

THE [WIRE]

INSIDE: Wheaton's Accessibility, Wheaton Advising, The Hopeless (and Heartbroken) Romantics of Wheaton, Wheaton Athletics

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ADVISING

Letter From the Editor

Abram Buehner
Editor-in-Chief

Oh brother! I'm feeling a bit like Charlie Brown's pitiful christmas tree right now, sagging under the weight of its ornaments. So, suffice it to say, I'm exhausted and gonna keep this letter brief. Please enjoy this deluxe-sized issue of the Wire to close out the Fall and have a great break. Enjoy the time off, go watch Andor (it's amazing), go watch Bones and All (it's also amazing), and get your Christmas shopping done ASAP (I haven't even started mine).

Thank you all for your support this semester, we've learned a lot about workflow and hammered out a pretty successful structure. With a revamped online presence, better distribution, and a more consistent schedule, Spring is going to be Wire season. I can't wait. But, to be frank, I imminently can't wait to forget that I'm even enrolled at college and enjoy the next six-ish weeks of no school. I'm exhausted. What a fun note to end things on, right? Happy holidays, everyone!

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A Hopeless Romantic's Journey Through Wheaton

By Alyssa Myers

As a senior, there are many locations on Wheaton's campus that hold a story for me. There are spots that have seen my highest highs, my lowest lows, and everything in between. I was sure that I wasn't the only one that would look at a spot on this campus and instantly be reminded of what had happened there.

For this article, I asked members of the Wheaton community three unexpected questions: Where is your favorite place that you have been kissed on campus? Where is your favorite place to cry or your go-to crying spot on campus? And lastly, where is a place that you would like to be kissed on campus? I hope this article reads as a hopeless romantic's journey through Wheaton, tracing student's sweet romantic moments to their teary release of emotions.

Of the thirteen respondents, I got a wide variety of responses to the question "where is your favorite place you have been kissed on campus?" The answers varied from something basic, such as "my room," -which had two responses- to more adventurous locations such as "at night at Nordin Field."

A trend that I saw for this question was that a lot of the answers were outside, many were outside at night, and still many were outside, at night, with a specific mention of the weather or the stars. For instance, the aforementioned respondent said they liked kissing on the Nordin field because "you

can see all of the stars." A different respondent said that their favorite kiss was between Pine and Outdoors House, at midnight while it snowed. Another respondent noted that their favorite kiss spot was the Wheaton Woods, in the pouring rain. Lastly, one respondent said that their favorite kiss was at the outdoor classroom, at night, where they saw their first ever shooting star. How cute is that!

This led me to think about how weather and setting really set the mood for romance. Where, during the day, the outdoor classroom can be a place of school work, but as the sun sets and the stars settle into place, it becomes a romantic getaway. Whether the weather was rain, snow, or a clear sky of stars, interviewees went out of their way to mention their environment, painting such an elegant picture of Wheaton.

The next question I asked: "Do you have a crying spot/ a favorite place to cry on campus?" also garnered a wide variety of responses, ranging again from "my room," -this time with four responses- to places like "Dean Irish's office."

The trend that I noticed here was that a lot more of these places were inside, and a lot of them were in academic/work buildings, which alluded to the fact that perhaps, the greatest source of college students' tears is our workload. One respondent said their favorite cry was in Room 1105, Mars Science

Center, during stats, with a mask on to cover the tears. Another student said that their favorite crying spot was in the stairway in Meneley, where they cry between classes. Lastly, another respondent said they enjoy crying in the back of the stacks. The same campus that is a home to romance, is also a place of academia first, and as a result, so many tears.

The last question that I asked the Wheaton student body was "where is a place that you would like to be kissed on campus?" I was curious to learn what spots on Wheaton's campus students felt held the most romantic potential. It is important to note that many respondents

listed multiple places, so there is overlap in responses because of that. This being said, the leading location was the Stacks in the library, with four respondents mentioning it as a place they would love to kiss someone. There were three locations tied for second place, with three mentions each: the Greenhouse, the Old Observatory, and Red Rock. Do these places seem romantic to you?

Lastly, I wanted to add some honorable-mention romantic spots: the Harry Potter Room in the Library and the Watson Art Gallery. I found both of these places to be unique and very romantic.

Photo Source // wheatoncollege.edu



Accessibility At Wheaton

By Madison Morin

Wheaton Accessibility is technically back in business, but students with accommodations still feel the aftereffects of a rocky start to the semester.

By law, all established colleges and universities in the U.S. are required to meet all students' accessibility needs. The Americans With Disabilities Act (1990), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973), and President Obama's reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015) establishes an enforcement mechanism, where all post-secondary administrators must at least attempt to meet the needs of students with disabilities, or otherwise face harsh penalties in the form of civil rights lawsuits.

Any post-secondary institution that receives federal funding has to have some kind of disability service apparatus available to students.

In the middle of the spring 2022 academic semester, former Accessibility Coordinator, Autumn Grant, left her position at Wheaton. Until a qualified replacement could be found, Student Success Advisor, Susan Freidman served as an intermediate up until September 2022. An unnamed full-time replacement was hired in August and expected to start on September 15th, but reportedly quit after their first few days on the job.

After the unnamed employee's sudden departure, accessibility was upheld by a cohort of various faculty members. On Sep. 12th, previous Learning Disability Specialist from

Lesley University, Jeremiah Bergstrom, stepped into the shoes of the Accessibility Services Director and has since stayed. During an interview, Bergstrom recognized the circumstances of the role he took on.

"I know that the work that I inherited, the role of accessibility services was being heroically upheld by like six different people whose inherent job was not to work with accessibility services in its own right so that the duties were being done as well as could be. But, they were being done by like advisors and the registrar and stuff like that in order to kind of keep the ship afloat until they had the director on board to be able kind of held it in its own right" Said Bergstrom.

Accessibility is up and running again, notably, with the addition of an accessibility specialist who will be starting after Thanksgiving break.

"Wheaton hasn't really had the bandwidth to be able to provide full wraparound support and I am excited that we'll be able to do that because of the extra weight that we have now that there is a proper department up and running."

