



# The Wheaton Wire

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Volume LVI, Issue #7

## Acting phishy: Wheaton hit with recent influx of scam emails

By Sophia Collie '29

Over the past couple of weeks, Wheaton's community has been ravaged by scam emails. These malicious emails range from false job offers to ominous threats stating that student accounts will be deleted if they do not verify their password. The senders of these emails appear to be Wheaton College faculty and staff, with the telltale @wheatoncollege.edu at the end. However, the senders' names are falsified and disguised, not those of actual, current people at Wheaton.

In an anonymous survey polling 315 people, rough-

ly 146 students reported receiving 2-3 scam emails per week. 120 students reported receiving more than 3 scam emails in a given week. According to Brian Gibson '95, who works in Wheaton's IT department, the department has never "seen anything of this magnitude" in Gibson's 25 years of email administration.

A certain technological development is fueling this outbreak: the rapid growth and usage of artificial intelligence (AI). This recent outbreak, understandably, has greatly concerned Wheaton's cybersecurity team. According to Gibson, "scammers have started using AI to automate every

aspect of these phishing campaigns".

Gibson explained that in the past, scammers' efforts were analog, and it was much easier to contain and catch phishing emails before they became a larger issue. "Back then, this was all done manually. So before the hackers even had time to set up shop, we could clean up the end user's account and kick the hackers out." But now, with AI becoming ever more prevalent, scammers can use it to send thousands of emails in a matter of seconds.

Acting phishy, continued on page 6



Photo taken by Jonathan Purvis '29 President Michael Whelan poses for a picture with Dr. Darren Wallace '07, the keynote speaker for the event.

## Alumni returns as Keynote Speaker for MLK Legacy Celebration

By Jonathan Purvis, '29

The MLK Legacy Celebration, a yearly tradition that began in 2015, was held in Hindle Auditorium on Feb. 10. The celebration, aimed at remembering the life and legacy of the well-renowned civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., brought in a full house of students, faculty and staff alike.

Dr. King is remembered for his work advocating for civil rights and the end of segregation through tactics such as civil disobedience, including boycotts, sit-ins and marches.

His most prominent speech came at the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963, where more than

200,000 people marched through the streets of Washington, D.C. Led by prominent civil rights leaders, they gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to advocate for their common goals. These goals consisted of the passage of civil rights legislation, higher wages, no discrimination for workers based on race, ending segregation in schools and stronger protection of voting rights promised under the 14th Amendment. Here, King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, which has gone down in history as one of the most iconic, influential speeches ever given.

MLK Legacy Celebration, continued on page 7

## "Under new management:" College Hearing Board departs SGA for Dean of Students' office

By Deren Sozer '27

Wheaton's Student Government Association approved a proposal for the College Hearing Board to leave SGA in a Senate vote on Jan. 27.

CHB, the school's student-led conduct review body, is tasked with hearing disciplinary cases and upholding Wheaton's Honor Code.

The proposal, put forward by CHB's executive board, proposed to move the organization from its status as a board of SGA to an entity under the Dean of Students' office in order to "strengthen the CHB's autonomy and clarify its role on campus."

The move comes after years of discussion about the inefficiencies of the group's relationship with SGA, including friction caused by mission misalignment, confidentiality, and overcommitment for members.

According to CHB Chair Jordan Peterson '28, the missions of SGA and CHB did not align. "It's just for the simple fact of SGA is not like CHB", he said. "It doesn't have much of an active role in SGA just because of the nature of our board."

CHB's commitment to the confidentiality of its cases also made participation in Senate difficult. "Where other board chairs that sit around Senate can actively participate, actively give updates, actively encourage Senate to participate in their work, a lot of the work—99% of the work—the hearing board does is confidential in nature," said Zachary Irish, Wheaton's Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. "We protect the integrity of our cases. We protect the confidentiality of our students that are going through the process."

The overcommitment of members was another

main concern. According to the proposal, the chair of CHB could spend 10 hours a week between work and meetings for SGA and hearings for the organization. "This workload reflects the seriousness of CHB's work and unpredictability of caseloads, further emphasizing the need for administrative support," the proposal said.

