm just happy to get the opportunity to compete at a high level, and I'm planning on enjoying my last season to the fullest," Hailes said.

After graduation, Hailes plans on becoming a Language Assistant in the North American Language and Culture Assistants Program in Spain to teach English to children in grade school. Until then, he is focused on winning the conference meet in the triple jump after coming up just short with a second-place finish during the spring 2019 indoor season.

"Our coaching staff has done a great job of keeping us ready for

anything in the midst of uncertainty in our schedule. I'm proud of all my teammates that came back and have been working hard from day one when we didn't know if our season was even going to continue," Hailes said.

Three women placed in throwing field events for the Eagles, two of which also set personal records. Freshman Elizabeth Barnett placed third with a personal record of 3.04m in the pole vault, while Junior Bethany Wise set a personal record in the hammer throw with a toss of 41.88m.

Sophomore Libby Roush finished her first collegiate meet with a second-place discus throw of

41.17m and a seventh-place hammer throw with 41.42m.

"It felt amazing to have a discus back in my hand. I had been looking forward to throwing disc and hammer since last March, especially since our first outdoor meet was a week away before school turned virtual for the rest of the semester," Roush said.

Throwing discus since sixth grade, Roush will never tire of the event and knows "there is [still] a lot to improve on and more meets to show what [she is] capable of."

"The whole team has been preparing for over a year and working really hard so

▶ see Invitational pg. 7

Baseball back after pause

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After a pause of more than two weeks, the Winthrop baseball team returned to action this past weekend with a three-game series against the Longwood Lancers.

Following the team's loss to the University of South Carolina on March 2, Winthrop was scheduled to play a three-game series against High Point on March 5 and 6, but the games were

postponed.

Neither school gave reason for the postponement, but while Winthrop did not schedule a new opponent for the weekend, High Point hosted UNC Asheville on March 6 and 7.

Winthrop's next series (scheduled for March 12 and 13 against Gardner-Webb) was also postponed, as well as a single game against Campell that was scheduled for March 16, providing a reason to believe that COVID-19 could be a factor.

Director of Athletics Dr. Ken Halpin told The Johnsonian that

he could not speak about any medically-related information regarding to students due to HIPPA, but he assured us that the athletic department has been monitoring the situation and adhering to state guidelines while the team has not been playing games.

"[A]s a department we have been communicating daily with our team doctors as well as Student Health Services at

Winthrop and we have been complying with all policies and procedures set forth by the NCAA, the State of South Carolina, and all of our campus policies as well," Halpin said.

The Johnsonian reached out to the

coaching staff of the team but was told the matter was not something they were looking to discuss.

Two wins against Longwood over the weekend improved Winthrop's record to 5-6 on the season, and the Eagles will

look to win some more this Friday and Saturday with a three-game series versus USC Upstate. Games are scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on March 26 and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on March 27 at the Winthrop Ballpark.



Eagle of the week: Sidney Jenkins



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

Thirteen days after officially signing to run track and cross country for Winthrop University, Sidney Jenkins suffered a significant injury in her leg.

"I was at practice and I stepped weird, and all of a sudden I felt this shooting pain up my leg," she said.

At the time, Jenkins was a senior at Dreher High School in Columbia, South Carolina. She received a prognosis she didn't want to hear.

"I was told, 'You have to have surgery or you're not going to run again,'" she said.

Jenkins had torn the labrum in her hip, and the tear was caused by a bone impingement. She was told her recovery period would probably take 18 months to two years before she was feeling back to normal.

"I did physical therapy for probably a year, and about five or six months into that I started doing water therapy," Jenkins said.

She explained that she was able to get back to running with the use of an underwater treadmill. Along with the treadmill, there were cameras underwater that projected onto tv screens outside of the water, which allowed Jenkins to see her legs in motion.

Jenkins had never endured an injury before, though she had been running since she was in the third grade. When she was younger, she attended a half marathon that her aunt ran in, which at the time she thought was "the coolest thing ever." Still, it wasn't until high school that she started running truly because she wanted to.

"My freshman year of high school, my aunt passed away from cancer," Jenkins said. "She and I were very close, so that was kind of my way of coping with the loss, so I just focused on running."

