

# The Johnsonian

Here is some new content and a look back at the best headlines of 2021. Find our second issue of the semester on Jan. 19 for all new headlines and more!

Winthrop University

Wednesday January 12, 2022

Rock Hill, SC



Courtesy of WUPD

Phelps assault investigation still active



Graphic Courtesy to Maggie Claytor

Police Blotter - Dec. 3



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communication

Best sports stories of fall 2021



Courtesy of Mariana Beltran

Comic: An unexpected arrival



Visit mytjnow.com, to listen to our podcast, "On Air: The Johnsonian." Also on Spotify and other podcast platforms.

## Welcome back, WU students! Get to know The Johnsonian staff of spring 2022.



### Bryn Eddy

editor-in-chief

Bryn is a senior English major and humanities minor. Her professional passions are in local and investigative journalism. Kitties, doggies and classic literature permeate her personal life, and her mother calls her a real-life Rory Gilmore.



### Chase Duncan

managing editor

Chase is a senior mass comm major. He has talent in nearly every area of the newsroom, but he most enjoys writing about tales and traditions that show communities' personalities. One can usually find Chase book shopping or watching "Star Trek"



### Jessica Shealy

executive copy editor

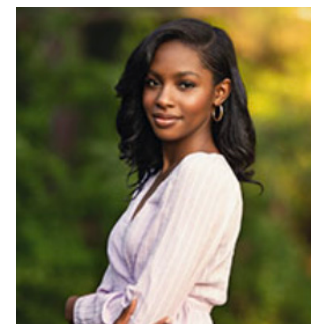
Jessica is a senior double majoring in English and political science. She has been on staff since her freshman year. Their interest in copy editing was first sparked when they noticed spelling errors in some of their copies of the Harry Potter books.



### Christian Smith

news editor

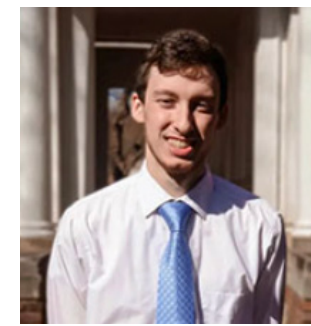
Christian is a senior mass comm major with a journalism interest and political science minor. On top of journalistic writing, he also enjoys writing fiction and playing tabletop games such as Dungeons and Dragons. This is his first year on staff.



### Mari Pressley

arts, culture & tech editor

Mari is a sophomore mass comm student minoring in film and content production. A fun fact is that, as a kid, she wanted to be a fashion designer. She has been a staff writer, assistant AC&T editor and news editor since joining staff as a freshman.



### Matthew Shealy

sports editor

Matthew is a senior mass comm major and coaching minor. He is a member of the Screamin' Eagles Pep Band, where he plays his alto saxophone and cheers for Winthrop's basketball teams at home games. Matthew has been on staff since he was a freshman.



### Autumn Hawkins

opinion editor

Autumn is a senior middle level education major with concentrations in English and social studies. This is their second year on staff. A fun fact about Autumn is that they aspire to be bilingual and have been studying Spanish for six years.



### Lyn Horton

podcast editor

Lyn is a senior English major with minors in creative writing and educational studies. With time-consuming aspirations to become a high school English teacher, Lyn still makes time for fun pastimes like roller skating and Dungeons and Dragons.



### Taylor Sallenger

social media/web and assistant news editor

Taylor is a senior political science major. She holds the most jobs of anyone on staff. She is in charge of The Johnsonian's social media accounts, the website and the national news section. Taylor adores reading and can read multiple books a week.



### Ben Keenan

ad manager

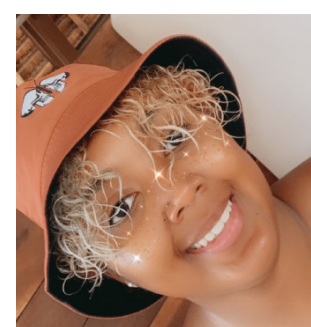
Ben is a sophomore computer science student who loves math and numbers. Ben's favorite thing about The Johnsonian is how it involves students in the school culture and allows their opinions to be heard. He manages ads for all of student publications.



### Alyssa Brooke

photographer

Alyssa is a senior theatre tech and design major with a minor in educational studies. She is a mixed media artist with a passion for nature, shiny things and cuddling with her cat Vyolette. Alyssa has been on staff before, but this is her first semester as a photographer.



### To'Mara Carmichael

photographer

To'Mara is a graduate student pursuing early childhood education with an undergraduate in psychology. She likes photography, painting, music, etc. A dream of hers is to become a traveling teacher in countries including Japan, Italy and India.



### Sarah Hassler

copy editor

Sarah is a senior English major. This is her second year on staff. Sarah is in charge of publishing police blotter information along with copy editing. An interesting fact about Sarah is that she likes to wear vintage clothes from the 1930s-1950s.



### Rebekah Maguire

copy editor

Rebekah is a freshman at Winthrop University. She describes herself as an avid reader, constant short story starter (but never finisher), and mediocre violin player. She is an English major and creative writing minor. This is her first semester on staff.



### Alyssa Robinson

copy editor

Alyssa is a junior political science major and legal studies minor. Her professional passions are centered around the dangers of capitalism and revolution against it. Her two cats, Doja Cat and Castiel, make all of her days bright.



### Amanda Light

copy editor

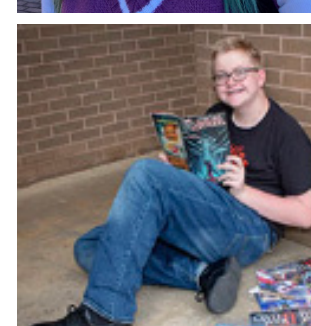
Amanda is a senior English major and a sociology minor. She spends her time reading, listening to any and all kinds of music, and dotting on her cat, Nala. This is Amanda's first semester on staff, and she hopes to continue her editing career after college.



### Marley Bassett

assistant news editor

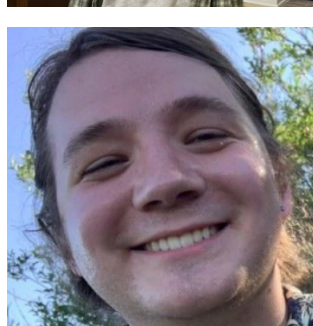
Marley is a freshman mass comm and political science major. A fun fact about her is that she reported on the Democratic debate in Charleston for her school's news show. This is Marley's first year on staff and one of only a few freshmen to be an editor.



