

# COUNTERPOINT

the wellesley college journal of campus life  
october 2023 volume 60 issue 1



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear readers,

Welcome back! I am so excited to begin a new year of *Counterpoint* with our beloved siblings. During my first summer in Boston, I developed a healthy appreciation for walkable cities, a considerable distaste for the East Coast humidity, and a lot of anticipation for the fall semester. First, I want to thank you for picking this issue up. This magazine is made by, for, and about you: the Wellesley community. Our policy of accepting any article or artwork within our submission guidelines allows us to receive the most diverse and creative pieces from every corner of campus.

Over the years, I've edited the most beautiful poem about a sunset over Lake Waban, musings on a semester abroad as a person of color, and even an anonymous love letter. (My personal favorite.) So, here is my official invitation to you: share your creativity with us. Your writing, your art—they matter. Your voice is not insignificant here. We welcome your thoughts on mental health, the newest Taylor Swift album, issues of identity, the worst date you've ever been on, the government—whatever's on your mind. If you find yourself hesitating, I encourage you to submit it anyway; your voice is exactly what we want and what we need to capture the very essence of Wellesley life. Your story will be met with empathy, challenges, discourse, and joy.

We love this magazine with all our hearts, and we hope you enjoy our first issue of the semester as much as we did putting it together. In this turbulent era of injustice, conflict, and misinformation, it's easy to get lost in the daily grind of life and forget to take care of yourself. So I urge you to take a break from that mind-numbing PSET or that seemingly never-ending paper. Chip away at the two crossword puzzles at the back of the issue, or peruse the beautiful photos of our campus; read a poem that reminds you of the beauty of the human experience. My greatest hope is that *Counterpoint* will be a space that brings you both comfort and food for thought. Thank you again for your continued support, and I wish you the very best of luck as we embark on this new academic year together.

Subversively yours,  
Precious Kim '25  
*Editors-in-Chief*

## SUBMISSION POLICY

The magazine accepts non-fiction submissions that are respectful, are submitted with sufficient time for editing, and have not been published elsewhere. We encourage cooperation between writers and editors but reserve the right to edit all content for length and clarity. Email submissions, ideas, or questions to the Editor-in-Chief (pk100). The views expressed in *Counterpoint* do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine staff or the Wellesley community. *Counterpoint* does not solicit specific pieces from students, rather we publish the pieces that we receive each month and do our best to publish all appropriate submissions that we receive.

# COUNTERPOINT

THE WELLESLEY COLLEGE JOURNAL OF CAMPUS LIFE  
OCTOBER 2023  
Volume 60 / Issue 1

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CAMPUS LIFE

# SHOWER THOUGHTS

**\*CONTENT WARNING: KINDA GROSS**  
BY ANONYMOUS

Image: Jennifer Long '25

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*For information about publishing articles  
anonymously, please contact the Editor-in-  
Chief at pk100*

# DEAR HAIR CLUMP OWNER,

I received your gift. Despite removing my glasses upon entering, I was still able to make out your gracious offering to the shower gods. Nestled tightly into the drain: your coiled mess of follicles. Each strand traveling long treacherous distances...

Under the tension of your brush, or the abrasion of the hard mineral water, each strand now finds itself stalemated between the drain and my feet.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disturbed by the sight, but more often than not it causes me to think about the owner. First in the...I can't stand this individual kind of way...but then much deeper.

Did the owner of these strands find themselves showering at 2 or 3AM after an intense study session like me?

Or rather, did the rush of an early morning and the forethought of the day consume hair owner #1's brain waves?

Was the delicately patterned hair mural a means of distraction from the looming exams of midterms week.

Whether I like it or not, the creator of this great and tangled biomaterial probably shares more in common with me than I'd care to know.

Could they be my friend?

Long, wavy, brown strands conglomerated at a single knot - too common to tell

But this person possibly listens to The 1975 at odd hours of the night in this ceramic-tiled safe space to thwart the feeling of loneliness and academic isolation

Or find themselves washing off the anxiety of a complex lecture or the exhaustion of a shift at their part-time job

Is the shower, albeit communal, their safe space too?

It's impossible to know.

And anyway, this isn't a punishable offense. It just makes me slightly uncomfortable. But that will happen sometimes in the communal shower.

People will do things that make you uncomfortable. And really warp the way you think and feel about society and the value of others.

