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Popular coffee shop in downtown Rock Hill

Taylor Sallenger/The Johnsonian

Former employees say Knowledge Perk created hostile work environment

Transphobia, misogyny among allegations against the Rock Hill coffee shop

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Multiple former employees of local coffee shop Knowledge Perk have come forward with allegations of transphobia and misogyny in the workplace, including intentional

misgendering and gender stereotyping.

Junior psychology major at Winthrop and former Knowledge Perk employee Olivia Corby said they experienced transphobia and misogyny while working as a barista at the coffee

shop, despite disclosing their pronouns.

"I was asked for my pronouns when I was hired, so I outed myself just to be harassed every day. \$9.50 an hour was not worth coming home and crying every day," Corby said.

When reached for comment, Knowledge Perk CEO and co-founder Ryan Sanderson said in an email interview that employees were always encouraged to use the correct pronouns for their fellow staff mem-

bers.

"We have had multiple nonbinary team members who have and still do work for us. If an employee volunteers their pronouns, other employees are encouraged to use those pronouns. At a recent

company meeting, I reaffirmed this encouragement by reminding that it is company policy that employees use known, requested pronouns," Sanderson said.

see KNOWLEDGE pg. 3

Sorority suspended until 2025

More information to be published soon

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Winthrop's chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma was charged with multiple violations to the 2021-2022 Student Conduct Code on Sunday, Jan. 27. The sorority is suspended for three years effective Feb. 24, 2022.

The investigation on

the sorority was initiated on Thursday, Jan. 24, according to winthrop.edu. The website also noted that the investigation was in regard to incidents that occurred on March 5, 2020 and Oct. 28, 2021.

The 43-year-old Delta Pi chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma was charged

with alcohol violations and "[f]ailure to abide by any published University policy or procedure, including but not limited to Interim Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy, Social Event guidelines for student organizations, Membership Intake policies for Greek-letter organizations, temporary

or permanent health and safety guidelines," according to winthrop.edu.

The Johnsonian will continue to cover the sorority's suspension.

Please email editors@mytjnow.com if you have any information.



Bid Day 2022

Photo courtesy of @winthroptrisigma



Graphic courtesy of trisigma.org



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Angelo

Eagle of the Week: Hannah Justice

Senior earns first start after battling injuries throughout athletic career

SAM HYATT
staff writer

As a senior defender on the Winthrop lacrosse team, Hannah Justice started for the first time in her collegiate career against East Carolina University on Feb. 18.

"I have to admit, I had to keep it together when I found out I was starting on Friday. It was such a huge moment for me," Justice said. "Not only is it my first time starting here at Winthrop, it is also my first time starting in college."

Justice started playing lacrosse at 6 years old.

"I remember I had just moved and got to sign up for all new sports teams and decided to try lacrosse. In Maryland, pretty much everyone plays, so it was a no-brainer to start so young," Justice said.

Justice began playing lacrosse at the collegiate level at Butler University. However, after some time, she talked with one of her assistant coaches, Nicole Beatson (a Winthrop alumna), who suggested playing at Winthrop.

see EAGLE pg. 4

Charlotte in top 100 US cities with highest STD rate

Jackson, Mississippi, was ranked #1 on the list

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Charlotte was #26 on Innerbody Research's published results of their 5th annual study that ranks the Top 100 U.S. cities with the highest STD rates based on the Center for Disease Control's most recent STD data.

According to aarp.org, "The rates of [STD] infection are highest among people ages 15 to 24."

Considering college students typically fall within this age range,

Winthrop University Health Services has information about this

topic on winthrop.edu. "Students can speak with a healthcare professional about issues related to sexual health, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, and undergo confidential testing in a safe, non-judgmental environment," according to winthrop.edu.

The CDC says that using condoms, having few to no partners and getting vaccinated with the HPV vaccine can all help in STD prevention.



Graphic courtesy of Innerbody Research

Top 10 U.S. cities with the highest STD rates



Graphic courtesy of safeandsoundschools.org

Cultural event held to discuss sexual assault

NEWS, pg. 2



Graphic Courtesy of Maggie Claytor

Car deliberately damaged by suspect who is owed money

NEWS, pg. 3



Flickr

Charlotte Football Club soon to have inaugural match

SPORTS, pg. 5



Olivia Esselman/TJ Archive

How has the pandemic affected how we read?

AC&T, pg. 7



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian

Another Flood (re-reported in Courtyard)

COMICS, pg. 8



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

Cultural event held to discuss sexual assault Winthrop hosts cultural event to discuss sexual assault on college campuses

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Winthrop University recently held a cultural event concerning sexual assault on college campuses. The event featured a screening of the 2015 documentary film “The Hunting Ground” followed by a Q&A discussion.

It was put on by the Title IX Office in coordination with the Women and Gender Studies program.

The Q&A featured a panel with Title IX coordinator Kevin Sheppard, Office of Victims Assistance coordinator Itali Jackson, Office of Victims Assistance social worker Bry-anna Jones, a representative from Safe Passage Suze Joseph, Interim Dean of Students Anthony Davis and Interim Chief of Winthrop Police Charles Yearta.

“The Hunting Ground” is a documentary film that follows several women from different college campuses and their experiences with sexual assault on their campus. The women narrate what happened and the aftereffects from reporting it, including threats they received and inaction from ad-

ministration.