When Jenkins arrived at Winthrop

in the fall of 2019, she was far enough into her rehabilitation to do fartlek-style exercises, running for short amounts of time with short breaks in between.

"So I finally started getting back into running and I was feeling good, and then I started to get really dizzy after I'd run, and then eventually it'd lead to me passing out sometimes while I was running."

After a few months, Jenkins visited a doctor who discovered that she had a heart condition known as POTS, which stands for postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome.

"Basically my blood pressure drops and my heart rate skyrockets to try to make up for it, and then I pass out," she said.

As if that weren't enough to deal with, Jenkins was recently diagnosed with narcolepsy, making her feel extra tired – particularly

after practices. However, she said with medication she is feeling much better.

Now in her second year at Winthrop, Jenkins is considered a redshirt freshman and is finally able to compete with her teammates. She described her first collegiate cross country race as a confidence booster, noting that she felt comfortable because she knew the course and had her family present to cheer her on.

"In high school I'd always set expectations for myself," she said. "But I just went in with no expectations and the goal was just to finish and really just take it in."

Jenkins said her teammates were a great support system during her recovery.

"When I was going through my stuff, it was really nice to have them – even during quarantine they would always check on me. And before I joined the team, they

Jenkins

would always check on me and just see how I was doing.

"When I was finally able to race, that was a cool experience because they had been with me the whole time, and I think they were probably just as excited as I was," she said.

Jenkins also said she enjoys running for Winthrop coach Ben Paxton, who has encouraged her ever since she called him and told him about her leg injury.

Jenkins said she was nervous of what Paxton might say when she told him about the injury, but

his message to her that day was fully supportive: "You're going to come back better and stronger than you've ever been."

"He's right," Jenkins said. "I feel better and stronger than I've ever felt."

Jenkins said she plans to continue running after college, and she'd also like to become a coach. She's currently majoring in exercise science, and is considering getting a doctorate in physical therapy.

◀ Invitational from pg. 6

now it's time to show what we can do," Roush said.

Lastly, sophomore Bautista Vivanco finished first in the 400m hurdles with a time of 56.08. An international student from Argentina, the invitational was not only Vivanco's first time representing Winthrop but his first-ever track and field meet in the United States.

Filled with nerves before he took to the track, Vivanco remembered his supporters, even those thousands of miles away, to help him remain calm and focused.

"Right then and there I can literally see my coaches and teammates who not only had helped and guided me in every practice throughout the year but will also

shout my name at the top of their lungs in each of the 400 meters of the race," Vivanco said.

Pumped with adrenaline "like watching a horror movie while on a roller coaster," Vivanco felt amazing and exhausted after completing his event.

"[I] felt as if every muscle in my body decided to ache at the same time. However,

once I recovered a little bit it was delightful as if all the training and effort I have been putting in just manifested itself and that really made me forget all the ache and pain. I was too happy to feel anything else," Vivanco said.

Vivanco compared track and field to ice cream.

"If you have too much of it too quickly, you might get a

cramp, like a brain freeze, and also, just like ice-cream, it has many flavors so I couldn't just stick with one event," Vivanco said.

He plans to run in both the 4x100m and the 4x400m relays, and possibly race in the 200m or 400m dash to avoid the strain on his ankles from hurdling.

"I am not just running for myself or

to simply beat other guys, but rather to represent my entire country along the way and to show everyone watching what an Argentinian lad is capable of," Vivanco said.

The Eagles will be back home for the Adidas Winthrop Invitational on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27.

March 24, 2021

Creative Writing Program to hold Creative Writing Showcase

Creative writing students will share their own works with an audience via Zoom on Mar. 25



Graphic Courtesy to Winthrop University Creative Writing Program

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

creative writing and educational studies, will be hosting the showcase via Zoom. “Last semester was the first time doing a virtual showcase and luckily there weren’t any technical issues. About forty people attended the event in the fall, so that was neat to see,” said Breitreutz.

So far, the number of student participants is unknown, but the event usually has seven or eight student participants. However, Melanie Clark, a junior art history major, will be participating by reading a fiction short story to the virtual audience.

“This is my first time sharing my work outside of a workshop setting or to my friends, so I’m a little nervous!” Clark said. “Even if I am a bit nervous, I’m excited to hear other students share their work and to share my own!”