Dean Irish noted that SGA's leadership has done a good job of reducing meeting commitments across the entire organization.

Another part of the decision was to align with the "best practices" of institutions like Wheaton. "Best practice is that every conduct office have a hearing board like this to hear cases where you don't want a one-person decision," Irish said, "where you want the community to weigh in on these types of decisions."

College Hearing Board, continued on page 5

## Midnight Melody opens Battle of the Bands 2026



Members of Midnight Melody perform at Battle of the Bands 2026. From left to right: Rabi Medicoff-Misra '28, Felix Safdie '28, Layla Dasilva-Askew '28.

Photo taken by Grayce Howe '29

## The Brown shooting impact on Wheaton and updated campus safety precautions

By Grayce Howe '29

In a recent Student Government Association meeting, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Zachary Irish discussed the new safety regulations going into effect on campus.

On Dec. 13, 2025, a mass shooting occurred at Brown University in Providence, RI. The shooter, later identified as Cláudio Manuel Neves Valente, killed two students and injured nine others.

Brown is just thirty minutes away from Wheaton's campus, and some Wheaton students are dual-enrolled in programs and classes on Brown's campus.

Multiple individuals in the SGA meeting inquired if the college's efforts to speed up safety precautions were in response to the shooting.

Irish explained to the group the importance of

acting as a community on Wheaton's campus, and that to ensure safety it is vital to look out for one another.

New precautions include the addition of external cameras around the school as well as speeding up the process of adding key card scanners to buildings currently without them. In addition, key card access will now be required to enter buildings such as Balfour-Hood Center and Clark Wallace Library after 5:30 p.m.

"The priority right now," said Irish, "is to get card readers on the bigger buildings around campus."

Emma Russo '26 asked why the Wheaton administration never made a statement about the shooting, which kick-started a discussion.

Wheaton safety, continued on back page

## DanceFest 'unleashes' student talent: First two performances completely sell out

By Claire Martin '28

DanceFest 2026 took off with a bang as the three-night showcase completely sold out its first two nights of performances in the Weber Theatre on Valentine's weekend.

The show titled "Unleashed" included Wheaton-affiliated dance teams Tap Out Loud, Kaos, Paraíso Latino, Trybe, and a guest performance from SOLE. DanceFest's annual goal is to showcase the months of practice and effort that members of several teams have been involved in.

Each team created its own lineup of songs, resulting in an incredibly diverse range of performances spanning R&B, hip-hop, K-pop, and Latin music, for everyone to enjoy.

This diversity of music reflects not only Wheaton's demographics but also the world's diversity and the Wheaton community's dedication to various cultures. This allows the audience and dancers to connect with the teams and music presented, as well as discover new musical hits.

Lots of work goes into every dance the teams perform and choreograph. Countless practices and countless long nights form highly polished showcases like the ones DanceFest featured. This dedication and teamwork create a tight-knit community that dancers can not only collaborate in but also feel as if they can each express themselves and act as a close-knit group. Many of the participating dancers feel this way, including Heidi Ricker '28, a dance captain of Kaos, who said that joining a dance team is a "form of community that's unique on campus that you can't really find elsewhere."

"It was a sigh of relief seeing everything come together," Ricker said, "that

not only Kaos, but other teams have worked for."

However, the work isn't just in practicing or choreographing the dances. It also involved the labor in creating specialized lighting patterns, creating an entirely unique atmosphere every dance with the help of staff, faculty, and student-workers.

With every performance came a surprise: not only were the songs completely tailored to the unique show, but much of the choreography and light arrangements were created by the teams, adding to the one-of-a-kind atmosphere the show presented to the audience. Strobe lights added an essential mood to songs like Ifeye's "r u ok?" performed by Kaos, and Brodha V's "Aigiri Nandini" performed by Trybe.

