

THE [WIRE]

**INSIDE: The History of Emerson Dining
Hall, An Interview with Gail Sahar, Traveling
Around Wheaton, Care and Control**

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Letter From the Editor

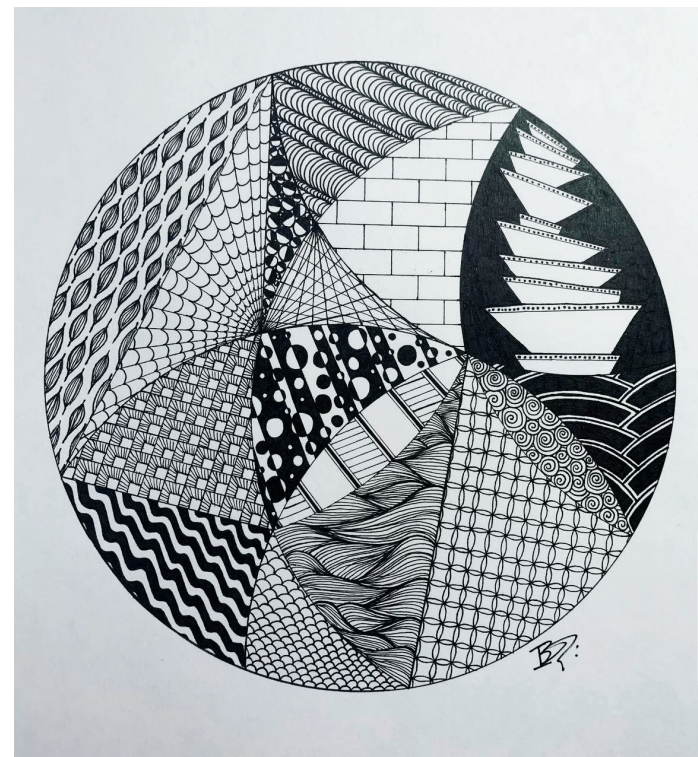
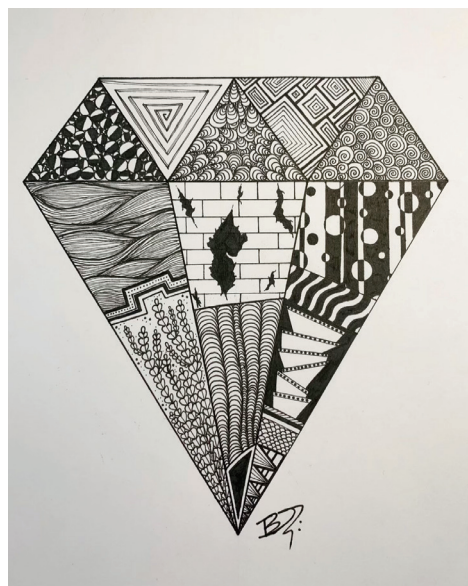
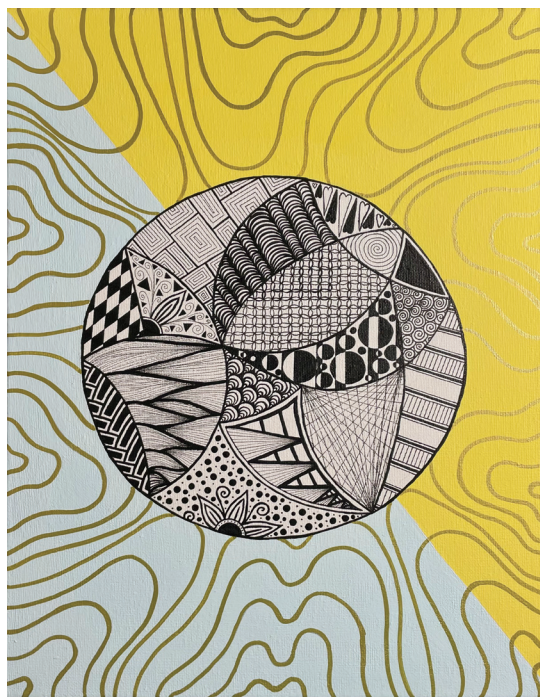
Abram Buehner

Editor-in-Chief

I write the following with a heavy heart — I have nothing to say in this letter. There was a draft wherein I catastrophized the impending end of the school year. But then I remembered that I've already penned something to this effect. As such, it appears like my rolodex of platitudes and conversation starters has truly run dry. The good news, though, is that the Wheaton Wire's team is composed of people far more clever than me. While I'm biased, I truly believe that they've assembled the best issue of the paper yet, a symphony of stories that are centered upon a single idea: CULTURE. From the goings on at Wheaton to ways you can escape from it, culture and cultural struggles unite all the narratives woven into the issue.

Wheaton Art

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 Issabel Babikova, a STEM major and member of the class of 2026.



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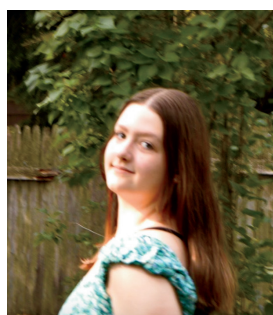
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The History of Emerson Dining Hall

By Lily Maguire

In our previous issue, I analyzed the history of Wheaton College's very own Balfour-Hood Center. Conceptualized as part of Ralph Adams Cram's 1897 campus design plan for Wheaton College, Balfour-Hood was only one of several buildings proposed at that time. Emerson Dining Hall, and Larcom hall next to it, were also part of this "new" Wheaton campus.

Emerson Dining Hall is a favorite on campus. Described by tour guides as the "Harry Potter Dining Hall," Emerson is a bustling hub for activity with an old-fashioned look. Emerson Dining Hall was designed by Ripley & Russell and built in 1908, named after

trustee and treasurer, Reverend Alfred Emerson.

When Emerson was built, it stood as a landmark on the Wheaton College campus. Not so much for its exterior, though — the interior made it remarkable. Paneled with oak wainscoting, boasting four large fireplaces, serving rooms fit for kings, and new technologies in the kitchen, Emerson was (and still is) stunning. According to Collegehistory.com, Emerson was named by *Good Housekeeping* magazine as one of the United States' most beautiful dining halls for its time.

