

# THE [WIRE]

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“During its more active days, people came to the Lyons Den for the events, but more importantly, for the community it fostered.”



# LYONS DEN

# Letter From the Editor

Abram Buehner

Editor-in-Chief

I'm a huge Star Wars fan, and I think this issue's Letter From The Editor is best started with an analogy to a galaxy far, far away.

*Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* begins with a high-wire action set piece as Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi rescue Chancellor Palpatine from General Grievous' capital ship in the skies above Coruscant. As far as CGI-laden Star Wars sequences go, this one's pretty good. Or, it is from the audience's perspective.

In the narrative of the film, it's sort of a mess. Sure, Palpatine is rescued but Anakin is further corrupted by his influence, Obi-Wan gets knocked unconscious, and the three are captured by ray shields. Despite our protagonists claiming to be smart enough to avoid the trap, they fall into it anyway.

Well, at risk of allowing this ramble-y synopsis to further unfold, TL;DR, Anakin and Obi-Wan escape and return the Chancellor to Coruscant unscathed... by flying half of Grievous' fiery, destroyed cruiser down to the surface in a ramshackle crash landing. This prompts one of *Revenge of the Sith*'s many meme-able lines (another happy landing!) as the scene completes.

The point is, I sort of feel like *The Wheaton Wire*'s last issue is a lot like that opening set piece. It had a lot of issues—principle among them the misspellings of Michael Whelan and Madison Morin's names. Those are just unacceptable copy-editing oversights and I apologize sincerely.

Honestly we were, or most aptly I was, totally winging it. There was no peer-edit system and we were just throwing ideas at the wall design-wise to see what stuck. I think a lot did. I think we told some really important stories in that issue, but it's frustrating to me that the thought-provoking narratives we shared are so easily overshadowed by rookie mistakes.

To the best of my ability, I will strive to ensure the incredible work of our team isn't marred by editorial oversight. We've implemented a new system wherein three sets of eyes are put on each piece before they're added to the paper, and Moira has continued to innovate on the design front. I'm so proud of what the team created for our last installment, but I'm even prouder of how holistically successful issue two is. I hope you enjoy.

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# The Lyon's Den: At a Crossroads

By Elsie Carson

One of Wheaton's most-loved places is the Lyon's Den. Located in the Balfour-Hood Campus Center, it is a hotspot for student activity. The Den hosts student events ranging from open mics to concerts to open hours. Providing students with jobs and clubs with an event venue, the Den is a unique space that is run completely by and for students. But since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the Lyons Den has undergone some drastic changes, leaving its future uncertain.

We interviewed two of the most qualified people to discuss the past and future of the Lyons Den: Nina Christenson and Marina Sanchez. They work as co-managers of the Den and have been working there since they were first-year students.

Both Nina and Marina had always been drawn to the Den. "I think that when I came as a freshman, the Den really captured my interest. I was so excited to work here ... everyone who works here loves the Den and is really excited about it. It's definitely a space that has captured my heart," Nina explained. Marina is in agreement with her "I'm in the same boat, this place sparked my interest from when I first toured here. It's definitely a place I've become very invested in."

The Den looked very different when the two first started working there, though. During Nina's first year working in 2019, the Den was open from 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM four days a week, and had a team of three managers and 10-15

baristas. They made and gave away milkshakes, ice cream, pizza, bagels, and other foods. Although it was marketed as a café, coffee was never their most popular item. "We had open mic nights, concerts, and performances. Open tab nights were also a big thing," Nina reminisced. "Clubs would create an open tab for students to get food for free during events to attract students."

Marina, on the other hand, began



working during COVID, after it had recently reopened. "With COVID, we couldn't sell food, and it became a study space. We just tried to stay open [during the] Spring term," said Nina.

During its more active days, people came to the Lyons Den for the events, but more importantly, for the community it fostered. Nina elaborated that although The Den didn't have the best advertising and wasn't popular all the time, there was a sense of camaraderie

amongst the people who worked there and frequented the Den. "It was a club for people who didn't have a club," she expressed.

This feeling of camaraderie has returned this year, says Nina. "The return of the regulars also reminds me of what the Lyons Den used to be." She also noted that the spirit of the Den has remained unchanged. "The art and things like that [have] been a way to maintain our iden-

tity." While the Den still cannot serve their former menu, they have started handing out prepackaged food and have hosted events for different organizations on campus. "Clubs come in and do their own stuff. We just serve food so they don't have to worry about it. Our job is to make sure events move smoothly," said Marina.

But Nina and Marina want to see the Den grow. Marina said that Dean Parker has expressed an interest in investing more resources

into the Den but noted that "there's a lot of talk of people who want to invest more, less action. Right now we have some funds, but don't have a reason to ask for funds. We have a little bit of an operating budget but it's small and not enough to really do big things."

While Nina is graduating, Marina, who is still a sophomore, will continue to oversee the Den for two-and-a-half more years. She said she would "like for it to become more of a café. Have a place for people to do homework and a space that is really for students and for what they want. And if they could buy things, that would help." But she can't do that by herself. "No matter what, we need student interest. If we want this place to come back we need people to come here and show Wheaton that people like it. If people want this café back, we need them to come here."