The event was held to “bring more awareness to the university community about the incidences of sexual assault/harassment/misconduct on college

assaults, we are making our best efforts to create a cultural shift across campus in addressing these matters and the overall concerns of the students around this subject,”

IX Office, I felt this to be a great time to reprise the screening of this film (last time it was done was 2015 or 2016) and have a panel discussion afterward, especially as we gear

mean they have to come to the police department. I want them to report it to at least Winthrop University. Because it allows Winthrop University to at least look into it.

Winthrop University Police Department and off-campus resources like Safe Passage.

Students were impressed by the cultural event.

“I enjoyed last night’s event because I got to see for myself how open and transparent the faculty is under the leadership of Mr. Sheppard. It gave me hope that sexual assault on Winthrop’s campus has hope of being justly fought against, if not eradicated completely,” said freshman political science major Armon Robinson.

It is important to continue to promote awareness about sexual assault and to communicate with administration.

“I am open to meeting with any and everyone who would like to meet with me to discuss solutions on how we move forward,” Sheppard said. “We can meet one-on-one or in small or large groups.

“I welcome the engagement of every single individual or group that is a part of this institution. My door is open to all. Let’s work together to create a cultural shift at Winthrop University.”



Panelists speak at the Hunting Ground cultural event

Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian

campuses, the reporting processes and resources available to the Winthrop University community,” Sheppard said.

“This was also an attempt to inform the students that although there have been challenges in the past of how the institution has handled sexual

Sheppard said.

The Title IX Office felt now was the best time to hold this event.

“With the current climate of our campus regarding sexual assaults, the student activism, a new Title IX Coordinator being brought on board and the establishment for the first time of an actual Title

up for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April,” Sheppard said.

Officials stressed that even if the survivor does not go through the legal system, they at least should consider reporting to the university.

“When I say we want people to report, it doesn’t necessarily

By doing that, it also allows us to provide individual resources for their mental health, physical health, things like that,” said Yearta.

There are many resources available to Winthrop University students who are survivors of sexual assault. These include the Office of Victims Assistance, the Title IX Office, the

Students shared experiences, gave suggestions at February Culinary Council



Photo courtesy of @winthropdining1 Instagram

Pastries from February event posted on Winthrop Dining Services’ Instagram

Culinary Council will be held more often so students can have more say in campus dining

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Students at the Culinary Council on Feb. 23 voiced concerns with many Winthrop dining locations, emphasizing Mein Bowl and Tres Habaneros and noting changes in food preparation and quality.

Culinary Council is a meeting between students and Dining Services administrators to increase student involvement in the dining options on campus. Student opinions and experiences were documented by those present, citing previous accomplishments of the Culinary Council, such as the addition or change of menu items

in Eagle Eatery and the implementation of new pop-ups based on student input.

General Manager of Dining Services Helen Hoban said she and her staff value student feedback, so students should feel free to talk to any one of the managers if they have issues with the food.

“We can address problems quickly when we know them,” she said to the Culinary Council.

Students’ primary concern at the council was the decreased quality of food in many locations within the DiGiorgio Campus Center. Many students specifically cited the

chicken at Mein Bowl as one such concern.

O’bryan Warren, retail manager for Markley’s at the Center, said Mein Bowl, a franchise like Chick-fil-A, was previously using chicken provided by the university because they were unable to receive their brand’s chicken due to supply chain issues. Now, Mein Bowl is able to receive those shipments, but Warren said complaints about the quality of the chicken have gone up since then.

Similar concerns were voiced about the quality and recipes used at Tres Habaneros. Warren said that in the past, Tres Habaneros

did not follow the recipes laid out by Sodexo but have begun to follow them again, leading to increased complaints as the food changed.

Plastic utensils in Eagle Eatery was another topic of discussion. Hoban said university facilities has fixed the main issue with the dishwasher, which broke months ago. However, Hoban said parts and specialists are needed to complete the repair.

Suggestions for improvements were also given by students. Some wanted to see Tres Habaneros replaced by a Chipotle or Moe’s, while others wanted to see pizza

come to Markley’s. Students also said they wanted to see Dining Services partner with local restaurants, which Hoban said she was already looking into.

In Eagle Eatery, students suggested including more cultural foods, such as Chinese, Indian and Latin. Hoban said Dining Services is already working with the International Center to develop culturally accurate dishes.

Hoban said Dining Services is planning to install comment boards in both Eagle Eatery and Markley’s where students can write both negative and positive comments about the food on cards and post

them on the board. The cards will be taken periodically and reviewed by administration as an indication of how each location is performing.

Before feedback was taken, marketing specialist Aba Hutchison presented data on meal waste, which has dropped from an estimated 238 meals in Spring 2016 to 105 meals in Spring 2022.

The calendar of March events was also discussed by Hutchison, but it has not been officially released as of Friday, Feb. 25.

Dining Services will try to have a Culinary Council meeting each month.

Parking enforcement around campus to increase

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Parking enforcement on side streets around campus will increase due to an increase in complaints from residents and business owners affected by unlawful parking.

The streets impacted include but are not limited to Park Avenue Extension, Ebenezer Avenue Extension, Stewart Avenue, Park Avenue, Ebenezer Avenue, Aiken Avenue and Union Avenue, according to an email sent by Winthrop's Interim Chief of Police Charles Yeararta.

Yeararta said law enforcement and property owners are allowed to tow illegally parked cars that "block access to their property or are safety issues to general traffic."

"The City of Rock Hill and Winthrop University are community partners on many fronts and we of course

want to remain [a] good stewardship to our fellow citizens," he said in the email.

