



Gabe Corbin/The Johnsonian

No injuries in fire at Courtyard

Students return to their dorms after most of the smoke has been removed from the ground floor

Toxic smoke filled ground floor from dryer fire, prompting fire and facilities response

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A combination washer-dryer unit caught fire in the Courtyard at Winthrop residence hall before midnight on Jan. 24, filling the first floor with toxic smoke. There were no injuries.

Facilities management is unsure what caused the fire, as it destroyed most of the washer-dryer unit. Besides a small amount of smoke damage and fire extinguisher debris, the room was undamaged. “The fire occurred

actually inside the stackable washer dryer, not in the dryer component, but in the space below the dryer and above the washer,” said James Grigg, associate vice president of facilities management. “I’ve looked in it briefly, I haven’t torn it apart, see if I can see what happened... We may never know, because just the amount of damage to the unit, it may just be ‘it happened in this space.’”

Grigg is hoping to find a similar unit to

take apart to see if the issue may happen again.

A clean-up contractor has cleaned the room, and the painter has started work. The students who lived in the room have been temporarily moved to Lee Wicker Hall and are set to move back in late Tuesday.

According to Assistant Chief of Police Charles Yearta, Residence Life members had already put out the fire when the officers arrived at the scene at

11:33 p.m.

“Residence Life, their training kicked in, they did a wonderful job,” he said. “Best response I’ve seen in a while to be honest with you.”

After checking to make sure everyone was out of the building, police opened the West Center to residents of Courtyard, so they could get out of the cold.

When the fire department arrived, they took temporary control of the scene, checked to ensure the fire was out,

checked the building one more time to ensure all students were out and began to clear out the smoke with fans. Facilities management arrived soon after with industrial fans and air scrubbers.

Students began to be let back in at 12:20 a.m., starting with the third floor and moving down. All students, except for those in the affected room, were back in the hall by 12:40 a.m.

Yearta stressed the importance of evacuat-

ing when a fire alarm goes off, even when it may be a drill.

“As you know, unfortunately, there are some students who, even though a fire alarm is going off, they won’t leave their building, because they think it’s a drill. They think nothing’s to it,” he said. “This is why we do those drills. This is why those drills are important.”

As of Jan. 28, Residence Life has not replied to a request for comment.



Photo Courtesy to the City of Rock Hill

Rock Hill feels economic impact from Sports & Event Center

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As the Rock Hill Sports and Events Center passes its two-year anniversary, the Rock Hill community has experienced a large financial impact.

The construction of the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center building began in 2017

and ended in December 2019.

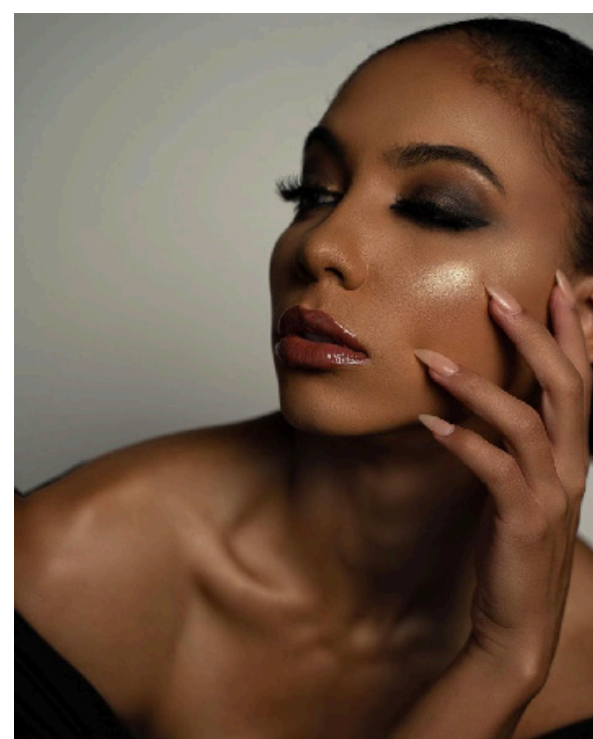
“The idea started many years ago, but no one is quite sure when exactly the thought came about. It was the vision of our former Mayor Doug Echols, the City Council, City Management, and the Rock Hill Parks Recreation and tourism

senior leadership team that really brought the idea to reality,” said Sports and Event Center Superintendent Brian Jones.

The major contributors to the vision and opening of the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center were the City Council and

see [EVENT CENTER](#) pg. 4

2019 Miss USA, Fort Mill High School and University of SC graduate, dies at 30



An Instagram post made by Kryst on the same day as her death

Cheslie Kryst, one of the most influential young women of color of 2019, died on Sunday after jumping from the 29th floor of an NYC apartment building.

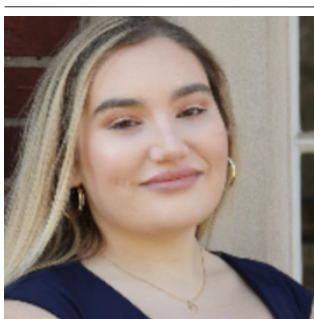
Kryst was named

Miss USA in 2019 and was a civil attorney who advocated for people unjustly incarcerated.

Kryst was a Charlotte local who graduated from Fort Mill High School and the University of South Carolina.

To get help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Counselors at Winthrop are also there to help. Call 803-323-2206.