The Lyons Den is currently open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, with open hours 8-11 on Fridays. You can follow them on Instagram, @wheatoncollegelyonsden!



Photo Source (middle): @wheatoncollegelyonsden, Instagram.

Lyons Den // [Wheatoncollege.edu](http://Wheatoncollege.edu)

# Someone Left Wheaton: Is That Really News Anymore?

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By Madison Morin and Elsie Carson

Amidst the “great resignation” within higher education, many people have left Wheaton including President Dennis Hanno, Assistant Provost Jim Mancall, Accessibility Services Director Autumn Grant, and an unnamed Counseling Center clinician. However, one recent departure remains notably abrupt.

Earlier this month, former Director of Residential Life, Seth Hodge, left his role at Wheaton after being hired last January. No statement about the departure was put out by the school. When *The Wire* contacted SGA President Dalwin Corcino for a comment on Hodge’s leaving his role, he reached out to the Dean of Students, Darnell Parker.

Dr. Parker shared that “there are federal laws that prevent [the] college from making public announcements about the departure of a staff member unless it is a member of the President’s Council as they are the college’s leadership.” As Hodge was not a member of the President’s Council, the school was not obligated to announce this change. Dr. Parker remarked that “when there is a departure he encourages staff to share it with whom they feel comfortable so that members of the community can be informed ... but the college cannot force them to do

it.” He also offered that students are welcome to reach out to him about this or other matters if they have questions.

Hodge came to Wheaton last January. He previously worked at UC Santa Cruz for eight years, then had a three-year stint at the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, and finally spent just over two and a half years at Emerson College before being hired at Wheaton. His time at Wheaton was marked by some controversy. Hodge had previously faced criticism from the student body during his time at Wheaton for his handling of theme houses, specifically the removal of different items from theme houses last Summer, with no notice or warning. “It felt incredibly disrespectful to me, as well as much of the theme house community,” Emerson House co-president Brennan Parker (no relation to the Dean) remarked. “While Wheaton loves to market the unique theme house option to potential students, his decisions were actively undermining the communities they boast about.” Under Hodge’s direction, residential life staff threw away furniture, art, spices, and other items over the Summer on the grounds of being safety hazards or housing violations, some of which had been there

for years. “Some theme houses lost furniture that had been gifted to the houses by former members citing fire hazards, which is ironic, considering they took a mattress from one theme house and left it in the hallway, creating an even bigger fire hazard,” said Brennan.

In response, SGA, the Associate Director of Residential Life Lyndsey Aguilar, and Coordinator of MLKCC and Theme Houses Elliot Welsh are working to support the refurbishment of theme house common spaces. Corcino noted that “while things seem to be rapidly changing in the Res Life Office, I think these changes are great and will continue to benefit the student body.” Brennan lauded the refurbishment effort, but also pointed out “they can’t replace the art thrown away at the Art house or give back the furniture they took from Ecco house.” To her, while this is a step in the right direction “his choices broke the trust between theme houses and residential life, which will take considerable action to rebuild ... those decisions will have ramifications that [theme] house members won’t forget.”

When asked about the recent departure of Seth Hodge, Associate Director of Residential Life Lynd-

sey Aguilar gave this statement: “Wheaton is not alone in having staff departures. Higher education right now is a difficult field to be in, and it is one that has less flexibility in terms of virtual involvement (especially in Student Affairs). There are a lot of people in the workforce in general that are looking to try new things, and since New England has such a high density of higher education institutions and job opportunities, it is more possible to find something fresh without having to relocate or dig up your roots, and some may transition out of higher education entirely. A colleague recently said that it’s like New England colleges are on a blanket and someone just came in and shook that blanket and laid it back down again with staff relocated across the board (or blanket).” She continued, “Those outside of employment processes are not privy to the details of staff departures or employment changes, and I’m confident that students will continue to get the care and support they deserve from Wheaton and our office. As with any open position that is progressing through the steps to be filled, we hope that students are engaged with the selection process and provide critical evaluations on who they believe would be a good fit for Wheaton.”



# The Differences Between High School and College

By David Novak & Lily Maguire

College has been conveyed as a big, scary thing that our entire lives have been preparing us for. Every single test, grade, and assignment was predicated upon the fact that we needed to excel in order to get into a decent college. Due to all of these various stressors placed upon us, it seemed as if college would be a terrifying and difficult experience. It didn't help that high school teachers would constantly remind us that 'so-and-so behavior wouldn't be tolerated in college.' I even had a teacher pull me aside and say "you think I'm full of myself, wait until you see college professors. They won't let anything fly and you will not be able to talk back to them." Admittedly, that teacher was a bit of a character, but that's another story.

Eventually, high school was completed, the summer was over, and we all suddenly got plopped into this little Massachusetts town. Right off the bat, I noticed something mind blowing: the students actually treated each other well? Woah. High school was populated by close groups of friends and cliques, none of whom wanted to be there. But here, in college, these people chose to be here. The first night when some music was being played, I noticed that it wasn't the clean version. Holy shit! Swearing was finally not treated as some forbidden, evil thing. That was when I noticed, for the first time in my life, that we were starting to be treated as adults.