### Gabe Corbin

assistant AC&T editor

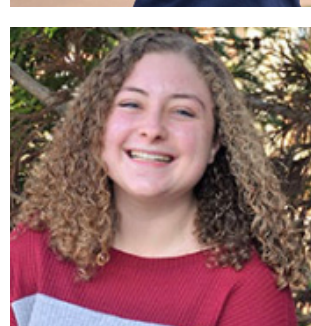
Gabe is a junior mass comm major and was a valued staff writer for The Johnsonian, so he was promoted to an editorial position. In his words, he likes writing about nerdy culture and events on campus. Gabe is also a huge fan of the Marvel universe.



### Ryan Lumbert

assistant AC&T editor

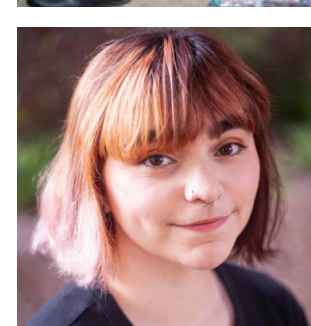
Ryan is a computer science and mathematics double major who enjoys exploring the ways that people interact with their environment and technology. In their spare time, you can find them hiking, reading or writing. This is their first semester on staff.



### Lily Fremed

assistant sports editor

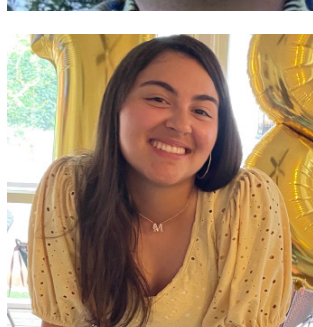
Lily is a junior early childhood education major from Simi Valley, California, where her parents and three cats still live. Lily also works on campus at the Macfeat Laboratory School and as a campus ambassador. She is also an avid member of Alpha Delta Pi.



### Scooter Mistretta

assistant podcast editor

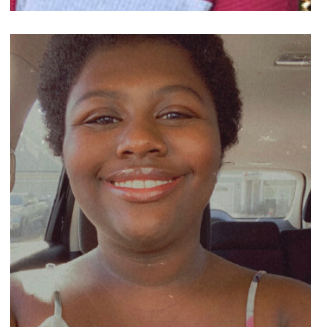
Scooter is a senior musical theatre major at Winthrop University. As a theatre person, they greatly enjoy talking about anything and everything, so they are very grateful to be able to work on the podcast, "On Air: The Johnsonian this semester."



### Mariana Beltran

cartoonist

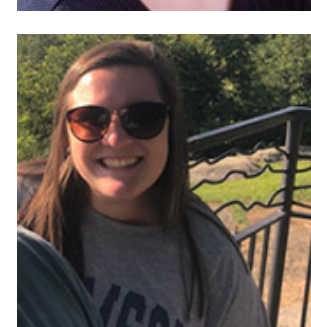
Mariana is a first-year illustration major and cartoonist for The Johnsonian. She loves to come up with stories and draw characters. Her current fascination is with the sea and medieval fantasy. She is also an avid Disney fan, and this is her first year on staff.



### Jada Strong

staff writer

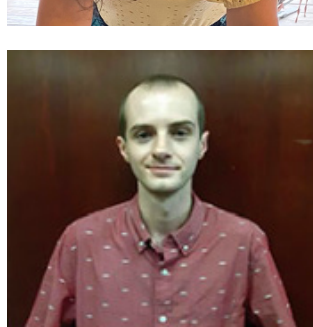
Jada is a sophomore English major, and this is her second year on The Johnsonian. During her free time, she enjoys creative writing and listening to music. Jada is a valued staff writer who has written multiple features and other stories for the paper.



### Sam Hyatt

staff writer

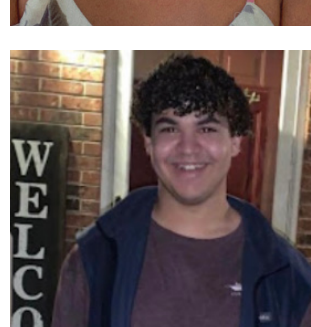
Sam is a graduate student in the English department. She also works in the Writing Center and is the editor-in-chief of The Anthology. Sam loves to read, and she keeps herself very busy. She has been on staff for one year as a staff writer.



### Spencer Horton

staff writer

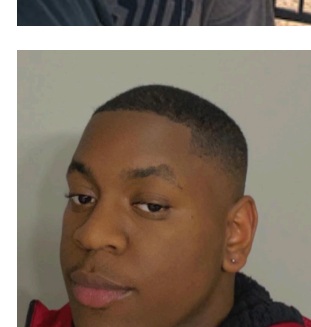
Spencer is a senior mass comm major, and this is his first year on staff. He enjoys writing of any kind, whether it be creative or journalistic. A fun fact about Spencer is that he plays bass for an indie rock band called Bluestone Motel.



### Devin Cherry

staff writer

Devin is a mass comm major and a film production minor. He is interested in cars, weather and the news. He enjoys taking long road trips and seeing new things. Devin wants to become a car journalist one day. This is his first semester on staff.



### Julius Demunn

staff writer

Julius is a junior integrated marketing communications major. After graduating from Winthrop, he wants to go into digital marketing and brand consulting to one day own his own company helping businesses grow themselves in different ways.



### Phelps Hall sexual assault investigation still active and ongoing

Examine photos of the assailant and report any pertinent information to Yearta. yeartac@winthrop.edu (803) 323 3499

BRYN EDDY, smythb@mytjnow.com

A Winthrop student was sexually assaulted in the morning hours of Nov. 16 in Phelps Hall and the investigation is still active and ongoing.

The Johnsonian contacted Yearta on Monday, Nov. 29 to inquire about any updates on the case to which Yearta responded, "Currently the case has developed several leads and we are continuing to follow these

leads down in order to advance the investigation. However, there is no new information that I can share out publicly. I would, however, continue to urge all individuals to remain vigilant, report any suspicious activity, and remind residents not to let individuals into the residence halls."