In an interview, Yeararta said the problem of illegal parking by Winthrop students, faculty and staff is not new. However, it has gotten worse this academic year.



Christian Smith/The Johnsonian

demically.

Previously, Rock Hill police would respond to illegally parked cars off campus, then call Winthrop police if the car was identified as belonging to a Winthrop student, faculty or staff member. Due to the rising number of cars illegally parked,

Winthrop police are no longer able to meet Rock Hill for every car.

"[Rock Hill police] are going to up their enforcement, and they have asked us to do the same. Now in the end, we don't want anybody towed, we don't want anybody ticketed,"

Yeararta said. "These are public streets, and you're allowed to park there, but you got to know where you can park."

Yeararta said the majority of people parking illegally on these side streets are students, but some faculty and staff members have

done it as well.

To Yeararta, it is odd that so many students who have parking passes chose to park on the side streets, sometimes illegally, rather than parking on campus.

"We're dealing with students ... who either just didn't buy a park-

ing pass for whatever reason — and that's you all's right — or individuals who bought a parking pass and could park somewhere, but the parking lot that they found an open space in maybe was across the way, and it's closer for them just to park on the side street

next to an academic building," he said.

Yeararta said he has no problem with students parking on side streets for easier access or for not wanting to buy a parking pass, but the issue comes when students park illegally.

According to James Grigg, associate vice president of facilities management, parking is a consideration in the campus master plan, the plan for the future of campus development.

However, it has to be weighed against other options.

"The master plan is looking at parking, but it is one component of the larger campus footprint (buildings, green space, roads, pedestrian routes etc). Since we are a fixed footprint, if you increase one area you reduce another," he said in an email.

Police Blotter



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On Feb. 20, the R/O responded to the Parker Building to meet with the complainant in reference to damage of property. The complainant stated that the front driver's window and passenger taillight of his car had been smashed. The R/O observed the damage and discerned that the damage was deliberate and likely caused by a blunt object such as a hammer. No other vehicles in the lot had been damaged.

The R/O asked if the complainant had any enemies or individuals who wished to cause him harm. The complainant was hesitant to answer but eventually revealed that he had been in a physical altercation with a former student several weeks prior.

The complainant stated that he owed money to the suspect and, after being approached by the suspect at his apartment building, had hit the suspect. He stated that shortly after the incident, the suspect attempted to pry the license plate from the complainant's vehicle but failed, leaving the plate bent but still fixed to the vehicle.

The victim stated that after this incident, he avoided contact with the subject, speaking to him only when necessary and telling him that he would have his money by Feb. 17. The complainant stated that he intended to pay the suspect but was unable to on time due to his payment schedule.

The complainant stated that the suspect contacted him after Feb. 17, asking where his money was, but the complainant had been avoiding him in hopes he could obtain the money before contacting him. The complainant advised the officers that he believed the suspect was the only individual with any motive to damage his property.

At this time, the R/O collected the suspect's contact information and issued the complainant a victim notification form. The complainant was told to contact WUPD if he had any questions or information to add.

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cont. **KNOWLEDGE** from pg. 1

Corby said they were often binding their chest and doing whatever they could to appear more masculine in an attempt to get their coworkers to respect both their pronouns and gender identity.

"I would have bruises and cuts and scars from taping and wearing a binder, and my coworkers would scoff at my attempts to correct them," they said. "[I was] often in tears from both the physical pain I was in from binding my chest to appear more masculine ... and simultaneously being misgendered."

Corby was not the only transgender or nonbinary staff member to experience transphobia at the establishment.

"During my time there, one of my coworkers who is trans was told by a coworker that they were not valid as a person. You cannot preach a better world when coworkers are making cruel statements," Corby said.

The Knowledge Perk mission statement is "Coffee Innovation. Flourishing Community. Better World," but Corby said the mission is a "hoax" because the business does not care for women or LGBTQ people in its community.

Former Knowledge Perk barista and supervisor Emily O'Regan said they had their own experiences with misogyny and transphobia while working at Knowledge Perk.

"One of my coworkers was a female-presenting non-binary person, and I witnessed one of my cis male coworkers continue to speak over them and cut them off in the middle of sentences while they were trying to explain things

to customers," O'Regan said.

According to O'Regan, this male coworker also often misgendered his nonbinary coworker, despite being corrected many times by his other coworker, and preceded to call them dramatic.

"There was a moment where my coworker got reasonably frustrated with him after having to correct him again, and he left and began complaining to the owners about their 'emotional and dramatic behavior,' thus diminishing them and making them feel unsafe to express themselves in their workplace," O'Regan said.

Male coworkers at Knowledge Perk often looked down on their female and female-presenting coworkers, O'Regan said. Despite being promoted to a supervisor, O'Regan continued to be belittled by male coworkers.

"Many of my male coworkers, mostly baristas, continued to ask me if I knew how to make simple drinks such as lattes, and they insisted on teaching me even after I told them that I knew what I was doing. Many of them would try to take over tasks for me and act like I was oblivious to what needed to get done," O'Regan said.

Another former supervisor, who agreed to share her experience on the condition of anonymity, said she experienced misogyny at the coffee shop as well, including a barista telling her the only reason she was promoted was due to her gender.

"A fellow barista who

had worked several months longer than me at KP once told me that the only reason I became a supervisor was because I'm a woman," said the former employee. "I clarified with him that this was hurtful and asked whether he thought I hadn't earned that position on merit, and he explained further that he meant [Knowledge Perk] was trying to improve their image by putting more



knowledgeperk.com

women in leadership roles."