Up until college, everything was very scheduled and strict. Whether it was 'no hats in school,' or getting penalized for being late to class due to travel issues, there wasn't much understanding thrown our way. All

these rules began to feel unnecessary and, in a way, belittling. In college, I finally felt as if I was being treated as an adult by other adults, instead of just another thing for them to deal with. When classes started, it even further reinforced my beliefs that I would be treated as a human. I didn't have to ask to go to the bathroom. Some professors said that turning things in late, or not showing up to class, wouldn't be penalized. They understood that we had our lives going on, and that it was our choice if we wanted to make it more difficult for ourselves, rather than them attempting to make us do whatever task with threats and 'because I said so.'

Of course, this has just been my experience and that of my friends, and everyone may feel differently about the changes. We interviewed some other first years on campus and asked them what they thought about the differences they had noticed.

"I gotta say it's the workload, but also the amount of classes" remarked Audrey Sheridan, class of 2026. "You have less classes for a shorter amount of time, for me anyway." In high school, classes go for six hours straight with one lunch break. College takes everything we've learned about this school schedule and throws it out the window. One might have two or three classes one day and one the next.

Some days you have no class, some days you have a lab until nine at night. Students eat whenever they please, and the schedule changes for each and every person here on campus. Yet most people spend their day doing school work, even if they don't

have class. Another interviewee, who asked to be named anonymous, stated that "there's a lot more freedom in college, and the workload is a lot different. I have a lot more work to do, but also a lot more time to do it."

But college isn't only about academics, despite what people might assume. College is about connections—who you might meet and where you might go. But just like academics, the social aspect of college is different for everyone.

Audrey reflected that, "I don't think it helped me, per say, but I do think I'm around more people of my maturity that I can interact with on more of a daily basis." She called the college experience a "year-long sleepover," and she's not wrong. Living on campus for some can be a huge advantage socially when compared to high school, because you're surrounded by your peers for not just just six hours five days a week, but instead twenty-four hours, seven days a week.

However, making connections can still be difficult. Anonymous says college has impacted them negatively. "I feel lonely," they say, "because I have class and then all I do is homework." Even though they agree that living on campus is definitely an advantage, the people living with you are strangers. Unlike high school, the people in your classes might not be people you've known since elementary school. They might be from another town, another state, another country even. This means new faces, new ideas, and new interests. This can be scary and uncomfortable for some, or exciting for others.

College means more independence

as well. As President Whelan stated, "you are now in the driver's seat. Wheaton is the passenger, and your parents or guardians are in the backseat." You make your schedule, you choose when you eat, you do what you want to do when you want to do it. Unlike high school, you're the adult on campus. Anonymous told us that, "I feel much more connected to the community, and it's more fun to be able to get food with friends whenever I want, rather than have to call up and make plans. We can just be like 'let's meet here in ten minutes' or whatever."

College is nothing like high school. That's pretty clear. After living with your parents for eighteen years and following roughly the same school schedule for twelve years, it can be pretty stressful to leave all of that behind when you leave for college. But the cool thing about college is that everyone feels this way. Even if students know someone else on campus—or have seen older siblings go to college before them—no one can be completely prepared for the academics or the social aspect.

So despite all the differences of college compared to high school, there's one similarity that's worthy of note: everyone has been through this. Everyone's world changed as they became teenagers in high school, and now everyone is becoming an adult and changing their worlds again. So if the differences make you feel lonely, just remember that everyone knows what you're feeling, even if they don't act like it. It's so different, but hey, it isn't so bad! It's just new and scary. So don't give up, remember to smile, and do your homework.

# Examining The Far Right Victory In Italy

By Paul Bisbort

On September 25, 2022, Fratelli d'Italia, or the Brothers of Italy, a far-right political party, won an absolute majority in the Italian Parliament. The head of the party is Giorgia Meloni, who is Italy's first female Prime Minister. Brothers of Italy descends from a long line of political parties that originally derive from Mussolini's National Fascist Party, and pundits are calling her the most right-wing Prime Minister since World War II. Many American media outlets quickly jumped on the idea that fascism was returning to its country of birth. It certainly caught my attention. But how accurate are these accusations?

I spoke with Professor Alberto Bianchi, a member of the Hispanic and Italian Studies department and an Italian native himself, to get some perspective on this issue. Professor Bianchi seemed concerned with the results, but not as concerned as one might expect. "It's the novelty of it", he explained. "It's desperation [from Italian voters] for something new for a change."

Prof. Bianchi said that his shock pales in comparison to Italy's 1994 election, where the center-right coalition gave the sitting government—the Italian People's Party (IPP)—an absolute trashing. Two years earlier, in 1992, the IPP took 206 seats—this time it only took 29. At the head of the center-right coalition was Silvio Berlusconi—a successful business and media tycoon in Italy who had created the Forza Italia political party only a year prior. Berlusconi would serve as Prime Minister of Italy on three separate occasions:

1994, 2001-06, and 2008-11. In office, Berlusconi would frequently face accusations of corruption and authoritarianism, as well as personal scandals. However, despite the businessman being a newcomer to politics, his overbearing, bombastic, populist personality struck a chord with Italians. Sound familiar?