Faith Rush, a graduate student in the English program here at Winthrop, is another student who will be

reading her work at the Creative Writing Showcase. “I will be reading a flash fiction piece, ‘Dead Curls,’ which explores the issues that black women face with natural hair,” Rush said. “My writing focused on exploring issues of race, so I am grateful for any chance to share my work with others.”

Ian Mueller, another graduate student a part of the English program, will be reading a flash fiction piece titled Unseeing. “I would prefer to read in front of a live audience rather than a virtual one but in the interest of the continued safety I’m fine with a virtual event,” Mueller said.

Thankfully, Winthrop University allows and encourages their students to express themselves in different and creative ways, while allowing other students to participate by watching and supporting their classmates.

“Student readings are so important

because they provide a space for young writers to connect with other writers and share their work,” Breitreutz shared. “It can be daunting to read your work to an audience, but it’s a great achievement as a writer. The community of creative writers here at Winthrop is so strong and we want to make sure their stories are heard!”

Due to possible interferences, the Creative Writing Showcase may be pushed to Apr. 5, but for right now, the Creative Writing Program hopes to present the showcase on the original announced date of Mar. 25. The event will be held via Zoom, and students can register to watch the event by visiting the Cultural Event Calendar on the Winthrop University webpage. Winthrop students and faculty should consider attending the event to support their classmates and their hard work.

Raya and the Last Dragon Review

Disney welcomes a Southeast Asian leading lady to their animated family

Emily Curry
staff writer

The following article has spoilers for the film, *Raya and the Last Dragon*. It has been over four years since we last got an original Disney animated feature film. While it was fun to catch up with fan-favorite characters in *Ralph Breaks the Internet* and *Frozen II*, sequels to *Wreck-It Ralph* and *Frozen* respectively, I have to admit, seeing *Raya and the Last Dragon*, a brand new story with all new characters, was like a breath of fresh air. Or perhaps, more appropriately, like a splash of fresh water.

Raya and the Last Dragon was one of the many movies affected by the pandemic. It was originally meant to be released in November of 2020, which is the usual slot for Disney’s animated movies. However, it was more than just the movie’s release that was affected by COVID-19. According to Jennifer Lee, the Chief Creative Officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios and director of the film, this was “the very first [film] to be produced at home. Over four hundred different homes at that.” Everything from animation to storyboarding to voice work was produced from the homes of the talented members of the Disney animation team.

Raya and the Last Dragon is a groundbreaking film in many ways. Firstly, it is the first Disney animated movie to draw inspiration from Southeast Asian culture and feature a Southeast Asian leading lady. *Raya* is voiced by the incredible Kelly Marie Tran, who you may know as Rose Tico from the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy. After *The Last Jedi*, there was a lot of backlash from the fans because of the character of Rose, and many directed their displeasure at the actress herself. In Tran’s words, this sent her “down a spiral of self-hate, into the darkest recesses of my mind, places where I tore myself apart, where I put their words above my own self-worth.” I, for one, am proud to see Tran emerge from

those ashes to become a literal Disney princess.

This movie also featured some of the most breathtaking animation that I have ever seen. In the 2016 film *Moana*, I was blown away by the beauty of the animated water, which, as the movie was inspired by Polynesia, there was a lot of. Water played an equally important part in this movie. The titular dragon, Sisu, the last dragon, is a water dragon. Most of the powers she gains throughout the movie have to do with water. Water is one of the forces that can repel this movie’s antagonistic force, the Druun. And at this point, Disney is just showing off how well they can animate water. Every river, lake, channel and drop was truly a work of art.

One of the other things that made this movie so wonderful was its main theme. *Raya*’s family has been guardians to a magical Dragon Gem that has protected their kingdom, Kumandra, for five hundred years against the Druun. But when it was created, instead of uniting the people, it divided them, as they all wanted the Gem. After the Gem breaks and the Druun return, *Raya* goes looking for the last dragon to rebuild it. However, what ultimately restores the Gem is *Raya*’s trust in the friends she has made from enemy clans, even her long-time enemy Namaari. The idea of unity was particularly poignant as we are in the midst of a pandemic that has divided many when it should have brought us together.