Composed as a two-act show, Tap Out Loud opened each night with a version of "Greed" by Fall Out Boy's lead singer, Patrick Stump. Next was Kaos's performance of "Supersonic" by fromis\_9. Trybe followed after, with a compilation of "My House" by Beyoncé, "Bark Like You Want It" by Sir Mix-A-Lot, and both "Not Like Us" and "TV Off" by Kendrick Lamar. Paraíso also joined with "MAFIOSA" by Nathy Peluso.

Tap Out Loud returned for their second song, Elvis Presley's classic hit "Burning Love."

Following Tap, Kaos danced to "Walk" by South Korean boy band NCT 127, a song that focuses on lyrics and bass-heavy beats with an overall swag-like vibe.

Tap returned to the stage after tapping to "Tous Les Memes" by Belgian artist Stromae that features a vintage backtrack and is sung entirely in French.

Trybe came on stage with "Jealousy", by South African artists Khalil Harison and Tyler ICU, a song



Photo taken by Shelby Smiley '27

Members of Tap Out Loud perform Burning Love.

featuring synth tracks and is almost entirely in Zulu, a Southern Bantu language, aside from the repetition of the word "jealousy" being said in English.

Kaos's third song was "Little Miss" by multinational group GIRLSET, an anthem to girlhood and being impossible to figure out.

Expression continued as Paraíso performed to Juan Luis Guerra's "El Farolito", combining their classic style with the merengue.

The last four dances (by teams that had previously performed) of the first half were "Science Student", by Nigerian rapper Olamide performed by Trybe; Kaos, with "ICONIC", by South Korean K-pop group xikers; Paraíso with "Acompanha O Grave", by MC Lele and Brazilian funk artist MC Maromba; and finally, a mix of several songs, including "Voaste", "Ra-Havana", "Bogle", and "Fling It Up (ft. Davido)" by artists Lala Njava, Andakozia, Biju Banton, and Machel Montando, respectively, performed by Trybe.

Before intermission, SOLE, Wheaton's step team—focused on blending African culture with alternative dance to create sound that appeals to all

ears—took the stage and displayed four pieces in their feature: "TORE UP", by Don Toliver; "MOVE!"; "Hold up!" and "SOULE" highlight well-timed and precise choreography.

With minimal music used in their segment, every step mattered. "To practice for big events like that, we run through our routines until we sound like at MOST two to three people stepping," Vidianie Ceneus '28 said, confiding in her teammates. "Since there are 18 of us, it's not meant to be easy, but we never give up on each other."

The showcase was not without noise, applause, and even a whistle from the audience at one point. When the audience wasn't absolutely electric, the dancers were cheering each other on from the wings of Weber Theatre. "One thing I think everyone who went to the show can agree on is that everyone who performed at DanceFest absolutely DEVoured their routines, and I just loved cheering each team on. We were all like cheerleaders for one another. It was so cute." Ceneus said.

As the showcase wrapped up, Trybe performed a dance to "Dis-

missed" by Destiny's Child, offering an exciting, enthralling performance. Tap followed, performing to the upbeat, emotional "Send Me On My Way" as they offered a tribute to their seniors and sent them on their way.

The penultimate song of the night was "MANSAE", performed by Kaos.

And lastly, the final performance of the night was titled El FiNaL, consisting of a mashup of several Bad Bunny songs. While dancing, childhood photos of the members appeared on the screen behind them.

"Don't be afraid to audition for dance teams! Being on a team of any sort is like having another family away from home." Myrsa Priston '28 said, highlighting the importance of joining and supporting dance teams.

While it may seem like a showcase of this magnitude would be their final act, teams have at least one more upcoming full-blown showcase! For further information regarding other showcases from Wheaton's incredible dance teams, please check out each team's individual Engage page or Instagram.

**The Senior Gift campaign is now open!**

Help pay it forward to future Wheaton students!

Ready now? give here:

## Alien By Abbie Rock '29



# Letter from the editor

Dear Wheaton,

For six days, we experienced a rare collective pause on campus.

Classes moved online, meetings vanished, and the most pressing question shifted from “When is this due?” to “Is the sidewalk actually walkable?” Suddenly, the familiar rhythm of Wheaton life—walking briskly to class, grabbing coffee between meetings, promising ourselves we would finally catch up this weekend—stopped.