Despite these positive advances, Wheaton students who require classroom or housing accommodations have been facing challenges that appear to be a result of the chunk of time between Autumn Grant's departure in the spring, and Jeremiah Bergstrom's September arrival. Olivia Garofalo '25 struggled to acquire her accommodations at the be-

ginning of the fall semester. At the beginning of the academic semester, Garofalo had to start her classes working as an advocate for her accommodations in addition to being a student.

"I had accommodations already in place from last year but needed some additional ones for this year. I provided medical documentation, but with the transition to the new staff in the accessibility office, it took way too long to get those into place and get the letter I needed to submit to my professors." She continued, "Because I didn't have the accommodation letter, I had to reach out to my professors individually and had to rely on them to help put into place accommodations like a note taker without the formal system that protected my confidentiality. I had to disclose my medical conditions that I would not have had to do had the system worked properly at the start of the semester." Garofalo wrote

In addition to this, Garofalo went to check her classrooms before the semester started to ensure they met her accessibility needs. She immediately noticed that her wheelchair did not fit under the classroom tables. Garofalo contacted accessibility about her concerns during the first week of the semester.

"We are now in week 12 of the semester and I still don't have a desk and am unable to get any work done during classes because I had to try to balance my iPad between my legs." she wrote on Instagram on November 25th.

On November 29th, Garofalo's proper desk was in her classroom. She managed to find the desk's location through social media and with the help of Wheaton students and faculty.

"Thank you so much for all the support and for helping me get my story out- I definitely could not have done this alone." She wrote on her Instagram story.

A Wheaton student, who prefers to remain anonymous, requested housing and classroom accommodations in May of 2022. In June, she reached out to Susan Freidman, the intermediate accessibility coordinator at the time, to make sure her forms had been processed.

At the end of June, the student heard back from Freidman and found out there were a few more forms she needed to complete. The anonymous student resubmitted the appropriate forms the same day.

When room selections for the 2022 fall semester rolled around, the student had yet to hear anything back regarding her housing accommodations.

"They [accessibility services] basically said that they received what I sent over but everything I submitted was wrong. They said I needed certain papers that Susan had told me not to worry about. I also provided them with documentation of my issues as well as requests and explanations from my healthcare provider, but they said they never got them. When I emailed the accessi-

bility services back, re-attaching the documents provided by my doctor as well as having my doctor email, fax, and mail them to Wheaton herself, I never heard back again.” She wrote.

As a last resort, the student had to reach out to faculty outside of accessibility services to find a solution. Associate Director of Residential Life, Lyndsay Agular, found a solution for the student three weeks into the semester.

“The whole time I still hadn’t heard back from anyone else but Lyndsay. I needed a single with a private bathroom and eventually got into a triple with a private bathroom. I couldn’t even complain at that point because at least it is a semi-private bathroom. But because of my con-

dition, I am not supposed to wait if I need to go, which is why the single was requested.” She wrote

Another anonymous student is one among many who reported troubles with receiving housing accommodations this year. A junior, the student had no problems going forth with housing accommodations her first two years at Wheaton, but there was a point in mid-August of 2022 when she was unsure if she would have a place to live on campus. None of her emails to accessibility were getting responses and the clock was ticking.

Usually, room selection for students with housing accommodations is done before or during the lottery in a process that both accessibility services and housing are involved with. After several emails and phone calls,

the student was able to receive her accommodation for a single, but due to accessibility’s disarray, she had to settle for a co-ed floor, even though their accommodations explicitly request a female/non-binary floor.

“we want to be talked to, not talked at, and we want to be want to feel like we’re being respected. And this is a violation of other policies in terms of like accessibility. Accessibility is a necessity.” she said.

On December 1st, the accessibility board held an “open hours” event to address the current state of accessibility. described online as “a chance for anyone to participate in a moderated, respectful, and solution-focused discussion regarding current accessibility concerns.”

The room was packed, with over 45 people occupying the room in person and 35 attending over zoom. Dean of students, Darnell T. Parker, and Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs and Academic Administration, Karen McCormack, and Assistant Professor of English, Wesley Jacques, were also present.

Student Accessibility Chair, Jolie Gagnon ‘24, encouraged students to be mindful of the wheelchair-accessible tables, explaining how moving one outside of the classroom or sitting on one could affect wheelchair-users’ independence.

Student accessibility concerns of all kinds were brought up during the meeting in a town hall style setting and were addressed by Jeremiah Bergstrom and Dean Parker.

Triangle of Sadness: The Sociology Connection

By David Novak

In my sociology class this week, we were discussing potential substitutes for the corrupt police system that’s currently in use. After being stuck for several minutes, we came across a fairly depressing realization: every potential solution was just another form of an elite group holding power. It was impossible to come up with an outcome that doesn’t result in one group being more powerful than others, which is exactly where the problem stems from. Unfortunately, I can’t provide any solutions, but the question did remind me of a movie that showcases a very similar dilemma. That movie is Triangle Of Sadness.

Triangle of Sadness is a recent re-

lease from the director Ruben Östlund. The film is a comedy-drama in three acts. The first act follows two models as the film highlights some snippets of their life. The second act widens its focus from just the two of them onto an array of characters who all board the same cruise ship. Finally, act three is where everyone must abandon ship due to an emergency, and the survivors are left to fend for themselves on a deserted island. Triangle of Sadness is fairly long, contains touches of artistic flair, loads of hilarious dry humor, and a LOT of throwing up.

Throughout the movie, the director is obviously poking fun at rich people, their pretentiousness, and

their lack of self-awareness. It also highlights their tendencies to have everything handed to them whenever they’d like. That’s why, once on the island, the only ones who can fend for themselves are the crew since they possess the survival skills that the rich don’t. Now the roles are switched, and the working class holds the power. If this were a feel-good movie, the rich would be treated well, and therefore learn their lesson by seeing that they’ve been treating others unfairly.

That’s not the case. This movie is realistic and embraces human nature. The workers inevitably end up allowing the power to get to their head, and treat the rich people poorly (no

pun intended). In an interview, the director said that he doesn’t want to idolize anyone, he just wants to illustrate human nature.

This is where I connected the film to the policing predicament. It seems that no matter the circumstances, people will take advantage of the power they hold. We see it time and time again in real life, media, and entertainment that corruption comes with power. Sadly, it seems as if there’s no way to prevent this cycle from happening. At the very least, the movie is quite enjoyable and can be a good distraction for two-and-a-half-hours.