Yearta asked the Winthrop community for help in identifying the assailant in an email sent on Nov. 22.

"The assault took place on 11/16/2021 at approximately 10:00 hours. We do not believe the individual and her assailant knew each other. Through the investigation, we do not believe the suspect is affiliated with Winthrop University," Yearta wrote. "However, in order to continue the investigation and rule out all possibilities, we are asking you to review the below information and attached photos."



More photos at mytjnow.com

Provided by WUPD

WUPD also informed that at the time of the incident, the suspect was wearing a dark blue or black baseball hat with a small white in color logo, a primarily light blue Carolina Panthers jacket or sweatshirt (the shoulder area being dark blue in color), dark-colored (possibly grey) pants and black athletic shoes with white bottom trim.

Interim Director for Residence Life Howard Seidler hosted a Zoom meeting on Nov. 18, where Interim Dean of Students Anthony Davis, Assistant Director of Residence Life Julie Schrader, Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance Officer Kevin Sheppard, Yearta and other faculty members were present.

The meeting was

only open to Phelps residents due to a said desire to create a safe space for Phelps residents to voice their concerns and ask questions.

Information about the meeting for Phelps residents was provided by Managing Editor Chase Duncan who is a Phelps resident.

According to Yearta, all current evidence suggests that the suspect is not affiliated with the university.

Students were encouraged not to leave residence hall entryway doors open for people behind them, keep dormitory doors locked at all times and keep WUPD's number handy in case they witness any strange activity.

At this time, the investigation by WUPD is active and ongoing and the entire Winthrop community is

being asked to examine these photos provided by WUPD and alert WUPD should one recognize the man in the picture or have any information regarding the assault.

"The Winthrop University Police Department (WUPD) is requesting that you look through all of the attachments and closely examine them. If after looking at the attachments you believe you might know who the suspect is, please respond back to this email and advise me with a name and/or any other pertinent information," Yearta wrote in the email.

As of early January, there are still no updates available to the public on this case. Students are still encouraged to remain vigilant.



### Cultivate RH secures land deal walking distance from campus

Winthrop University adjunct professor co-founds non-profit to help local entrepreneurs get off the ground

CHRISTIAN SMITH, christians@mytjnow.com

Cultivate Rock Hill, a nonprofit organization which looks to provide a location and training to local entrepreneurs, signed a land deal with Freedom Temple Ministries and can now begin planning and building its restaurant and retail "incubator space." The site will be located on West White Street between Lee Street and Stuart Avenue.

The organization was founded by Charlotte Brown, adjunct professor of management and marketing and member of the Rock Hill Economic and Development Committee, and Brittany Kelly, owner of the Mercantile, to foster economic development in Rock Hill by offering an affordable location and training for local entrepreneurs to open unique businesses.

According to its website, "Cultivate RH will offer a 2 year program called S.E.E.D. (Supporting Entrepreneurs + Economic Development). In this program, entrepreneurs will learn all the necessary skills to open a business."

Kelly said the project is focused on diversity, with over 50% of the spaces leased out to people of color.

"That's one of our biggest hurdles that we want to make sure that we can figure out, because back when I was head on into the Black Lives Matter movement, I realized there were only two downtown businesses owned by Black people," Kelly said. "And it just, like, killed me. And we've just got to figure out: what is that? And I think, ultimately, it's the cost

of rent."

Rent will be intentionally kept low: \$500 a month for retail, \$1,000 a month for restaurants. After the two year S.E.E.D. program, the organization will help renters get a more permanent location in Rock Hill.

Brown, who received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Winthrop and is currently pursuing a doctorate in business administration at Northcentral University, said she went to Kelly with an idea for an entrepreneurship training program because she felt Winthrop's program wasn't doing enough.

"We have a culture of entrepreneurship in the city, but Winthrop's entrepreneurship program in my opinion needed some more work to it, like the entrepreneurship culture that's in the city and what exists at Winthrop don't match," Brown said.

Brown hopes the organization will be able to partner with Winthrop to provide new opportunities to students, such as sponsoring a shipping container space for a student who wins an entrepreneurship contest.

"With entrepreneurship students, if you don't have the funding, when you get finished, then you pretty much just have a business idea that's going nowhere, because funding is very hard to find. So if we're already on the front end, saying, if you win this competition, you can go into the space and grow your business there for two, three years," Brown said.

Kelly said she and Brown want this

location to be more than just a place of business, but also a community center.

"Not only is it going to just be an incubator for entrepreneurship, it's also going to be a community hub. So we have a fitness center in there. We have an EA Games Center in there. We have a community garden," Kelly said. "And then we want to be able to feature local bands, local groups. I mean, we just want this whole hub and sense of community."

The new location is being leased from Freedom Temple Ministries, a local "aggregation of multicultural believers," which Kelly said will be more than just a landlord for the organization.

"They will be our landlord in this, but also a little bit more. They want to be a part of this. They want to sponsor some of our entrepreneurs," Kelly said. "But we'll treat it just like a regular landlord lessee agreement. However, we just are thankful that they have a lot of the same visions, and they align with what we're trying to do, as well, in the community."

While they have to revisit the plans, and may have to change direction slightly due to the rising cost of shipping containers, get permits from the city and build the site, Kelly said she believes it will be built and ready by, at the latest, fall or winter 2022.



Courtesy of Brittany Kelly Cultivate Rock Hill's logo



# Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance Officer position opens to Kevin Sheppard Sr. - Nov. 3

## Students share their concerns about Sheppard and his background

TAYLOR SALLENGER, [sallengert@mytjnow.com](mailto:sallengert@mytjnow.com)

Kevin Sheppard Sr. began as Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance Officer on Nov. 1.

Sheppard was a Title IX Investigator at the University of South Carolina for the last eight years.

Sheppard is a South Carolina native and a Reverend at Mt. Zion Baptist in Chaplin, South Carolina. Sheppard has a degree in both religious studies and paralegal studies and is currently working to obtain a Master's in public administration. He is also a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Sheppard chose Winthrop due to the environment of the campus and the location, which allows him to stay close to his family.