The former employee also said female employees were apparently not allowed to work on the company's coffee bus for a period of time due to the supposed belief that they lacked the strength to lift the bus's generator.

"A consistent joke between female employees of KP was that we weren't allowed to work on the coffee bus (we really weren't) because it required lifting the generator (over 100lbs) into the bus, which women (apparently) could not do, even with the help," the former employee said.

Corby said that despite their previous experience with such buses and lifting generators, they were still not allowed to work on the bus.

"I was told that I couldn't work the bus because women couldn't work on the bus because they couldn't lift the generator, which seemed

preposterous to me. Because how would they know that I can't lift a generator? They're assuming because they see me as a woman I can't. I've had food truck experience. I've lifted many generators in my day, but they didn't want to hear that. They didn't really care," Corby said.

Sanderson said all employees can now work on the bus since purchasing a lighter

generator and having a ramp installed, but never directly answered whether women and female-presenting employees

were prohibited from working on the bus due to the belief that they lacked physical strength.

"At one time, it is correct that the generator was very heavy and required a strong, two-person team to lift it, in order to avoid employee injuries. We take employee safety very seriously. For a short time following an incident, we only scheduled employees with experience with the bus and generator to work on the bus," Sanderson said.

Sanderson said Knowledge Perk takes all concerns seriously and has recently updated its policies.

"We have further recently updated our policies regarding the handling of employee complaints and implemented more expansive employee training on such issues as use of pronouns, anti-harassment, bullying, and other topics," Sanderson said.

Corby said when they

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Tōmara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Winthrop won two games out of three in its opening series versus Eastern Michigan before hitting the road for five-straight away games

Winthrop Baseball 2-5 after battling South Carolina and Liberty

Eagles enter Wednesday's game at UNC on 5-game losing streak

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Last week the Eagles traveled to Columbia to play the Gamecocks on Tuesday, Feb. 22, followed by a trip to Virginia on Feb. 25 to compete in a three-game series against Liberty.

"I thought we gave ourselves a chance to win. I think early in the game, we came out with some intensity, and I felt good about where we were at," head coach Tom Riginos said about the game at South Carolina.

Riginos said senior Dillon Morton "played well" against the Gamecocks, hitting his first

home run of the season in the top of the fourth inning. However, that proved to be the only run for the Eagles, as the Gamecocks left the field victorious with a final score of 7-1.

"I think we made a couple miscues defensively that led to a couple early runs, but it was a three-run ballgame, I think 3-1 in the fourth. We had a couple guys we couldn't get across, and then they kind of extended the lead, one here, one there," Riginos said.

Riginos appreciates these opportunities to compete against big-name universities like South Carolina, Clemson, and North

Carolina because it teaches the team how to "slow the game down and understand the environment they are playing in."

"At some points in the game, the game sped up on them, and we've just got to keep on putting our kids in that situation to become better and better at playing that type of situation," Riginos said.

Riginos also recognized sophomore Ty Hooks and junior Sean Flannery for their hits on Tuesday.

"That was Sean's first start on Tuesday, and he gave us a little spark. I was really encouraged about how he swung the bat at South Caroli-

na," Riginos said.

Before the Eagles hit the road for Lynchburg, Virginia, on Friday, Riginos noted Liberty would be "a big challenge" because they are ranked 21st in the country.

"We just have to play. It's a game that is designed to play almost every day, and that's what we need to do," Riginos said. "It's really a time of discovery trying to figure out what lineup clicked and what guys can do in what situations."

This was the first time in four years the Eagles had the opportunity to compete against Liberty, who used to be in the Big

South Conference with Winthrop. The team was originally supposed to play against the Flames in the spring of 2021, but the pandemic prevented that match from appearing on the schedule.

Both Friday and Saturday's matches ended with an 8-1 score favoring Liberty. Hooks was once again a key contributor on the field, ending the first two days with two hits.

Senior Joey Tepper recorded Winthrop's single run in both Friday and Saturday's games, scoring the first run of Friday's contest on freshman Jack Spyke's RBI single, and hitting a first-inning

home run on Saturday.

On Sunday, the Eagles finished their stay in Lynchburg with a 13-2 loss, unable to escape an early hole after giving up nine runs to Liberty in the bottom of the second inning.

Next year the Eagles will get to host Liberty at the Winthrop Ballpark for the three-game series. As for now, the Eagles will travel to Chapel Hill for a game against the Tar Heels.

"Our schedule doesn't get any easier. We're playing some really good competition, and we're just excited to get out there and compete," Riginos said.

cont. **EAGLE** from pg. 1

"As soon as I was on campus, I knew I wanted to transfer here," Justice said. "I had that moment where I 'just knew,' like so many talk about with finding the college that's right for them."

During Justice's time playing lacrosse, she endured numerous injuries and surgeries. Justice has undergone seven surgeries, starting at the age of 12.

"I was born with hip dysplasia, and it went undiagnosed when I was a baby," Justice said. "The surgery was intense, and I was in a wheelchair for months before attempting to walk again. When I began to play again, I needed to have the pins they had used to keep [it] secure removed."

After having intense hip surgery, Justice suffered from a tear in both the right and left ACL, a tear in her meniscus, a sprained MCL and a re-tear in her left meniscus.

In October 2020, Justice visited a team doctor at the University of South Carolina and learned that she would need a reconstruction done to her knee as it had endured too much damage to heal properly.