A College Students' Guide to the 2022 Midterm Election

By Greta Cobb

The 2022 Midterms were historic, to say the least. This midterm election had the second highest turnout for young voters aged 18-29, with a 27% turnout. For young voters, abortion was a priority; whereas older voters had inflation as a priority. This election was extremely important because of the issues at stake; no matter you're party affiliation. Reproductive rights, the economy, gun control, and immigration, were the main drive of voters and whom they elect.

The longterm Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, was not seeking re-election for a third term leaving current Massachusetts Attorney General, Maura Healey, in a confident position to run a gubernatorial campaign, and that she did. As predicted, Maura Healey won, making history by becoming the first openly lesbian and female elected governor of

Massachusetts, with an astounding 63.5% of the vote. Following the confirmation of Healey's historic victory, Healey directed her announcement "to every little girl and every young LGBTQ person out there" in hopes that it would "show you that you can be whatever and whoever you want to be and nothing and no one can ever get in your way except your own imagination and that's not going to happen."

Healey's triumphant gubernatorial campaign showcased the epitome of descriptive representation for women and the LGBTQ+ community. As highlighted on her website, Healey plans to address many pressing issues in which the Democratic Party is notorious for prioritizing such as: Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Education, Disability Rights, Economic Development, Healthcare, Housing, Immi-

gration, Reproductive Rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and more. Per Tufts "The Circle", the top two issues voters cared about this midterm election cycle included both the Economy (Inflation) and Reproductive Rights. Newly elected Governor, Maura Healey, plans to support Massachusetts workers "by advocating for universal child care, fair wages, and strong benefits." For Maura, she plans to address the climate crisis by establishing a "Climate Action and Innovation Leadership Council" for the purpose of training workers to help participate in the clean energy economy in hope that this will address and help solve Massachusetts' environmental and climate issues, as well as, triple the budget for the CEC (Clean Energy Center) to increase job growth in that sector. Healey plans to promote and expand Early College and ultimately helping the next generation thrive in a post-secondary environment. Following the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision which overturned the constitutional right to an abortion granted in the 1973 landmark decision of Roe v. Wade, Abortion and Reproductive Rights were at the forefront of many Democrats' concerns this election cycle. In fact, it ended up being the number one issue of concern for younger voters aged 18-29. To address this particular concern, Healey plans to tackle it by mandating health insurance companies to cover "reproductive and gender-affirming

care, including abortion" but also provide no deductibles and co-pay or cost-sharing requirements.

On a more localized level, the Bristol County Sheriff since 1997, Tom Hodgson, is notorious for his avid support of former President Donald Trump. During Sheriff Hodgson's inauguration in 2017, Sheriff Hodgson, expressed that he wanted to have the inmates in his district help build President Trump's proposed wall over our Southern Border. Hodgson stated that, "I can think of no other project that would have such a positive impact on our inmates and our country than building this wall." In response, Bristol County voters decided to gear their support towards Democratic opponent, Mayor Paul Heroux, for Bristol County Sheriff, resulting in Sheriff Hodgson's ultimate loss. The 2022 Bristol County Sheriff election results reveal the fact that every vote truly matters since Mayor Paul Heroux only beat by about 5,000 votes.

As far as ballot measures for the state of Massachusetts, there were four ballot measures Massachusetts voters had to decide on this midterm election cycle. The first ballot measure addressed an amendment that would tax on incomes above \$1 Million for Education and Transportation purposes. "A yes vote supported amending the state constitution to create an additional tax of 4% for income over \$1 million, in addition to the 5% flat-rate income

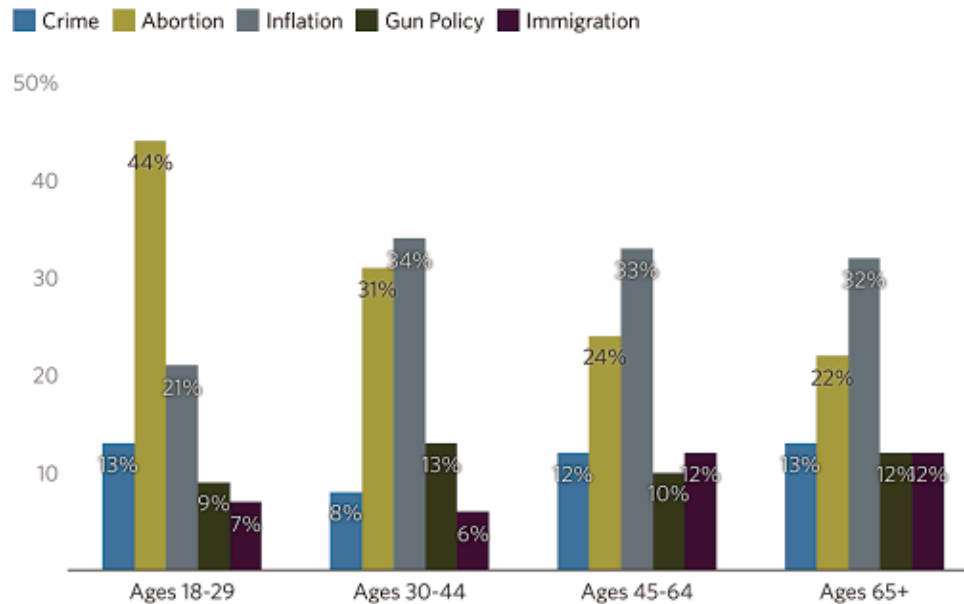


tax, and dedicate revenue to education and transportation purposes” while a no vote opposed the proposed amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Question #1 passed with 52% of the vote. Massachusetts Ballot Question #2 was entitled the “Medical Loss Ratios for Dental Insurance Plans Initiative” with regard to regulating dental insurance. “A yes vote supported this ballot initiative to require dental insurance carriers to meet a medical loss ratio of 83% and require the insurer to refund the excess premium to its covered individuals and covered groups; require dental insurance carriers to submit an annual comprehensive financial statement to the Division of Insurance; and authorize the commissioner of the Division of Insurance to approve or disapprove of any insurance rates, while a no vote opposed the proposed amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Question #2 passed with 71.5% of the vote. Massachusetts Ballot Question #3 addressed the potential to make Changes to Alcohol Retail Licensing. “A yes vote supported this ballot initiative to incrementally increase the combined number of retail beer and wine licenses and all alcoholic beverage licenses (including liquor) an establishment could own from no more than nine in 2022 to no more than 18 by 2031; limit the maximum number of licenses for sale of all alcoholic beverages an establishment could own to seven; prohibit in-store automated or self-checkout sales of alcohol; change the formula used to calculate fines by using gross profits on all retail sales rather than the gross