Raya and the Last Dragon is currently in theaters or available on Disney+ for an additional fee of \$29.99. I know I can’t speak for everyone, but I certainly think that *Raya* was worth the price and worth the wait.

Hollywood’s Effects on the Teenage Image

Jada Strong
staff writer

It is no secret that teen shows have an unrealistic portrayal of the teenage experience and what it’s like for a High School student. In shows such as *Pretty Little Liars*, *Gossip Girl* and *Riverdale*, they tell the story of teenagers involved in crazy scandals, solving crime mysteries, hooking up, and doing wild and illegal things but still getting away with it at the end. All while still being able to pass and attend their classes.

In reality, high school is a lot less thrilling and has a lot more homework. And even though no one is expecting high school to be as drama filled or unrealistic as *Riverdale* presents it as, it is mostly for the drama and it keeps us entertained as viewers. However, there are still negative connotations that may cause young viewers to think they have to look and dress a certain way.

“Hollywood sets children’s shows with adults who are well past college and gives the impression to

some children that this is what they’re supposed to look like. Of course, if you’re able to find the actor that you need and they happen to be older than you, do what you must, but most shows have the adults and teachers looking the same age,” sophomore computer science major, Josiah Mugabe says about how teenagers in these teen shows look nothing like real teenagers. Often, actors who are cast as teens in these shows range from their early to late twenties. Josiah suggests changing

the characters ages in the show. “If you’re going to get older actors, then selecting people who look their claimed age would be appreciated or find younger actors,” Josiah said.

Junior psychology major, Rebecca Causey notes the tone of how students act in teen shows is also an unrealistic portrayal of teens as well.

► see **Hollywood** pg. 9

◀ Hollywoods from pg. 8

“I definitely think the media presents unrealistic expectations for how teenagers should act. It makes them seem like they should behave more maturely than they actually should, making them rush into choices or activities that they may not actually be ready for.”

In many teenage t.v. shows they portray teenagers having sex, throwing wild parties, doing drugs, and getting into crazy schemes. Although activities like this aren't completely unheard of in high school, they are often glamorized in many of these shows. High school students are more often than not, inexperienced, and television shows can negatively portray that at that age, you can have it all figured out.

One suggestion that would probably work well is to set these teen drama shows in college. In college, more students are beginning their independence

for the first time while they're a little more grown, and more experienced. Also, viewers may relate to a college themed show more than a high school one.

“I think a college show would be really interesting, especially since college includes so many different people. I think there are not as many stereotypes for college students as there are for high school students. I probably would enjoy them more than teen shows because I could relate to them more now,” Rebecca said.

Josiah also shared the same sentiment, “I would like it more because it seems more appropriate. No high schooler should be dealing with murders and demons (speaking on the storylines of Riverdale.) and still have to manage normality. Or have their own speakeasy (once again Riverdale,) under their own name considering they don't even have their diploma.”

Happy Word Poetry Day



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Mari Pressley
staff writer

World Poetry Day is a day to celebrate not only poetry itself, but the incredible people who use their minds and voices to write such incredible words. World Poetry Day is celebrated on March 21st and was created during the 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. World Poetry Day was created “with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard,” according to en.unesco.org. Schools and other educational institutions from all over the world hold poetry contests as a way to celebrate.

Poetry is shared by people of all backgrounds. It does not matter the race, culture, ethnicity, gender, sex or sexual orientation of a person. Poetry is a way to connect with others who have experienced the same hardships. Poetry can also expand someone's mind about history and cultures different from their own.

Poetry is for children too! Not all poetry has to be serious. Some poems can make people laugh through clever wordplay. A great poet who does this is The Giving Tree Author, Shel Silverstein.

One way to celebrate World Poetry Day that does not involve looking up poets or poetry would be to write your own poem. You don't have to be the next William Shakespeare to write a poem. All you need is a pen and paper or laptop and an idea in mind.

However, if you would rather look up poets and their poetry, Here is a list of some my favorites: Edgar Allan Poe has always been one of my favorite poets. A good poem of his to look up that is rather popular would be The Raven. Another good poem would be She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron. Some more poem recommendations are, To This Day, by Shane Koyczan and When Love Arrives, by Phil Kaye. More poet recommendations are E.E. Cummings and Oscar Wilde. Also, a collection of Charles Bukowski poems entitled You get so alone at times that it just makes sense is one of my favorites.