"My final decision for choosing Winthrop was simple: location, which again allows me to stay closer to my family, and not have to relocate to a different state, was the best fit for me," Sheppard said. "My professional career and where I'm trying to go based on the experience I've had and the people I met during the interview process at Winthrop, I felt I had a connection where we would be able to form partnerships that would allow Winthrop to be able to take the next step in this Title IX arena that we're now living in."

In this next step, Sheppard is looking forward to getting on campus and partnering with those who he sees as the stakeholders in things like Title IX and accessibility issues.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of being able to come in and to partner with the stakeholders, whether that be faculty, staff, students, the community, to make a difference in what's going on there. So I'm just really looking forward to the challenge of getting there, getting on campus and getting to work," Sheppard said.

Sheppard is also open to the idea of working with students and opening up to the concerns students have raised about Winthrop University's issues with their Title IX program and the accessibility issues on campus.

"And so one thing that I did talk about [during the hiring process] was having not just a town hall, but multiple town halls, multiple events and programs put in place where, again, the partnerships can be formed with the students and the student organizations. Because again, the students are what I would call the foot soldiers on the ground. They're more in tune with what's actually going on in the residence halls, what's going on around campus and things of that nature," Sheppard said.

He acknowledges that the students are an important part of knowing what is actually happening on a university's campus. Sheppard said that only communicating with administrators will leave out an important group that can assist in making things better.

"[I]f we're only talking to administra-

tors and not talking to students as well, then we're missing an important sector of the individuals who can assist in making Winthrop be the premier college in regards to Title IX compliance and how we work with those things. So I would be very open in working with students and student organizations," Sheppard said.

Members of the student-led group WU Students for Change, who work to make students' voices heard by



Courtesy of Winthrop University

administration, are nervous about the hiring of Sheppard to the position of both Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance officer.

"We are quite concerned that not only has the person that we looked up not had much Title IX training, but he has not had much Title IX success at his previous position. USC is facing multiple lawsuits right now related to Title IX, so it is clear that no matter what happened on that campus, he did not do the best job he could've done," said Rayvn Speigner, freshman music technology major.

Speigner also addressed the group's concerns with the combination of both the Title IX Coordinator position and ADA Compliance officer

position.

"They're not unrelated. But they are both intricate in different ways... So to create a position, like I said, for both of those things, invalidates both of those groups, separately and mutually" said Speigner.

Dwayne Kirkland, a freshman mass communication major and member of WU Students for Change, echoed Speigner's concerns.

"Title IX is a massive, complicated law. The Americans with Disabilities Act is also a massive complicated law. And I think that trying to put all that on into one position is going to disservice somebody, whether it's survivors or its students with disabilities," Kirkland said.

As a university with an extremely diverse student body, it's important to also highlight the LGBTQ community and what a new Title IX Coordinator will mean for them, especially with the heteronormative outline of what is considered sexual assault to Winthrop University.

"When we talk about things in reference to the LGBTQ+ community, again, when we look at those things, and my perspective about it is any individual who falls in any of those categories, first and foremost, they are persons, they are human beings, and they are human beings with rights and rights that have to be protected," Sheppard said.

Members of the LGBTQ community are concerned with Sheppard's position as a reverend and pas-

tor and how that may affect survivors.

"We are asking queer people to report sexual assault or domestic violence to somebody who might have held a position as a pastor, similar to somebody who traumatized them. I mean, that's putting queer people, and other people who have been traumatized by religion in a really bad place," said Milo Wolverton, senior English major and member of WU Students for Change.

Sheppard believes that he will be able to leave his job as pastor at the door when he comes onto campus as Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance officer.

"When I come to Winthrop University, I don't come as Reverend Sheppard or Pastor Sheppard, I come as just mister Sheppard. I'm just Kevin Sheppard."

Overall, students want to be represented well by those in high positions like Sheppard's.

"WU Students for Change has always been open to a fair, free dialogue with whoever would like to make change," Speigner said. "We just don't want to be put in a position that is unfair to us and is unfair to our members, our survivors that we represent, but we would totally be willing to have a town hall or even just to have a few representatives. Communication is excellent, but if the intention is not there, there is only so much you can do as an angry student."

# Police Blotter



SARAH HASSLER, [hasslers@mytjnow.com](mailto:hasslers@mytjnow.com)

On Dec. 3, the Reporting Officer (R/O) responded to a dorm in Richardson Hall in reference to a female who was unconscious and unresponsive. Once on scene, the R/O met with two subjects, who stated that the victim was lying on the floor unresponsive. The subjects stated that the victim had a heart condition and had been prone to fainting in the past.

The R/O and subjects made their way to the aforementioned room and observed that the victim was conscious but was lying on the floor and appeared to be panicked and stated that she was having difficulty breathing. The R/O advised the victim to remain calm and breathe slowly, explaining that EMS was already on the way.

At this time, EMS arrived and began to evaluate the subject. EMS was eventually able to calm the victim and helped her sit up. During this, EMS asked the subjects if she had been drinking or if she had taken any drugs, to which the subjects admitted that they had all been drinking. EMS then asked exactly how much she had to drink, to which one subject stated that she had two "Truly's," half of a "Four Loko," six shots of "Malibu," half of a "Smirnoff Ice" and "probably some other stuff." EMS then transported the victim to Piedmont Gold Hill, stating that they were concerned she might choke on her vomit if she was not transported.

The R/O, along with an RA, gathered all subjects in the lobby of the building. The R/O advised the subjects that underage drinking, as well as providing alcohol to minors, was illegal and could result in criminal charges. The subjects were advised that they were not currently being charged, but that they would all be referred to the Dean of Students Office to be disciplined at a university level. The R/O then cleared from the scene. All subjects and the victim will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

# Shepard Fairey paints mural in old town, gets student help



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian



Abbey Kirkland/Charlotte Resident



Abbey Kirkland/Charlotte Resident



Abbey Kirkland/Charlotte Resident



Abbey Kirkland/Charlotte Resident

Upper left photo: A portrait of a peace advocate, based on a photo by Jim Marhsall, comprises a large portion of the mural; Upper right photo: Fairey signing a baby's helmet; Bottom left photo: Fairey (center, back) in front of his collage in the upcoming Mercantile location, speaking to members of the Women's Art Initiative at the reception and art exhibit; Bottom middle photo: The mural on Oct. 16; Bottom right photo: The upcoming Mercantile location and mural site, hosting an art exhibit for Fairey until Oct. 31.