profits on the sale of alcohol; and pass out-of-state driver’s licenses to the list of approved identification under the State Liquor Control Act.” while a no vote opposed the proposed amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Question #3 did not pass with 55.3% of no votes. Last but certainly not least, the passing of Massachusetts Ballot Question #4 would remove proof of citizenship or immigration status for driver’s

Young Voters Prioritized Abortion; Older Voters Prioritized Inflation

The percentage of voters, by age group, who chose each issue as the top issue in deciding their vote.



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE analysis of 2022 Edison Research National Election Pool exit poll

license applications. A yes vote was to uphold House Bill 4805, which allows applicants who cannot verify citizenship or immigration status to submit certain forms of identification to obtain a driver’s license or motor vehicle registration while a no vote opposed the proposed amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Question #4 passed with 53.7% of the vote.

For each new Congress, the Dem-

ocrats and Republicans actively seek out a Majority and Minority Leader (usually staying the same for a long period of time). For the 118th Congress, Representative Hakim Jeffries is officially replacing Representative Nancy Pelosi after her 20-year reign, making him the first Black party leader in either of the congressional chambers. Congressional Republicans will most likely have the current Minority Leader Rep-

resentative Kevin McCarthy rise to the Speaker of the House position since the Republicans narrowly defeated the Democrats.

In regards to the Senate, The Democrats’ dream of holding onto a ‘real’ majority hinge on the results of the Senatorial run-off in Georgia. Georgia will be holding a run-off between incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker due

to Georgia’s majority rule election system in which nine other states similarly follow. This simply means that if neither of the candidates receives over 50% of the vote, then there is a run-off. On December 6, 2022, this run-off election will occur. Alongside the Georgia senate race, the Governor’s race has also been widely watched, due to Governor Brian Kemp competing against Stacey Abrams’ this second election season. Governor Brian Kemp ultimately secured re-election with 53.4%.

Election denial was another large-scale issue spread across the United States. From an article published on November 10, 2022, by the New York Times. They conclude that the “2020 Election Deniers and Skeptics Won and Lost in the Midterm Elections”. The article revealed that at least 220 of Republican candidates who won, falsely discussed the 2020 election multiple times.

Public distrust especially in the media has continued to fuel the fire negatively ever since the 2020 election results. However, there is hope for progress. With historic wins like Maura Healey as Massachusetts’ Governor-elect and Representative Hakim Jeffries becoming a Minority Leader in Congress. This election truly exhibited that the younger generation showed up at the polling booth. 2024 is not that far away and we are just getting started.

Photo Source // Tufts University

Wheaton Athletics

By Jackson Walsh

Hartmann, Coughlin-Doyle grab NEWMAC honors as nationally ranked women's swim and dive continues to roll

Sophomores Reese Hartmann and Morgan Coughlin-Doyle both were tabbed NEWMAC Women's Swimmer and Diver of the week respectively, as the Wheaton Women's Swim and Dive team continued their undefeated season with major wins.

On Friday, November 11th, the team traveled to the United States Coast Guard Academy where the Lyons came away with a 169-138 win. Hartmann continued her winning ways as she domi-

nated the backstroke with wins in both the 100 and 200, and also secured a win in the 100-Yard Breaststroke, which is impressive because Hartmann's strong suit is the backstroke. Coughlin-Doyle, the gymnast-turned-diver, contributed to the team win with 13 points individually which included a 1st place finish on the three meter board.

Wheaton was back in Balfour Natatorium the next day when they played host to Springfield College and Keene State College. The Lyons took down Springfield 202-93 and Keene State 232-63. Everyone got in on the action, Katie Walz in particular, as she had

24 points individually. Walz won two separate butterfly events, and the 100 Yard Freestyle.

Senior Emily Edds also got in on the action. Like her fellow West-coaster, Edds had a win in the 200-Yard Butterfly and pulled out a win in the grueling 1000-Yard Freestyle. Hartmann and Coughlin-Doyle both had wins again, as well as Brooke Cloutier and Elle Fenneide. Cloutier has been phenomenal in the breaststroke and she continued that with a win in the 200-Yard Breaststroke. The first-year Fenneide had a first place finish and a solid contribution all around as she finished the day with 15 indi-

vidual points.

The following weekend, the 22nd nationally-ranked Lyons went into a tri-meet at Wesleyan (CT) along with Bates. The Bates Bobcats were ranked 15th in the nation going in but the Lyons showed up and ate, taking down Bates 162-132 and Wesleyan by the even wider margin of 187.5-111.5. Every member of the team showed how they have been in the undefeated season. Thanks to the big win, look for Wheaton to climb the national ranks.

The Lyons traveled to Colby College in Waterville, Maine, this past weekend for the Maine Collegiate Invitational. Wheaton took 3rd in the large field, behind the winner Bowdoin, and Bates, who the Lyons just defeated. Junior Lily Watson left Maine with a school record: she swam the 100-Yard Individual Medley with a time of 59.23 to etch her name into history.

Wheaton wraps up the first semester undefeated in dual and tri-meets, as they look to climb up the national rankings going forward.

Photo of Reese Hartmann taken by Keith Nordstrom





Mens Basketball goes 1-1 in Wheaton Tip-Off Tourney, Walmsley earns 300th win, Carlisle and Williams rolling

The Wheaton College Men's Basketball team hosted the Wheaton tip-off tournament that was held inside Emerson Gym during the weekend of November 11th.

The Lyons welcomed Regis College (MA), Hunter College, and Worcester State University into Norton. Wheaton went 1-1 over the weekend, winning the opening game against Regis then falling to WSU in the championship.