Yes, Bianchi says the 2016 victory of Donald Trump was a "déjà vu" moment for him. It was simply Berlusconi all over again. And after living under Berlusconi for 9 years, it takes a lot for an election to shock the professor.



Giorgia Meloni // Source: Bloomberg.com

Bianchi says that Berlusconi and Meloni's victory both reflect a feeling of disillusionment with the current political establishment and a desire for someone new. However, while Berlusconi was a genuine newcomer to politics, Meloni has been working in the field since she was a teenager. Fratelli d'Italia, however, is a relatively new party, being created in 2012.

The party's fascist connections are difficult to repudiate. While the party itself refutes this, its ties to the far right, appeal to neo-fascists, derivation from Mussolini's National

Facist Party, and some party members expressing apparent nostalgia or praise for fascist Italy cannot be denied.

Meloni, however, represents somewhat of a break from this, which is part of her wider, big-tent appeal. While some right-wing leaders had tied to Putin and supported Russia, Meloni has continued emphasizing Ukrainian support. She also has not made many anti-EU stances, a position which can be off-putting to many voters. A rocky economic situation in Italy has also made Meloni's platform attractive to the populace.

One of the main opinions that Meloni espouses, which has provoked criticism among more liberal nations, is her staunch anti-immigration policy. Italy, up until recently, was a nation of emigrants, not immigrants. Italians would leave Italy for countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina, or Brazil. It was only starting in the 1960s that Italy began to see people from other countries come to Italy instead of the other way around. Immigrants tend to come from Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Italy wasn't prepared for this flood of immigrants, neither culturally or institutionally. Immigrants struggled to gain the administrative help they needed to succeed as Italy lacked the necessary institutions. Italians weren't used to non-Italians being in their country either, which made foreigners isolated from Italian society. Thus, many immigrants found themselves unemployed and impoverished, stirring up anti-immigration

sentiments in the nation.

Meloni also emphasizes 'family values', and holds conservative views on issues concerning abortion and LGBT legislation. Another issue that has landed her in hot water is her seemingly warm relations with Viktor Orbán, Hungary's Prime Minister known for his anti-immigration, anti-democratic, and nationalist policies.

But is she a fascist? Bianchi found the sensationalized American headlines declaring "fascism won" amusing, though he concedes it is understandable. He likens it to saying that the "KKK won" with Trump's election. The one element of her rhetoric that can definitely be linked to fascism is Italian nationalism: "Italy for Italians". However, her platform is tamer than most of her far-right party members, which is why she appealed to many voters.

It's also worth noting that this election saw the lowest turnout in Italian history. What Bianchi did find concerning is that he saw Meloni as having general widespread success across Italy—there was no particular region or social class that supported her less than the rest.

"What I see in a lot of news reports is an underestimation of the EU," Bianchi says, alleviating concerns. Any legislation restricting immigration, abortion, or LGBT rights would be met with increasing resistance from the European Union. "There's only so much damage Meloni can do."

# The Ghost Stories of Wheaton College

By Moira Sankey

Chapel Night is a cherished tradition of the Wheaton community, based solely on forever spooking first-years. While the event typically takes place in the Chapel (as the name suggests), due to the size of this year's class, it took place in our school's beloved Dimple. As ominous music played loudly through the speakers, the executive board welcomed the class of 2026 to Wheaton and began to regale them with tales of long-held traditions, as well as the ghost stories surrounding the buildings on campus.

An example of these traditions included warnings to never enter through the Chapel's front door or sit on the Library's front steps as an underclassman, for fear of senior class members and a swim in the frigid water of Peacock Pond.

But the night isn't only filled with superstition, but also with ghost stories. The tales told were that of The 1834 Key, The Ghost of President Cole, The Haunted Chapel, and The Ghost of Aunt Mary.

In honor of the Halloween season, here is the story of Aunt Mary.

When the stacks are closed and the building is locked, there is a spirit that haunts the Madeleine Clark Wallace Library by night.

Some suggest she is the ghost of Mary Armstrong, a devoted librarian, whose fondness for her work could not be suppressed, even after her death in 1929.

Aunt Mary has been seen emerging from the Cole Room, which is thought to be her home. She files card catalogs and shelves and un-shelves books. She gives many students studying late at night the peculiar sense they are being watched.

Aunt Mary isn't just the figment of overly stressed and exhausted students' imaginations. She has been seen by both faculty and staff at Wheaton. Marion Doro, a former government professor, saw Aunt Mary one night when she stopped off at the library on her way to the pool. It was Thanksgiving weekend, the campus was deserted. The Library was closed and the students had gone home. Marion let herself into the library with her key, and

when she turned to go down to the stacks, she was startled by the sound of the swinging doors that used to be near the circulation desk.

She turned and saw a very short woman bundled up in an old-fashioned coat. Marion spoke to her, but the woman merely brushed past her without a word and walked out the front door. Marion's friends told her that the woman she saw was Aunt Mary.