The blizzard arrived inconveniently, dramatically, and perhaps at exactly the right moment. Just as senioritis began its annual creep into our psyche, we were forced into stillness, conversely reminding us of everything we love about being out and about on campus at Wheaton.

Nothing reveals a community’s character like a crisis. In Emerson Feminist Perspectives House—home to both my co-editor-in-chief, Moira, and me—house members huddled in the common room, sharing meals as supplies ran low and coordinating group orders when deliveries became possible again. (A massive shoutout to Katelyn Spader ’27 and Amelia Davis ’27, who shoveled the path that kept us fed.) It reminded

me of why theme houses are such an essential, beloved part of campus life at Wheaton: they are ecosystems of care and belonging where community is practiced, not just advertised.

To the facilities staff who worked through freezing nights, the professors who adapted course schedules in real time, and the Chase dining staff who worked overtime—thank you for keeping us functional. To me, and many others, the blizzard revealed Wheaton at its collective best: resilient, kind, and somehow, still very spirited.

Am I being too sentimental? I’ll admit, the nostalgia is hitting hard. Approaching graduation while freshman memories still feel like yesterday is surreal. While cleaning during the storm, I found a first-year paper of mine—a time capsule eliciting equal parts wistfulness and mild embarrassment. (It makes me wonder what I’ll think of my current writing in five years.)

The blizzard also provided a much-needed moment to reflect on our editorial mission, reminding me of why I committed to a permanent column, “World Affairs, Student Stakes” this semester. These global events are never truly distant, nor disconnected

from campus life.

With the recent military escalation in Iran, alongside ongoing violence impacting Pakistani and Afghan communities, we extend our care and compassion to members of the Wheaton community whose families, friends, or homes are affected directly or indirectly by these conflicts, and acknowledge the weight many carry quietly while far from home. The Wheaton Wire condemns the targeting and harming of civilians, whether intentional or through negligence, and all other war crimes and crimes of aggression.

Moreover, as we consume news, I encourage us all to pause before forming opinions or reposting. Verify sources. Understand context. Use content warnings where appropriate. Use your voice with care and responsibility.

Speaking of responsibility, SGA elections and club renewals are approaching. If you’re interested in stepping up for a leadership role next year, now is the time to start thinking about it. But even if you can’t commit to larger responsibilities, remember you don’t need a title to influence change, and you don’t need to be on staff to write for The Wire. These platforms exist

for public discourse; use them to the fullest.

Despite the blizzard’s chaos, our team worked tirelessly to bring you this issue. Inside, you’ll find everything from updates on GPA requirements for SGA members and the plague of campus spam emails, to coverage of some incredible campus events like the MLK Legacy programming, Battle of the Bands, and Dancefest. Another reminder of the sheer vibrancy of Wheaton!

Lastly, I would like to thank the students, staff, faculty, and broader audience, who consistently read, engage, and occasionally write back to The Wire. Your curiosity, feedback, and conversation are what make our work feel worthwhile. As we head into Spring Break, I hope everyone finds time to truly reset. The semester will accelerate soon enough. For now, take the pause when it appears—even if it arrives disguised as a snowstorm.

Warmly,  
Khushi Parikh ’26  
Co-editor-in-chief

P.S. Do you love the new layout? We’re experimenting with five columns. We apologize for the lack of color inside the pages; the printer is undergoing repairs.

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Have a question, comment, or writing piece for the Editor or Wire staff? Email us at: [thewheatonwire@gmail.com](mailto:thewheatonwire@gmail.com).

# SGA changes GPA requirements for participation

By Yasmine Aguilar ’29

Wheaton’s Student Government Association (SGA) changed GPA requirements for participation to ensure that members meet certain academic standards on campus.

In January 2026, Rory Flynn ’28, Chair of the Academic Advocacy Council, presented the idea of raising the minimum GPA required to participate in SGA.