In those moments it's really important to consider their humanity. Humans are flawed individuals.

But not me tho.

Sincerely,

*The Shower Flooder*

POETRY

# something beautiful

BY YITZEL SERNA

i want to write something beautiful for you  
something unique in time, in rhythm, and rhyme  
i could capture in intimate prose the life only we knew  
a colorful cascade of curious butterflies between the lines

i pray i can write you something beautiful  
and lord knows i pray every night  
that in some typical twisted truth immutable  
fate was fair in letting you leave my sight

how i'd love to write you something beautiful  
of that i know only i really could  
something so true, so irrefutable  
the poets would wonder how i'd got it so good

but then you'd laugh.

and then, you'd leave.

and here i'll be.  
wishing i could write something beautiful  
about someone  
who was never meant for me.

Images: Jennifer Long '25 (left and right)

POETRY

family friends

BY SNEHA SRIRIAM

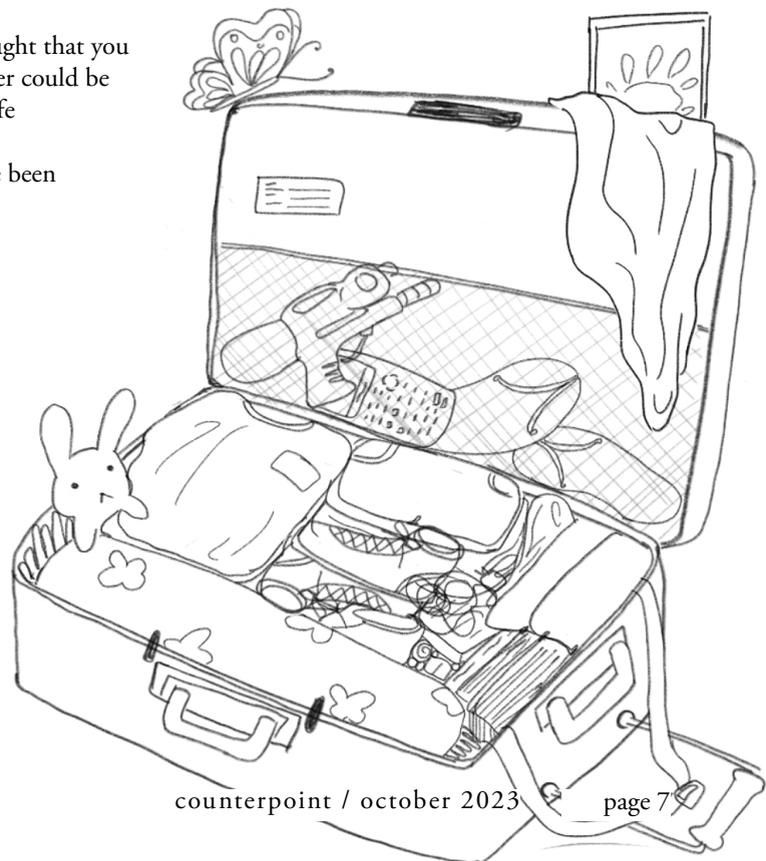
You shot me with nerf guns  
declared yourself the victor  
Of our make believe war  
At 7 and 8

We ran around in water parks  
And when you slipped on nothing  
I held your hand as you cried  
And smiled at me

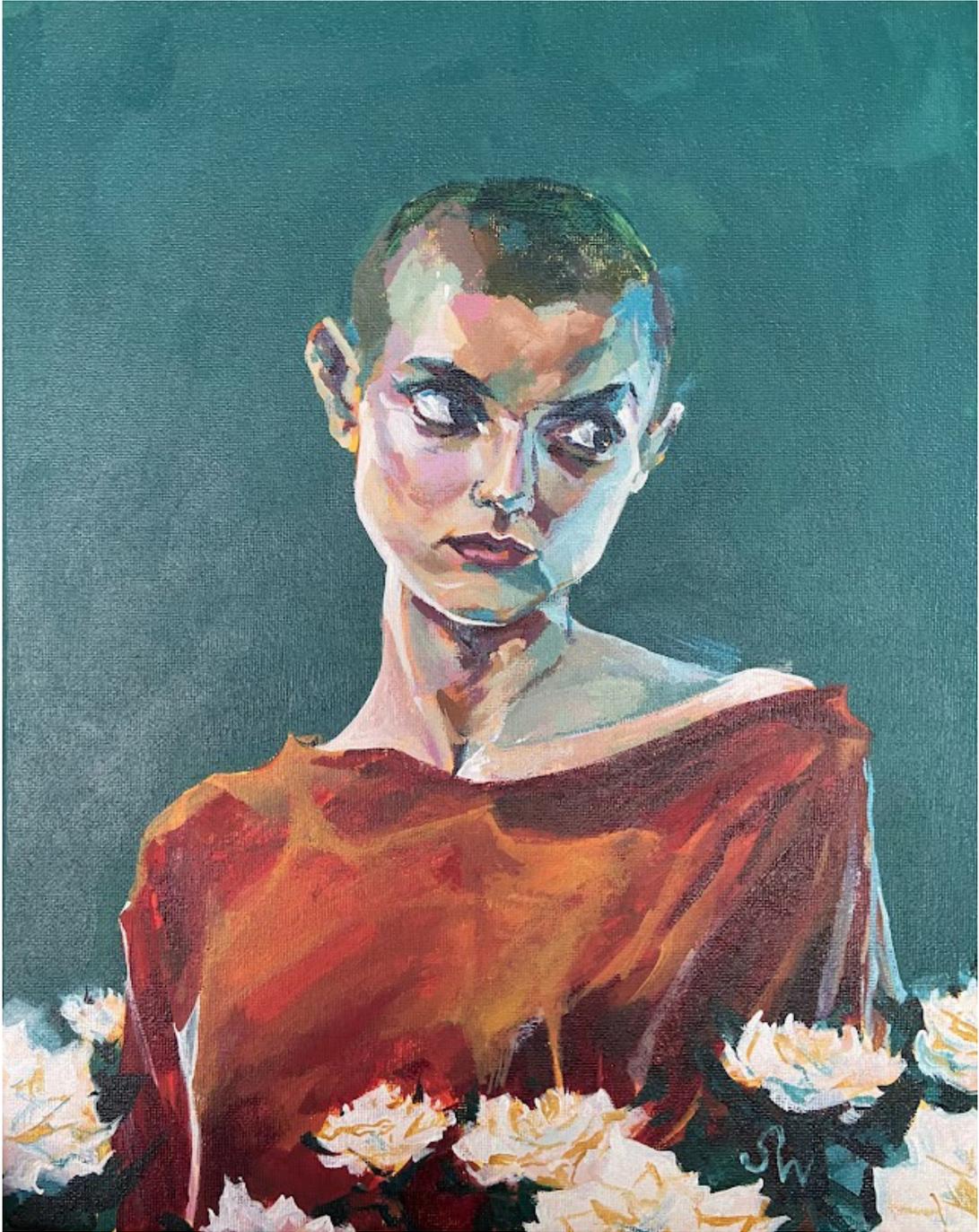
I helped you pack for college  
Box up your childhood  
And I couldn't help but feel  
Like it was me  
that was being thrown away

And I never thought that you  
Were mine or ever could be  
But in another life

What could have been



ART



BY SAGE WIDDER



*Left: Tribute to Sinéad O'Connor: painted as a gift for the artist's father*  
*Right: The Hug: an expression of familial love and the foundational nature of human connection in a chaotic world*



*First Light: an inverted sunrise*



*Hope in the Dark*: a reminder that hope and joy can be found in simple things,

ART

# Signed, Sealed, Delivered

BY ANA SOFIA ALMEIDA ZAMORA



*Artist statement:* This is a series of prints called "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." These postage stamps depict the process of writing and sending letters in the mail to loved ones -- something I have found myself doing a lot throughout the years, especially during the pandemic and when I am here at Wellesley. The title and text on each postage stamp is inspired by the Stevie Wonder song of the same name.