"I had my fifth and final knee surgery that following month, and it was by far my hardest knee surgery to recover from," Justice said. "I spent two months non-weightbearing and with having my leg locked straight."

Throughout the multiple injuries and surgeries, her coaches and teammates have been supportive during her recovery process.

"I have to really give credit to coach Blankenship for not giving up on me as she took me in as a transfer on good word and never truly got to see me play," Justice said.

"In the same breath, I thank coach Concheck for giving me a chance. She came in not knowing what I've been

through, and yet giving me respect and working with me through my continued battle means so much."

"My teammates are the best teammates in the world. These girls have supported me through every step of the way. You can't ask for better teammates, and you certainly don't get that on every team. We really are something special this season."

Looking towards the rest of the season, Justice plans to take in all of the moments and memories that come as this will be her last season playing.

"I am beyond blessed to be able to have this last season even be a possibility, and I know that it is all my body can handle. It will be a very emotional few months for me as so much has led up to this, and I am more grateful for the opportunity to play than ever before," Justice said.



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Angelo/aangelomedia

Justice recorded one caused turnover and two ground balls in Sunday's loss at Stetson

Charlotte FC inaugural home match set for Saturday

Major League Soccer officially kicks off in Charlotte on March 5

SPENCER HORTON
staff writer

Major League Soccer expanded in 2019, awarding a team to billionaire Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper, who branded the team Charlotte FC.

Now, in the 2022 MLS season, Charlotte FC is set to have its inaugural home match on March 5 at Bank of America Stadium, but season ticket prices have some fans upset.

“You’re insane if you think we’re gonna pay for this,” Charlotte native Ben Levinson posted on Twitter after ticket prices initially became known to the public. “Way to ruin a NC kid’s dream of watching his hometown team play.”

The lowest price available for season tickets is \$486 per seat, and that still puts you in general admission seating.

The cheapest non-general admission season tickets are \$980 per seat, making them more expensive than many Premier

League clubs, such as Liverpool, which won the Premier League in 2020.

Part of the price hike comes from the requirement of personal seat licenses for season ticket holders, making Charlotte FC the first team in the league to require this.

Charlotte sports fans are no strangers to this practice, with it also being required for Charlotte Hornets and Carolina Panthers season tickets, adding a one-time fee to the final prices that can range from \$350 to \$900.

“There’s [simply] more discretionary spending as it relates to events and pro sports in the marketplace,” team president Nick Kelly told Sportico last year.

Even general admission seats are high compared to usual soccer ticket prices. This, along with Charlotte FC’s recent loss to minor league soccer team Charleston Battery, has many wondering how well the team will do.

“I think that prices



Photo courtesy of @CharlotteFC

Fans of the new club traveled to Washington D.C. on Saturday for the team’s first official match

definitely affect my likelihood of going to the games,” said Charlotte native and Winthrop soccer player Dean DePinto. “I am a college student and don’t have between 50 to 100 dollars in my budget to spend on a soccer game. I would definitely go if the prices mellowed out.”

“Dreamed of having a team in NC. I was super excited to put deposit down and buy season tickets for my family, but with these PSLs that for sure isn’t going to happen now,” North Carolina native Austin Beck wrote on Twitter.

Others don’t mind the prices and are looking forward to what the

club will bring to the city.

“I have watched a few games online and have tickets for their first home game,” said Charlotte native and Winthrop soccer player Christopher Cushing. “This makes me want to go to games more. I enjoy the excitement around the new team.”

Charlotte FC played its first road match on Saturday, losing 3-0 against D.C. United. This Saturday, the team will host the LA Galaxy.

The match will be aired on WSOC-TV and can also be heard on WFNZ 102.5 FM/610 AM.

Winthrop men’s basketball team hot heading into conference tournament

Eagles finish regular season on eight-game win streak

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After going toe to toe with statistically the worst team in the conference on Saturday, Winthrop emerged with yet another win, defeating Charleston Southern, 92-86.

The victory marked the team’s 13th at home this season, which along with no home

losses, made for Winthrop’s first perfect season at home since the 2006-2007 season.

“We have a group that, given the opportunity, can step up and make some big plays,” said head coach Mark Prosser. “DJ was great down the stretch, Cory made a huge three, Drew Buggs made a huge step back three.” Redshirt junior DJ

Burns finished Saturday’s game with a team-high 22 points while also collecting 11 rebounds to notch his first double-double in his collegiate career.

“He goes and makes plays down the stretch, he’s difficult to match up with, and even out of a double team, he can still be effective,” Prosser said. “He was for us really what we needed him to be.”

Prosser pointed out that both times Winthrop faced Charleston Southern this season, the team did so with just one day of preparation. He said he thought the quick turnaround may have had something to do with Winthrop’s less than stellar performance on defense early in the game.

“The things that we tried to emphasize over the course of the last 36 hours, we weren’t very good at it in the first couple wars,” Prosser said. “I felt like they were really, really comfortable on the offensive end.”