“I think that this GPA change is more of a technical change to

our bylaws to better reflect the standards student leaders should hold themselves to. The proposal aligns SGA with other student leadership positions (RAs, etc.)”

Initially, the minimum GPA allowed was 2.0. It will now increase to 2.5. This change was caused by “aims to address the absence of any actual academic standard for SGA members by establishing a higher minimum GPA requirement for SGA membership,” per Flynn’s proposal. Similarly, being an RA requires the same

GPA, so a slightly higher minimum GPA is common practice.

SGA states, in their proposal, that there are two benefits: establishing certain academic standards for SGA membership and reducing workload for members who are struggling. Those who are struggling with a GPA of less than 1.67-2.0 would benefit from leaving their position to ensure that they are in good academic standing in the future.

Wheaton’s “Satisfactory Academic Progress”

webpage states how “Wheaton’s satisfactory academic progress policy requires that students must meet the 2.0 cumulative GPA required for graduation by the completion of their second year. Until that time, a minimum GPA of 1.67 must be maintained.”

Changing the minimum GPA requirement ensures that SGA members remain in good academic standing, on track for graduation, and eligible for other campus positions.

## WCCS Radio Shows

### Weekly Schedule

All shows are one hour long

WCCS (Wheaton College Communication Station) is Wheaton College’s student run radio station and recording studio, founded in 1978. They offer a wide variety of radio shows ranging from classic rock, rap, easy listening, talk shows and even podcasts, as student DJs provide quality content for the Wheaton College community and beyond.

Listen live here:



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM				Morning Energizer			
10:00 AM							
11:00 AM				Alyssa’s Airtime			
12:00 PM					IngReydio		Mystery, Babylon the Great
1:00 PM		Hi-Fi Hi-Rise Review	The Orange Radio		NorahBrains	Pear Jam	A Little Bit of Everything
2:00 PM	Tilly Fein Show		robinradio	Normal Music For Normal People		miku39.FM	Star Nerds
3:00 PM			The Shark Tank	shattered handed radio		SATOYAMBA	Aural Assault
4:00 PM	Mystical Magical Music		The Backstage Pass with Cass		Mia FM.		
5:00 PM			Grandpa’s Closet			Hey There, Folks	
6:00 PM	Empty Box	Norton Commander	Maggie’s Closet	Alt Uncovered			
7:00 PM		Introspection Injention		Evil Women Hour	Flowers and Razorwire		
8:00 PM		Keira’s Corner			Chillin with J	Homeward Bound	
9:00 PM		Devotions	The Cat’s Pajamas	Isa’s Planet	Scotty and Mingus Show		

For any questions regarding WCCS please contact [radiowccs@gmail.com](mailto:radiowccs@gmail.com)

## COLUMN: World affairs, student stakes

# The graduation forecast

## How climate risk and rising premiums are redefining post-grad life

By Khushi Parikh '26

Last week, the paths of Wheaton College disappeared beneath nearly 32 inches of snow as Winter Storm Hernando paralyzed Eastern Massachusetts, resulting in cancelled classes and extended deadlines. But beyond campus inconvenience, the storm entered another system entirely: insurers' risk models.

Globally, climate shocks are widening what insurers call the protection gap. In 2025 alone, disasters caused roughly US\$224 billion in losses, yet less than half were insured, shifting over \$100 billion in costs onto governments, taxpayers, and households.

In California, after successive wildfires produced tens of billions in insured losses, major insurers such as State Farm, Allstate, and Farmers began cancelling policies, refusing renewals, or withdrawing from high-risk regions altogether. Homeowners suddenly found coverage unavailable or unaffordable, forcing thousands onto the state's insurer-of-last-resort plans.

While Norton does not face wildfires, a report from Mass.gov notes that increased flooding and severe weather along the Massachusetts coastline, driven by climate change, are already affecting insurance markets. Enrollment in the Massachusetts FAIR Plan—the state's backup insurer for properties private companies will not cover—has increased in recent years, particularly on the Cape and Islands, where nearly two out of five homeowners now rely on last-resort coverage.