WU Council of Student Leaders

Get to know your student body president

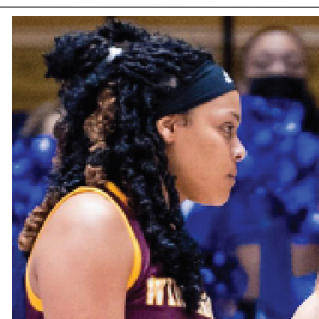
NEWS, pg. 2



Graphic Courtesy to Maggie Clayton

Jan. 18 Blotter - Student suffered attempted car break-in

NEWS, pg. 3



Winthrop Athletic Communications

Women's basketball beats UNC Asheville

SPORTS, pg. 4

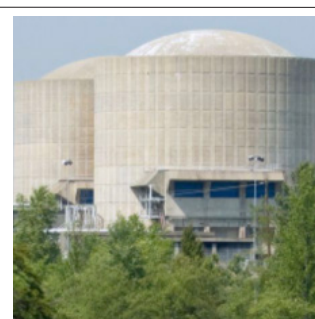
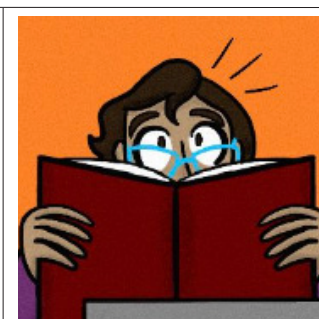


Photo Courtesy of Duke Energy

Nuclear energy resides on Catawba River

AC&T, pg. 7



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian

Spring Semester Stress - Beltran comic

COMICS, pg. 8



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Budget cuts lead to removal of Dacus subscriptions

Dacus Library removed subscriptions and databases as part of Winthrop's current campus budget planning process

SPENCER HORTON
Staff Writer

Professors were given a list of 108 subscriptions and 12 databases that would no longer be available on Jan. 17 through Dacus Library due to Winthrop's current campus budget planning process.

The subscriptions and databases that were cut was decided by a combination of factors.

"Our database cuts are informed by user statistics of the databases and other resources in question, which we balance with our annual materials allocations, the existence of alternative databases that we retain subscriptions to, and program accreditation requirements," said Dean of Dacus Library Kaetrena Kendrick.

Professors were not informed on what would be cut exactly—just that there would be cuts. Some said they wish they were more involved in this decision.

"What I wish had happened is that there had been a straightforward conversation with the faculty where they told us the dollar amount that needed to be cut from the budget and how much each subscription cost, and we could have given some input," said associate professor of political science and political science library liaison Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez. "It



Databases
Book Review Index
Gale OneFile: Educator's Reference Complete
Gale in Context: Global Issues
Gale Academic OneFile
Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine
Gale in Context: Environmental Studies
Gale Books and Authors
Gale Business: Entrepreneurship
Gale Health & Wellness
Gale OneFile: News
Gale in Context: Science

Journals
Journal of Aesthetic Education
Journal of American Folklore
Journal of Asian and African Studies
Journal of Biological Chemistry (open access)
Journal of British Studies
Journal of Contemporary History
Journal of Experimental Biology
Journal of Law & Economics
Journal of Medical Ethics
Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Journal of Philosophy
Journal of Political Science
Journal of Sport History
Yale Law Journal

Other
Adweek - Print + Digital ed
Almanac of American Politics - Hardcover
American Civil Liberties Union Membership
American Historian
American Literary Realism
American Quarterly
Americas Top Rated Cities
Archaeology (open access)
Architectural Digest
Art Education
Artforum International
Biblical Archaeology Review
Biotechnic & Histochemistry
Bloomberg Businessweek
Bookforum
Bulletin of Hispanic Studies - Liverpool
Choral Journal
Communication Arts
Cuadernos Americanos
Daedalus - Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (open access)
Der Spiegel
Discover
DownBeat
Economist - US ed
Educational Leadership
Elle - French ed
Etudes Littéraires
Food Technology
Georgia Review
Graphic Artists Guild Handbook
Greenville News
Handweavers Guild of America Membership
Hispania
Hispanic American Historical Review
Hispanofila
History of Philosophy Quarterly
History of Political Economy
Human Rights Watch World Report (open access)
Hume Studies
Instrumentalist
International Philosophical Quarterly
ISIS
Jazztimes Magazine
National Science Teachers Association Institutional Comprehensive Membership #2
New Scientist - US ed
New York Review of Books
Newsweek - Regular ed
North American Review
Ornament
Oxiris - A Research Journal Devoted to the History of Science & Its Cultural Influences
Paris Match - France
Pensions & Investments
Perceptual & Motor Skills
Perseus Arts Society Membership
Philosophy
Philosophy of Science
Philosophy Today - US
Poetry
Policy Studies
Preservation Leadership Forum Membership
Process Studies
Psychological Reports
Quarterly Review of Biology
Revista de Estudios Hispánicos - MO
Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France
Royal Institute of Philosophy Package
Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement
Scientific American
Small Group Research
Social Studies of Science
Soundings - an Interdisciplinary Journal - TN
South Carolina Review
Southeastern Geographer
Southern Poetry Review
Southern Studies - An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South
SPLC Report
Sports Illustrated
State
Studies in Romanticism
Thornist
TIME Magazine - Domestic ed
World Development Report - Paperback ed
World Today - Royal Institute of International Affairs

would have been nice if we could've worked together instead of just telling the faculty what was getting cut."

Ranallo-Benavidez also expressed concern about the way that these subscriptions and

databases were chosen.

"I don't know what information that they actually have on what people do and don't use all the time," Ranallo-Benavidez said. "Some students access the internet through

a VPN, we have people who get in and download a database one time so it might not look like they are using it very often, because they download it to their own software package. So they would

only log in to it once, but they might actually use it all the time."

Other professors were less concerned about the cuts and don't see them interfering with student information gathering going for-

Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian

ward.

"At least they got rid of the ones that were being used the least," said associate professor of political science Hye-Sung Kim. "It's unfortunate, but as a professor of political science, I don't think it will have much impact."

According to Kendrick, these cuts aren't just specific to Winthrop.

"These cuts were a direct outcome of our current campus budget planning process," Kendrick said. "They also reflect a phenomenon of annual database subscriptions outpacing budget allocations that we are seeing across academia. So this is not unique to Dacus Library."

Kendrick also suggested ways that students could supplement this lost information and continue on with their research as normal.

"It is very much worth noting that our library faculty also offer great research services, which include helping students and others locate materials," Kendrick said.

Students will still have access to the library chat service and the ability to book a research consultation with a librarian to find assistance in gathering information. Dacus also offers interlibrary loans to obtain resources that aren't available there but can be found at other libraries.

CSL chair Erin Emiroglu wants student involvement

An interview with Council of Student Leaders Chair Erin Emiroglu

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Council of Student Leaders Chair Erin Emiroglu has always had a passion for student government. She was a member of Emerging Leaders during her freshman year in 2018 and joined the Council of Student Leaders her sophomore year. She is also a member of the Winthrop College Democrats and Alpha Delta Pi.