If you would like some female poet recommendations in honor of Women's History Month, a few great ones would include Emily Dickinson, Pocket-Sized Feminism by Blythe

Baird, and I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. Rupi Kaur is my favorite poet and she has three poetry books currently available. Milk and Honey released in 2014, The Sun and Her Flowers released in 2017 and Home Body released in 2020.

While poetry is considered to be a dying art by some because of a world filled with technology, some would say that there are other ways to express one's feelings and hardships other than poetry. However, I would have to disagree. Poetry is written every day by all kinds of different people of different backgrounds. More people were probably inspired to write poetry during the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine as well.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Hollywood gives unrealistic expectations for teens today through their stories.

Why Dr. Larry Timbs Wrote A Memoir on His Time at Winthrop

Jada Strong
staff writer

Former Winthrop University professor, Dr. Larry Timbs has recently written a memoir about his time at Winthrop University, titled From The Beak of an Eagle. After achieving his Ph. D at the university of Iowa, he started working at Winthrop University in 1985 and taught mass communications while also being the advisor of The Johnsonian up until a year before his retirement in May 2012. After his retirement, Dr. Timbs continued to teach part time at Winthrop on and off until 2017.

Dr. Timbs loved being a journalist but decided that it wasn't what he wanted to do for the rest of his career. “I worked as a journalist for seven years, and I always used to say that you could only be in journalism for so long before you go and do something else. I always said that I didn't work seven years but fourteen years in journalism because that's how many hours I worked in a day. So that was wearing down on me. So I wanted to stay in it, but I needed less of that grind, so that's why I became a professor.”

Dr. Timbs speaks about working in

journalism. “I always used to say journalism is the second most important industry after ministry. You get a front row seat to history.”

In the memoir, Dr. Timbs dove into what his experience was at Winthrop and let readers see what the college experience was like from a professor's point of view. “A lot of things happened during my time at Winthrop, that I just thought I'd document.”

Dr. Timbs explained why he wanted to write a memoir about Winthrop. “I thought it might be an interest to people to just document what it was like

here at Winthrop.”

Dr. Timbs' book is filled with memories and exciting stories during his time at Winthrop. “I guess I didn't want some of those memories lost, we only have so much time on this earth. Things happen to us and we see things, some of those things are worth writing about. It's just some of the memories that impacted my life,” he said.

Early in the book, Dr. Timbs writes about how he was fired from his position as the revisor of the Johnsonian, after backing a student's choice to not change the wording in the book about the

pay of the professors here at Winthrop. “I kind of let it all hang out,” Dr. Timbs says writing about the truth on why he was let go. “A lot of things happen to people while they're employed at Winthrop that they don't want to talk about for whatever reason, nobody wants to make anyone mad or embarrass anybody. I'm done now, so I don't have that attachment, so I can speak more freely now.”

“I had some of the best students in the world, I'll never forget them.” Dr. Timbs mentions that his most sacred memories at Winthrop were those he spent with his stu-

dents. “I learned more from them than they probably learned from me. I hoped I touched their lives in some way. For me it was the students, it was always about the students.”

Dr. Timbs is currently retired living in Surfside Beach, South Carolina with his wife Patsy and their three pets: two dogs and a cat. You can read his book on Kindle now, which he's dedicated to his children, his grandchildren, and students at Winthrop.

March 24, 2021

SC hate crime bill — what wins, your religious freedom or my safety?

Wren Brooke
staff writer

On March 16, gay and transgender people were added back to the Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act, just five days after being removed. But in return, stalking, harassment and vandalism were removed from the bill — a roller coaster that has left many people concerned about the effectiveness of the law.

In order to understand the fear that the South Carolina LGBTQ+ community experienced for those five days, you need to understand a very little-known topic: gay panic defense.

To this day, until a law prohibiting the “gay panic defense” is passed, a person could

be murdered in cold blood, and the guilt undeniably proven. But if a person’s sexuality or gender identity is, or even could be, perceived as anything but heterosexual, the murderer can get, and in precedent has gotten, off scot-free.