Winthrop also appeared comfortable on offense, with graduate



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

Senior Micheal Anumba (No. 3) is averaging 7.4 points per game entering the Big South Tournament



STUDENT MEDIA POLL

Student Media Poll Top 25	Week 16 Matthew Shealy's votes	Michael Covil's votes
1. Gonzaga (18)	1. Duke	1. Arkansas
2. Arizona	2. Kentucky	2. Duke
3. Duke (4)	3. Gonzaga	3. Kentucky
4. Baylor	4. Providence	4. Gonzaga
5. Kansas	5. Kansas	5. Villanova
6. Auburn (1)	6. Purdue	6. Arizona
7. Kentucky	7. Villanova	7. Providence
8. Purdue	8. Texas Tech	8. Kansas
9. Providence	9. Baylor	9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Tech	10. Arkansas	10. Baylor
11. Wisconsin	11. Houston	11. Tennessee
12. Villanova	12. Arizona	12. Houston
13. Arkansas (1)	13. Auburn	13. Wisconsin
14. Tennessee	14. Wisconsin	14. Purdue
15. Houston	15. Michigan St.	15. St. Mary's
16. UCLA	16. Tennessee	16. Auburn
17. USC	17. Illinois	17. South Dakota St.
18. Connecticut	18. Murray St.	18. Murray St.
19. St. Mary's	19. Connecticut	19. Connecticut
20. Illinois	20. St. Mary's	20. Illinois
21. Murray St.	21. South Dakota St.	21. Wake Forest
22. Texas	22. USC	22. Michigan St.
23. Ohio St.	23. UCLA	23. Iowa
24. Iowa	24. North Texas	24. Vermont
25. Michigan St.	25. Notre Dame	25. Boise St.

transfers Drew Buggs and Patrick Good tallying 17 and 15 points, respectively. The duo was recognized Saturday during a pregame Senior Day ceremony along with Micheal Anumba, who recorded 7 points, and walk-on Nate Buss, who started for the first time in his Winthrop career and recorded an assist. “The things that our

seniors have done in a Winthrop uniform for however long they’ve been here has been remarkable really across the board — whether it’s two years, one year, four years, whatever it’s been — and it was about celebrating them,” Prosser said. “I think we did that and we enjoyed that.”

Winthrop finished the regular season with a

14-2 record versus Big South opponents. The Eagles are the two-seed in the conference tournament, falling short of the one-seed, which was earned by 15-1 Longwood.

Winthrop faces either High Point or Hampton on Friday at 6 p.m. A semifinal match would be Saturday at 2 p.m. and the Championship is Sunday at noon.

Alumni Spotlight: Cynthia Hingle

Winthrop alumna shared experience from early 2000s

SAM HYATT
staff writer

Cynthia Hingle, an alumna from Winthrop University, was a first-generation student who gained both a bachelor's and master's degree from Winthrop in the early 2000s.

"Being a first-generation college student, I was not sure what to expect. I only knew what I had seen on television and in movies — large classes where TAs taught the classes, or you were simply a number to the profes-

sor," Hingle said.

Once Hingle began classes at Winthrop, she found that professors and faculty were much different than what she had watched on television.

"I found professors who knew my name, cared about me and encouraged me to succeed. When I stumbled academically, they were there to steady me," Hingle said.

Cindy Furr, an assistant professor in the Department of English at the time, was one

of the professors on campus that made a positive impact on Hingle during her time as a student at Winthrop.

"Dr. Furr became my WU-mom. She taught me how to be a good teacher and that I can expect more of myself. Dr. Furr not only encouraged me but pushed me to be better. Being in her classes was the greatest blessing of my academic career, and losing her was the greatest loss I have ever experienced," Hingle said.

While reflecting on her time at Winthrop, Hingle said that one of her favorite memories is from her first week her freshman year when her ACAD class had to meet at Winthrop Lake.

"My ACAD professor told us to meet him on Saturday afternoon at the ropes course at Winthrop Lake. In 2002, everyone did not have a GPS, and the lake was not on the map given to us at orientation. I had no clue where I was going and ended up crying on Dave Lyle," Hingle said.

However, after 30 minutes of searching, Hingle finally found Winthrop Lake.

"My professor was so sweet as he laughed at my misdirection and was not angry about



Cynthia Hingle is a teacher at Rock Hill High School

Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Hingle

my being late. It was definitely something we laughed about later, and I never forgot how to get back to the lake," Hingle said.

Another fond memory from her time at Winthrop includes meeting her husband during their observation hours required by the College of Education.

"The College of Education randomly put us both in the same Spanish classroom at Northwestern High School. After a few Fridays together in the classrooms, he asked me out to dinner. We have been together the 18 and a half years since. Meeting Benjamin Hingle was the greatest random coincidence of my life and has led to 13 years of marriage and two beautiful kids," Hingle said.

As a student, Hingle worked at Louise Pettus Archives and a phonathon.

Although she was a

member of a few clubs on campus, Hingle said, "I wish I had worked a little less and enjoyed the clubs and groups more."

"I was a part of the PACT group (Presbyterians and Catholics Together), which gave me a spiritual home and some lifelong friends. I was also a part of the Sigma Tau Delta Honors English Society and the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honors Society."

After graduating in May 2006, Hingle began teaching English. She then attended Winthrop University for a master's degree and earned her degree in 2009. Hingle is now a high school English teacher at Rock Hill High School.

"I truly believe that Winthrop, especially Dr. Furr, thoroughly prepared me for teaching in the 'real world.' She refused to send us out there with rose-col-

ored glasses, so I have rarely come across something in which I was not prepared," Hingle said.

As an alumna, Hingle and her family regularly attend Winthrop sports events and go to homecoming.

"Being season ticket holders, my son knows all of the men's basketball players and all the chants from the pep band," Hingle said.

Additionally, Hingle's daughter attended Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School.

"Winthrop was six amazing years of my life, between undergrad and graduate school. It gave me direction in life and my family, both my marriage and friendships. I realized I was more capable than I thought, a lot of which has to do with the encouragement of my professors and friends," Hingle said.



Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Hingle

Cynthia and now-husband pose before going to Phi Mu Alpha formal

Invasion of privacy among smart home devices

DEVYN BROWN
staff writer

When it comes to making home life easier, smart home devices like Amazon Alexa, Amazon Echo, Google Nest Hub or Samsung SmartThings Hub allow you to make and receive calls, play music, get weather updates, find new recipes, ask questions or even grocery shop, all with just the sound of your voice.

Many have inquired about whether these smart home devices take and store information from third-party devices and whether there is an invasion of privacy among these devices.

Amazon says Alexa needs to know the "state" of your devices to "enable a great smart home experience."

Amazon's Alexa collects its user's information such as their name, phone number, device location, IP address and names and numbers of contacts. While smartphones and laptops do the same thing, iPhones and MacBooks store all of the user's information in its system and will let users know that it has their information by asking if the user wants to use the autofill option when filling out questions asking for personal information. This includes names, addresses, credit card information, social security numbers and any information completed on an online form in the past.

While Alexa does not record all conversations, it does record what is said after its

name is called or the device activation button is pressed, and then sends that recording to the cloud.

Senior accounting major Rachael Whittaker owns an Alexa.

"There is an invasion of privacy when it comes to Alexa. Information is everywhere and easily accessible already," Whittaker said.

Another issue that can be an invasion of privacy with smart devices is giving hackers and intruders access to the owner's home. This issue can happen if the device is too close to doors and windows, if one does not maintain a special security pin, or if one does not have a strong Wi-Fi connection, someone can hack into your device. Lack of these precautions

allows intruders and hackers access to get inside of one's home if one has other smart home devices like the lock on your door or your security system.

"The word 'safe' when

it comes to cybersecurity even with encryptions is an illusion since everything can get hacked," Brown said.

If you are looking to buy Amazon Smart Home devices or al-

ready possess one, keep these concerns in mind as this may prevent you from being hacked or prevent your personal information from being given out.

"The number of smart homes is forecast to grow and surpass the 350 million mark by 2023," according to statista.com



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The Johnsonian."



How has the pandemic affected how we read?

SAM HYATT
staff writer

The debate surrounding the correct way to read a piece of literature, either by holding the physical book or using a device, is a topic that has plagued many avid readers.

Some people argue that holding the physical book is superior to reading on a device because you have the opportunity to turn the pages, place homemade bookmarks, annotate in the margins, and turn down the corners of pages that seem significant.

“I personally miss the use of physical books.

There is something about holding a physical book in your hands. It makes the story feel more real almost,” said Paige Lillibridge, a sophomore English and psychology double major. “I find that I cannot connect that well with what I read on a device because I cannot annotate what I am reading in the same way that I can with physical books, and as a result, it feels less significant to me.”

Other people argue that reading on a device such as a laptop, Kindle or Nook tablet is superior. Reading on a device allows for multiple

novels to be downloaded and taken without the hassle of carrying numerous books, and the light settings on these devices allow for reading at night.

“I certainly think COVID accelerated the adoption of e-textbooks. Fall 2020 was the first that the Department of English ordered electronic and paper copies of the WRIT 101 required textbook to be available for purchase in the Winthrop Bookstore,” said associate English professor Casey Cothran.

Students are sometimes given the op-



The Liberty Book Company

Photo Courtesy of Sam Hyatt



To/Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

A bookshelf inside The Liberty Book Company

tion to purchase the required text for their classes as a physical book or as an online option. However, these required texts can be expensive.

“I do wonder if departments with more expensive textbooks (ranging in the hundreds of dollars and that have to be updated with new information every year) might encourage more electronic textbook use because of pricing,” Cothran said.

The Liberty Book Company, a local new and used bookstore close to Winthrop University, has done its best to accommodate its customers, especial-

ly since the beginning of the pandemic.

“The biggest shift I have noticed in physical literature consumption would be that it follows genre lines. To explain that a little more, some genres that may not have done well in print media are able to meet more of their audience expectations in a digital marketplace,” said Rayne Rickrode, the front end and inventory manager.

During the pandemic, Rickrode said one of the main differences the bookstore experienced involved the publishing industry and supply.

“We are benefited by being a new and used

bookstore as the world adjusts to digital mediums,” Rickrode said. “I don’t think we will ever see an end to print books, but I can understand the economic and environmental benefits digital media offer on a broad scale.”

While technology continues to advance, there will be new ways and devices on which to read literature. However, the intimacy of holding a physical copy of a well-loved book will always be superior for some readers.

Internet bots help and harm internet consumption

JADA STRONG
staff writer

Internet bots are something that we experience all the time on the internet, whether it is through automated emails or pop-up ads. Internet bots are everywhere, and we need to stay on the lookout.

Paul Wiegand, an assistant professor in the computer science and quantitative methods department in the College of Business, specializes in learning and optimization with topics such as internet bots.

“For example, [in] automated call systems, you can’t necessarily employ thousands of people to answer the phone, but you can have the systems get people through the first layer, [with] some technical help online,” Wiegand said.

While Wiegand notes that internet bots such as automatic call systems can be helpful, he also notes how dangerous they can be

if abused.

“There are some notable good purposes for those things, but also some obviously poor or malicious uses for those things,” Wiegand said. “And in a particular sense, we can take these automated systems and plug them into social media, and have programs that act as if they are users.”

Not only have internet bots become trickier to pick apart and distinguish between what is safe and what is not, but people who create bots are being more creative to manipulate internet users into interacting with bots.

