

Est. 1986

APRIL 2023

THE RMR

RODDEY MCMILLAN RECORD

The Anthology Releases for 2023
Abortion in SC: Homicide or Justified?
RMR Wins Best Feature for 2022
Sexual Assault Awareness Month



THE INSPIRATION

Rev. Cynthia Plair Roddey, a 1967 Winthrop graduate, is a trailblazer for change. She was the first Black student to enroll at Winthrop 10 years after the Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools with their *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Nine of her friends attended Winthrop alongside her. She was accepted to Winthrop College in the summer of 1964, where she earned a Master of Arts in teaching library science after having graduated from John C. Smith—an HBCU—with two bachelor’s degrees. Rev. Roddey received her Doctorate of Ministry from Mid-Atlantic Seminary in 1990. Roddey worked in education for 55 years before she retired in 2017.

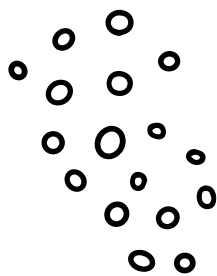


The Roddey McMillan Record (RMR) is named after both Roddey and Sheila McMillan, which is one of the many honors that the publication has received since its inception. McMillan was the first Black person to sit on the Board of Trustees in 1983. Before coming to Winthrop, she was one of the first Black students to integrate into the University of North Carolina and the first Black Senate attorney with the South Carolina Legislature after she earned her Doctorate of Law from the University of South Carolina. Both of the magazine’s namesakes have broken glass ceilings for Black women across the country. When the RMR was created by Gail Harris in 1986, she was inspired by these women to establish a safe space for minority students.


The purpose of the RMR is to

“shine a light on the diverse cultures at Winthrop, focusing on the concerns facing the multicultural community on campus.”

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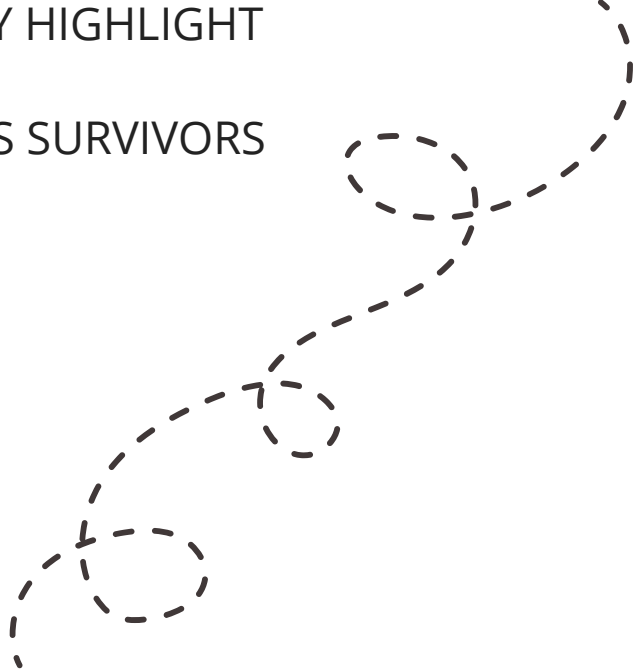
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FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

Title IX coordinator discusses Title IX on Winthrop's campus

Sam Hyatt

Trigger warning: this article will discuss topics concerning sexual assault (SA), rape, and violence. This may be a sensitive topic to some readers. If it is, please skip this article and its contents.

The month of April is sexual assault awareness month. According to "Campus Sexual Violence" by Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) 13% of all college students "experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation."

Winthrop University's Title IX coordinator Kevin Sheppard is responsible for ensuring that the policy is being followed and carried out on Winthrop's campus.

"I am responsible to take prompt and effective action to stop the misconduct, remedy the effects of discrimination and harassment and prevent the recurrence of said behaviors," Sheppard said.

As there is an increase in the conversation concerning Title IX on college campuses, there is sometimes a misunderstanding of what Title IX is and what its role is on college campuses.

"Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (gender) in federally funded educational programs and activities", Sheppard said.

"I would like for students to know that Title IX is not just about sports, nor does Title IX apply to females only. Title IX covers a myriad of matters in relation to sex/gender harassment, discrimination, and retaliation." Students can better their understanding of Title IX further by completing the mandatory Title IX training online at the beginning of each school year.

"Do not just make it a checkbox of things you have to do, make note of the information presented and follow up if you have additional questions or concerns", Sheppard said.

"Also, attend University events offered by various departments pertaining to sexual misconduct. Request training sessions for your residence halls, student organizations, athletic teams, etc., through the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance."

Sheppard is also implementing Title IX student ambassadors on campus. These students will be trained to have an understanding of what Title IX is and be able to explain campus resources available on and off campus. Additionally, these students will be able to explain formal complaint options, including the formal complaint process at Winthrop in addition to alternative resolution options.

"Student leaders, including the Title IX Ambassadors, will play a vital role in shaping the Winthrop experience and community," Sheppard said.

"The goal of the Title IX Ambassador Initiative is to empower students to be able to contribute to making a cultural shift on campus through mentoring, advocacy, peer education and program development. It will provide students with a unique opportunity to positively influence the campus climate and culture through the design, development, facilitation, and assessment of workshops, programs, and training aimed at awareness-raising and prevention of sexual misconduct."

"Members of the Winthrop University community, guests and visitors, have the right to be treated with respect and should be free from sexual misconduct, stalking, and intimate partner violence," Sheppard said. "While we will all continue to do everything in our power to ensure that our campus is safe, we must also come to the realization that we are not immune to issues such as these, therefore we must continue to work at prevention, education, and response, to such occurrences."

The RMR Wins Award for First Time in 30 Years

Letter from the Editor

The RMR was awarded first and third place in Feature Writing at the annual South Carolina Press Association Awards on March 31. I am so proud of everything we have accomplished this year, especially with the transition to this format. I am also grateful for our talented staff and the opportunity to highlight Cynthia Roddey and Sheila McMillan with each issue. The process of creating from writing, editing, layout, design and publication is not easy. The fact that our staff is able to create high-quality, award-winning work with a staff much smaller relative to other schools is something to be proud of. My hope is for us to continue providing high-quality content with each and every issue.

-Ravyn Rhodes, Editor-in-Chief



Headline: Winthrop Anthology Literary and Arts Magazine to releases 2023 volume

Sam Hyatt

The Anthology staff will release the 2023 volume of the Winthrop Anthology Literary and Arts Magazine before the end of the semester. This year marks the 59th year of publishing the literary and arts magazine.

The Anthology is a student-run publication at Winthrop University that collects student creative work throughout each school year and works together to pick which pieces of work will be in each volume. The first volume of The Anthology was published in 1964. Many of its contents can be found through the Winthrop University Digital Commons.

Each year the staff picks from about one hundred to two hundred student submissions that are works of poetry, prose and different types of art which include photography, digital illustration, and sculpture. "There is a mass of creative on this campus, and it shows the depth of emotion, resilience, and humanity that Winthrop students have inside them," Stephanie Martin, the assistant editor-in-chief of The Anthology said. "Selecting works for The Anthology is always a challenge because the students here don't seem to hold back when they are creating."

In the 2023 volume, the staff began accepting student digital media submissions that were of students performing, portraying their filming abilities and their creative animations. In this year's volume, readers will find digital submissions that can be viewed through a QR code on the corresponding page. This idea was expressed by this year's graphic designer, Rachael Dauksch.

"Art is such an immersive field so I think any chance to make that experience more interactive and go beyond just visuals should be pursued," Dauksch said. "Auditory and video experiences add a whole new layer to experiencing the art of Winthrop creators."

"It's important to uplift the artwork of not just Winthrop students, but all artwork" Art and digital media editor of The Anthology, Jordan Terry said. "Art tells the story of our culture and

our world. Without it, stories go untold, and perspectives go misunderstood. To create art is the most human thing we can do, but to consume it and understand it is what brings us together as a community, as a people."

When the magazine is released, students who had their work published will have the chance to pick up a copy in addition to viewing older volumes of the publication while they last in the DIGs lobby.

The Anthology staff will also be distributing Anthology stickers and bookmarks. The bookmarks will have a QR code that is linked to a Spotify playlist for readers to listen to while reading through the different pieces of work. The tabling event date is to be determined but will be announced to students who have work published and information will be available to the student body through the all-student announcements and The Anthology Instagram page.

here is a sneak peak of the new cover!

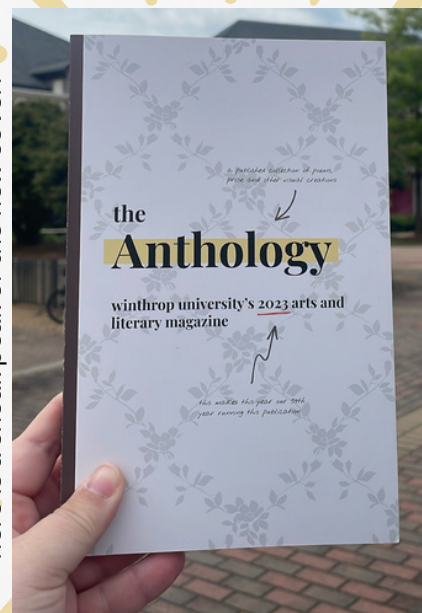


Photo courtesy of Sam Hyatt

South Carolina Congress Continues Contesting Reproductive Rights

Kimberly Boensch

The fight for reproductive rights in the state of South Carolina and across the country wages on even through Women's History Month, as the availability of a prominent abortion pill is threatened and a new bill could put people to death for terminating a pregnancy. Several bills pertaining to abortion continue to be argued in the statehouse and a national retail pharmacy chain has made a disruptive decision concerning the availability of a drug often prescribed to terminate pregnancies.

House Bill 3459 or the "South Carolina Prenatal Equal Protection Act of 2023" states that it would define "person" to include an unborn child at any stage of development and to ensure that an unborn child who is a victim of homicide is afforded equal protection under the homicide laws of the State, with exceptions." If passed, the bill would classify a fetus as a human being beginning at fertilization, according to the legislative tracking website BillTrack50. This would mean that terminating a pregnancy could legally be considered homicide which would make those who have an abortion eligible for the death penalty in the state of South Carolina.

Not only does this bill threaten access to abortions but the terminology used in this bill can also be tricky when applied to standard birth control methods. Most hormonal birth control options, such as the pill and IUDs, prevent pregnancy by preventing ovulation or intercepting a fertilized egg, or zygote, before it can implant in the uterus to become an embryo, according to the National Library of Medicine's webpage on contraception.

Currently, the bill's terminology is unclear on whether it might mean that a woman could receive 30 years in prison or even the death penalty if a court can prove that her method of birth control was successful in preventing an instance of implantation. It's also unclear if some forms of birth control might be deemed illegal by default if the bill is passed.

Although the bill has 15 supporters in the statehouse, Senate Majority leader and Republican Shane Massey referred to the bill as a "rogue thing" with "zero chance" of becoming law. "It's not going to have support in the House, I suspect. It certainly wouldn't have support over here. I mean, there's no way South Carolina's going to do that," he said.

Massey assures constituents that they are just trying to stop abortions, not imprison women in difficult situations. Speaker of the House and Republican Murrell Smith agreed, saying, "When the House passed pro-life legislation earlier this year, we made it very clear we were not in the business of criminalizing women." Ashley Lidow with the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) of South Carolina isn't as sure as the lawmakers though. She says, "We know in South Carolina, with supermajorities, where there's a will, there's a way; they can pass this law if they want to." She went on to say, "They've all said they want to protect women. I would like to see it happen."

National retail pharmacy chain Walgreens has decided not to dispense the abortion drug Mifeprex and its generic version, Mifepristone, in certain states, even though abortion remains legal in some of these states, according to NPR.