The even lesser-known subcategory within the gay panic defense is the trans panic defense. Here are a few examples of times it was used:

In the Gwen Araujo homicide, three defendants were infuriated after realizing that the transgender teenager they’d had sex with had a penis. Araujo was subjected to “forced genital exposure” before she was brutally murdered by the three men. Two were convicted of sec-

ond-degree murder; one was convicted of voluntary manslaughter. None of them received additional time for committing a hate crime.

In the 2008 Angie Zapata homicide, her killer learned that she had a penis, to which she replied, “I’m all woman,” with a smile, which the defense argued was a “highly provoking act.” Despite beating her to death, Zapata’s murderer almost escaped conviction, and this was the first time the murder of a transgender person had ever been considered a hate crime.

In 2013, Islan Nettles was beaten to death after her

▶ see [SC](#) pg.11



Graphic Courtesy to Pixabay

Wellness days not so popular among students

The Johnsonian gets students’ opinions on the replacement spring break for this semester, wellness days

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Because of COVID-19, instead of having a spring break this semester, Winthrop University has given its students wellness days. This announcement was made in an email from university president George Hynd on Dec. 14, 2020.

In that email, Hynd said, “While we had sincerely hoped to preserve a week-long spring break in March, it is not in the community’s best interest to have a week off from classes in the middle of the semester. Our second adjustment then will be to forego the traditional spring break, and in doing so, reduce increased virus transmission that we have seen goes hand in hand with travel and tourism activities.”

The replacement wellness days have their fair share of pros and cons.

On the one hand, it is nice to have a day off in the middle of the week every once in a while. It’s nice to have that small break in the middle of a stressful week. However, most professors still assign work that is due on or immediately after these wellness days. So, in reality, this break is seen to some as a day without classes but still with the work.

Nekoda Moses, a freshman theatre performance major, said, “I think that we should’ve had an actual spring break. I don’t hate the wellness days outright, but I feel like we’ve been robbed of an actual mental health break.”

“A whole actual break would’ve been much more relaxing to just chill out and not have to worry, but the wellness days aren’t too terrible,” said Andy Jones, a freshman sociology major. “Though the wellness days kind of don’t

▶ see [Wellness](#) pg. 11

If frontline workers are heroes, why don’t they get paid like heroes?

Mary Hicks
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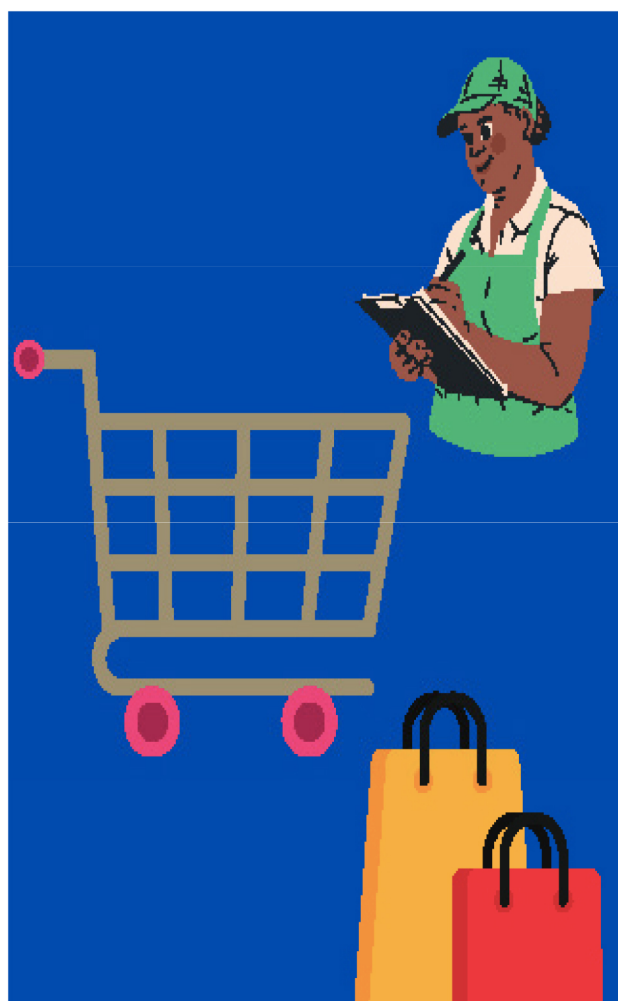
Frontline workers are heroes.’