Emiroglu is a senior political science major with a minor in health. She is a first-generation college student and also a first-generation American, having a father who immigrated to the United States from Turkey.

While her role is officially called the Chair of the Council of Stu-

dent Leaders, Emiroglu considers her role in simpler terms. "I'm the liaison between the student governing body and the student body. I report to the board and the President."

The Council of Student Leaders has three main responsibilities: charter new organizations, connect students with senior leadership and engage with students directly to hear their concerns.

Emiroglu said that she has three particular goals she wants to achieve during her tenure as the Chair of the Council of Student Leaders, or CSL.

"I want to expand the knowledge of what CSL is to the student body and increase the visibility of the organization. I also want to engage students more with the campus and

senior leadership here at Winthrop. Lastly, I want to continue the advancement of CSL for students so that they can have a better Winthrop experience," she said.

She and CSL are working to achieve these goals by engaging students with administration directly more frequently.

"We have been increasing Garnet Table Talks which is where we bring in administration from different offices and have them present information on different topics and students can then ask questions"

She said that advocacy for students plays the largest role in what CSL does.

"We communicate directly with senior leadership. We go directly to our advisor,

the Vice President of Student Affairs Shelia Higgs Burkhalter, and she takes them to higher leadership."

Emiroglu also encourages students to interact more with the Council of Student Leaders.

"Our meetings are open to anyone. At the end of our meetings, we have an open floor so students can bring any of their concerns," she said.

The Council of Student Leaders meets weekly on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Dina's Place.

Students are also welcome to sit in on committee meetings. There are four committees: Internal, Civic Engagement, Campus Safety and Public Engagement that meet weekly and plan a majority of the events that CSL puts on.



Courtesy of Winthrop University Council of Student Leaders

Erin Emiroglu, a senior at Winthrop University, serves as the Council of Student Leaders chair

Some events include the monthly "Garnet Table Talks" with different members of the administration such as WU Assistant Chief of Police Charles Yearta and Title IX Coordinator Kevin

Sheppard.

Emiroglu said that she wants students to know that "you have CSL members coming in weekly and advocating for you. We try to affect change in the ways that we can."

This Week in American Politics



Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

A round up of what happened this week in United States politics

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Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement last week. This comes at a deliberate time before midterm elections where Democrats are expected to lose their majority in Congress. Breyer is one of the three liberal Supreme Court judges currently appointed to the court.

President Joe Biden has announced his intention to announce his nomination for the next justice by the end of February. Biden also said that he is dedicated to appointing the first Black woman to the court. Senator Mitch McConnell has warned Biden against a radical pick. There currently are not any clear front runners for Biden's nomination, but some names will likely start being thrown around more decisively in the upcoming weeks.

A Pennsylvania court has said that the state's current mail-in voting law is unconstitutional. This decision, which was immediately appealed, could have a potentially harmful impact on voting access, especially in battleground states. This decision comes off the heels of the 2020 presidential election where former President Donald Trump and members of the GOP began to stir up distrust for mail-in ballots.

The FBI purchased an Israeli spyware software named Pegasus to explore its ability to hack smartphones. The software has been able to track down members of drug cartels and terrorists, but it has also been used against people such as journalists and human rights activists by the Israeli government. The FBI, after buying and testing the software for a year has decided not to use it. However the software is still in an FBI facility in New Jersey. America then went as far as blacklisting the Israeli company behind Pegasus, NSO: a move which angered the Israeli government greatly.

Winthrop student enrollment falling, effects felt across campus

Lower student enrollment leads to budget cuts and smaller class sizes across the university

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Since the 2017-2018 year, student enrollment at Winthrop University is down by almost 500 students. Throughout the university, the effects of lower student enrollment, such as budget cuts, layoffs and smaller course sizes, have been felt by faculty, staff and students.

Winthrop's operating revenue, once \$122.5M in fiscal year 2018, dropped by 7.8% to an estimated operating revenue of \$113M in fiscal year 2022. Tuition makes up the majority of Winthrop's revenue, making up 70% of the overall budget in fiscal year 2018 and estimated to be 67.5% of fiscal year 2022's overall budget, according to Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Jeremy Whitaker.

to have the whole scope of wraparound services. So whenever we're seeing people, like the staff members, be . . . let go or having their positions unfilled once they leave voluntarily, it causes problems that then reverberate throughout the whole system," Ranallo-Benavidez said.

Infrastructure has been identified by students and staff as a campus problem that needs to be addressed immediately. James Grigg, associate vice president of facilities management, held a talk on Oct. 20 about ongoing projects and the issues facilities management knows about. WU Students for Change, a campus advocacy group, held a protest on Dec. 3 demanding, among other things, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and the

Counseling Services is another point of concern according to WU Students for Change, stating in their list of demands, "We demand that Winthrop University expand its mental health resources, including the onboarding of better, more inclusive, and more sensitive therapists and counselors in the Health and Counseling department, to ensure that students have access to the care they need. Students shouldn't be waiting months for counseling appointments."

According to Gretchen Baldwin, the clinical coordinator for Counseling Services, her and her staff are at capacity, despite appointments being down by almost 50% since fall 2019.

"Everybody is absolutely at capacity. Like we're plugging people into our case manage-

ment for the next available appointment."

Baldwin said she is looking to hire a new counselor with a multicultural specialty to replace a staff member who left at the end of October.

"The goal of that position is to provide focused outreach to the community especially targeted at BIPOC students and be able to reduce stigma and encourage, you know, representation among our staff members in order to kind of allow people to feel safe and comfortable coming into counseling services and to feel heard and seen in a comfortable way," Baldwin said.

She believes this vacancy, as well as a lack of Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) counselors, has contributed to the high work load for her and her staff.

"I think some of this



Christian Smith/The Johnsonian

Students in Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez's Public Administration class in fall 2021

To offset the difference in revenue, the university has asked faculty and staff to leave, allowed contracts to expire and permanently retired positions after those holding the positions leave or retire. Staff members have been let go at a higher rate than faculty, but faculty at the lower end of the hierarchy, like adjunct professors, also have to worry about their positions, according to Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez, assistant professor of political science.