Others have also met Aunt Mary. Charlie Robino, the former custodian, tells us that once early in the morning when he was alone in the Library, he was going up the back stairway, when he saw someone wearing old-fashioned high-button shoes coming down. Not expecting to see anyone in the library, he called out "can I help you?" The person stopped and the shoes disappeared.

When Charles reached the top of the stairs, there was no one in sight. Even though he searched, he was unable to find anyone in the library.

Today, one of Aunt Mary's favorite

tricks is un-shelving a book in the stacks that she seems to be very attached to. This book's title is *The City of the Dreadful Night* by James Thomson. This book mysteriously can be found on the ground at all times of day, no matter how many times librarians re-shelf it. So next time you are studying in the stacks late at night alone, make sure to beware of Aunt Mary.

And there you have it, folks, the heartwarming story of Aunt Mary and her consistent haunting of the Madeline Clark Wallace Library on Upper Campus.

Chapel night was concluded by students gathering in a circle around the Dimple, each individual lighting and holding a small candle, which will not be re-lit until it comes time for them to graduate, roughly three and a half years from now. This tradition was started in 1923, and though it has long since lost any of the religious connotations it once held, it still holds an extreme amount of significance, marking the beginning of a student's time here at Wheaton College.

Photo Source: [Wheatoncollege.edu](http://Wheatoncollege.edu)



# I Don't Need To Watch It. I Lived It.

By Nicole Janeiro

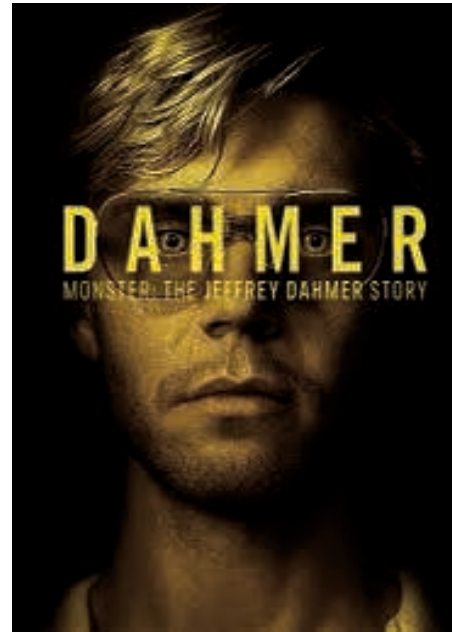
Since the demand for true crime media has taken shape and continues to reach an all-time-high, there have been numerous documentaries, movies, and series' created about the real-life "Milwaukee Monster" Jeffrey Dahmer. One of the most recent true crime sensations is the new Netflix documentary dramatization series, *DAHMER - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, which has grown quickly in popularity and sparked newfound controversies. Not only did Netflix come under fire for tagging the series as "LGBTQ" content (which was quickly removed following backlash over this choice on TikTok), but family members of Dahmer's victims have also spoken out against the series. Critics have blamed the show for desensitizing viewers to the serial killer, poorly treating a black person during production, and for the obscene amount of true crime content that has been released about Dahmer, as numerous films, podcasts, and television series have exposed Dahmer's vicious methods of killing.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jeffrey Dahmer was described as energetic and happy until he got surgery at the age of 4 to correct a double hernia. The surgery seemed to drastically change him, with Dahmer's energetic personality shifting to a more solemn and withdrawn version of himself. Dahmer became increasingly isolated after the birth of his younger brother, and his family's constant movement did not help matters. Between the years 1978 and 1991, the convicted sex offender and serial killer murdered seventeen men. Dahmer committed his first murder soon after graduating high school, in June 1978, when he picked up a hitchhiker named Steven Hicks and lured him back to his house, one he still shared with his parents. There, Dahmer got Hicks drunk and killed him when Hicks tried to leave. Dahmer struck him in the head and then strangled him with a barbell. It wasn't until a little over nine years later that Dahmer killed his second victim, a victim count that would just

keep increasing over the years. Dahmer's gruesome murder tactics included strangling men and engaging in sexual acts with their bodies before dismembering them. As his murders progressed, Dahmer experimented with chemical means of disposal and often consumed the flesh of his victims, conducted vulgar lobotomies, and drilled into the skulls of the victims to inject muriatic acid while they were still alive.

The Netflix series tackles Dahmer's motivations for his crimes as well as how he became one of the most notorious serial killers in American history. In the ten-episode Netflix series co-created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan, Evan Peters, known for his acting roles in *American Horror Story*, *Deadpool 2*, and numerous X-Men films, plays the nonfictional Jeffrey Dahmer. In what seems like an attempt to set the record straight, Evan Peters shared that while creating the show, the cast and crew didn't want the audience to sympathize with the murderer. The series does, in fact, expose the failures of those who could have intervened earlier when Dahmer's activities were becoming quite obvious. According to Ryan Murphy's account, there is more to the story than "just him and his backstory." The goal was to expand upon the backstory as a baseline, clearly identifying the repercussions resulting from "how society and our system failed to stop him multiple times because of racism, homophobia."