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*Sofia '25 loves the process of writing and sending letters to loved ones.*

PHOTOGRAPHY



*Rest Time*

BY EMILY LEVINE

8074

LEO 50 H 152 B 112



*Grandma*



*Girls in Grass*

PHOTOGRAPHY



@yitzelserna

BY YITZEL SERNA



@yitzelsena

*Left: a taste of honey*  
*Right: tangerine*



*ladyfingers*



*vertigo*

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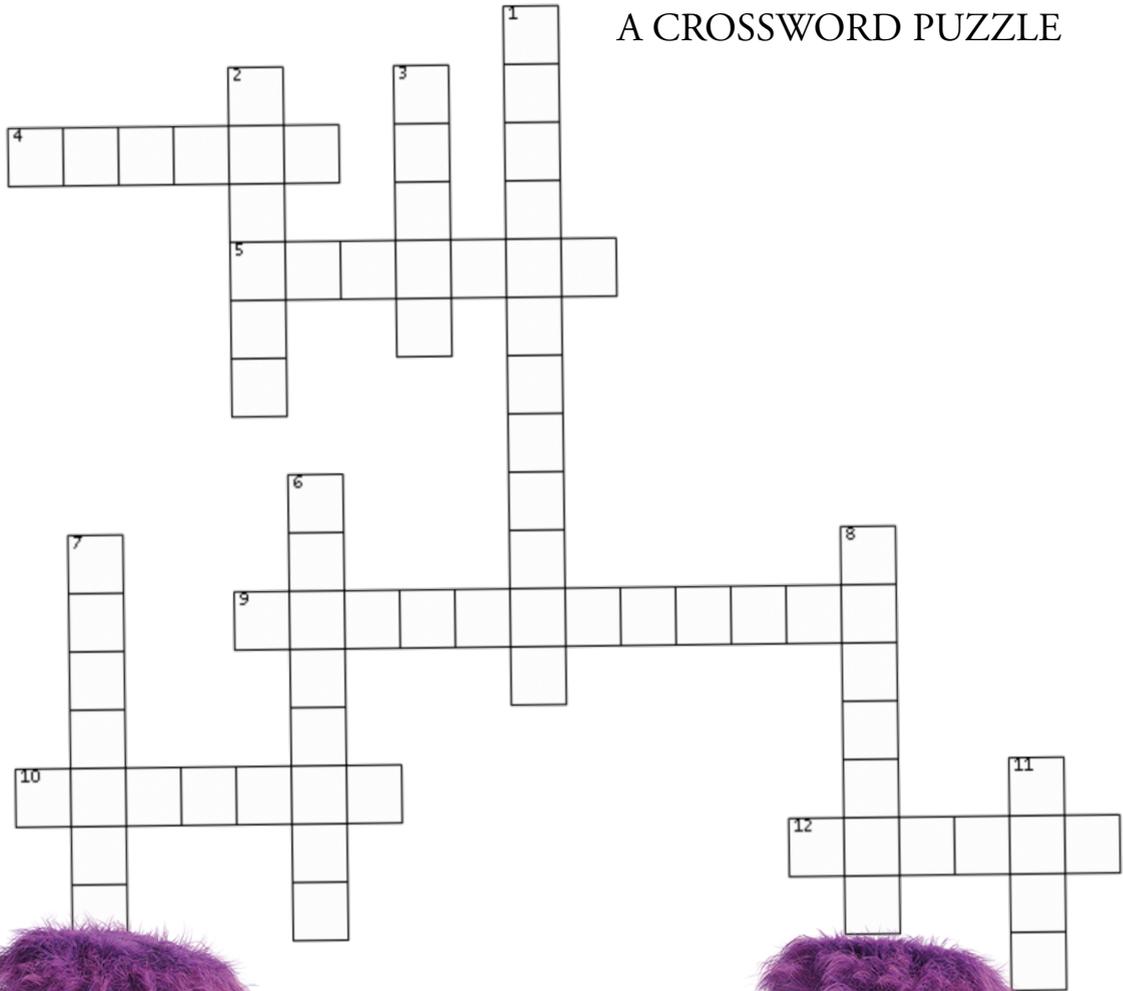
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*Yitzel Serna '26 is a student-athlete who enjoys photography and the process of telling a story through her images.*

FEATURES

# MONSTERS

A CROSSWORD PUZZLE





ACROSS

4. A giant, fire-breathing reptilian monster
5. In Irish folklore, a female spirit known for her wailing cries
9. The doctor who created a famous monster
10. A large, hairy, and human-like creature said to inhabit the wilderness
12. A sea monster (often depicted as a giant octopus or squid) known for its destructive powers deep in the ocean