The Lyons started off the season 1-0 when they took down the Regis Pride 62-57 in what was game one of the tournament. Two familiar faces lead the way for Wheaton in Senior captains Alex Carlisle and Evan Cook. Carlisle and Cook were both staples of last year's squad and both had big games to kick off the season. Carlisle, who led the team in scoring last year, opened up his Senior season with a 24 point

showing where he was an impressive 8-13 from the field. In terms of momentum, Cook was the turning point. The Senior guard had a quick 7 points on his own in the span of about a minute that had all of Emerson Gymnasium on their feet and Wheaton never looked back after that. Senior captain Marckenlky Lima had the dagger bucket and a big defensive stop in the last minute. Lima finished through contact at the rim, and that hoop basically sealed the game for the blue and white.

Worcester State defeated Hunter in the nightcap and moved onto the championship the next day where they took down the hosts 73-55. Wheaton only trailed by one at the half, before the Lancers pulled away in the second. In the loss it was a breakout game for the First-year Tristan Herry. Herry was the leading scorer for the Lyons in the game with 14 points, knocking down three 3s. WSU's Brandon Goris led all scorers with 14 points in the triumph.

On Saturday, November 19th, the Lyons traveled up North to Vermont to square off against the Lyndon State Hornets. Wheaton dominated with a 85-57 win—an exciting day for Wheaton basketball fans all-around. Alex Carlisle would face off in an anticipated matchup against his brother, Antonio. Alex had 13 while Antonio led the way for the Hornets with 17. Evan Cook had himself a day pouring in 17, and right alongside him Aaron Williams had his best game of his senior year so far with 16 points. Lastly, in the win, it was head coach Brian Walmsley's 300th win in his 26 years coaching the Lyons. A tremendous day for the blue and white to say the least.

Wheaton lost another close one going into Thanksgiving break, then fell to Roger Williams on the road 74-71, Tuesday, November 22nd. The bench led the way for Wheaton, specifically Aaron Williams, who had 18 in what was the start of a monster 3-game run. Sophomore sharpshooter Ty Murphy poured in 18 as well off the bench. Both made their way into the starting lineup as Whea-

ton came back from the break with a 93-88 win at Lasell.

Williams was a man playing possessed, dropping 42 points and pulling down 17 rebounds, both were career highs for the forward out of Springfield. Carlisle, the NEWMAC's leading scorer, also contributed with 25 points and 8 assists. The Lyons returned back to Emerson Gymnasium Saturday, December 3rd, and lost a heartbreaker 73-69 to Trinity College. Wheaton had chances down the stretch but were unable to take advantage. Williams went off again this time for 30 points including five 3-pointers.

Wheaton will wrap up their first semester schedule on the road Thursday December 8th, when they face off against Bridgewater State.

Top left: Alex Carlisle
Top right: Aaron Williams
Photo Source // Keith Nordstrom



The Menu: Delicious Social Satire

By Sanjana Kulkarni

When I first saw the trailer for *The Menu*, I felt a rush of adrenaline. I tell you this because I haven't felt such excitement to see a movie for months now, tired of the cheesy love-triangle rom coms and meaningless "carpe diem" nonsense. The trailer had everything I wanted: suspense, drama, and thrill without giving away the main plot points. Perfection itself. So, I found myself in the theater that Thursday night, November 18th, with a large popcorn (extra butter, obviously) Peanut M&Ms and a Sprite. I was ready to be enthralled.

Warning - major spoilers ahead. It still won't ruin the movie though, go watch it.

The premise is simple. The *crème de la crème* of society, also known as the filthy rich, arrive at the highly-exclusive and secluded Hawthorne island restaurant. To get in, you need to know someone, or be someone—it's invite only. Our guest list includes a snobby food critic with her cowardly sidekick, three big-tech bros with their "do you know who we are" parade, a self-labeled food connoisseur who brings the sharp Anya Taylor-Joy as a last-minute plus one, a washed-up actor, and the usual run-of-the-mill corporate CEO with his wife who stays even though she knows he is a serial womanizer.

So, we've a group of pretentious pricks trying to one-up each other in their culinary knowledge on a secluded island eating an eight



course meal by a Michelin-star chef. What could possibly go wrong? Well, everything and anything.

As each course goes by, the chef's sinister intentions slowly start to become apparent. The film does a great job of using our knowledge of the filthy rich—the more money you have, the more you begin to slip up morally. Exploitation, fraud, being unfaithful aren't used to surprise us, we expect these revelations coming in.

Anya Taylor-Joy's character is used brilliantly to mirror the viewer's deep skepticism about the guest list and joins us in mocking the reverence given to the chef and his work. Our chef, the mysterious Julian Slowik, explains each dish's purpose, meaning and story behind it in a delightful way—so much so that I found myself becoming a pretentious food know-it-all as I nodded in agreement to everything the chef said.

His mix of zenlike charm with razor-sharp ears and, of course, murderous tendencies are startlingly disarming, making him the most interesting character in the movie. Each time he clapped, I jumped and so did all the guests because it marked the beginning of a new course and maybe a new murder. The chef builds tension artistically, from a "I take my food way too seriously" vibe to a "I was abused as a child and now I am going to kill you all" vibe.

The banter is sharp, the humor is witty and the conversation is anything but boring. Although the chef and his sous-chefs turn out to be psychotic murderers on the hunt for the perfect menu, which involves turning the guests into smores, I found it hard to hate him. Each time he asks guests to “please don’t just eat, really savor your food,” I began savoring my \$8 concession stand popcorn and immediately regretted it.

The dishes are organic, local, and made to reflect the nature around them. Think LA meets Gordon Ramsay and Marco Pierre White. There’s seafood with frozen seawater melting to naturally flavor it, and a bread dish with no bread, just the side emulsions and butters. The cinematography is exquisite, and even when a mini Squid Game situation breaks out, the movie continues to introduce courses with the utmost tranquility.

There is one scene especially where the guests realize what is going on. It is shot as the sun is setting behind them, the ocean mirroring the beautiful warm colors. But in the restaurant, our guests are eating tortillas that have images on their secrets: false bank accounts, prostitutes fulfilling married men’s dark fetishes and a terrible movie an actor starred in. The movie is, at face-value, an obvious commentary on socio-economic status and classism. But it goes much further than that, and that is where all the magic lies.

The movie is a genius take on capitalism and is unabashedly

bold in its take. The chef, almost portraying the stereotypical “I once had dreams but had to abandon them for the rat race” turns the tables around and presents us with one of the most complex characters I have witnessed in the horror-comedy genre. He was once just a boy working at a cheeseburger restaurant and was happy and proud about the food he served.

Then, tragedy hits him. He has to almost kill his father to save his mother, who develops PTSD and becomes an alcoholic. He needs to survive, but despite it all believes in the power of food and the joy it brings people. Food is the one thing that unites the world, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the powerless, and he brings them all together to enjoy that food.

It was supposed to be a love language. But, artists everywhere are compromising their art for the money: the actor works in terrible films for the money, his sous-chef doesn’t want his life but his fame and respect, and the food critic finds immense pleasure in making business deals instead of writing honest reviews. But that is not the only place where people are constantly exploited. The tech bros commit fraud and corporate espionage, but are ready to throw each other under the bus if they are caught.

The chef uses the system to overthrow that system. He played the game, and he played it efficiently. He became the person everyone wanted him to be—the curator of overpriced food for pretentious

meals and small portions, a puppet to the restaurant’s owner who controls the guest list, and at the mercy of food critics who truly do not seem to understand the point of food. We may accuse the movie of being anti-men, but it does a beautiful job of overcoming that objection by having the chef’s two right-hand women support him. To put simply, it is not a gendered narrative, or an exploration of the rich versus poor. It is a commentary on capitalism and how our society pushes us into the rat race, forcing us to shed individuality and constantly seek more than what we have. We are greedy, ungrateful statistics posing as people in this rigged world. The film doesn’t allow the viewer to stray from its central idea—the ultimate undoing of capitalism.

It also has undertones of moral teachings and an almost philosophical ending. We see our guests die along with the chef and all the other staff. But were they even happy in the first place? The rich CEO’s wife should have everything she wants, but she sits there confused yet willing to forgive her husband for cheating on her multiple times. A real life Khloe Kardashian—except she doesn’t blame Taylor-Joy for her husband’s serial womanizing and instead protects her.

All the guests have money, they have power, status, and an unbecoming need to one-up each other. The CEO comes to the restaurant about seven to eight times a year, but still cannot name a single dish he ate the last time. All this money and power, and still they aren’t happy. They lack real

connections with each other, are plagued by horrifying secrets that made them who they are today and, most importantly, are absolutely miserable. So does being the elite of society truly make you better off? The Menu tells us it really doesn’t. Yet in all of these serious and challenging themes, the movie manages to bring about comedic relief through its clever humor and ironic dialogue.

The ending of the movie was executed flawlessly. The only person who survives is Taylor-Joy, because she truly enjoyed her work too before she was ruined by the elite. The chef considers her of a similar kind and allows her a chance to die with the chefs instead of becoming s’mores like the rest of the guests. Taylor-Joy brilliantly plays the chef, and tells him she does not like his food and wants to send it back. I nearly cried at that scene, because Fiennes displays his hurt and sadness at disappointing a customer. She asks him to make her a cheeseburger: “I don’t want some deconstructed bullshit. I just want a good, traditional cheeseburger.” He charges her \$9.99 for the burger and fries. Then she says she wants a to-go box and leaves him a tip. She is allowed to leave and eats her burger on the boat while she watches the restaurant go up in flames.

World Cup Considerations

By Christopher Bennett

Every four years, countries come together to compete against each other and celebrate sporting achievements on the pitch. As much as the 2022 World Cup should continue to build such a space and provide fans with a quadrennial serotonin boost, to not acknowledge the greater context and implications of such contexts in this year's iteration of the tournament would be to embrace ignorance and perpetuate unethical behaviors.

The country of Qatar is hosting the tournament. When fans criticize this fact, a recurring rebuttal is that the Western world is afraid of cultural inclusivity, and argue that those who are against a Qatar-operated-tournament are biased or prejudiced against Middle Eastern cultures. The clarification that is needed but not acknowledged is that criticism of a Qatar-hosted tournament is grounded in the country's transgressions on humanitarian grounds.

Throughout early November, fan protests in German soccer matches have criticized the means by which Qatar has built its soccer infrastructure, with banners stating, "15,000 dead for 5,760 minutes of football. Shame on you [government of Qatar]," as reported by ESPN FC. Migrant workers from dozens of surrounding countries have sought work opportunities within Qatar because of the influx of need for stadiums and hotels for hosting the tournament.

Over roughly a dozen years, at least 15,000 such migrant workers have died from instances connected to unsafe and exploitative living and working conditions (falsely docu-

mented as deaths of natural causes), whose deaths are inherently linked to Qatar's hosting of the tournament in the first place. It should also be noted that according to Human Rights Watch, Qatar's migrant labor force of roughly two million people constitutes 95% of the country's labor force.

Other issues include legal restrictions and punishments (including



prison time) for same-sex relationships, restricted free speech, refugee rights, discriminatory gender practices, and other economic protective actions, as noted by HRW. Lastly, the pure ability for fans to watch matches is limited in that Qatar still does not have enough tourism infrastructure to host all parties involved in the tournament, meaning that fans, families, media members, and many others will be required to stay in surrounding countries and commute internationally just to attend the games.

While I will stop identifying points of criticism, I encourage you, the reader, to continue to learn about the

topic.

These contexts make it so that for a fan to follow the tournament and support their nation—unless that fan is actively speaking out against such injustices—they are most likely unintentionally supporting Qatar's hosting of the World Cup. The nation will receive huge economic benefits from the tournament, and thus even for a fan to watch a game on

television or via streaming, they are contributing to the economic payday intrinsic to the World Cup.

Those covering the sport professionally—specifically journalists and analysts—will be walking a fine line of embracing the players within the tournament versus acknowledging these harsher realities. Unfortunately, many such persons have failed to walk this line, usually avoiding such harsher conversations in order to garner more enthusiasm for the tournament.

Here is where the considerations of us, the fans, are found. Do we sup-

port the tournament purely for the good of the sport? Is a boycott of the games being televised called for? Is there a way to enjoy the games without worrying about all of this?