“It’s getting harder and harder and harder to detect these automated systems. And they shut them down as quickly as they can, but the technology is getting so much better,” Wiegand said.

“And part of the reason why these systems can be so effective is not so much their

intelligence, but their ability to manipulate our emotional state.”

Andrew Besmer, an associate professor of computer science at Winthrop, has expertise in security and privacy. He notes that bots are a continually growing problem because of how many there are.

“Bots are quite harmful because of the fact that there is power in numbers. Individually, a single bot isn’t likely to take down a website,” Besmer said.

“But multiply that by 100, 200, 500k and have them all request the website simultaneously and they can easily topple small to medium size websites, services and anything else connected to the internet. Entire companies’ business models are providing services to mitigate the threat that they pose.”

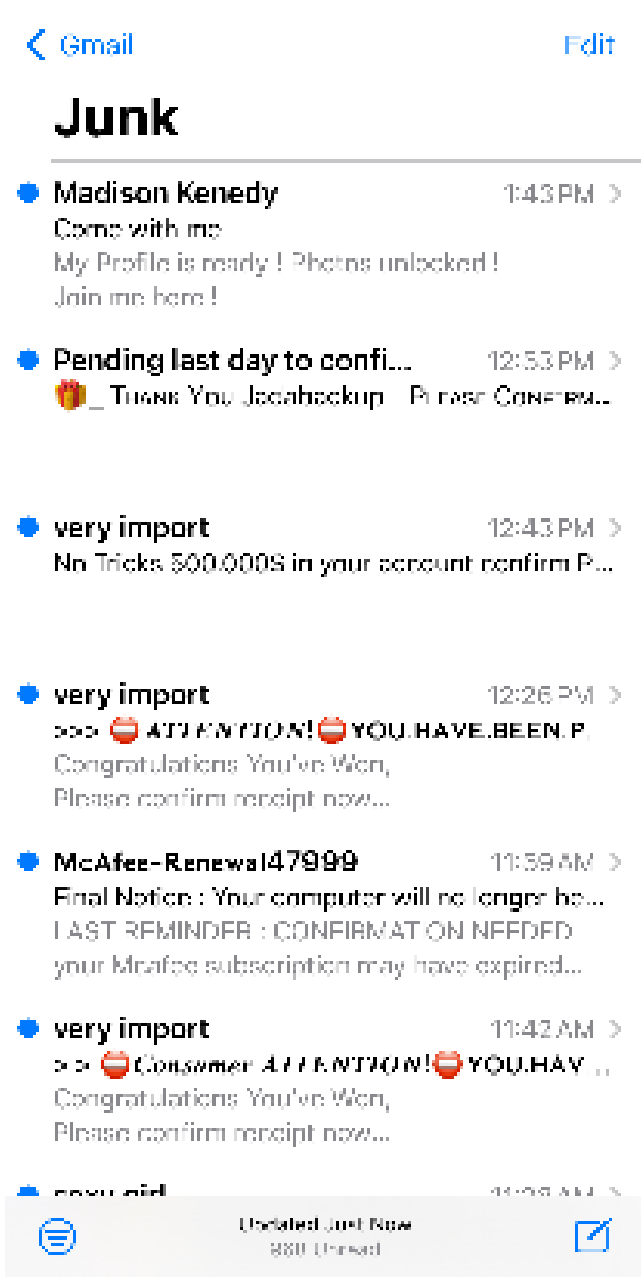
Besmer notes that to keep you and your devices safe, it is better to be proactive rather

than reactive.

“Most bot network owners do not want you to know you have a bot. In fact, it’s better if you don’t know because the second you do, what are you going to do? Take it to get fixed,” Besmer said.

“This is why operational security is so important. Have an antivirus system in place, updated, and active.”

To prevent misinformation, Besmer has a few tips on how to lessen the number of bots you could receive. “I think there is a misconception that spam causes these problems. There are far more sources of your computer becoming a bot: browsing the web with an unpatched browser, having a computer without updates connected to a network,” Besmer said. “The best thing you can do is try to keep your computer, antivirus and software up to date.”



Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

Spam emails are a favorite of internet advertising bots



Visit our website, mytjnow.com, to listen to our podcast, “On Air: The Johnsonian.”



Winthrop Mad Libs

This time of year is so _____ (adjective)! I have so much homework to do and not enough time to do it in. My _____ (subject) class has _____ (number) assignments due by spring break. TBH, they were due before then, but I don't have the time to turn everything in on time! My interim grades on Wingspan were _____ (adjective), so I want to turn everything in as soon as possible. Why are some of my professors even having midterms after interim grades were due? That seems _____ (adjective), in my opinion. This week alone, I had _____ (number) midterms due! At least spring break is soon. I can't wait to _____ (verb) with my besties! I also can't wait to _____ (verb) by myself and just get some me time.

I am so _____ (adjective/emotion) about this year's March Madness! I started making my bracket last _____ (time frame). The next game is on _____ (day of the week). I really hope that the _____ (team name/mascot) win and continue through the tournament. I wish I could go to a game in person, but I have too much homework! Either way, I am looking forward to watching _____ (player name) show out on the court. _____ (pronoun) is/are so talented! I bet my bestie, _____ (name), \$20 to see who can guess the most correct teams on our brackets. I really hope _____ (team name/mascot) win(s).

SHARE YOUR RESULTS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA! BE SURE TO TAG US!

Another Flood (reported in Courtyard)



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian