

The Whitworthian

THE VOICE OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SINCE 1905

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Spokane, WA



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The Whitworthian

The Whitworthian has served as the main source of news and sports coverage for the Whitworth community since 1905. The Whitworthian is an organization composed entirely of students which produces The Whitworthian monthly newspaper and thewhitworthian.news.

OUR MISSION

The Whitworthian staff is dedicated to presenting accurate and relevant information in an innovative manner. Our goal is to be accountable while informing, entertaining and providing a forum for expressing the interests of the Whitworth community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The print edition of The Whitworthian is published monthly, except during January and student vacations. The content is generated entirely by students. The college administration does not review the newspaper's content. Opinions and ideas expressed in The Whitworthian are those of the individual artists, writers and student editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU), the university, its administration, faculty/staff or advertisers. The Whitworthian is paid for through advertising and subscription revenue and in part by student activity fees as budgeted by ASWU.

OPINIONS POLICY

Columns, editorial cartoons and reviews are the opinions of their individual creators and not necessarily the opinion of The Whitworthian, its editors or its staff.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Whitworthian is a public forum that believes in freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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CORRECTIONS

If you have a comment or question about the fairness or accuracy of a story, send an email to emaple24@my.whitworth.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Whitworthian welcomes reader responses to articles or issues of interest to the Whitworth community. Send letters to emaple24@my.whitworth.edu.
Limit to 250 words.

Fall 2023 STAFF

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COVER :

Whitworth fans celebrate a good play during a NCAA football game at Whitworth University against Linfield University, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

Editors' Note

It is time for a change.

We have done a lot of reflecting in light of our current political climate, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing tragedy of racial violence in this country – particularly directed toward the Black community – that has been brought to light over the past year or so.

We recognize that, in the past, we have chosen the path of comfort and convenience. We assigned, interviewed, wrote, edited and published according to our usual practices and our normal routines. This is unacceptable.

The idea that journalists cannot take a stand against injustice without undermining their objectivity is a lie that not only keeps us from doing what is right but from doing what our job requires of us, to elevate the voices of every person in this community, especially those who are so often pushed to the margins.

We condemn the idea that good journalism must assume an air of false neutrality in situations in which we have a moral imperative to pick a side. The press is on the side of the oppressed. We exist for them – to give them a voice, to give them a chance of being heard. As such, we have a responsibility to make it clear what this newsroom stands for.

We are committed to actively fighting the systems that oppress BIPOC, women, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. We are committed to including all people in our coverage, especially those that have historically been underrepresented by the work we have done.

We are committed to using diverse, equitable and inclusive practices in our work.

We are committed to honoring the input of those who tell us where we have fallen short and where we can do better. We know that accountability is the only way forward.

We are committed to using our work to make Whitworth a place where all people feel heard, seen, and valued.

This is the consensus of the editorial board.

Hiring Policy, the Supreme Court and an Uncertain Future: Welcome to Whitworth

Whether new or returning to campus, The Whitworthian wishes you a happy school year. But we recognize this year may be a tough one as you face not only the stress of being a college student, but also the difficulty of navigating the many significant decisions that occurred over the summer.

The first notable change is one that has been in the making for over a year. In the fall of 2022, Whitworth University joined other Christian universities in asking whether to add the phrase “sexual orientation” to the list of protected classes in the hiring policy. This summer, after almost a year of deliberation and student activism, the Board of Trustees released its long-awaited announcement, indicating Whitworth would add the phrase “sexual orientation” to the hiring policy. Whitworth’s announcement said this was not “settling the theological differences between faithful Christians who disagree,” acknowledging that not every member of the community believed this was the correct decision.

Now the decision is finalized, and one cannot help but wonder: will a decision of this political and theological magnitude topple Whitworth from the “narrow ridge” that it has attempted to walk all these years? Attempting to answer this requires an examination of the ways this decision will impact the Whitworth community. The Whitworthian will be there for you, seeking out answers to these tough questions.

Although the hiring policy question is settled, there are other large questions the university must face, such as: What is the financial future of this institution? A 2023 Fortune article said that nationwide, application and enrollment in undergraduate education has dropped 8%. Whitworth has not been immune from this trend, and for a private university that relies heavily on funds from student tuition, decreases in student enrollment will have far-reaching financial consequences.

Already, enrollment declines have impacted the lives of both students and faculty. At the end of the 2022-2023 school year students witnessed the closing of Warren Hall, the largest residence hall on campus. As we get ready to begin the next school year, faculty are experiencing heavier workloads as Whitworth tightens and trims any excess in its budget, trying to preserve the future of the university. These are only a few of the ways that budget concerns will impact Whitworth. This fall, The Whitworthian will examine the ways Whitworth’s financial losses will impact the community.

Institutional questions and changes are not the only ones facing students. Over the summer, the Supreme Court released opinions that may change the way society operates.

In *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, the Supreme Court limited affirmative action by narrowing the ability of colleges and universities to use race as a determining factor when making decisions about admitting students. A few weeks before that decision was released, Whitworth preemptively

stated “the court’s ruling could lamentably reduce access for historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups to colleges and universities,” but would not likely affect Whitworth, which is “committed to promoting a student body that is racially, ethnically, educationally and socioeconomically diverse.”

Beyond the field of higher education, the Supreme Court’s decision in *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* was also notable. Here, the Supreme Court held that 303 Creative, a wedding website design company, could choose what messages would be portrayed on its individually designed websites, and that the owner could refuse to design websites portraying same-sex marriages. Some hailed this decision as a win for the rights of freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Others interpreted the ruling as a loss for the rights of minority, specifically LGBT+, communities.

These are big changes, not only for Whitworth but also for the whole of the United States. The Whitworthian will cover these changes and the impacts they have on our campus community. But things will not be all gloom and doom at The Whitworthian this year. We will also show up for the things that you care about, big and small. We will be there to cover the traditions and the smiles this year brings you. From arts and culture to sports, from news to opinions, you can expect to find our publication providing you with knowledge of the events, beliefs and occurrences in the Whitworth community.

We also want to hear from you. This year, we will be tabling more often, trying to get a sense of what you would like us to write about. And as always, if you want to share your voice, send us a letter to the editor.

So keep your eyes out for our print edition or check out <https://the-whitworthian.news/> to stay in-the-know on the campus events and stories as we head into a year of new possibilities. We are honored to share this upcoming year with you.

Sincerely,

The Whitworthian Editorial Board

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Whitworth mascot Patches the parrot high fives fans during a NCAA football game at Whitworth University against Linfield University, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