I can't give a definitive answer. What I will say is that to support the tournament without acknowledgment of the human rights atrocities that have occurred is, in my opinion, unethical and immoral. That said, because of the limited power any individual fan can have in such circumstances, watching the games themselves seems appropriate... just please avoid the sportswashing nature of the World Cup commentary.

The last recommendation I can make is to try and separate the World Cup from Qatar. The rhetoric around the tournament is often phrases like "the Qatar World Cup" or "the 2022 World Cup in Qatar." Associating the tournament itself with the country, intentionally or not, has the effect of blurring the boundaries between the sport and the context the sport is operating in. When discussing the World Cup, I advise that you focus on the institutionalized soccer terms, and avoid associating Qatar with them. For example, instead of the two phrases just given, I am choosing to only refer to the tournament as the World Cup, or the 2022 World Cup.

This opinion is ultimately advocating for action which I can admit is perhaps too little. That said, steps such as these are small actions individuals can take to change the narratives of such complicated situations, and ultimately, their overall perception.

Wheaton's Advising

By Khushi Parikh

WheaAdvise: Redesign the System

What is mentorship? Professor Michael Drout, who has been teaching at Wheaton for two decades now, answered that “Back in 2018, a newly declared English major came to my office and said, ‘I am really struggling managing my time—can you help me?’ And instead of sending her to Academic Advising or giving her some generic handout, I let her show me how she was managing her time and then made suggestions and told her to come back and see me in a week and we’d go over it again. I ended up meeting with that student for 45 minutes per week, every week, for almost 2 years and even continued the ‘check-ins’ during Covid.”

At one point, when she was having difficulties getting her work done, she asked if she could sit in my office and work while I was doing my own writing/research, etc., and we tried that. She also ended up becoming a research partner, she helped TA one of my courses during Covid and wrote a brilliant honors thesis. I am now helping her get her Ph.D. applications together. That’s mentoring, and it happens because the student wants to be mentored and the professor is happy to put in the time and effort.”

It is no secret that this kind of mentorship is now nonexistent at Wheaton. Mesalenuo Tsurho, Class of ’26, remarked, “I have experienced it in my high school so I know what good advising is and what it feels to have a good advisor ... So, coming here and having this... I know that this is not even advising. It’s just people that are

being paid to do a certain role, and they have to do the job.” The problem is that the design of the Compass Curriculum’s advising system is not conducive to real mentorship at all.

MAP Advising

“I haven’t really gotten any advice from [(MAP advising)]. I mean, my advisor is very sweet. He’s a nice man. But there hasn’t been any advice that really helped me,” Mesa said. I spoke to a number of first-



year students about their experience with MAP advising and the responses were all unfortunately the same. Mesa elaborated, stating that “with career development and finding your path, I really wish MAP advisors got to know the students more, so they could guide students by saying, ‘Oh, these are the [courses] you’d like to take.’”

Students and advisors spend all of thirty minutes (two fifteen-minute

sessions) in a one-on-one setting in the entire academic year. This is hardly enough time to even get to know a student, let alone be able to effectively mentor them. Professor Drout noted, “The MAP system is terrible in the same exact ways all systems that try to create personal connections by fiat rather than genuine connection are terrible.”

My own MAP advising meeting only lasted five minutes—maybe not even that long. My MAP advisor asked me

The second issue is that some professors are not equipped to effectively advise. Some are good people and good professors but not good advisors. Mesa remarked that, “I also wish they were more aware of what’s going on in the school because it just feels like everyone only knows what’s in their bubble and that is not good enough when you are an advisor ... I feel like a lot of faculty need to be way more involved with students to actually be MAP advisors, otherwise anyone can do their job. Honestly, even I could do that job.”

Professor Drout revealed that, “so MAP advisors don’t have the various requirements at their fingertips—until last semester there was no single simplified description of the Compass Curriculum (and that was created by students!) and in fact sometimes can’t access the forms students need, etc.” This is consistent with the various off-record conversations I have had with faculty advisors who have admitted to not fully understanding the nuances of the compass curriculum.

what my major was, whether I had completed my Sophomore Experience, and which classes I was planning on taking. That’s it. In comparison to the previous system wherein FYS professors were MAP Advisors, Michael Drout recalled that “FYS allowed faculty to get to really know the student by meeting in class three hours per week for fifteen weeks and then having regular open office hours, etc.”

Caroline Lambert, Class of ’24, said that “Well, they say that there’s a lot of benefit to having an advisor outside of your area of academic interest or your major, but it actually makes things quite difficult, especially before you have a major advisor. My advisor is in the Math department and I’m a Public Health major. So, when I’ve had questions regarding any of the classes I need or [that are] required for my major, she doesn’t have an answer. For example, when my major changed requirements, she didn’t really know what was going

on, what that meant, or what the new requirements were and that was quite frustrating ... It just kind of seems pointless if the questions I have, she can't really answer."

In my opinion however, there is a much larger problem at play. Not only are some faculty ill-equipped to advise, it seems they are not eager to advise either. Why then are they advisors?

Professor Drout insightfully suggested that "We had a wonderfully effective advising system pre-Compass: FYS professors were advisors until a student declared a major, at which point the student got a major advisor but often, because FYS advisors knew their students so well, the student would keep in touch with their FYS advisor. I am still close to students who I advised in 1999-2001 and who had absolutely no interest in English but, because everyone got to know each other very well in the FYS, connections remained strong.

The problem with that system was that it was very labor-intensive. FYS was a small class (originally only twelve students when I started

in 1997, eventually up to sixteen), that required a LOT of professors to teach FYS, and it was an unbalanced requirement, as all that teaching was in the Fall semester, and all that teaching had to be done by full-time continuing faculty, and those professors couldn't be up for a research leave, etc. in the two-year time period since otherwise there would be no continuity in advising for those students. There was also the sense in a small but vocal group of faculty that the advising load wasn't distributed evenly, with some colleagues avoiding advising responsibility by avoiding teaching FYS."