Collegehistory.com also tells of Emerson's luxuries like the warming ovens, tea, coffee,



Photo Source // Collegehistory.com



Photo Source // Collegehistory.com

and chocolate dispensers that could be found in the old serving rooms. The cereals eaten at breakfast used to be hand-made at Emerson, cooked in "great cauldrons" in the kitchen. Also in the kitchen sat an industrial dishwasher, called "a modern live-steam machine." While there are no records of what this "modern machine" looked like, the dishwasher in the current kitchen is still pretty steamy. With the looks of an airport security setup, the dishwasher is a long hunk of metal that uses a conveyor belt to drag dirty dishes through the mini "car-wash." Although the plates are left hot to touch, they leave this industrial machine thoroughly cleaned.

Ever wonder why the tables by the windows in Emerson are separated by the large

wooden pillars and a stone half wall? Well there's history to that too. In the original design for Emerson Dining Hall, this part of the building wasn't part of the interior. It was a porch on the outside that acted as an important patio space for enjoying the fresh air while gazing out at the Dimple. Since the Dimple never ended up turning into the proposed reflecting pond for Emerson, some plays were performed in it, and spectators could watch from the patio.

Eventually, as enrollment to Wheaton College increased, this terrace was covered with a roof and the extension to the dining hall was complete. However, the walls still stand at half their height to mimic this outdoor exclusion from the dining hall, and give this part of the interior an outdoor appeal.

Emerson Dining Hall is definitely a favorite among buildings on the Wheaton College campus. Whether students are enjoying the fresh pastries and coffees from the Starbucks, holding club meetings on the faux patio, or studying with friends, Emerson is a step up in luxury compared to lower campus' Chase Dining Hall. It is a great place to enjoy the hot meals available with meal swipes or special cuisines available for Lyons Bucks. A freshly tossed salad bar is also a favorite and a wide array of

sodas and snacks are available for purchase, including Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Sought after for its large interior and back rooms, Emerson also hosts the Spring semester Club and Activities Fair, as well as many other student-run events, like Dimple Divers shows, school dances, self-care nights, sex trivia games, and much more, including the infamous MAP Day held each semester. Emerson is a great hub for faculty as well as students. Separate faculty dining halls were included in the



Photo Source // Collegehistory.com



Photo Source // Collegehistory.com

original design, along with faculty events, like free massages and spa days for the staff.

While Emerson is a clear favorite today, when it was first built in 1908, it was quite controversial. As part of Ralph Adams Cram's campus design, Emerson was built to look into the Dimple and into Wheaton's campus. However, the town of Norton, Massachusetts didn't find this so appealing. They saw the act of

facing the Dimple as an act of separation from the town — as if Emerson dining hall was showing the town of Norton that Wheaton was turning away from them and in on themselves to create their own community. Although the town protested the construction of Emerson, Mrs. Wheaton, founder of Wheaton College, explained that the creation of an exclusive community was exactly the point of a college campus.



Photo Source // wheatoncollege.edu

Ross Douthat's Appeal to the Religiously Credulous—I Guess He Means Us

By Laurie Cozad

Laurie Cozad, the Interfaith Engagement Coordinator here at Wheaton College, holds a Ph.D. in the History of Religions from the University of Chicago. She has taught, written books, and presented at National and International conferences for the past 25 years.



Laurie Cozad
Photo Source // Wheatoncollege.edu

I have recently invested in a subscription to the New York Times. And as a scholar of religion, I was excited to check out what the New York Times had to say on the subject. I quickly ran into Ross Douthat, the regular religion columnist for the paper. As I read article after article I grew increasingly bewildered by the fact that

the New York Times, the venerable old lady of journalism, had allowed a person, with no discernable credentials in religion, to bleat out his opinions. Moreover, Douthat does not seem to possess any scholarly foundation in such things as using evidence to back up his opinions, adequately researching his topic of the day, or in understanding the history of the very complex field of religion. In fact, he veers between two extremes; the first being that he makes grandiose arguments that lack evidence, scholarship, and nuance. Or he paddles in the shallows of a topic without making any concrete points. In the latter case he reminds me of what a friend of mine was told by his dissertation director: “It’s not that you’re saying anything wrong, it’s that you’re not saying anything at all.”

But the article that really got under my skin was one entitled “Be Open to Spiritual Experience. Also, Be Really Careful.” In this column from February 1st, 2023, he claims that “within the general pattern of American Christianity’s decline” one sees “the rise of deinstitutionalized spirituality. . . [wherein] more and more religious lives are lived in between worldviews, in experimental territory where it’s a mistake to expect coherence,

theological consistence, [or] a definite set of prior assumptions or beliefs.” According to the Public Religious Research Institute’s latest census, “The white Christian decline has slowed” and those who would be most likely to traffic in experimental territory, namely those who either reject religion or claim no religious affiliation, has declined from 25.5% to 23%.

Biases and mistakes aside, he is making an argument for the problem of new religious practices and rituals coming into vogue. Having written a book on cannabis ministries and the ways in which these cannabis ministries clearly embody their own coherent systems of symbols, rituals, community practices, doctrines, and places of worship, I wanted to sit Douthat down and give him a short but meaningful look at the History of Religions and the ways in which new religious movements (NRMs) are alive and well and bubbling to the surface in every society not put down by a dictator government.