Taylor Sallenger & Marley Basset | Assistant News Editors

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## Winthrop men's soccer wins home quarterfinal - Nov. 10

### Eagles defeat Blue Hose, will head to Buies Creek for semifinal

MATTHEW SHEALY, shealym@mytjnow.com

The Winthrop men's soccer team earned a 3-0 victory over Presbyterian College on Sunday night in the quarterfinal round of the Big South Tournament, marking the team's first postseason win since 2015. "I'm at a little bit of a loss of words because it's been a hard season," said head coach Daniel Ridenhour. "Really happy for the guys. They deserved it [and] played excellent," Ridenhour said. "I thought tonight we were as good as we could be — probably unlucky not to score a couple more." Winthrop put eight shots on goal compared to Presbyterian's four and outshot the Blue Hose 17 to six. The Eagles also attempted eight corner kicks while Presbyterian only attempted

one. "Credit to their goalkeeper," Ridenhour said. "He made four or five outstanding saves tonight." Winthrop's Sam Jones recorded four saves of his own on the outing, posting his third shutout of the season. Jones praised his teammates for their ability to communicate well on defense. "Whenever you've got a good defensive relationship between a goalkeeper and a back three [or] back five, you can rely on them, you can communicate with them," he said. "We're at the point now where I can say something you might not understand, but they'll understand it. "That chemistry is just crucial for teams that can go far in the playoffs, and I know that this team — with this defensive relationship, with defense, midfield and attack — will go

very far." Offensively, two of Winthrop's goals were scored by freshmen, and all three goals were assisted on by freshmen. One of Winthrop's goal scorers was Brigham Larsen, who recorded a league-leading 11th goal of the season Sunday night. On Monday, Larsen was named Big South Freshman of the Year. Along with Larsen, Winthrop's William Cardona and Ethan Stevenson were voted onto the conference's All-Freshman team. (Cardona recorded an assist during Sunday's win while Stevenson recorded a goal and an assist.) Larsen finished second in voting for the Offensive Player of the Year award, still earning him a spot on the First-Team All-Conference list. Winthrop junior Sean Green

(who's in his first year with the Eagles after transferring in from Missouri State) was named to the Second-Team All-Conference list. Winthrop's Cardona also earned an appearance on the Honorable Mention All-Conference list, while junior Ben Goodman was named to the All-Academic Team and was voted Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the league's sports information directors. "There's a lot of new guys on this team that have done fantastic, and we've got a couple seniors that have stepped up into a leadership role and done well," said Ridenhour, who received one first-place vote for Coach of the Year but finished second in points behind Campbell head coach Dustin Fonder. "This year has been

really, really tough on him (Ridenhour)," Jones said. "He's had to coach practically by himself. He's done a lot of work for us, [and] we're really grateful for him. "I know it means a lot to him — for him to break his own personal records — and I know he's setting goals to not stop here, just to keep going. We love him. He's done a great job. He's sacrificed a lot for us, and we could not be more proud and more thankful for him." Ridenhour led Winthrop to a 4-4 record in conference play this season (with those four losses all coming by just one goal apiece) after going 0-7-1 against Big South opponents last season. The Eagles were also picked to finish ninth (out of nine teams) in the Big South preseason poll. "I was excited that our

guys were able to kind of use that as motivation," Ridenhour said. "I'm not going to lie, it's taped up all over the locker room. They look at it every day, and they know ninth wasn't where they should've been." With Sunday's win, the Eagles are set to face top-seeded Campbell University on Wednesday in Buies Creek. If they win, they would advance to the Big South Championship game. "It's crazy, man," Jones said. "I've been here for three years, and we've never been in this position before, so we're just working hard to keep pushing boundaries and keep going further, trying to replicate some of the success we've had back in 2012 and those great times."

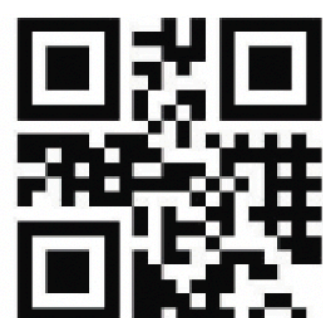


Photos courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

Upper left photo: Eagles congratulating one another; Upper middle photo: Junior Sean Green weaves between two members of the Presbyterian squad; Upper right photo: Freshman of the Year Brigham Larsen jumps higher than his opponent to head the ball; Lower left photo: Winthrop's Taeyoon Oh fights to get to the ball first as he slides to the ground; Lower middle photo: Freshman Ethan Stevenson outrunning Blue Hose player; Bottom right photo: Freshman William Cardona with the ball



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# Eagle of the Week: Chris Clare

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Raised in South Charlotte, newly-welcomed volunteer assistant coach Chris Clare has been playing baseball his whole life. "I went to school at Charlotte Catholic and realized I was good enough to play in college. I tried really hard to actually play at Winthrop, but never got offers, so I went to High Point University," Clare said. After playing for three years for a team in the same conference as Winthrop, Clare earned a batting average of .320 and was soon selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 21st round of the 2016 MLB Draft. "I played in the minors for about five seasons, and I was able to go play in Australia for a season. Then I was considered a 'COVID casualty,' so

a lot of people got released from the minor leagues when COVID hit," Clare said. Clare was unable to play in all of 2020 but was then offered an independent contract to play in Iowa in 2021. "I played really well, but I could tell my career was going towards the coaching route. I was talking to a bunch of different colleges, different programs. Everyone who had an opening, I just called and put my name out there," Clare said. Clare's previous hitting coach notified him about a coaching position available at Winthrop. "I quickly gave [Coach Tom Riginos] a call and told him I was interested. He sat down and had an interview with me, and next thing you know, I got the job," Clare said.