"The goal of the university is to match revenue and expenses every year. In fiscal year 2020, compensation was 78.5% of the divisional allocations, therefore, as revenues have gone down, the university has had to reduce expenses by making tough decisions," Whitaker said.

According to Ranallo-Benavidez, the large number of staff members let go will have effects throughout the university.

"We need to have instructors, of course. But also, we're a liberal arts college, and so we need

removal of mold from residence halls.

On TikTok, the account "WU Anarchist Student Society" posted a video showing what appears to be mold in a shower, mushrooms growing out of a carpet and rotten wood on the outside of buildings, among other things. Text on the video reads "Winthrop University is the most expensive public college in S.C. This is what we are paying for..." The post has over 292,000 views and 39,000 likes.

According to Whitaker, "Finance and facilities have been working diligently to address the deferred maintenance needs of the University. The University currently has roughly 17 projects with costs over \$35 million that will be executed over the next two to three years. In addition, we received another \$9 million of renewal replacement funds from the state in fiscal year 2022 that we are using to update cameras, to improve our network, on other technology projects and on classroom upgrades."

ment time. And, you know, we just can't really add more in a day," Baldwin said. "In an ethical and responsible way, you know, there's only so many people that you can treat in a day and still have the resources internally to continue to provide good treatment."

Counseling Services uses a same day model to appointments, meaning a student can get an appointment on the same day they contact Counseling Services for help.

"We have that model because in the past prior to that, somebody would have to wait two to three weeks before an intake session," Baldwin said. "We transitioned to a same day model of intake because it's really more of like a get your foot in the door kind of an assessment type appointment. And then we can – based on what the person is needing and their level of clinical urgency – we can either schedule them for another same day that week or help get them connected to the community or schedule

may be reflected by OVA counseling, in that we had three individuals practicing in OVA counseling in 2019 who looked like two full time staff members as far as hours went," Baldwin said. "OVA experienced 100% turnover because staff members were overworked. And so we've really tried to be very, very cautious with staff self care in OVA to protect their well being. And now we only have the one and the part time person, but we will soon have two full time people there"

To be able to grow, Baldwin said her department would need a mix of resources. "The university would need to be able to identify a full time staff members salaries, salary and benefits. And we would need space. We don't have space to grow here in this building," Baldwin said.

Budget concerns are not the only negative impact of lowering enrollment. Faculty have to worry about meeting enrollment quotas in the courses they teach. If a course has less...

Police Blotter 3



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On Jan. 18, the R/O (Reporting Officer) was dispatched to Phelps Hall in regards to vehicle break-in. Once on scene, the R/O made contact with the victim who informed the R/O that nothing was missing from her vehicle and it did not appear that entry was made into the vehicle. However, an attempt was made. There was damage to the driver's side door around the lock. The victim stated that the attempted break-in occurred between 8 p.m. Monday night and 12 p.m. Tuesday afternoon while her vehicle was parked across the street at the Dragon Express Restaurant.

On Jan. 19, the R/O observed a silver vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed northbound on Eden Terrace and confirmed that the target vehicle was traveling at a speed of 40 mph in a 35 mph zone.

The R/O then turned around, started following the vehicle and attempted to make a traffic stop. The target yielded at the intersection of McNair Street and Eden Terrace. The R/O approached the vehicle and informed the suspect of the reason for the stop. The R/O asked the driver for her SCDL, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. The suspect could not produce them, stating that she left them at home. The R/O asked for the suspect's name and date of birth and then requested dispatch to run the vehicle license number.

Dispatch was able to ascertain the information, revealing that the tag came back to a different car. The R/O explained that her information could not be found and that the vehicle associated with that license plate was not for the vehicle that she was driving.

The R/O informed the suspect that her vehicle was going to be towed and that she was going to be charged with speeding, no driver's license and improper display. The license plate was seized and put into evidence.

To read more of 'WU student enrollment falling, effects felt across campus,' go to mytjnow.com. This story was originally written for palmetto-report.com



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

The Eagles are now 3-15 overall and 1-6 in conference play

Winthrop women's basketball beats UNC Asheville

Eagles earn their first conference win of the season

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The Winthrop women's basketball team defeated UNC Asheville on Saturday, marking the team's first victory over a Big South opponent this season.

Prior to Saturday's 75-54 blowout win, the Eagles were 0-6 versus conference opponents and 2-15 overall.

"We've hit a lot of adversity this season and I know doubt sometimes creeps in you when things are not going well," said head coach Semeka Randall Lay.

"Just to watch our players come out and really have fun and compete and fight for one another — it really started with Leonor (Paisana) and Myra (Strickland) stepping up big and J'Mani (Ingram) being who she is — I'm really, really proud of what they did, and it was really a total team effort," she said.

The Eagles opened the season on a four-game road stretch (including games at Duke and Kentucky) before returning home for a five-game homestand, which was capped off with consecutive wins against Western Carolina and Clafin. Saturday's win marked the most points Winthrop has scored in a game this season, and the second-fewest points

the team has given up.

"I thought we were patient," Randall Lay said. "We let some things develop for us in our offense. Our posts have a hard job in terms of spreading out and setting a ton of screens for us.

"Starting with Caroline (De Klauman) on down to Sierra (Hunter) [and] to Sydney (Hunter), being able to do that consistently for our team, it really helped. We rewarded them by throwing it inside, and they literally at times shot layups. That gives us good balance, and then it opens up shots for our guards to knock down those threes."

Winthrop shot 6-of-13 from deep compared to UNC Asheville's 5-of-31. All five of Asheville's three-pointers were made by junior Kai Carter, who went 5-of-15 from behind the arc and 7-of-21 from the field for 19 points.

Fifth-year senior Nadiria Evans also contributed 18 points for the Bulldogs. Randall Lay said Winthrop specifically gameplanned for Evans' and Carter's mid-range scoring ability.

"We wanted to take away where they're known to get points at, and that's in the middle of the key, and so it forced them to take a lot of threes. That's

kind of a little bit out of their comfort zone, so credit to our defense — us being able to play our zone defense — and make them take those tough shots and then force the rebounds out of it."