However, for the family members of Dahmer's victims, the series has catalyzed retraumatization for them, especially since these family members were not informed of this particular documentary being filmed. Eric Perry, a relative of Errol Lindsey, one of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims, criticized the show by sharing that his family found out about the series "when everyone else did." In other words, family members of the victims were not consulted with by Netflix prior to the creation and release of the



Dahmer // Source: Netflix

documentary series. A question of ethics has been the center of conversation surrounding this documentary series containing sensitive content ever since its release.

Rita Isbell, the sister of Errol Lindsey, one of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims chimed in by expressing that she "felt like Netflix should've asked if they minded as well as how they felt about making the series. They didn't ask me anything. They just did it," Isbell said. She added that if Netflix compensated the victims' families with some money then she would have understood. In Isbell's opinion, Netflix was greedy for making money off of this tragedy. For Isbell, the episode with the recreation of her emotional victim impact statement, originally delivered in court at the 1992 sentencing, was the only part she watched. "I didn't watch the whole show. I don't need to watch it. I lived it. I know exactly what happened." Isbell mentioned that the episode bothered her because she witnessed someone else repeating verbatim what she said. Isbell even felt as if she was reliving it all over again. "...It brought back all the emotions I was feeling back then."

Errol Lindsey's daughter, Tatiana Banks, has largely avoided watching any movies or shows about Dahmer, except for the same episode her aunt, Rita Isbell chose to watch. Banks never had the opportunity to meet her father and has described her grieving experience as both complicated and different. It wasn't until Tatiana was about four or five-years-old that her mother first told her about her father's death. Nevertheless, after watching just one episode, Banks couldn't watch any more of the show due to how disturbing it was for her. Banks felt that "they should have reached out because [there are] people who are actually still grieving from that situation." Banks admitted that "honestly ever since that show's been on, I haven't been able to sleep. I see Jeffrey Dahmer in my sleep."

Lately, respect for true crime victims has been lacking. Instead, the dramatization and romanticization of serial killers, like Jeffrey Dahmer, without genuine regard for victims' experiences, has become the new trend within true crime media. For those who thoroughly enjoy engaging with true crime media, the thrill and excitement it exudes sounds enjoyable at first blush, but not at the expense of disrupting the healing process for victims. For the families and victims, engaging in true crime media about what they have experienced first-hand isn't as exciting and thrilling as it is for everyone else. The true crime industry is one that, like many other sources of media, prioritizes entertainment and awareness, harming victims in the process. While awareness is a crucial aspect of true crime media and the true crime industry should continue to harness this, doing so with caution for the experiences of victims is a more ethical approach. The stories are valuable to share, but they are not to be treated lightly. It is imperative that the true crime industry take the necessary steps to remain respectful of the people who experienced the reality of a significant true crime event.



# 2022: A Good Year For Horror

By David Novak

Horror movies are known to be pretty subpar a majority of the time. Almost every trope within the genre has some sort of cheesy stereotype surrounding it. Whether it be the final girl being a virgin, the unstoppable slasher going after a group of teens, or underwhelming plot twists, the genre is known for its repeated tropes. If you've considered getting into horror, but can't look past the stupidity surrounding a majority of the genre, now would be the year to do it. 2022 has given audiences lots of fun, fresh, and unique horror films.

At the beginning of the year, the A24 movie *X* unexpectedly released. The premise sounds pretty typical for a horror film: a group of young adults want to shoot an adult film, but, of course, a couple of murderers are against that. Getting past the pretty basic plot, the movie surprisingly has a lot of symbolism and positive messaging laced throughout (if you're further curious about that,



*X* // Source: 24films

DeadMeat on YouTube has a good video explaining it). The young sex-crazed adults aren't framed as stupid or immature.

The film actually gives each of the characters some sort of emotional depth, and they're clearly smart people as well. They also attempt to do many selfless acts throughout the movie (which will be unnamed because of spoilers). It was one of the first times where a sex-positive group of people were portrayed sympathetically in a horror film. Besides the nuances of this movie, if you're into fun, gory kills, this film is also definitely for you.

Secretly, while making *X*, the prequel to the movie was filmed as well. It's titled *Pearl* and released just months after *X* did. This film shows how the crazed killer of *X* became said crazed killer.

This movie, although still containing gory kills, is more of a character drama than anything else. There's wonderful camerawork, solid acting, vibrant colors, and a seriously impressive uncut scene of a character ranting and sobbing for over six minutes straight. Strangely enough, if you delve deeper into the film, you'll notice lots of parallels between *Pearl* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Jordan Peele has shown us that he is a wonderful horror director by this point (with *Us* and *Get Out* being very well received), and has further solidified his status with his third film *Nope*. The film is a strange mix of genres: horror, western, and mystery. Without giving too much away, two ranch owners begin to suspect there's a UFO on their property, and

they attempt to catch footage of it. This movie has breathtaking visuals, wonderful cinematography, good acting, and great humor that comes at the perfect time to break the tension.