These NRMs spring from the bits and pieces of older institutionalized religions, and as such, encompass “deinstitutionalized spirituality” where “religious lives are

lived between worldviews, in experimental territory.” And unlike the way Douthat uses these words above, this is a positive development in the history of religions and a clear-eyed look at the way that even institutionalized religions reinvent themselves over time. This reminds me of something that Walter LeFleur wrote in *Liquid Life*. In this excellent book he looks at the memorials for aborted fetuses in Japan that take place on the grounds of Buddhist temples: About this he writes that “[R]eligion takes place in the spaces in between.” Here, he speaks to the fact that no religion is pure in the sense that religions incorporate cultural norms, soak up pieces of other religious traditions, and maintain spaces that can grow into new religious practices that are relevant to practitioners. I found this to be the case directly when I was briefly engaged to a Presbyterian Minister. I got friendly with a deaconess and asked her point blank if she believed in predestination, the founding principle for this denomination of the religious mainstream. She said, “No, I believe that people are free to carve their own paths to salvation rather than being predestined as to whether or not they will be saved.” In other words, she is taking bits and

pieces of the Presbyterian tradition that feel relevant to her own spiritual sojourn. So the idea that religions must contain, as Douthat maintains, a “settled religious meaning” is contrary to the fact that even mainstream religions such as the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, and the Evangelical Church in America are always subject to change as congregants bring their own needs and belief systems into the mix.

Religion and entheogens (those drugs that are experienced as inducing a spiritual encounter with the transcendent) are his primary target in this piece. Starting with the sentence that “Ayahuasca [has] become the drug of choice for so-called psychonauts,” he fails to take into account that religious groups in Brazil such as Unaio do Vegetal (UDV) and the Santo Daime Church have been using ayahuasca for decades to induce sacred visions. Moreover the religious use of ayahuasca has been made legal in the United States regardless of the fact that DMT, the main ingredient in ayahuasca, is listed as a Schedule 1 drug, one which according to the DEA, is defined as follows: “Schedule 1 drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.” The same goes for peyote, also a Schedule 1 drug which has been legalized for religious

use by Native Americans. Additionally, cannabis has been used all over the world both as a healing agent and in religious ceremonies as a portal to the divine, especially in India. In the U.S., cannabis has been legalized for medical use in 30 states and recreational use in 21 states with cannabis churches springing up in every liberal state, though, like ayahuasca and peyote, cannabis maintains its position as a Schedule 1 drug.

Smack dab in the middle of this piece, Douthat inserts a beautiful paragraph—the beginning is rough but it gets better. “Yes, plenty of New Age and woo-woo practices don’t make any sense or lead only unto pyramid schemes: there are traps for the credulous all over.” Here it comes: “But the basic pattern of human existence and experience, an ordered and mathematically beautiful cosmos that yields extraordinary secrets to human inquiry and supplies all kinds of wild spiritual experiences even in our allegedly disenchanted age. . . makes a

general openness to metaphysical possibilities a fundamentally reasonable default.” Why didn’t he write about that? But he then follows up with: “[I]t’s also important to emphasize something taught by almost every horror movie but nonetheless skated over in a lot of American spirituality: the importance of being really careful....”

To my mind, religion is best defined as that which incorporates the transcendent. Mircea Eliade, the father of the History of Religions, stated that religion is a sui generis, namely a phenomenon unto itself because it centralizes something beyond this earthly realm, namely, the great mystery that is the transcendent.

Moreover, for those who would regard themselves as religious, only two things are a must: relevance to one’s daily life and the potential to trigger experiences of the sacred. Given the diversity and longevity of religious practices using entheogens, one can safely assume that in the right

place and the right time, these substances have a proven track record of opening a portal to the transcendent. Does that mean that children should be given access to these drugs? Does that mean that they are free of potential problematic effects? Are we encouraging people to take these drugs without access to a religious community? Of course not. But neither should entheogens be dismissed as Douthat has done throughout this article.

As Douthat nears the end of his opinion piece he states that “[F]rom any religious perspective, there’s reason to worry about a society in which structures have broken down and masses of people are going searching without maps or playing around in half-belief or deploying, against what remains of Christianity, symbols that invoke multiple spiritualities at once.” Given that Christianity has the largest numbers of followers in the world and doesn’t seem to be losing ground any time soon, it’s really not an issue. Moreover, Is there someone giving away maps to the sacred?! Sign me up.

In his final sentence, Douthat again warns all those credulous, timid souls to be “very, very, careful about what you invite in.”

I would rather be very, very, careful about those making unexamined assumptions.



Ross Douthat
Photo Source // aei.org

The Tricks of Wheaton Travel

By Sanjana Kulkarni

Let's be real — Wheaton is not exactly located in a bustling city. Norton is borderline rural. In walking distance, we have CVS, Walgreens (an 'upscale' CVS) and Bagels & Cream. Bog is technically only open to seniors, and I am definitely not a beer person. So, although I do love a Thai Iced Tea and an everything bagel once in a while, I find myself constantly feeling trapped at Wheaton as an international student without a car. There just isn't much to do around here other than hanging out with friends on campus. I am constantly dependent on others to drive me to places that are not accessible, always hoping that they choose an activity that is enjoyable for me too.

So, I decided to figure out ways to get off campus as many times as possible. There are four destinations that I can get to relatively easily. These destinations are not close to Wheaton in any way and are not places I can call "always fun." But, they are the best we have. So, in this article, I am going to talk about ways to reach them and what you can do there.

4. Providence

Providence is about thirty minutes away from campus but with traffic, budget around fifty minutes of travel time to get downtown. You can always take the MBTA from the train station in Mansfield, which takes about thirty minutes as well, but be

wary of traveling after sunset. It is not my favorite destination, because the crowds can feel unsafe, and there isn't a lot to do there. The mall is a grander version of the one in Foxborough, and I never like to pass up on Auntie Anne's pretzels. You can take a walk along RISD or check out Brown. There are also a couple of nice restaurants on Thayer Street! In the winters, you can try out the ice skating rinks if they are not too crowded. As always, going down for a meal and a movie is a decent way to spend time off campus.

Ranking - 1.5/5

3. Patriot Place Mall

This is the perfect place to go if you do not have much time on your hands but really need a break. Located in Foxborough, the mall has an outdoor food court, restaurants, cafés, live music, department stores, and a movie theater. You can get to Foxborough in fifteen to twenty minutes by car. Or, you can take the GATRA Go which is free for Wheaton students. You often need to wait a bit for the GATRA though, and since it might stop to pick up some other people on the way, I would recommend budgeting extra time. Once at the mall, you can shop around for clothes, grab a bite to eat, and then catch a movie. Still, I would not recommend going to Patriot Place too many times — it can get old very quickly, and I can guarantee each time you go to watch a movie that is not

from Marvel, you are going to be the only one there.