This was the first win for the Eagles since the team dealt with COVID-19 related issues at the beginning of the new year, resulting in five conference games being postponed. The team didn't play for over two weeks, and prior to Saturday, was 0-5 since being 'on pause.'

"Players had a players meeting and wanted to get things back in order, and they challenged one another and they really put things together and went out and won a game," Randall Lay said.

Winthrop has already played four of the top five teams in the league — three of which were on the road. With Saturday's strong showing, Randall Lay said she is hopeful that Winthrop can find its rhythm as it gets ready to face some teams that are lower in the conference standings.

"We've shown spurts, but tonight we actually put everything together. It was overall a great performance, offensively and defensively," Randall Lay said.

cont. **EVENT CENTER**
from pg. 1

...and City Management. Other contributors were the architect McMillan Pazdan Smith and the construction company J.M. Cope.

marketing supervisor of the City of Rock Hill's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

In December 2021, the Winthrop men's basketball team played Carver College in the No Room for Racism Classic hosted at the

economic impact, and in 2021, it rose to \$34.4 million," Jones said.

The economic impact comes from the buying of materials and other spending from those coming to Rock Hill for events.

"All of these events are set up in a stay and play format. Meaning they play for a minimum of two days, causing them to stay in our community for at least one night. Families and participants have been staying in hotels, eating out at restaurants, shopping, and



Photo Courtesy of City of Rock Hill

Volleyball tournament takes place on the main courts of the facility

"Without their leadership and guidance, the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center would have never happened," Jones said.

There are numerous areas for events to be held within the facility, such as a championship court, a main court, a walking track, a multi-purpose room, and multiple concession stands and locker rooms.

There are various events that happen in the event center throughout the week.

Some of the larger events that are held in the event center include volleyball, basketball, corn hole, gymnastics and boxing. The center has also hosted political rallies, company Christmas parties and job fairs.

"The event organizer schedules teams, and they would likely have run over 100 games and events that weekend at the facility," said Laurie Helms, the

Rock Hill Sports and Event Center. In addition to participating in the No Room for Racism event, the Winthrop basketball teams have practiced on the championship court.

"The community reaction was very positive with many coming out to support their hometown team," Jones said of the No Room for

buying gas in the Rock Hill community, which has a direct economic impact on our area," Jones said.

While the center is used for large events, the facility is also open to the public. A track is available for walking and running, and there is an open gym that is available to the public.

A small fee is required



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian archive

The Rock Hill Sports and Event Center hosts various events and conferences

Racism Classic.

As more and more people travel to Rock Hill to utilize the center's courts, the city has experienced a great financial impact.

"In 2020, the facility had a \$30.4 million

for the use of the open gym, which can be paid daily or purchased as a yearly membership. Information on times for the availability of the facility can be found on the City of Rock Hill's website.

Eagle of the Week: Lauren King

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Being the oldest teammate as a fifth-year senior, but only 21 years old, Lauren King often takes on the role of the softball team's mom, doing her best to lead by example and provide advice.

"I am kind of quiet, so sometimes it is hard for me to be a vocal leader. I try to lead by example and do what I need to do," King said.

At 8 years old, King "accidentally" began playing softball in addition to playing soccer and basketball as it was something she simply "wanted to try." She continued to play basketball through middle school and participated on the track team early in high school, but eventually, softball became her main focus.

"I think we left a lot on the field last year. I think we had some regrets. But we have some new faces this

year, and I definitely think we will be competitive and have a lot of things to prove. It'll be a fun season," King said.

The Eagles ended the 2021 season in fifth place in the conference standings, just shy of making the Big South Tournament (which the top four teams competed in). However, after successful games, King enjoys going out for Mexican food to celebrate with her teammates, frequently visiting Tequila, the restaurant just down the hill from Winthrop Coliseum.

Beyond creating lasting friendships with her teammates, one of King's favorite things about being a college athlete is collecting all the gear.

"We always get clothes. I have, like, three brand new bookbags that I barely use and collect over the years. But at the same time, we have to work

for these things, so I think it is always a reminder of what we have to work for," King said.

In September of 2021, King underwent surgery on her knee, so she has been focusing on recovery these last few months before the season.

"I'm a little anxious. A lot of it for me has just

been trying to get back to 100%. I don't think I'll really get there, but as close as I can to help the team," King said.

King's 26-year-old sister has been a huge inspiration to her during these trying years as a college athlete during the pandemic.

"I love the way she

lives her life and interacts with people. I would love to turn out like her. She's a flight attendant, so she's always traveling. I'm jealous because she spends so much time in these other places. She definitely enjoys her life," King said.

Although she does not frequently travel like her sister, King is actually an American citizen and a British citizen.

"The way it works for Britain is that you can get citizenship through your parents. My mom was born in England, so all I had to do was apply for a passport and citizenship," King said.

Since spare time can be limited in the life of a college athlete, King loves taking naps, working out, and relaxing with her roommates whenever possible. Outside of Winthrop athletics, King is an advisory board member for the Exercise Science

Club on campus.

"I help set up events and meetings. We do a lot of community service, like at Miracle Park; we helped when they opened up. We also do fun events like rock climbing in the West Center and ice skating when the rink was in downtown Rock Hill," King said.

Currently, King is submitting applications to various graduate school programs to earn a Master of Science in either exercise science or kinesiology. As of now, attending UNC Charlotte is her top choice.

"Ideally, yes, I would like to play [softball] my first year and then hopefully pick up a grad assistantship my second year. But if that doesn't work out, it is what it is. Eventually, I'd like to be a strength and conditioning coach, either for college or a professional team, but leaning more toward college," King said.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications
King started 44 games for Winthrop in 2021

Men's basketball set to air on ESPNU Thursday night



Photo courtesy of Christina Willis

In 2019, Winthrop defeated Gardner-Webb on ESPNU, 97-88

Eagles will host North Carolina A&T State for first-ever meeting in program history

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Winthrop men's basketball will host North Carolina A&T State for the first time in program history Thursday night on ESPNU.

NC A&T, which is in its first year competing in the Big South Conference, is 9-13 overall and 4-4 in Big South play.

The Aggies are on a three-game losing streak, with a one-point loss versus Campbell, an eight-point loss to Longwood, and most recently, a 20-point loss to USC Upstate.