There are several jokes that land very well, along with a couple of intense scenes that are incredibly anxiety-inducing. While also being a very entertaining film, it also contains a pretty unique twist on the alien invasion subgenre. It's not too reliant on horror, so it's pretty accessible for non-horror audiences as well. The trailer for *Bodies Bodies Bodies* made it look like it would be a very stupid, typical whodunnit/horror movie. Surprisingly, it turned out to be a really engaging watch. It's definitely aimed at us late teens and early adults, since the main characters are insufferable stereotypes from our generation. It does a good job at teasing our generation by using characters who seem realistic. Many films that try to mimic, or appeal to, our generation are very far off from accurate and end up being a bit insulting.

Thankfully, *BBB* has a wonderful cast with characters that really do seem like they could be the extremes of our culture. Although *BBB* is more of a dark comedy than anything else, it still has its fair share of blood and suspense. This movie might be worth a watch for the ending reveal alone: it's hilarious.

One of the most recent horror releases, *Barbarian*, seemed to have come out of nowhere. There wasn't much marketing done for it, and it doesn't seem to be talked about too often. It starts off with a somewhat simple premise: a woman having

to stay with an unsettling man she doesn't know. Bill Skarsgård does a wonderful job at playing that role. He seems like a genuinely awkward, off-putting guy. But, minor spoilers ahead, he actually turns out to not be a bad person which I find uncommon in horror films.

Horror very often (and somewhat fairly) makes men often seem like two-dimensional, selfish assholes. Instead, Skarsgård's character is a genuinely decent guy with good intentions, and his strangeness seems like a combination of anxiety and awareness of current social norms, rather than just being the creepy guy trope. This type of man is incredibly rare in movies, and it's really nice to see as a refresher every once in a while. Besides all of this, the film is insanely unpredictable (albeit a bit stupid at times). You will not be able to predict a single story beat, I can assure you that. Be warned though, it is on the gory side, and has many incredibly uncomfortable moments.

With Halloween right around the corner, I heavily suggest any of these movies to watch for a fun night with friends!



*BBB* // Source: a24studios



*Nope* // Source: Universal Studios

# Unsung Heroes of Wheaton College: Rachel Pink

By Carlos Yu

There is so much discussion about turnover, burnout, and demoralization in higher education. So many are focused on who left, who resigned, and who came to replace a staff or faculty member. But what about the people who stay despite the constant changes? What about those who take on responsibilities apt for two or three people in times of crisis? This will be the first interview in what I hope will be a long series that aims to create points of celebration in a time filled with a lot of loss and uncertainty. If there's anyone you think deserves an interview, email The Wire at [thewheatonwire@gmail.com](mailto:thewheatonwire@gmail.com)!

**Carlos:** How long have you worked at Wheaton?

**Rachel:** I started working at Wheaton in August 2015, so I believe that means I'm on my eighth year here.

**Carlos:** Wow, eight years. That's a lot of time. So you must have a strong institutional memory. What's the significance of that? What's that like?

**Rachel:** So on the third floor of Balfour are the SAIL and Residential Life offices. Somehow I found myself as the longest-standing person on this floor when I very much didn't used to be, and that happened pretty quickly in the blink of an eye. All of a sudden, it's like, "Oh my gosh, I've been here the longest." I've seen different staff and different administration and events, of course, and different happenings at Wheaton. Many classes have come through. I've just seen a lot here.

Even in eight years, so much has changed. So I find myself kind of filling in the blanks a lot for folks in our offices but in different offices too who are just wondering how we used to do this and what's the best way to do that.

**Carlos:** Wow, so you've sort of become the person that people look to for help.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I get a lot of questions that aren't necessarily related to my role or my job, but I'm happy to provide things to help folks.

**Carlos:** Speaking of work, you seem to be a person that wears many hats. What are those "hats"?

**Rachel:** I mean, do you want me to share what my job is? Or like what my day-to-day is like?

**Carlos:** Yes! Go ahead?

**Rachel:** I'm an assistant director in the SAIL office. In my role, I guess primarily, I supervise our various student employment positions. That includes the Balfour-Hood Building Managers, Student bankers, our Front office operations, our student staff, and front desk Chalkboard Artist, Lyon's Den Staff, Advisor for SGA Finance Committee, and Social Media Interns. That is how I spend the bulk of my day... Just supervising and advising.

I am also the advisor to the student government finance committee, which is new for me this year but a sort of natural next step since I supervise the student bankers.

That's my primary role, but I also oversee operations in the campus center [and also support] the SAIL staff and our initiatives. We work on Orientation. We have a little hand in Friends and Family Weekend and, you know, helping Nicole [Lombardi] support the senior class and their pub night and senior week.

Every day is different, but that's why I like it.

**Carlos:** Wow, that's a lot of work which leaves me wondering, what motivates you?

**Rachel:** We always ask ourselves, as staff, what is our why?

My why is working with my student employees and my student leaders. The best part for me are those teachable moments to reiterate to students that there's a method to my madness. The best for me is when I have alumni that go off and come back and say, "I get it," or "You teaching me this has helped me to do this. That, for me, means everything. Showing them that this co-curricular experience can be just as valuable. I also love who I work with as well. Some days would be so difficult if I didn't like who I was surrounded by. The staff, especially in Res Life and SAIL, really keep each other grounded and give each other perspective. We also keep it fun too. We like to say we take our work seriously but not ourselves.