The decision came after Attorneys General of 21 states, including South Carolina, wrote a letter threatening the pharmacy chain with legal action if the drug was sold at locations within their states. Medication abortion, sometimes known as "Plan C", is the most widely used method of terminating a pregnancy as it can be done earlier in the pregnancy than surgical abortion, does not require a hospital visit and can even be done via a telehealth appointment, according to the UCLA Health abortion webpage. Medication abortion is a two-drug regimen that will induce a miscarriage. Mifepristone is the first drug in the process, followed by Misoprostol.

Without access to medication abortion, South Carolina citizens seeking to terminate a pregnancy will have to do so via a surgical abortion allowed in the state up until 21 weeks and 6 days gestation. However, some providers stop offering abortion earlier, according to abortionfinder.org. It is also completely legal to leave the state for a safe abortion method.

If you'd like to have your voice heard on this issue, you can do so as a constituent and a consumer by contacting your representatives and making a conscious decision on which businesses you plan to support when shopping for pharmacy needs.

East Palestine Derailment sparks lawsuit and peaceful protest

Sam Hyatt

The train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio on February 3, 2023, while carrying hazardous materials, including potentially explosive chemical vinyl chloride has sparked an extensive number of events.

According to “After the Ohio Train Derailment: Evacuations, Toxic Chemicals and Water Worries,” the derailment ignited a fire that emersed the town in smoke and led to authorities creating evacuation zones while they “[released] controlled toxic fumes in order to neutralize burning cargo inside some of the train cars.”

Due to the derailment, the water in the area has been compromised and according to “Baltimore receiving 675k gallons of wastewater from Ohio train derailment” by Ryan Dickstein, Baltimore will be receiving 675,000 gallons of wastewater to be treated at Baltimore City’s Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Dickstein states that the water will be treated and filtered using carbon absorption. Due to the chemicals spilt from the derailment, thousands of fish have died and workers who are working towards cleaning up the area have complained of migraines and nausea.

The media needs to clarify the difference between vinyl chloride, which was spilled, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC)” Winthrop professor of political science Scott Huffmon said.

“Many media outlets have used the PVC term. PVC is nowhere near as deadly as vinyl chloride. Every night, the media should be putting out a ‘who failed’ story (hint: Trump Admin, Biden admin, N&S Railroad x10) and a “who's affected” story (the dangers of vinyl chloride, fish kills, aquifer pollution, personal stories of illness from residents).” There are numerous questions being asked concerning how this derailment happened.

According to NPR’s article “Here’s the most thorough explanation yet for the train derailment in East Palestine” by Becky Sullivan, the current explanation of the derailment is due to an overheated wheel bearing.

“By the time an alarm rang to alert the crew of the danger, the bearing was already so compromised that it failed as the train was still coming to a stop, officials said — a revelation that raised questions about whether Norfolk Southern's safety sensors and procedures were sufficient to prevent a catastrophic failure,” Sullivan said. Since the derailment, people around the country have continued to ask who is to blame for this accident and who should be held accountable

“There is plenty of blame to go around,” Huffmon said. “However, there needs to be the equivalent of a full humanitarian effort (like we do for international disasters).

N&S Rail should be on the hook for every health outcome that is even potentially related to the spill.

-Scott Huffmon

N&S Rail should be on the hook for every health outcome that is even potentially related to the spill. Who knows if the requested safety inspections requested by workers, who never got to strike to demand them, would have made a difference.”

Over the weekend, people of East Palestine, Ohio have carried out peaceful protests in order to keep their voices and stories at the forefront of the news.