The Eagles have lost two of their last three, with a 65-56 loss at High Point on Jan. 24 and a 92-88 loss at Longwood on Saturday. In between those loss-

es, the Eagles pulled out a comeback victory in Spartanburg on Jan. 26, defeating USC Upstate 95-91 in overtime.

Despite the losses, Winthrop is 6-2 in conference play and remains one of the premiere teams in the Big South, having won the conference title the past two seasons. The Eagles were voted to finish atop the Big South's South Division this season in the conference preseason poll.

Similarly, NC A&T won the 2021 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference regular season title before dropping out of the conference tournament due to a positive COVID-19 case within the program. The Aggies were picked to finish third in the Big South's North

Division in the conference preseason poll.

Winthrop has not lost a game in Winthrop Coliseum this season and buzz is heating up on campus and in the Rock Hill community. At Winthrop's last home game (Jan. 22 versus Gardner-Webb), a season-high 1,803 people were recorded in attendance.

This is Winthrop's second game to be featured on ESPNU this season, with the first on Jan. 13 when the Eagles hosted UNC Asheville. That contest went to overtime, and the Eagles eventually earned an 86-80 victory.

Thursday's game tips off at 7 p.m. and the first 300 students in attendance get free shirts. Fans are encouraged to wear garnet.



STUDENT MEDIA POLL

Week 12

Matthew Shealy's votes

Michael Covil's votes

1. Auburn
2. Gonzaga
3. Houston
4. Purdue
5. Kentucky
6. Duke
7. UCLA
8. Arizona
9. Kansas
10. Michigan St.
11. Wisconsin
12. Baylor
13. Providence
14. Texas Tech
15. Illinois
16. Villanova
17. Connecticut
18. Marquette
19. Boise St.
20. Ohio St.
21. USC
22. Davidson
23. Alabama
24. Miami
25. Iona

1. Auburn
2. Houston
3. Gonzaga
4. UCLA
5. Duke
6. Kentucky
7. Villanova
8. Wisconsin
9. Purdue
10. Providence
11. Texas Tech
12. Baylor
13. Michigan St.
14. Kansas
15. Arizona
16. Illinois
17. Boise St.
18. Marquette
19. Miami
20. Ohio St.
21. Iona
22. Connecticut
23. Indiana
24. Iowa St.
25. Murray St.



To/Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Winthrop is undefeated at home this season with an 8-0 record

The importance and celebration of Black History Month

Discussing African American History Month

JADA STRONG
staff writer

Black History Month in February is a time for us to reflect on those who came before us and honor their legacy, including people like Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis. But it's also a reminder for us to not become too complacent with where we are today. There's still work to be done and history to be taught.

There's still so much evolution and justice deserved for the Black community today.

Professor Joyce White has been working here at Winthrop since 2019. She teaches Critical Thinking and African American Literature. Every day, students in her class learn about great African American writers and their timeless works.

"I think Black History Month really puts into prominence, you know, a sort of practice we should have every day, especially as African Americans," White said. "Which is that it gives hope, homage

and honor to those that have come before us and have made significant impacts, and not just the lives of African Americans, but in American life."

Winthrop professor O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, teaches both U.S. History and African American History. Although Dixon-McKnight teaches U.S. History and African American History as different courses, she notes how both are important and not separated at their core.

"Black History Month is why I do what I do," Dixon-McKnight said. "The study of Black history, it's important to highlight the experiences of African Americans. You know, we often think about American history as one discipline and African American as another. Well, that's true in some ways. The other thing to think about is that Black history is U.S. history."

White sees this month as a time to reflect on what our ancestors did for us, that to be where



Selma (1965), by Barbara Pennington, in the Mint Museum in Charlotte, 2021

To/Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

she is today wouldn't have happened without those she's learned from and who came before her.

"When I go into the classroom, I teach. What I'm doing is I'm honoring the legacy of Carter G. Woodson and what he would have, in my humble opinion, wanted in terms of how this Negro History Week expanded into a month, but then how this is a lived and everyday practice of honoring," White said. "People like Angela Davis who are still living today and Sonia Sanchez and Nikki Giovanni, who are continually still talking about oppression, still talking about social injustice, still really

dedicated to the uplift of Black Folk, not just in America, but around the world, the diaspora."

Nyombi Walthour-Corley, a junior at Winthrop, is currently taking African American Literature with White.

"For me, Black History Month is truly a holiday. It is sacred," Walthour-Corley said. "It is a celebration for the Black community; a remembrance of our long history, including our many hardships, achievements and successes and it represents a yearly cultural revival that is all the more important for these younger generations of Black people."

As we move forward

in our generation we cannot forget the traumas the Black community has faced and continues to face today. Just because our voices are louder than ever does not mean racism has completely dissolved.

"For non-Black people to truly understand us, they need to know our history. Our origins. What we've done after enslavement and freedom, which ultimately made us the people we are today," Walthour-Corley said. "I would also like them to recognize that we are not a monolithic people — there are several subcultures under our umbrella community."

Black History Month is not only for Black

people, it is for every race to learn from and understand why this month is important and that the message remains to be practiced every single day of our lives.

"I want non-Black people to make the conscious choice to educate themselves on us and our cultures instead of relying on us to do the intellectual-emotional labor for them," Nyombi said. "To recognize that our Ebonics, AAVE and Creole are just as much languages as they are dialects — and that they are not 'TikTok' slang or social media slang in general."

Award-winning spoken word artist, Cocoa Flo, comes to Winthrop

DSU presents cultural event, "Words Matter," featuring Cocoa Flo

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Spoken word poetry artist, Jasmine "Cocoa Flo" Swanagan brings her ingenious talent to Dina's Place tonight at 8 p.m. at the cultural event titled "Words Matter" hosted by the DiGiorgio Student Union.

According to Winthrop's website, "Cocoa Flo's work speaks on empowerment, perseverance and uplifting women's voices."

The artist started in spoken word in 2015 shortly after graduating from the University of Cincinnati.

"I started writing in a spoken-word style a few years prior, but I didn't yet know that was the style I was writing. I wrote and recorded a poem called '9 Trillion' and shared the video on social media. That led to me getting a show offer. The show offer led me to hitting open mic sets to prepare and the rest is history. I've literally been in the game ever since." Cocoa Flo said. Since then, the artist

has been presented with the President's Award for Personal Growth and Accomplishments, Community Involvement and Service to Others while also receiving many accolades for her work including, "Four time first place winner of Dayton Poetry Slam (Dayton, OH) 2016-2018, second place Lipstick Wars Poetry Slam (Louisville, KY) 2016 & 2017, second place Art & Soul Poetry Slam (Cincinnati, OH) 2017 & 2018, first place Soul Spit Summer-Slam (Louisville, KY) 2017, first place Detroit Summer Bank Slam (Detroit, MI) 2017, first place Stay Woke Slam (Cincinnati, OH) 2017, second place Half Stack Slam (Detroit, MI) 2018, first place University of Dayton Litfest (Dayton, OH) 2018, first place Slam Madness (Greenville, SC) 2018," according to boldcreativesolutions.com.

Cocoa Flo describes the development process of her poems as "quite loopy."

"One day I'll have the poem idea and maybe a few lines, then weeks later I might think of a few more to go along with it, then I might let it sit for a while before I even think of it again," Cocoa Flo said.

While the creative process is long, inspiration is vital to the construction of each poem.

"Creating for me requires that my brain is a restful enough space to actual[ly] think and dream a poem into fruition. Usually, I don't know if a poem is truly 'done' until I have a chance to perform it and get a feel of how it flows," Cocoa Flo said.

The internet and social media have allowed internet users to connect with an abundance of poetry artists ranging from an innumerable amount of styles and "share themselves with the world," Cocoa Flo said.

"The pandemic showed us how useful a tool the internet and social media is for poets. When shows could no longer be onsite,

poets were still able to adapt and do virtual shows. It didn't matter if you were in Charlotte or San Diego, there was the opportunity to still give your gift through the internet," Cocoa Flo said.

Junior fine arts major Jordan Stewart said, "Student and faculty could benefit from Winthrop bringing in poetry artists because art is one unique way to inspire people to do things because just telling someone to do something doesn't necessarily push them to want to do it but if they're inspired or if it sticks in their brain like how poetry is really repetitive, kind of like a song it'll stick in their head longer and it'll push for more change even if it's only a small minority of people who feel impacted by these performers, it has still affected a percentage of the audience and this could be for the students and the faculty, and anyone who might hear [about] it from the people who were at the event."



Award winning spoken word artist, speaker and author, Cocoa Flo of Owensboro, Kentucky

With each performance, Cocoa Flo has a few different goals in mind.

"Firstly, I want the audience to have fun. I am such a charismatic and high-energy performer and I want the room to feel that. Secondly, my goal is to say something that gives the audience reason to act, think or heal. I want them to hear something that relates to them or causes them to see the world differently or want to make changes in how they see themselves.

Lastly, I want them to understand the importance of words and how they help guide us," Cocoa Flo said. "I want them to believe that they have something to say that is worth hearing and to create those spaces for themselves. It's bigger than you, and you never know who can and will be impacted by your words."

Cocoa Flo's work is available for listening on Spotify, iTunes, Google Music and CD Baby.



The twin pressurized water reactors of Catawba Nuclear Station on Lake Wylie

Photo Courtesy to Duke Energy

Nuclear energy resides on Catawba River

Winthrop students and faculty reflect on nuclear energy and its place in the community

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Situated on a peninsula in Lake Wylie, Catawba Nuclear Station has been providing York County and its surrounding districts with power for over 25 years without major incident. Both of its pressurized water reactors are operated by Duke Energy, which also operates nine other nuclear units across the Carolinas.

Just 10 miles away from Catawba, Rock Hill is located within Catawba's plume exposure pathway, which is defined by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as the area whose population is at the greatest risk of in-

halation and ingestion of radioactive materials in the event an incident fails to be contained. This zone also contains the cities of York, Tega Cay and Fort Mill.

Scott Werts, professor of geology at Winthrop and Dalton Endowed Chair of Environmental Sciences and Studies, formerly worked as a scientist for the U.S. Nuclear Commission.

"When a nuclear plant is constructed correctly, maintained correctly, and procedures are followed, it's a fairly safe form of energy," he said. "The rate of accidents and mishaps are pretty low overall when looking at the rest of the energy systems out there."

This emphasis on strict regulation and safety procedures is reflected in the number of deaths per terawatt hour per year for nuclear, which as of 2018 was just .04. Compare this to coal, which had 4025 times the number of deaths at 161.

MeiRose Barnette, a data science major, lives in Rock Hill and reports that she doesn't think too much about living near Catawba.

"Nuclear seems like an interesting avenue for the future of energy. I haven't had any issues living near Catawba so far," she said.

"The one issue that is a worry is the storage of the waste material from the reactors," Werts

said. "An awful lot of the spent fuel is stored onsite at the nuclear plant. ... It's not a great place to store spent fuel, because we want to avoid that getting into the water system."

Catawba faced an issue with its waste containment procedures in 2013 when nearly 100 gallons of wastewater containing tritium, a radioactive hydrogen isotope, leaked from the station. However, it was secured before it could reach groundwater, and tritium levels were less than half of what the EPA lists as the standard limit for drinking water. A report on the incident by the NRC listed the leak as a "non-emergency."

"I didn't know there was a plant nearby," said Bella Hovis, a senior computer science major. "I come from Pennsylvania, so I lived near where the Three Mile Island incident happened. Nuclear energy is powerful, but it needs to be handled incredibly carefully."

Public perception of nuclear energy in the U.S. has recently been trending towards favorability. According to a May 2021 poll by Bisconti Research, nearly 76% of Americans strongly or somewhat favored nuclear energy, a rapid increase from just 60% in 2019.

"I love nuclear energy. The amount of waste it produces

relative to the energy it creates is much, much less compared to any other form of energy," said Nicolas Diaz, a mathematics major. "I don't mind living near Catawba. I think that the environmental movement here in America needs to focus on its expansion."

Mason Foster, a mass communication major, agrees.

"I think nuclear energy is our cleanest, most efficient and sustainable energy option as a society now," he said.

A review of 'Capital is Dead' by McKenzie Wark

Philosopher McKenzie Wark explores our current technological path and how it is consuming us

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In the 1980s, western capital owners moved to defeat the rising labor movements in the United States and Europe through the process of globalization, the opening up of global trade and the transference of industry to developing nations, in an attempt to side-step the power of domestic labor entirely. However, in creating these new, sweeping networks of trade, western capitalists unintentionally fostered the rise of a new mode of production centered around the control of information: vectoralism, which has now subsumed capitalism as the dominant mode of production.

This is the controversial and thrilling thesis explored by McKenzie Wark in her work "Capital is Dead, is this Something Worse?"

from Verso Books. An expounding on her earlier essay "The Hacker Manifesto," Wark takes a deep dive into the ways in which information technology has been shaping our lives and creeping into every facet of our being.

To Wark, it no longer seems necessary to directly own the means of production in order to capture wealth. Rather, it is much more profitable to own the means of organizing production: the vector, the abstract digital construct through which information is organized. By controlling the vector one is able to capture, process and dictate the use of the vast quantities of information generated everyday by the innumerable number of interactions between people and their environment.

Wark labels those who own the data infrastructure necessary to manage the vector the



Photo Courtesy to Verso Books

vectoralist class. These are Google, Microsoft and Amazon, along with smaller (yet still influential) operations such as Uber and Airbnb. These corporations do not generate wealth through the extraction of profit from labor

as capitalists do, but instead use their capability to process information to facilitate consumer transactions with an efficiency never seen before.

In 2020, Google made 80.9% of its \$181.69 billion in rev-

enue from advertising services alone. Car-and home-sharing services such as Uber and Airbnb do not own the capital being shared, but instead own the means through which customers and contractors are connected: the vector.

Just as the capitalist class extracts profit from the working class, the vectoralist class uses the talents of the hacker class to generate new information from the bounty of raw input provided by the vector. "Hackers" are data scientists, programmers, advertisers, listicle writers on BuzzFeed—anyone whose job it is to process, understand and create information. Their productivity is not measured in sameness and hours, as it is for a factory worker, but in difference, the creation of new and "unique" pieces of content (intellectual property), and can happen

in variable time.

Where does all of this information come from? Wark terms it "free labor," which occurs every time you interact with your smart devices. When you search for a product on Google, like a post on Instagram or even wear your Fitbit to bed, you generate information, which is transferred to the vectoralist's data infrastructure by means of the vector. It is then worked with for a myriad of purposes (generating marketing reports, sold to third-parties, etc) by hackers. We "info-proles" generate information, but lack the means to realize its value.

As the age of information continues to unfold, Wark urges us to recognize the disintegration of privacy in the name of wealth, and asks us to reject the commodification of our very minds.



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What's the point of mask mandates? Is there a point?

An opinionated guest column looking into the mask mandates in the United States following the spread of COVID-19

WES THOMAS
Winthrop University's
College Republicans

Masks either work, or they don't.

Let's first consider the facts, such as how the only study that showed masks as having any efficacy at all used N95s, with the assumption that people would switch out their mask intermittently throughout the day instead of wearing the same cloth mask for months on end (as most do). This study was outlined by CNN Health.

A more recent study from the University of Waterloo found that cloth masks fail to block 90% of the 'particles' in the air, or that CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen called face masks "little more than facial decorations." This implies that they had been this useless since the spread of the delta variant, if not before.

If masks are not

effective, then mandates regarding their use are authoritarian: rules without reason and authority without argument. Not to mention the yet unknown psychological effects of going so long without seeing human faces, especially for children. Take the over 50% rise of suicide attempts among young girls since the pandemic started, for example. This statistic was published by Rich Mendez of CNBC.

Moreover, if these masks do work, then we are harming not only our mental health but our physical health as well by dulling our immune systems against both mundane and uncommon sickness. This would lead to us falling more seriously ill than we would have been otherwise. Our immune system can only function properly when allowed to train itself through exposure,

a process that vaccines mimic with less effectiveness.

So...what are we doing? What is the goal? Why wear masks at all, and especially now? To protect the unvaccinated? They do not want protection, and, besides, most can be assumed to have natural immunity by this point; this immunity is 10 to 30 times superior to vaccination in almost every way, according to the only study on the subject, which was conducted in Israel in 2021, according to science.org.

Is the purpose to protect those who cannot be vaccinated? That is ridiculous, is it not? If you cannot be vaccinated, then there is no protection for you that you would not already have. If that is the goal, then we are subjecting ourselves to never show our face in public ever again. There is no limiting principle for

a population that does not statistically exist and for whom there are already alternative treatments.

Are masks meant to protect children? The average age of a death related to COVID-19 is 82, with younger demographics dying in so few numbers that, according to multiple studies across the globe, those under 30 are up to six times more likely to suffer health complications from the Moderna vaccine than they are from COVID-19 itself, which is why some European nations have banned them from being administered to the young at all, according to reuters.com.

If the sole goal is to protect oneself from COVID-19, with no other concerns, then it's simple arithmetic. First, especially if someone is compromised or older, then they should get vaccinated and re-

duce their chances of getting seriously ill from zero to less than zero. They should then take the mask off, get COVID-19, and reduce their chances of future infection even further by acquiring an immunity that requires no booster.

By wearing a mask, by insisting that everyone sanitizes, socially distances and covers their faces, humanity is purposely and deliberately reducing their protection against mundane germs and bacteria and not just COVID-19. If masks work, then you are deliberately undermining our and your personal health, and for what?

It's a Catch-22; if masks truly are ineffective, then a mandate is authoritarian. If they do work, then they directly cause more harm than good. So, I ask, what can a mask mandate be except an attack on "the science"



and on humanity's personal, physical, and psychological health? Not to mention such things as decency, humanity and common sense.

If you ask me, there is nothing sicker than insanity, and so I'll end with a quote from Plato's "Republic": "...hypochondria is ill-fitted for any sort of learning, enquiry, or study of one's self while one is perpetually dreading certain pains and headaches, and blaming philosophy for causing them... it is a great obstacle to both virtue and self-improvement."

Spring Semester Stress

Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian



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