DOWN

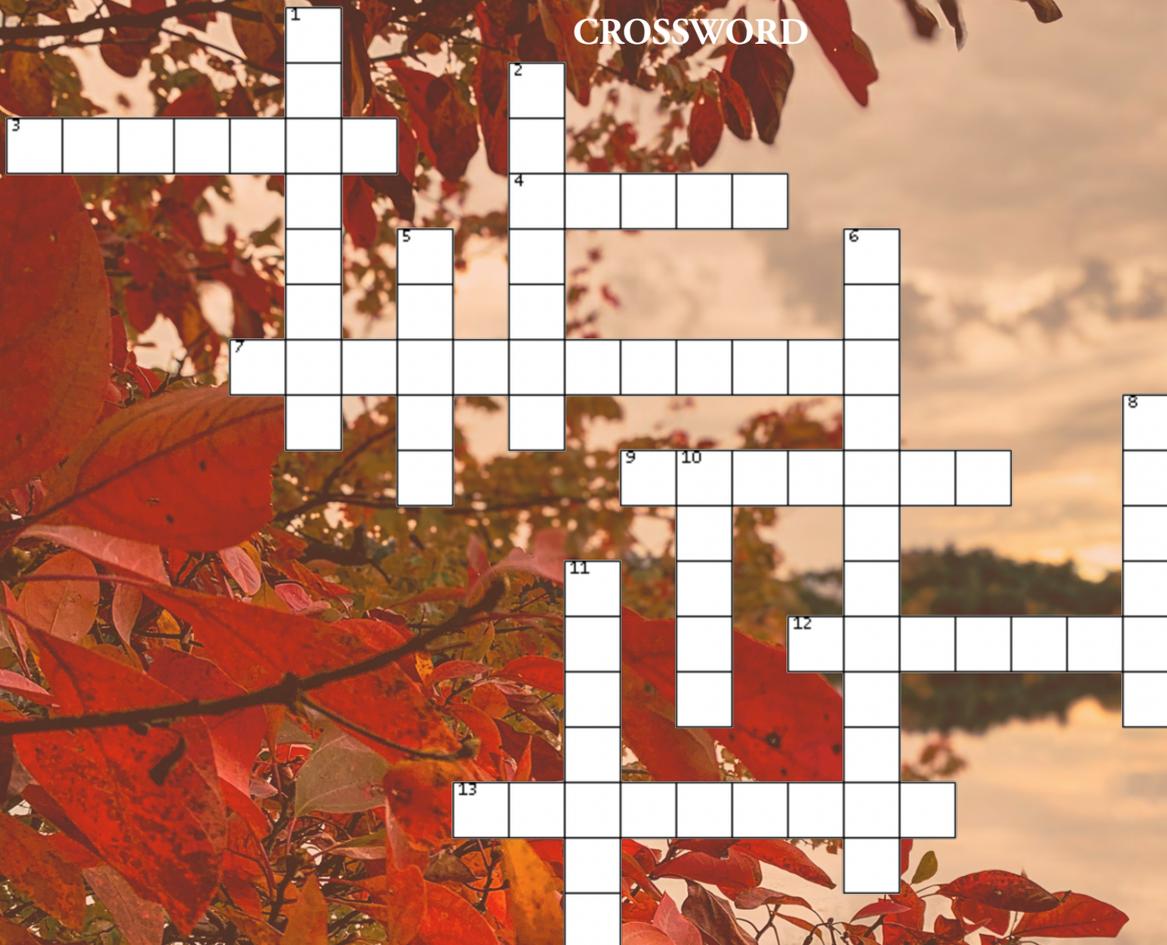
1. A supernatural being known for its ability to transform its body
2. A reanimated corpse often depicted with bolts in its neck
3. A transparent apparition, often of a deceased person
6. A creature that transforms during a full moon
7. A blood-sucking creature... Dracula is a famous one
8. A beautiful, horse-like creature with a spiraling horn
11. AKA the "Abominable Snowman"



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## CROSSWORD



# FALL FUN

### ACROSS

3. A cozy clothing item for cooler weather
4. This store's parade is celebrating its 99th anniversary
7. A popular fall flavor often used in lattes
9. A star sign squarely in the middle of the fall season
12. Halloween attire
13. A cornfield protector

### DOWN

1. Found roasting on an open fire
2. A spooky, orange gourd you may carve for Halloween
5. The proverbial autumn fruit
6. A tale of a headless horseman
8. The star of Thanksgiving dinner
10. A warm beverage made from pressed apples
11. A vibrant display of autumn trees