Ranking - 2.5/5

2. Boston

Boston is a bustling big city with a lot to do and is accessible via the train as well. It takes about fifty minutes. You can take a walk in the Boston Common or do a photoshoot in Beacon Hill (make sure to try Acorn Street). You can always walk down Newbury and go shopping, or get Boba and sit in cafés with a steaming hot latté. Thankfully, Boston has great public transport, so you don't have to Uber often. Otherwise, you can always walk places! It is a very pedestrian-friendly city and feels quite safe. I find myself going into Boston to meet friends or to simply have a nice day to myself where I can be around new people, check out stores or just take a walk. Be prepared to spend a whole day in Boston though, especially if you are going on the weekend, because trains are very limited.

Rating - 4/5

1. New York City

If you know me, you would know why I saved the best for last. I absolutely love New York City. It is such a breath of fresh air after being at Wheaton for so long. Not only do I get to meet my friends, I get to go wherever I want, whenever I want. If I am heading to see the sunset on the Brooklyn Bridge but decide I want to get a cookie first, I just

hop off the subway, walk to my favorite cookie shop, and then hop back on. I do not have to rely on anyone to share my interests or to even get me places. The independence I feel when I am in Manhattan is truly astounding and something I lack at Wheaton. When I am with my friends, we can get places incredibly quickly and easily, and we can even part ways for a bit to meet at a Broadway show or a rooftop bar later, all because of the subway system. New York is incredibly pedestrian-friendly and I find myself walking for hours on end exploring the city or doing fun things with my friends. Manhattan and Brooklyn are goldmines for people like me who are always eager to do something new and exciting!

I can take a ceramics class or go on top of The Edge, check out a cool new café or do a therapeutic "Paint and Sip" session with my closest friends. I am always escaping to New York every other weekend, and as a senior, I have Thursdays and Fridays off! I catch the Peter Pan bus at 6:10pm on Wednesdays and come back on Sunday evenings. Unfortunately, to get to the bus stop, I need to rely on friends to drive me or Uber there, which can get expensive. However, the Peter Pan bus is among the cheapest buses available and it goes directly to Manhattan, so it's worth it! Yet, if you do not have friends or family to stay with in the city, it can get unreasonably expensive.

The Inevitable End of Succession's Social Satire

By Michael Kanyongolo

Succession. The struggle for power and lasting influence that each member of the fictional Roy family faces can be neatly summed in the show's one word title. And what a struggle it is.

The Roys are the family that sits at the center of Succession and are essentially the show's fictional equivalent of the real life Murdochs, a family of extremely influential business magnates that own many of the world's news and entertainment sources. They control everything from the Wall Street Journal to the entirety of Fox News and the larger Fox Broadcasting Company. Their close ties to news essentially means that they have more control over the sociopolitical landscape of the world than any other group of individuals, even when considering major political figures. They can sway the views of their massive audience, tweak news stories to portray themselves more favorably, or use their news outlets as leverage against political figures who rely on their coverage for support.

They are the 1% of the 1%, and Succession does a marvelous job of tearing down these vulgar, egocentric elites before our eyes, pitting them against one another as their empire of manipulation crumbles down around them.

So it shouldn't be much of a surprise that the fourth season of Succession was recently announced to be the final installment in the series. After all, the show begins with the legendary Logan Roy, patriarch of the Roy family and narrative mirror to Rupert Murdoch, stumbling around in his own house in the dark, not knowing where he is or

“The fleeting shot of Rupert Murdoch during the Super Bowl televised by the broadcast network he launched in 1986 may have been strategically placed to assure Wall Street and others that the mogul of media moguls is still up and around despite his 91 years.” - William Earl, *Variety Magazine*

how he got there. His deteriorating health mirrors the decline of his legacy media empire, which exists in a world where technology is slowly making his life's work obsolete. So as the Roy family members attempt to support their ailing father, they also spy an opportunity to seize his media empire for themselves, which is where the main conflict of the show arises. Logan's health improves and sets up a brutally personal battle between him and his children, as he push-

es and tests each of them to see who has what it takes to become king of the multi-billion dollar castle.

The show is fated to end, but exactly how it ends is the question on everyone's mind. The third season ended with Logan essentially giving up on his children and turning over the company to

Lukas Matsson (played by Alexander Skarsgård) who is Succession's equivalent of the real world's tech elites — think Mark Zuckerberg or Elon Musk. As a result, Logan's children must now work together for the first time in order to wrestle control back from their dad and secure their place in the company. It certainly seemed like the setup for a final season, and that's just what it turned out to be.

But before it all ends, I think

it would be interesting to point out some more of the real world parallels that exist within the show. It has a kind of prophetic quality, wherein many events depicted in the show have manifested in real life and vice versa. The first of which is almost identical, in the form of two guests attending the 57th Superbowl. Elon Musk and Rupert Murdoch were spotted sharing a booth at the game, which is telling considering that Elon Musk recently bought Twitter, and the fact that the Super Bowl itself is essentially one giant money making machine for the Murdochs. This closely resembles one of the final moments in Season 3 of Succession, where Logan Roy and Lukas Matsson finally meet to discuss a merger between Matsson's tech giant and Roy's legacy media conglomerate. What's more is that many news outlets are theorizing that this appearance was a calculated move to reassure shareholders that Rupert Murdoch is in good health, a plot point that would be very familiar to watchers of Succession.

Another similar event is the recent lawsuit against Fox News by Dominion Voting Systems, where dozens of internal dialogue messages at Fox were leaked, revealing that the anchors and writers often know that the news

they are reporting is not based in fact and only meant to gather more viewers with its provocative nature. This kind of doublespeak is at the core of Succession's identity, where characters often never truly mean what they say, and instead are only providing appearances for the sake of the market or to manipulate others. This, paired with the fact that Succession's American Television Network (or ATN) has been under fire for some of the same practices, paints a picture of worrying similarity.

I'm not saying that Succession has some magical predictive power. But, the lessons taught through its portrayal of media conglomerates and the elites that run

them certainly help in understanding the profit-driven media machines that claim to objectively inform us about the events of the world. So as Succession ends, it leaves a lasting depiction of



Photo Source // HBO Max

the elites that run the world. Its clever, expletive-filled dialogue keeps the show thoroughly engaging as we follow the conversations that shape the future. Its camera work uses the mockumen

-tary style of quick zooms, reactionary pans, and dialogue driven movements to increase tension and realism, making the glamorous world of the 1% feel entirely authentic. Incredible acting by a wonderfully assembled cast makes the Roy family and their associates as despicable as they are entertaining, while genius character

writing gives them depth beyond compare. It will be sad to see it finally end, but until then, we're in for a wild ride.

Succession is one of the best shows to ever do it, and if you haven't watched it already, do yourself a favor and start before its final season airs on March 26.

Another step backward: Canadian women's national team continues to fight inequities

By Caden Charpentier

There is not a story in the world of soccer today that is much larger than what is happening with Canadian soccer, specifically the women's national team. Before the defending gold medalist came up short against the United States in the Sunshine State in the She-Believes Cup opener, captain Christine Sinclair and the rest of the players had been forced to fight for their own equity.

In 2023, this shouldn't still be a conversation. News of the

USWNT's successful fight for equal pay, and an eventful European Championship this past summer, gave women's soccer plenty of momentum. But for Canada, the mood around women's soccer has taken a massive hit.

On February 10, the Canadian Soccer Federation released a statement saying, "we are no longer able to adequately fund the Women's National team." Yes, this is the same team that features stars like the world's

all-time leading goal-scorer Sinclair, goalkeeper Kailen Sheridan, and midfielder Jessie Fleming. The support from the federation poured in for the men's team as they headed to Qatar in November. Why should it be any different for a team that actually has a legitimate shot at winning the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand during the summer? At this point in time, Canada is ranked at the No. 6 spot in the FIFA Women's Soccer rankings, just ahead of

Spain, and the Netherlands.

Two goals by Fleming in the semifinals and the gold medal match propelled Canada to the pinnacle in the Tokyo Olympic games in the summer of 2021. How can a federation decrease the funding of a program that has been one of the most successful in the world? Beverly Priestman's side is not one sitting in the depths of the women's soccer rankings like Belize or Honduras.

If anything, the funds should increase, but for some reason, the soccer players in Canada are going through an unnecessary fight for what is right. In 2020, during the SheBelieves Cup, the USWNT fought for equal pay. Three years later, the neighbors to the north are battling against significant cuts to their sport just months out from the most prestigious soccer tournament in the world.

Facing the threat of the federation taking legal action against them, the players were forced to resume play in the United States during this month's international window. That still did not prevent the entire team from protesting for what they believed in.

Before the competition kicked off on Feb. 16, the players showed up with unbranded gear, without the Canadian logo. Every team in the tournament supported Canadians, taking a stand against the cuts to their sport — each one of the players seeks lasting change in the way Canada runs its national teams.

There have been reports about the Canadian Soccer Federation according to the men's side. In a statement released by the men's team, the group stated, "How Canada is allocating or using funds is unclear and cloaked in secrecy." Despite the fact that the country is best known for its contributions to the sport of hockey, soccer is beginning to demand respect. The federation fails to recog-

nize that.

By no means is the act of these players participating in this tournament voluntary. "To be clear. We are being forced back to work for the short term," Canada captain Sinclair stated on social media. She continued, "This is not over. We will continue to fight for everything we deserve and we will win. The SheBelieves is being played in protest."



Photo Source // Mike Ehrmann
Getty Images

In the first game of the competition in the United States, the players of the Canadian na-

tional team stood for their team picture wearing purple shirts stating "Enough is enough" on top of their traditional kits. The USWNT showed its support by coming together with its opposition through a collaborative pre-game huddle, symbolizing that the players of the Canadian national team are not alone in the fight for equality.

From uncertainty about com-

penensation to limiting full camp windows and youth teams, these world-class athletes are being forced to prepare in a world-class manner heading into a vital tournament this summer without the necessary supplies to do so. Players have called out the leadership of Canadian soccer, stating that the authority figures should consider stepping down if they can no longer support the team. The lack of transparen-

sympathize with the women. In Sinclair's case, this could be her last World Cup. Not being given the backing from your own nation to succeed in it is a real gut punch to the entire sport of soccer in Canada.

It makes a whole lot of sense why they came out sluggish against the United States to open up the February international window. These players are going through a lot. We can only hope the culture at the top of the federation has a change in heart. As devastating as this is, it is just another example of the amount of work that still needs to be done.

On March 2nd, the federation agreed to a temporary funding agreement until a permanent contract is signed. The deal is quite similar to the men's national team, which includes results-based compensation and per-game incentives. More recently, the players felt stunned by some of the details of the new CBA that is going to be proposed by the federation. It looks like it is going to be a long process. The future of women's athletes in Canada is relying on these change makers.

Athletes everywhere, especially successful women's athletes in this case, deserve better. With the support of the soccer community worldwide, these players are not alone in their fight against a pathetic federation that puts the needs of their most critical asset to success, the players, on the back burner.

cy is a disgrace to not only the players but the game itself.

The strike this February only lasted a few days, but given the way the players on both national teams in Canada have been speaking out, they will not rest until an agreement is reached. They just simply could not afford to take the risk of not playing in the games after a year in which they received no compensation for their contributions to the national team. Although it is affecting both genders, you can't help but

Who or What is to Blame: An Interview with Gail Sahar

By Nicole Janeiro

The extent in which political polarization has influenced the state of politics across the United States, for better and for worse, has become the topic of numerous political conversations for quite some time now. But what most of these heated conversations fail to address is the prevalence of an individual's political attitudes being impacted by their inclination to attribute blame. In her newly published book entitled *Blame and Political Attitudes*, Jane Oxford Keiter Professor of Psychology at Wheaton College, Massachusetts, Gail Sahar, "addresses the polarization of political attitudes in America" by examining the role that blame has on forming hot-button opinions on topics such as poverty, race, sexuality and terrorism.

Considering that "so many controversial issues seem to be revolving around blame in one way or another," Sahar had been compelled by what she refers to as "little glimmers" she kept seeing that inspired her to dig deeper into related works. While scavenging through lots of professional literature by psychologists, political scientists and sociologists, Sahar noticed "a really big hole in the literature." Not only did she struggle to find a book for the general pub-

lic about the topic, but Sahar felt that even in the hundreds of books about political polarization and individual issues, she couldn't seem to find any that have properly focused on "how we see the



Photo Source // wheatoncollege.edu

causes of social problems." Sahar has written a few books geared towards an academic audience about people's blame in the social world, however, none have been about people's blame in the political world, compelling her to produce this refreshing new text.

In hopes that she could challenge "people's assumptions about the way people think about politics," Sahar took all the time necessary to prepare a book proposal, which forced her to conduct re-

Sahar got into the particular mode of writing empirical papers in which she struggled to find her voice for a popular audience. Sahar knew that in deciding to write a book geared towards a popular audience, she was setting herself up for more criticism. But she was willing to take this risk. Even though she has opened herself to possible critiques that she hasn't experienced before, Sahar couldn't let that deter her from filling a gaping hole in the literature. In addition to gearing her writing toward a popular audience, Sahar found that it was especially challenging to write before she had an official publishing contract. One of her biggest worries while writing her book proposal was that "if nobody publishes this, I will have wasted all this time writing all this stuff." Without the motivation of a set deadline, Sahar found it difficult to stay focused.

search on books that were similar to what she was trying to accomplish with her own. What Sahar found most difficult during the writing process was having to write for a popular audience, especially since she felt "very out of the habit."

To collect research for her book, Sahar found herself carefully combing through various databases and setting aside time for finding related content. Sahar remembers setting aside at least an hour every morning to search through the popular press and feeling quite drained from doing so at times. Nevertheless, the "feeling that ... maybe in a small way, I could

do something to address the way that people think about these things” was what kept her going. Even during the instances where she experienced writer’s block (a setback many writers experience), Sahar found it helpful to talk to her family members, and friends since “we don’t realize how much we’re processing when we are not actually trying.” There would be good days where Sahar could bang out a few pages, and other days “where nothing would come.” For days at a time, Sahar would write, read, reread, and delete to a demoralizing degree, but she refused to let these setbacks stop her from accomplishing her goal.

She most enjoyed writing the chapter about former President Donald Trump. Sahar was originally quite nervous about writing the section, but once she dove into the literature, she found the content interesting to explore. In fact, she was surprised to find that it was easier to write than some of the other chapters.

In what felt like an elongated process, Sahar made sure to set aside time to reward herself for the hard work she was putting into writing her book, especially since “in this kind of work, the rewards are very few and far between.” For example, Sa-

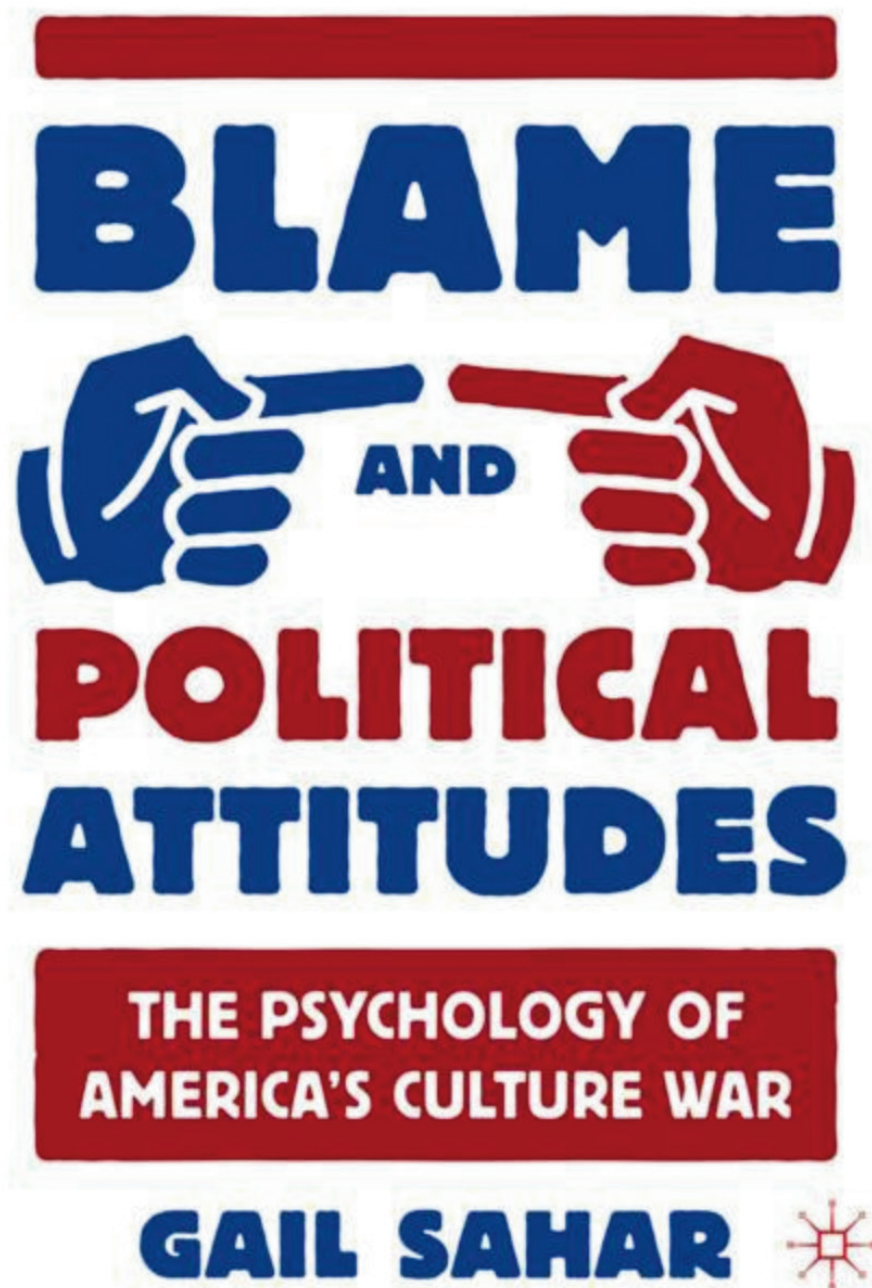


Photo Source // gailsahar.com

har sometimes rewarded herself with a glass of pro-secco wine when she would finish a chapter of her book, but she also celebrated some of the more tangible accomplishments, like getting her publishing contract. One particular accomplishment Sahar is proud of is the fact that she was able to finish her book project by the deadline, which she credits Wheaton College for helping her do.

After receiving her book contract, she was stressed out about finishing the book on time. Wheaton granted Sahar an endowed share providing her with a slightly reduced teaching load and more time to work on writing her book. Sahar notes that Wheaton was “incredibly helpful” in granting her the endowed share.

Part of Sahar’s argument in her book *Blame and Political Attitudes* is that “polarization has been grossly exaggerated.” While addressing what has taken place as far as the demonizing of the other side, Sahar argues that there isn’t polarization “in the way that most people think of it. It’s more that they’ve been conditioned to hate each other.” By clarifying reality, Sahar aims to open communication between the political right and left.

Reflecting on Embodied Labor: Care and Control

By Alyssa Myers

The Beard and Weil Gallery is currently displaying an exhibit centered on the idea of embodied labor shown through care and control. The art will be available in this space until March 26, 2023.

The Motherless By Elihu Vedder



Photo Source // wheatoncollege.edu

Its gold frame warmly hugging the subject within, Elihu Vedder's small oil painting depicts a young girl sitting in a barn looking over three baby chicks. The implication is that she is not just watching them, but caring for them. The title "The Motherless" applies not only to the chicks, but to the young girl as well. It leaves you to wonder about how she became an orphan and how long she has been one.

This piece left me not only

with an ache in my heart but a reminder of the cliché that "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone" (Joni Mitchell). It illustrates the beauty of the human condition, when people, seemingly those who have lost the most, are the ones who give more than anyone would expect of them. One may suppose that a motherless child has lost the capacity to love, but in this painting, it is the orphan who has the capacity to see how much those baby ducks needed someone to care for them.

Tool 1/3 By Cory Lehroff Beime

Descartes was a 17th century French philosopher famous for concluding "I think, therefore I am," insinuating that one's existence is only true relative to their own mind. Beyond this take being ridiculous on the surface level, after viewing this piece by Cory Lehroff Beime, it becomes apparently true that this is not the case. We are social creatures, and beyond that, our existence and perception of the self is heavily relational. As is illustrated in this piece, one can see that most certainly "we are," but "we are" merely in

relation to others, no matter how much that hurts us.

This piece, which according to Nia Budakova '24, depicts "humanoid figures huddle[ed] together, interconnected in an unhealthy union" who, according to the artist, are "both fatally void of hate but killing me just the same," reminds me that "we are" who we are but not because "we think," but instead we force ourselves 'to be' purely relationally, with no hate towards the people who drag us down — despite how much it hurts us when they do so.