In this case, a logical solution to make the system equitable seems to be to compensate professors who had a heavier workload with stipends or better benefits. However, it seems Wheaton chose to go the equality route: now MAP advisees are 'evenly distributed'. There is no winner: professors who have no interest in advising are forced to advise, and students are stuck with advisors who only do the bare minimum.

The resulting dull and unhelpful advising meetings have driven students to see no value in them—rightfully

so—and often skip them. To worsen the situation, recently there have been discussions about bringing back the PIN system, wherein students would be required to get a PIN number from their advisors to be able to register for classes, in an effort to increase attendance at these meetings. "That implies that our MAP advisors are reaching out to us consistently and are making meetings with us and are communicative with us when half the time that's not the case. Sometimes it is the students' fault but also, you know, MAP advisors are busy and they're not terribly involved. I don't think that's a good solution at all," Caroline further expressed.

This would undoubtedly make the meetings even more transactional, where students tell the MAP advisors about their classes in exchange for their PINs. No real advising would take place either way, but administratively, the number of students being advised will increase. Hurray! The administration fails to realize that the lack of attendance is not the cause but a symptom of the larger failings of the advising system that need to be directly addressed. For students to attend these meetings, they need to be transformed into something other than the massive waste of time they seem to be right now.

Increasing the frequency and duration of MAP advising meetings and providing more in-person bonding opportunities for students and advisors would help in the short-term until the system is redesigned. Furthermore, a post-meeting feedback form would allow students to evaluate their MAP advisor and experience, hold advisors accountable for poor advising, as well as allow administrators to gather insight and data on students' perspectives.

(I had much to discuss about MAP Reflection Essays, but it seems like some faculty/administration are already trying to get rid of them, so I will save us all some time and trouble.)

Academic Advising: Peer Academic Mentors (PAMs) and Student Success Advisors

When asked about her experience with her Peer Academic Mentor (PAM), Mesa Tsurho remarked, "My PAM advising has been strictly aca-

demic. It's been very technical and just doing what she's been assigned to do, like, you know, get the CRN codes, sign up for classes. That's it. Aside from the things that she's required to do, there's nothing that I've really gotten from the advising. There's no advice I got. Nothing new, nothing special." This is, unfortunately, representative of the experiences of numerous underclassmen at Wheaton.

Through my conversations, it seems PAMs, who are busy students themselves, are overloaded with work. Not only do they have advisees, but also need to complete coursework to receive credit for being a PAM. A much more effective system would be, in my opinion, to pay them for their time instead of giving them additional coursework for academic credit. Training needs to be revised to teach them not only about how to navigate resources, but how to navigate the Compass curriculum as well as basic knowledge about academic clubs, resources and professional opportunities on campus. Also, a feedback form should be sent out to first years after their PAM meetings to evaluate their experience so PAMs



like Mesa’s can be identified and re-trained to actually advise.

Another phenomenon in Wheaton’s Advising system is that everybody—PAMs, MAP Advisors, & Student Success Advisors—redirects students to professors in their field of interest for every major/class-related question. Since they are best equipped to advise on classes and opportunities, why have all these other advisors? It is creating an unnecessarily cumbersome system with information gaps in abundance.

Professor Drout commented that, “In my experience Academic Advising has been absolutely essential for those things that go beyond a professor’s knowledge or expertise. The problem has been that there’s been personnel chaos in that office for the past few years, so there hasn’t been the kind of continuity that is essential ... The key is to have people in that office who stay at Wheaton for many years so that they understand how the whole place works, because otherwise the ‘advice’ you get is just generic b.s.—if you could give the advice without knowing anything about the individual student or anything about Wheaton, it’s worthless, which is why the idea of ‘profession

al advisers’ brought in from outside is silly.”

An added barrier is that meeting academic advisors is optional. As is true for various optional mentorship programs across institutions & industries, the people least in need of mentoring are the ones who seek it, whereas the people most in need of it tend to decline the opportunity. So students that need it are not really going out of their way to schedule these appointments or dropping by the terra incognita of the Filene Centre.

Career Advising

To evaluate the effectiveness of Career Advising, a certain number of students need to have used it. At Wheaton however, it is clear to anyone who walks by the Filene Center how underutilized it and its Career Services are. “I would use them and trust them if I had heard more about them from peers. Student testimonials mean a lot. The reason I don’t use it is because I don’t know much about them and the services they provide,” explained Birashree Shah, Class of ‘25.

Prisha Dani, Class of ’24, an international student from India, remarked that “Most American systems have always been, ‘ask and you shall receive.’ Similarly, with academic advising, if you were to reach out to solve a particular problem, you’ll always receive help or be redirected to someone who can help.” Birashree surmised, “I don’t want to put blame on them, but nothing is going to be done unless it is student initiated. All the resources on this campus, unless you reach out to them, are blocked off.” This hits the nail on the head. Unless students actively initiate connections and seek mentoring from peers, faculty and staff, they are not going to receive it. Some might not even know that there is this whole experience they are missing out on.

In all fairness, students do find mentors in other ways. Mesa gushed about the guidance she had received from Professor Pabel Delgado as well as other sophomores and juniors.

Prisha connected well with Professor Mark LeBlanc who later became her major advisor. I myself have felt supported by so many faculty and

staff. The point is, there are so many people who want to do good, and

students are naturally building genuine connections outside the advising system, whereas the system deliberately creates distance by forcing “fiat connections.”

While there are numerous avenues where different types of advising are available, none of them are particularly effective in providing any helpful advice, let alone meaningful mentorship until a major advisor is assigned. This leaves Wheaton students at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to personal and professional development because they have not built the connections and gathered the information they need to make astute plans and judicious career decisions. “You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink,” I heard a professor say earlier this semester. But in Wheaton’s case, the shoreline has accreted, the water is dirty and thirst has been normalized. A colossal restructuring of the advising system is due.

Photo Source // wheatoncollege.edu



Horoscopes (Unhinged)

By Moira Sankey

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Avoid getting hit by baseballs.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

You have approximately a week until break. Use it wisely.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Watch your back.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Explore your latest interests.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Avoid schadenfreude.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Which Starbucks holiday drinks have you tried this year?

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Best of luck.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Drink some water.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Star of the show.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Slay.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Sleep is good for you, try it some time.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Slow down a bit.

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 Sanjana Kulkarni.



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