"I've been anxious to get started because I haven't been around a college game for about six years, but I'm excited to be around that atmosphere and give the guys the knowledge that I have, and take some knowledge from them as well. You're never done learning," Clare said. Fortunately, Clare was welcomed into the program with open arms, alleviating some of his worries. "The coaching staff has been very welcoming and made me feel at home right from the beginning. As I mentioned I already knew TR, and then Austin [Hill] kind of took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. Coach Monday has also been super welcoming, and Eddie [Hill] has been helping out a lot. He's just a great guy to be around," Clare said. The biggest adjust-

ment for Clare has been knowing when to step back at times, recognizing that the Eagles are only in fall ball, not preparing for something as serious as the minor leagues. "I try to think back on my days playing at High Point and the experiences I had and the coaching I had, and try to bring the best out of that for them," he said. Currently, the Eagles are spread out for their workouts during the week, as a combination of off-season and COVID-19 regulations limit the number of athletes and the number of hours at a time. "While I am coaching, I like to work out and stay in shape with the team. I'll do conditioning with them in the morning, bright and early. It's cool to be on that side of things where they know I am a coach,

but I'm still out there grinding with them and having that relationship," Clare said. Although there are no full-team functions at the moment, the team will compete in two scrimmages in October. "I think a great coach is someone that the players can relate to and who can relate to the players. You don't want to show up to the field and them be like, 'Oh man, Chris is here,' so I hope to bring some positivity and energy," Clare said. Even though Clare does not have a favorite baseball team now, as a child, he favored the Yankees, looking to Derek Jeter and Brett Gardner for inspiration. "It wasn't necessarily the all-stars out there, but it was the guys that looked like they loved the game, played really hard,

and enjoyed themselves out there," Clare said. Aside from professional athletes motivating him, Clare constantly thinks about a quote he discovered while a freshman in college: "Faith over fear." "I take that aspect to everything I do in life, whether it's outside of baseball and having faith in God and His plan, or in baseball having faith in the amount of work I put in," Clare said. "I think I have the same thought going into coaching, having faith in the guys over fear that they are going to make a mistake. I have faith in everything I teach them, and hopefully, that translates to good performance on the field."



Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian

## Winthrop Volleyball wins twice - Nov. 3 Eagles earn two conference wins

MARLEY BASSETT,  
Staff Writer

After losing four of its last six games, the Winthrop volleyball team was hungry for a win — and it got that win twice this weekend. The team beat both UNC Asheville on Friday and USC Upstate on Saturday. Both games were won 3-0. "The wins this weekend were really encouraging for the team," Bossler said. "We've had a difficult last couple of weeks, so for us to start the second half of conference in such a dominant fashion is a huge confidence boost for

us as we wrap up the regular season." Winthrop dominated the court with an advantage held in every set on Friday. The Eagles beat UNC Asheville 25-19 in the first set, 25-14 in the second and 25-12 in the third. For kills, Morgan Bossler led with 16 and was followed by Nikkia Benitez, who had 14. Benitez also had the most aces with two. Jana Owens had the most assists with 42 and the most digs with 18 total during the game. Owens was followed by Alayna Jansky, who had 13 digs. Jansky

also had the second most assists with two. Winthrop looked to continue their winning streak from Friday into Saturday when the Eagles hosted USC Upstate. They beat USC Upstate winning three sets to zero. Once again, the Eagles had domination over the volleyball court, continuing their advantage in every set. They won the first set 25-19, the second 25-18 and the third 25-8. Benitez led with kills, having 12 during the game. She was followed closely by Karli Shepherd, who had 11 kills. Shepherd also led

the count for aces during the game, totaling three, and she was followed by Madison Gorniak, who had two. Owens once again had the most assists and digs with 32 assists and 13 digs throughout the game. She was followed by Jansky in both. Jansky had four assists and 12 digs total. Winthrop recorded 61 points during three sets. The team led in all other categories having 45 kills, seven aces, nine blocks, 39 assists and 62 digs. The team was encouraged by the two wins. "I'm super proud

of my team for our performance this weekend," Shepherd said. "We all knew these two games were super important and we played our roles very well." Shepherd, who earned Big South Freshman of the Week honors on Monday, said each person playing their role was key. "I also think that every person on our team played an important role in our success this weekend," Shepherd said. "Whether someone was on or off the court, they were always fulfilling their role as a great team-

mate." The team also celebrated senior weekend. "It was our senior weekend, so it was great to get back-to-back home wins," said sophomore Isabel Schaeffbauer. This year's seniors are Nikkia Benitez, Morgan Bossler, Colleen Siebold, Lily Leistikio, Camila Gomez, and Jana Owens. Winthrop's next match is Friday at Charleston Southern University, and the team's next home game is Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. against Gardner-Webb University.

## Cont. Winthrop men's soccer wins home quarterfinal - Nov. 10

Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian



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## Betty White passes at 99 years old

MARI PRESSLEY, [pressleym@mytjnow.com](mailto:pressleym@mytjnow.com)

Just days away from her 100th birthday, actress and comedian Betty White passed away during the morning hours of Dec. 31, 2021. The actress was said to have suffered from a stroke six days prior to her death according to CNN.

White, best known for her roles in “Golden Girls,” “The Mary

Tyler Moore Show” and “Hot in Cleveland,” was honored with many accolades throughout the course of her career. Receiving recognition from organizations like the Emmy Awards and American Comedy Awards, White received three lifetime achievement awards with her last being received from the Women Film Critic Circle Awards in 2021. On the Hollywood

Walk of Fame, a sea of flowers, candles and plush stuffed animals formed as many fans gathered to share their condolences. It was not long before many noticed cracks on White’s star. Fans have taken to social media to share a petition nearing its goal of 25,000 signatures in efforts to replace White’s star after many attempts to repair it. With the icon’s

strong fan base, many are honoring her memory through viral content, including a video depicting White and Joan Rivers in a comedic roast from a 1983 appearance on the Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson. In that same vein, the “Betty White Challenge” has encouraged fans to donate five dollars to their local pet rescue or animal shelter, in honor of

White’s animal rights advocacy. “In 2010, Betty established the Betty White Wildlife Fund in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and its detrimental effects on marine life. The fund today continues to address current and emerging wildlife health issues,” according to [MorrisAnimalFoudation.org](http://MorrisAnimalFoudation.org). In her last public

television appearance at the Emmy awards in 2018, White jokes, “It’s incredible that I’m still in this business...and you are still putting up with me. It’s incredible that you can stay in a career this long and still have people put up with you...I wish they did that at home!” Through both her philanthropy and her performances, White’s legacy will live on as fans remember her.



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## Gone but not forgotten

### Remembering those who have died in 2021

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2021, while exponentially better than its predecessor, has not been without its own downfalls. Losses have still been suffered, just as in any other year.

Nothing shakes a community as much as the loss of a well-known public figure, and in a world connected by the internet and social media, well-known figures can be loved by their families as well as people halfway around the world.

When they pass away, it can come as a shock and sorrow to all.

One of the most high-profile deaths this year was that of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and consort of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Buckingham Palace announced the passing of the duke at the age of 99 on its official website on April 9.

According to an article from People magazine, the duke “had been plagued by health issues in recent years after retiring from his public duties in August 2017.” The duke and Queen Elizabeth shared a 73-year long marriage.

The actor Christopher Plummer also died this year, on

Feb. 5, at the age of 91. Plummer had an active acting career for most of his life, even in his old age.

He played Harlan Thrombey in Rian Johnson’s blockbuster murder-mystery film “Knives Out” at the age of 89.

Plummer was also famous for his role as Baron Georg von Trapp in the 1965 stage adaptation of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music,” where he starred alongside renowned actress Julie Andrews.

After his passing, Andrews released a statement saying, “The world has lost a consummate actor

today and I have lost a cherished friend. I treasure the memories of our work together and all the humor and fun we shared through the years.”

Another sad death was that of Joanne Rogers, the widow of the famous Fred Rogers of the television show “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood.” She died on Feb. 11 at the age of 92. According to an article from The New York Times, she was always very supportive of her husband’s career throughout their 50 years of marriage. Joanne Rogers also helped keep her husband’s legacy alive after his death in 2003.

According to the same article, “She vigorously promoted ‘Won’t You Be My Neighbor?’ (2018), Morgan Neville’s documentary about her husband, and ‘A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood’ (2019), a feature film with Tom Hanks as Mr. Rogers and Maryann Plunkett as Mrs. Rogers.”

One of the more tragic deaths of this year was Gabby Petito, whose disappearance became a source of nationwide interest. According to an article from CBS News, Petito, a lifestyle blogger, was reported missing on Sept. 11. Her fiancé quickly became a person of interest in the

investigation.

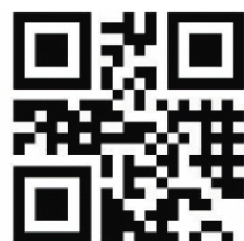
Ten days later, reports came out saying, “A coroner confirms that the remains found in Wyoming is Gabby Petito and determined the initial manner of death is homicide.”

Her fiancé’s remains were found on Oct. 21. Petito’s disappearance sparked conversation about why white women receive more attention when they go missing than women of color.

As sad as it is, death is one of the few things that can be certain of anyone. But this sentiment should serve as inspiration to always live life to the fullest.

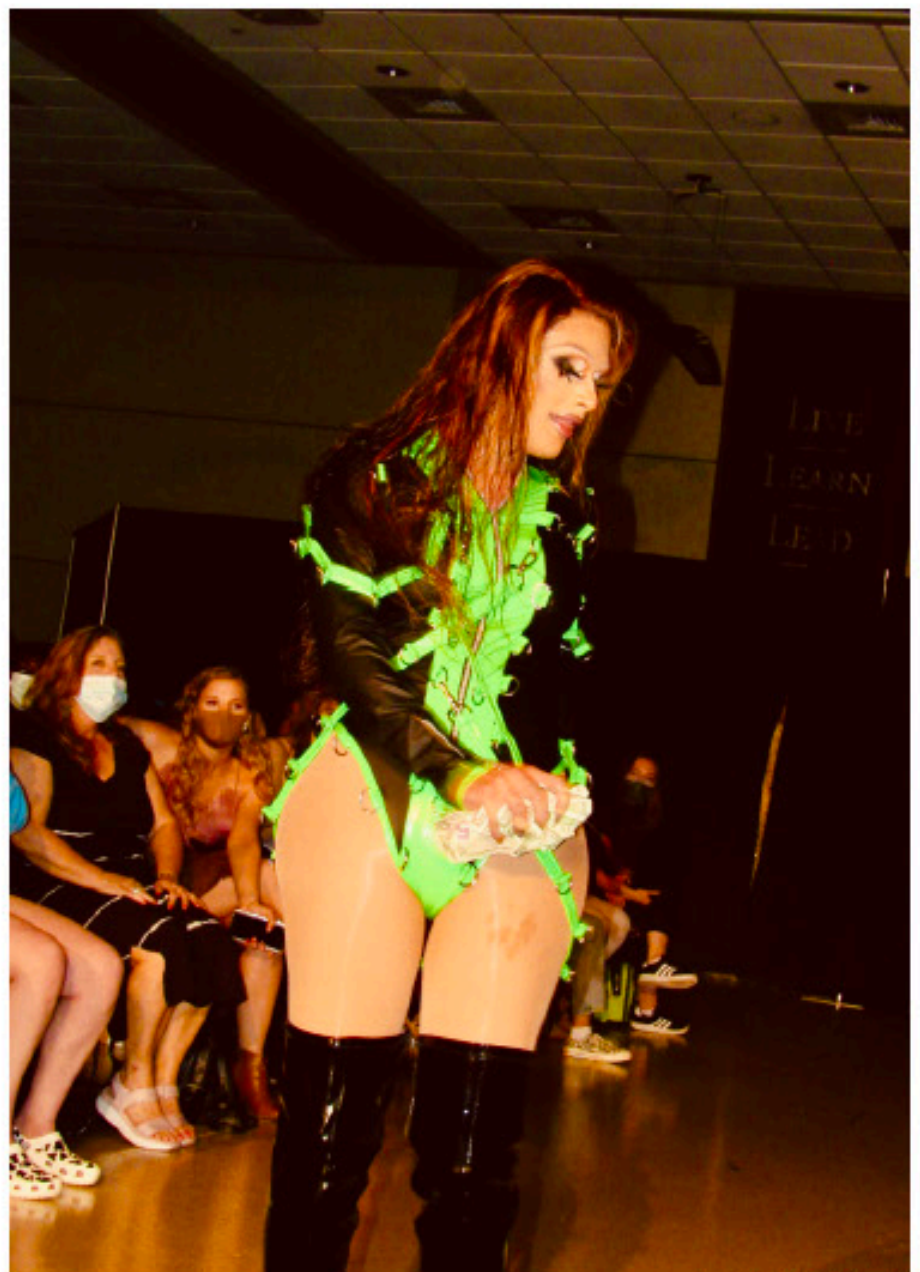


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# Drag WU: Alyssa Edwards and her killer queens



Upper left photo: Alyssa Edwards walking with a student who came in drag; Upper right photo: Don Javi serenading the audience in Spanish; Photo under Javi: Kristi Darling landing the splits during her first performance; Second row, first photo: Erica Chanel taking off her wig during her second performance; Photo under Darling: Alyssa Edwards leading the queens in a final number; Photo under Chanel: Vegas Van Dank giving us a spooky performance; Bottom left: Don Javi; Bottom right: Ariana Venti collecting her tips while performing

Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian



## Fake news and inconvenient truth: The Democratic approach

A guest column from Nov. 17 looking into the truth behind media's "fake news" and how it can change public perception

SKYLER ALLEN of Winthrop University's Collegiate Democrats

As Democrats, we have seen our fair share of slander in the media throughout the decades.

Fake news is something we all have had to endure, and misinformation is by far one of the most manipulative tools found within political media. As voters and citizens, we must do our own research before going to the polls and engaging in discourse. However, it must be noted that this research can become tedious. Of-

tentimes, the pipeline between curiosity and truth becomes tainted and dark. Democrats have seen the effects of this.

Especially within the age of COVID-19, the misinformation about vaccines has been detrimental to public health. Masks, vaccines, and social distancing are all aspects of modern life that have become heavily politicized, and this affects us all. What some may see as slander to the Democratic Party is a threat to survival within a pandemic. Another example is the media's

role in social corruption during the 2020 Presidential election. We all saw how chaotic and damaging the first presidential debate was, as well as how much time was spent simply going back and forth about what had been said in the media versus what was true. The audience, both present and at home, absorbed this chaos and it filled our nation.

Fake news and misinformation in the media also takes place on social media. Facebook has become a battleground. How many families have we

seen target each other? This could be done through blocking, exposing one another's private details, or public arguments.

Social media is simultaneously the land of misinformation and truth. The lines between truth and fiction become blurred, and people wage war on each other trying to figure out what to believe. We see how violent misinformation can become. Back in January, online misinformation led to an insurrection that threatened not only the lives of many, but the very foundation of

the country.

Fake news is not just inconvenient, it is detrimental to civil discourse and overall safety in the United States. On the left, we have our own misinformation to work through. Democrats share many commonalities but there is a diverse range of thought within the party.

When our political figures have stories about them out in the media, tedious researching and checking must be conducted to assure that we hold our members and leaders accountable.

Who voted for what bill back when? Who knows who? Who did what? As Americans, we should all be asking ourselves these questions and being honest about the information we find.

The political world is complex enough without adding dishonesty to it through the media. Fake news deepens the ambiguity and makes voters feel used, hopeless, and continuously uninformed. We want an energized America with informed voters and citizens, and fake news is a true threat to that.

## Fake news and inconvenient truth: The Republican approach

A guest column from Nov. 10 looking into the truth behind media's "fake news" and how it can change public perception

WES THOMAS, Vice President of Winthrop University's Collegiate Republicans

Since 2016, and with the hearings of Facebook's "whistleblower," there has been much talk of "fake news," with calls from the political left to suppress such false/misleading information.

Why only the left? The simple answer is because of confirmation bias. "Fake news" becomes anything that they disagree with, and this becomes more obvious the more one examines it critically. Firstly, many claim that "fake news" decided the 2016 election, but there is no evidence for this.

For one, they are speaking primarily of inflammatory Russian ads on Facebook, ads which targeted

both the left and right parties. There is no objective measure to determine how many people these ads reached, and even less to determine how many people were influenced. More so, these ads targeted people on both sides; right-leaning accounts were more likely to see right-leaning ads and vice versa. The number of voters that switched from one side to the other is likely slim, according to Tony Romm, a congressional economic policy reporter at The Washington Post.

The true agenda becomes clear when one asks these policy-makers in the government and in social media companies what constitutes "fake news." When asked to list sites that promulgate fake news, each and every site listed is

right-leaning.

Alexandre Bovet and Hernán A. Maske, two statistical researchers, admit that their control against "fake news" is "center and left-leaning outlets." By their own admission, they cannot differentiate between "right-leaning" and "false" nor "left-leaning" and "true."

For instance, the site perhaps most maligned for its "misinformation" is the Daily Wire, the largest openly conservative online news outlet.

This misalignment is especially noticeable on Facebook, but the claim is entirely unevicenced. In July of 2021, National Public Radio conducted its own review, and found no false stories or misinformative articles. NPR then claimed that, "if you strip enough context

away, any piece of truth can become a piece of misinformation."

All sites — left and right — will inevitably fall into "misinformation" at some point when their own biases interfere. This is as true at CNN as the Daily Wire. And yet, when the New York Post posts a well-cited story with FBI verification, it "lacks sources" and leads to the whole site's suspension.

However, when The Atlantic posts a story with nothing but anonymous and unverified sources, but is critical of Trump, it is seen as news. This is evidenced in The New York Post's editorial regarding Hunter Biden's selling information, as well as The Atlantic writer Jeffrey Goldberg's articles and the public opinion

surrounding each.

This is not merely a question of whether fake news is prominent, or what political aisle it comes from, but of trust.

Supporters of "fake news suppression" must realize that they are granting the power to suppress information, true and false.

In 2020, Los Angeles Times reporter Erin Logan found that Facebook and Twitter actively suppressed right-leaning accounts and outlets.

Does one truly want CNN, MSNBC, Facebook, and Twitter to have a monopoly on information? This control of information is not limited solely to social media, left-leaning reporter Taylor Hatmaker found.

The Biden administration, even before his election, was pres-

uring social media outlets to suppress unfriendly news and continue to campaign throughout the government. In abstract, social media suppression is frightening, in context, it's Orwellian.

What is the significant difference between government suppression of information, and information suppression on behalf of the government?

The US has laws against libel; if a news outlet knowingly lies, they can be sued. The reason for the current discussion is that the political left cannot prove that the so-called "misinformation" is false at all, and so must construct arbitrary standards to suppress inconvenient truths.

## An unexpected arrival