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, that message has made its way into posters, TV advertisements and even billboards — yet frontline workers have seen almost no difference in pay. And though medical workers have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) by virtue of their industry, retail employees have not had that luxury.

Chances are you remember seeing some sort of message like ‘frontline workers are heroes’ by sometime around last summer or fall, in all likelihood being displayed by a parade or some other gathering that ironically defied social distancing rules.

However, companies have not changed their policies to reflect the image that they present to the public, and the number of frontline workers being paid extra is pitifully small.

To make matters worse, it isn’t for lack of trying on the part of essential workers. They have been vying and requesting fair compensation for



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

their risks, including notable strikes from huge groups of Amazon employees.

However, that kind of organized effort hasn’t stopped because of people being paid more — it’s stopped because they’ve been fired off in droves.

In a move not seen since monopoly and trust-busting laws were introduced, corporations such as Amazon and Walmart have taken a fairly brutal stance on their employees making

moves to unionize. Particularly when strikes have been attempted, they acted as though they were missing their shifts and let them go.

With competition for jobs at an all-time high, companies are under no pressure at all when it comes to refilling positions.

To make matters worse, workers have had to handle severely lackluster support from their employers in terms of PPE.

Up until this past fall, there were regu-

lar reports of medical workers being forced to reuse masks or using garbage bags to substitute for missing equipment. Retail workers, however, have largely been left to fend for themselves entirely.

The depressing thing about frontline workers not receiving additional pay for working during COVID-19 is that it is literally hazardous work.

According to the Department of Labor, “hazard pay means additional pay for performing hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship.” And physical hardship is considered “work duty that causes extreme physical discomfort and distress which is not adequately alleviated by protective devices.”

Sound familiar? Thought so.

You might recall how the CDC instructed that masks needed to be disposed of and not reused, and wonder what happened to that rule? Using and then throwing away a mask after going to the grocery store every once in a while doesn’t seem like a big deal, at least not until you also need a mask every time you go into work.

▶ see [Workers](#) pg. 11

◀ Wellness from pg. 10

work because we have classes the next day, and so we'd be spending our entire 'break day' working." Kerry Gareau, freshman musical theatre and political science major, said, "I feel like the wellness days should've been only on Mondays and Fridays because having them in the middle of the week for a lot of people throws off the entire week."

"These wellness days interrupt the instruction week and are not sufficient breaks when considering the amount of asynchronous classes that ask for a week's worth of work to be completed," said Owen Smith, a freshman music major.

Freshman musical theatre major Adrienne Prupis said, "The wellness days usually end up making many students even more stressed because they spend the whole day either doing classwork that's due the next day or worrying about

classwork that's due the next day, which is definitely not a mental break."

"I understand why they didn't want to give us a break off during COVID-19, but I feel that instead of just random days off, they could have set a week where classes could only give minimum homework so that the students weren't just using the wellness days as a day to just do work and they could actually have time to relax," said James Goodman, a freshman musical theatre major.

Every decision can't please everyone. Some students enjoy the wellness days, and some do not.

It seems that the majority does not enjoy them because the wellness days don't feel like an actual break. Hopefully, this time next year, COVID-19 will have come to an end in order for us to have a spring break.

◀ SC from pg. 10

murderer discovered she was transgender. Three days later, he turned himself in, but he was charged with neither murder nor a hate crime. Instead, Nettles' murderer was charged with manslaughter and given 12 years of jail time.

While it is exceedingly relieving that gay and trans people have been returned to the list of potential hate crimes, in return, it has been majorly watered down for fear of offending conservative religious groups.

As Columbia Democrat Rep. Beth Bernstein put it, "If a black church is desecrated with graffiti using the n-word, that would not be a hate crime," according to the current verbiage of the law.

While stalking and harassment may not sound as important, they constitute everything coming short of assault and battery.

So with the changes being made to the hate crimes act, here are some of the things that people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community can experience without it being considered a hate crime:

Being followed; in many cases, being verbally harassed or threatened in person, over a call or text; being the victim of bullying or cyberbullying; having their private lives intruded on, including nonconsenting photography; being caused mental or emotional stress without physical injury; targeted vandalism and/or property damage; and, being threatened or made to fear any of the above happening.