**Carlos:** I see. I did notice that you have strong relationships with the students here. When I was asking people who I should interview, a lot

of people gave me your name.

**Rachel:** That means a lot to me.

Well, in my undergrad, I went to the University of New Hampshire, I was on a dance team, and I was also an RA. Those experiences taught me so much and gave me so much experience outside of the classroom, and those were some of the best years of my life. I wanna give that experience back to students, and I had so many wonderful supervisors and mentors, and I just wanna be that to college students now.

**Carlos:** So you were on a dance team? Can you talk about that a little bit?

**Rachel:** I was on a hip-hop team at my alma mater. I took dance all my life, and it was just something missing for me when I graduated high school and went to college, so I just wanted to stay connected to the dance world.

**Carlos:** What about now? Do you still dance?

**Rachel:** No, not really. I do a spin class... There's some choreography and rhythm in that, I guess.

**Carlos:** What are your big three signs?

**Rachel:** I am a Gemini sun, Sagittarius moon, Sagittarius rising. My sister is a Sagittarius too.

**Carlos:** Do you get along?

**Rachel:** We can be the best of friends or the worst of enemies.

**Carlos:** What's it like being the person that's been here for a while?

**Rachel:** It's bittersweet. I've seen some wonderful colleagues come and go. Learned a lot from a lot of different people and met some amazing people that will stay in my life for a while even though they don't work here anymore. It can be quite tiring at times to be the go-to person and provide that historical knowledge that we talked about before. Especially when there are a lot of new people at the institution. It can definitely be tiring at times, but I also love to be helpful to folks, and I always want people to feel like if they've come to ask me something, they've come to the right place even though it may not be the right place technically if I can't provide them with a solution

I'll give them the next step. Even if this has nothing to do with our office, at least you can provide them with the next step. Anyway, it's nice to have that knowledge and be helpful.

**Carlos:** So I know we've been talking a little bit about yourself, but mostly about the work you do. I wanted to shift a little bit and ask you some personal questions. So I wonder what something that is bringing excitement to your life right now is?

**Rachel:** This season excites me, and I just love the Fall and doing all the Fall things. I have plans with my husband this weekend to go to a

fallish place in Connecticut and do some spooky stuff. I just like this season in general and having a nice break. ... I'm looking forward to [that,] and spending time with my family.

**Carlos:** Do you have any hobbies?

**Rachel:** I'm very much a homebody. I get my energy back by spending time by myself. I definitely like to be at home spending time with my husband ... I have a pug and two cats. I love to get breakfast. I'm a big breakfast person. Netflix. You know. Low-key stuff.

**Carlos:** Favorite breakfast?

**Rachel:** Home fries.

**Carlos:** What about Netflix? What are you watching right now?

**Rachel:** I just finished *The Watcher*. I do love the true crime stuff and fall into that category of basic.

**Carlos:** What's your go-to meal? Comfort meal?

**Rachel:** I'm a vegetarian, so I make a really good veggie chili. I make it delicious, I think, Veggie Chili and load it up with cheddar cheese and sour cream, dip some tortilla chips in it, and it's delish. That just popped into my head right away, and now I have to make some this weekend because I mentioned it.

Before I interviewed Rachel, I thought it important to ask some faculty and students what it is they appreciate about her. One faculty member said this: "Rachel is an amazing advisor for student organizations ... She's brilliant as a problem solver because she's been here, has strong institutional memory, and knows how to identify the best paths forward. She's a wizard at student budgets. For faculty, she's a great collaborator. Always positive, students love her. She's great!" Rachel is crucial to this institution. I'm grateful she's here and that she gave me the time to interview her!



# Horoscopes (Unhinged)

By Moira Sankey

## Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

“Breathe in, breathe through, breathe deep, breathe out.” - Taylor Swift

## Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

Taylor Swift’s new album should not be your entire personality.

## Aries (March 21 – April 19)

When was the last time you slept eight hours?

## Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Been to the cemetery recently?

## Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Let yourself be surprised.

## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

How’s that seasonal depression going?

## Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Stop overcompensating.

## Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Help yourself, for once.

## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Please work on your communication skills.

## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Take a break from being mysterious.

## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Stick up for yourself. Please. I beg you.

## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Try and keep your god complex in check while watching *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

# Art From Wheaton

Wheaton is known for being a liberal arts school, with a large emphasis on art. Here at The Wire, we want to do our best to showcase student art and give it the recognition it deserves. This edition’s featured artist is Carlos Yu, a junior and member of The Wire’s editorial staff. This piece is called *Searching*.

When asked about the inspirations behind this piece of art, Yu responded saying “this is the first painting I ever made and completed. I normally write instead, but I feel like I can be dramatic in what I paint, whereas in writing it would be insufferable to read. Maybe it is not so fun to look at either, but I could care less. Anyway, this painting is about the search for home since I live in New York but I was born in the Philippines.”



Have a piece of poetry, flash fiction, or visual art to share? Send it to [thewheatonwire@gmail.com](mailto:thewheatonwire@gmail.com) for a chance to be featured!