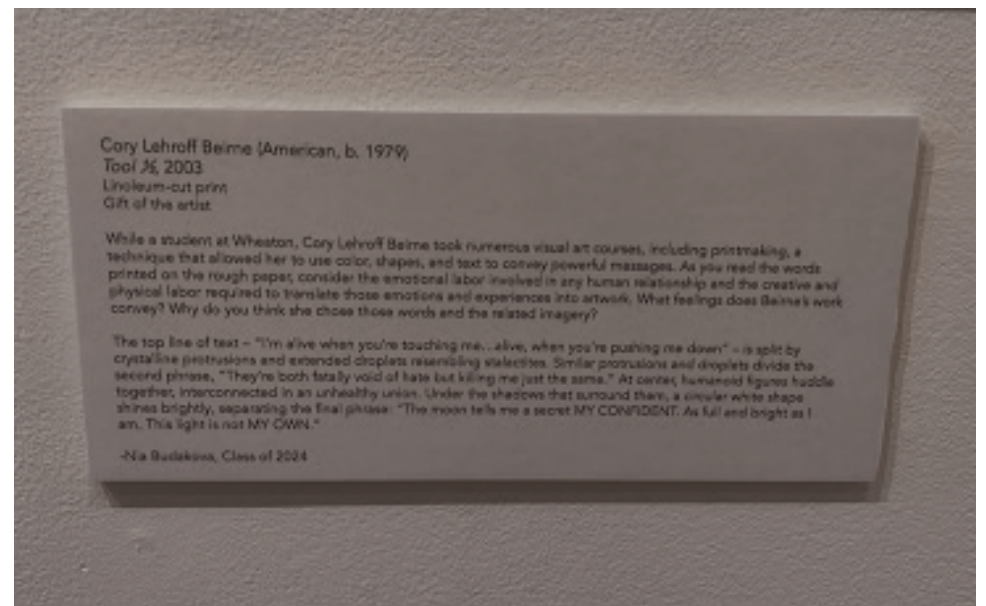


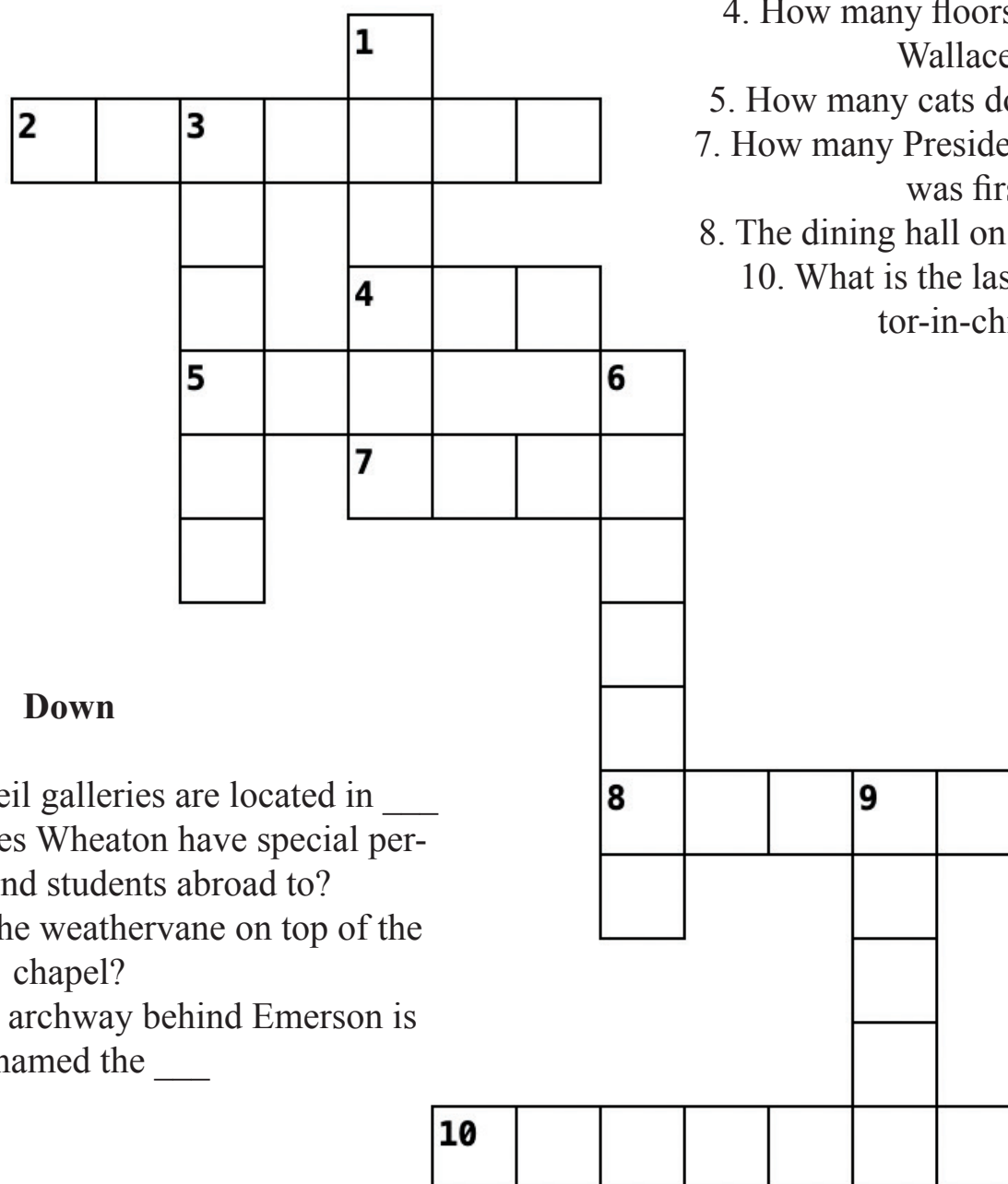
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Wheaton Wire Crossword

By Moira Sankey

Across

2. The peer writing tutors can be found in the ____
4. How many floors does the Madeleine Clark Wallace Library have?
5. How many cats does President Whelan have?
7. How many Presidents has Wheaton had since it was first established?
8. The dining hall on lower campus is named ____
10. What is the last name of the current editor-in-chief of The Wire?



Down

1. The Beard and Weil galleries are located in ____
3. What country does Wheaton have special permission to send students abroad to?
6. What animal is the weathervane on top of the chapel?
9. The name of the archway behind Emerson is nicknamed the ____

Horoscopes (Unhinged)

By Moira Sankey

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

It's time for a reality check.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

You should get out more.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Keep your God complex in check this month.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Set your boundaries and stick with them.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Try sticking up for yourself for once.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Take a deep breath; everything will be okay.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Communication is nothing without comprehension.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Stop gaslighting yourself.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

You're doing a good job, sweetie.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

It's time for some self-refelction.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Don't let people control you.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Pick a direction and stick with it.

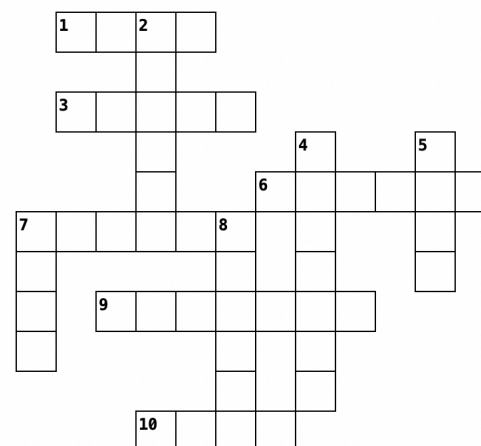
Write for the Wire

Want to become a published writer? You're in luck! We're always looking for written work for The Wheaton Wire. Whether it's a new piece or an old favorite written for class that you'd love to see published, we want it all - prose, poetry, anything goes. Any topic, too! From campus events to global news to culture, sports, cinema, science, and everything in between, The Wheaton Wire is the home for whatever you're passionate about. Feel free to submit as much or as little as you'd like! You can make a one-time submission or become a regular contributor, we're flexible. Thank you so much for your addition to the Wheaton Wire legacy.



Scan the QR code to submit your work and art!

The answers to the issue #6 crossword puzzle are:



Across

1. Duck
3. Clark
6. Watson
7. Whelan
9. Emerson
10. Pine

Down

2. Chapel
4. Balfour
5. Cole
7. WCCS
8. Norton