For years, stalking, in particular, has been a behavior that is incredibly threatening and, without outside intervention, very frequently results in someone being hurt, raped or killed.

Despite hundreds of cases where people reported their stalkers and then were later assaulted by their stalker, until the person in question commits some other crime, the police legally cannot take action in most cases.

The bill is yet to be ratified as an official SC law, and if not approved by April 10, it will be essentially impossible to pass.

◀ Workers from pg. 10

Consider this: a box of disposable masks is maybe \$10 now, but what if you are particularly at risk and have no other job prospects? Even now that the market has stabilized, N95 masks are \$2-5 each, which means that you would be dropping at least \$10 a week on PPE — let alone the horrific prices that masks reached due to price gouging.

When COVID-19 has reached a manageable level, and we return to 'normal,' don't let the 'heroes' be forgotten. Frontline workers risked their lives for free just so retail CEOs could take home a normal paycheck, and when this is over, they are going to need to be paid their dues.

'The Talk's lesson on racism

Sharon Osbourne and Sheryl Underwood have conversation with opposing views concerning racism



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

Many watch the show 'The Talk' because of their willingness to discuss numerous topics that concern politics, celebrity gossip and major issues in the country such as sexism and racism.

Each episode, the hosts converse about the various topics for that show, and each shares their opinions and thoughts. It is not often that the host finds themselves in a heated discussion.

On the Wednesday, March 10 episode, hosts Sharon Osbourne and Sheryl Underwood were the subjects of a heated discussion about racism and alleged racist remarks by Piers Morgan, an English broadcaster and journalist.

After the interview hosted by Oprah Winfrey with Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, Morgan shared on "Good Morning Britain" that he did not believe anything that Markle discussed in her interview.

However, a major topic that Markle and Harry discussed was the royal family's concerns about her then-unborn child's skin color. The couple shared that the fam-

ily was worried that Archie's skin may be darker due to Markle's ethnic background. Markle felt that this was racist of the family as they also did not want to provide security for the child nor give him the title of "prince."

On The 'Talk,' Morgan's comment was discussed, and Osbourne became extremely defensive toward Underwood as Underwood attempted to explain why Morgan's comments were racist and not okay to say.

Osbourne told Underwood, "Educate me, tell me," regarding the issue of racism and the comments Morgan made.

Osbourne's demand toward Underwood is problematic because Osbourne seemed not to want to believe or understand on her own the problem with her friend Morgan's comments.

Andreas Jackson, a senior exercise science major, said, "I believe that as a person of color, we are not obligated to inform others of history and acts that can be considered racist. I do not see a problem in asking friends that of color, 'What is the issue? or what can I do?'"

"However, in the scenario with Sharon

Osbourne, if one is to ask questions concerning racist, there has to be a better attitude of wanting to learn and become better, versus what happened which was defensive feelings of being attacked."

Just like any other topic, it is necessary that we continue to educate ourselves by reading articles, watching documentaries and acknowledging the injustice that is happening in our country today rather than relying on people of color to tell us the acts that are wrong and hurtful.

"I think it's important to educate ourselves so that we don't base our opinions off something that we heard that could be biased rather than coming up with an opinion that is completely our own," said Gary Newsome, a senior mass communication major.

Similarly, Jake Lane, a junior human nutrition major, said, "It is also important for people in positions of privilege to go out of their way to understand what other people are going through as opposed to just relying on headlines."

Since the episode of 'The Talk' aired, Underwood has talked on 'The Steve Har-

vey Show' about the incident and claimed that the conversation was "a blessing" because she was able to explain on national television why Morgan was wrong so that others can learn from him.

Underwood went on to explain that conversations like the one with Osbourne happen in private frequently for people of color, and she was happy that this educational conversation happened on the show.

Additionally, Osbourne released an apology on Twitter saying that she promised to "learn, listen and do better."

As for Morgan, he left "Good Morning Britain" and, as of March 20, still has not released a statement or apology.

The hope is that those who have watched this specific episode of 'The Talk' and were able to hear the reasoning from Underwood will understand the wrongness of Morgan and will begin, or continue, to educate themselves through their own research.

It is crucial that we continue to do this in order to stop the injustice and racism that has persisted for too long.

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