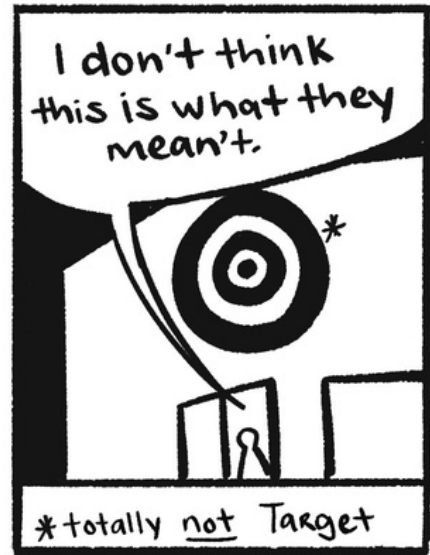
Additionally, according to Zenebou Sylla at CNN, the Blackhawk School District in Beaver Country, Pennsylvania, is suing Norfolk Southern “for negligence stemming from last month’s train derailment” and “the subsequent ‘controlled’ release of toxic chemicals at the derailment site.” The school district that is about 15 miles from East Palestine over the state border “is alleging ‘the toxic fires and deadly plumes dumped a lethal cocktail on (their) buildings, property, soil, and water supplies where deposits of the toxic materials have been found,’ the complaint states.”

The events following the derailment are ongoing and more information is being gathered each week on news networks such as CNN and The New York Times.

Comic Strip! "That's Life"

Erin Springs-McCottry

That's Life by ERIN S-M.



Winthrop Survivors on Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sera Crookes

For anonymity and to respect the identities and stories of Winthrop survivors, all persons interviewed in this article will remain anonymous, ungendered, and be represented by a color. Navy, Lavender and Burgundy shared their stories to bring awareness to the truth behind sexual assault and comment on what they feel is most important in trying to advocate for and help survivors. **This article will discuss sexual assault, at times explicitly, and the author advises readers to proceed with caution and care.**

Triggering content is included in this article to remain faithful to the courage and bravery of survivors everywhere and to remove limits on what can and cannot be discussed when it comes to the reality of one's assault and its aftermath. Thank you to everyone who helped create this piece, and thank you to the readers who take it upon themselves to learn something from it. Survivors of sexual assault have greatly varying responses to April, a time for sexual assault awareness and advocacy.

Though there is great power and potential for good in advocacy and activist campaigns, there is even more significant potential for harm for victims and survivors of sexual assault.

Winthrop University has a controversial and expanding history regarding handling sexual assault, treatment of survivors, and distribution of information surrounding campus safety concerns. Survivors interviewed for this piece had much to say about the culture surrounding sexual assault at Winthrop, Winthrop's efforts to "combat" sexual assault, and other topics surrounding university life and safety.

Navy feels that Winthrop "only cares about [sexual assault] because it is April". The university appears to be in solidarity with survivors while doing little to assist them. Lavender feels that administrators at Winthrop approach conversations about assault insensitively, asking survivors to "consider the feelings of their assaulters" when attempting to speak out about the damage and trauma inflicted upon them instead of considering the victim's feelings. "Telling the victim to put themselves in the predator's shoes... that's biased, that's being in favor of sexual assault on campus," said Lavender. Winthrop is also biased in its handling of accusations against organizations on campus, treating organizations differently despite the allegations

levied against others (such as the situation with Pi Kappa Alpha versus Sigma Sigma Sigma).

Navy feels that Winthrop should utilize their platform to help survivors and do something to assist those who have brought sexual assault cases to the university's attention rather than promoting tabling and discussion events, especially tabling events in public and unavoidable spaces such as the DiGiorgio Campus Center. "Every time I go to get a burrito, I don't want to be reminded that I was assaulted", said Navy about the Sexual Assault Awareness tabling earlier this month. Survivors do not wish to be constantly reminded of their trauma for "awareness."

Navy and Burgundy feel that tabling should occur outside of a high-traffic setting that could expose survivors to triggering and traumatizing content. They both also think that the "Campus Safety Training" instituted in Fall 2021 is more harmful than helpful because it forces survivors to interact with content that will trigger them and cause them harm to "educate" them about safety and sexual assault on college campuses.

Many of Lavender's repressed memories were brought up for them, sending them into "a mental health spiral... I am someone with suicidal tendencies. I remember the week after completing that program, just like, everywhere I went, I was thinking about how I could [harm myself] there."

All persons interviewed for this piece disapprove strongly of the victim-blaming, gendered, and uninclusive language used in the training videos and call on Winthrop University to overhaul the system and create a way for survivors to avoid interacting with this potentially damaging content. "This is not fair to victims. I survived my assault, know about sexual assault, and don't need to watch a video about other survivors telling their traumatic stories to understand it better. I have PTSD, and watching the Safety Training made me have panic attacks and essentially relive my abuse to register for my classes. It's damaging and unnecessary. It also was uninclusive, using language that completely erased people like me from the narrative," said Burgundy. Many students and organizations, such as student

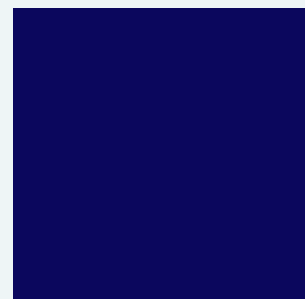
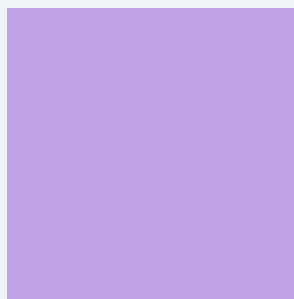
publication The Johnsonian, have commented on the language and structure of the Campus Safety Training, previously known as Not Anymore, criticizing its insensitivity and lack of inclusivity. Transgender and nonbinary survivors at Winthrop feel unheard by the administration's lack of response to include them and educate others. "Sexual assault is not gendered. My gender identity did not stop me from being assaulted. Assault does not stop at gender. It doesn't matter what you look like, what body parts you have, or what body parts your assaulter has," said Burgundy. The culture surrounding sexual assault at Winthrop makes students feel unsafe. Navy feels that they can not go to college parties or events because they think that it is expected that they will be assaulted at some point in their time at college. Students have begun to accept that they are unsafe and will be assaulted because it is inevitable. This is not acceptable.

Survivors should be protected from triggering content and from further trauma. Sexual assault is not acceptable and should be prevented at any cost. It is the responsibility of Winthrop University and Winthrop University Police to protect students from concerning individuals, assault, and other mental and physical harm while those students are on university property. Lavender feels that placing weight on the campus to change the culture at Winthrop is a worthwhile goal. Still, it allows the university to avoid the responsibility of removing "bad actors" from the community. Persons interviewed had been sexually assaulted by men, women, and nonbinary individuals.

They were coerced, physically forced to interact with their abusers sexually, raped, and gaslit about their experiences. Sexual assault is horrible, traumatizing, and very, very real. The reality of assault, according to all interviewed survivors, is that the aftermath of the assault can be just as traumatizing and difficult as experiencing the assault itself. After you have healed physically and begin to heal emotionally, you learn that you will never be the same person you were before the assault. All survivors interviewed experienced new behaviors, sensitivities, and triggers that they did not have before their assaults. Instead of spreading "awareness" during April, the survivors interviewed in this piece have many suggestions for Winthrop University and its students. Navy asks that students, faculty, staff, and all individuals on campus be more mindful about slamming doors, loud noises, and behavior that might trigger survivors. Navy also asks that people who wish to support them better and other survivors should listen more, speak less, and be forgiving to those they meet who have experienced assault. Dealing with behaviors that arose following their assault was more difficult for Navy than coping with the assault itself, so they feel that people need to be forgiving and willing to interact with the problematic behaviors left behind after being assaulted.

Lavender asks people to stop reposting and sharing videos of explicit sexual assault and to uplift the voices of survivors instead of boosting advocates that have never experienced assault. Burgundy asks that people stop allowing survivors to push them away following their assault. "A survivor is not trying to be rude by moving away from you or avoiding you... it isn't personal. Our assaults haunt us. It isn't my fault that you touching me in this way brought up harmful and terrifying emotions. We're all healing," they said. We have to allow survivors' explanations, emotions and shared experiences to be good enough and valid. The most valuable thing you can do for a survivor is to uplift, empower, and accept them for who they are after their assault.

"We are more than our trauma.. but we deserve to be heard, appreciated, listened to, and valued in the community for our knowledge, experience, and value our voices have in creating real change."



Black Business Spotlight



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