Moreover, FAIR Plan policies often exclude liability or water damage coverage. This bare-bones plan is then combined with a concentration of risk: as private

insurers cherry-pick safe zip codes using increasingly sophisticated pricing mechanisms that leverage satellite imagery—roof conditions, vegetation density, or proximity to hazard zones—AI models, and property-level indexing, the FAIR Plan is left with high-risk properties. According to Insurance Business, the California FAIR Plan has proposed an average home insurance rate increase of 35.8%, the largest in seven years.

### What's causing this?

As climate change increases the frequency and unpredictability of disasters, undermining the historical data insurers rely on to price risk, the technology used to price risk is becoming increasingly precise and predictive. (The ethics of using automated property-level indexing systems and satellite imagery is another conversation altogether.) Plus, rebuilding has become dramatically more expensive as inflation, labor shortages, and supply-chain disruptions raise the cost of every claim.

Moreover, global reinsurance markets—the insurers of insurers—have tightened their belts as well as their coverage terms after years of massive catastrophe losses worldwide, passing higher costs even to regions that avoided direct hits.

In 2024, global insured losses reached approximately \$140 billion, continuing a long-term upward trend of 5–7% annual growth. While “peak” disasters like Hurricanes Helene and Milton dominated headlines, the real driver of rising losses is quieter: the relentless accumulation of “non-peak” perils—like wildfires, floods, and severe convective storms—which now consistently generate nearly \$100

billion in annual losses. In 2025 alone, these “secondary” hazards caused \$98 billion in insured losses, nearly triple the 30-year inflation-adjusted average of \$33 billion.

Reinsurance capital is a global pool. Consequently, rising catastrophe losses everywhere, from Florida and California to Central America and Southeast Asia, spiked costs for regional U.S. insurers, including those in Massachusetts, that buy “reinsurance” from the same global giants like Swiss Re and Munich Re. Those costs trickled down as home insurance premiums rose 8.5% in 2025 and are projected to rise another 8% in 2026, a 17.2% compounded increase in two years—a financial shock that far outpaces wage growth—turning climate risk into a recurring household expense.

### How does this affect you, a student?

Insurance costs often arrive indirectly, through higher rent as landlords pass rising property insurance premiums on to tenants, mandatory renter's insurance policies built into leases, and car insurance rates affected by increasingly volatile weather patterns. Moreover, if you dream of buying a home, while low-risk neighborhoods are becoming too expensive to enter, in high-risk neighborhoods, it is effectively impossible to secure a mortgage unless you can first secure—and afford—the insurance. Insurers are increasingly using predictive “frequency-severity” climate modeling rather than just looking at past driving records. If data shows that Norton, MA, is experiencing more frequent “flash freeze” events, the entire town gets re-rated.

Effective July 2025, Massachusetts raised mandatory auto insurance minimums, jumping Property Damage Liability from \$5,000 to \$30,000 to reflect modern repair realities. A 2020 fender bender that cost \$2,000 now exceeds \$7,000 due to embedded sensors and LIDAR technology.

For the average 22-year-old graduate, this burden manifests as a “commuter tax.” As premiums remain heavily age-weighted, a young driver often pays 2.5 times as much as a 40-year-old for the exact same vehicle. This financial hurdle is compounded by a brutal housing market; as affordability crises push the Class of 2026 further from urban employment centers, car ownership is no longer a luxury—it is a compulsory, rising expense. For the Wheaton senior planning a post-grad life in Boston, the road ahead just became significantly more expensive.

And, oh, wait, there's still health insurance.

Across the United States,

safer, higher-resilience neighborhoods become increasingly valuable. In cities from Miami to New Orleans, areas less exposed to flooding or disaster are attracting investment and higher-income residents, driving up property values and quietly displacing long-standing communities. Flood-exposed coasts, wildfire-prone California, and the hurricane corridor across Florida and the Gulf are already losing decent, affordable coverage.

This is no longer just a climate—or even financial—story. It is a sociology story, and it is global. Across the Global South, low-emitting regions—from drought-stricken Central America driving migration northward, to flood-vulnerable Bangladesh and Pakistan, typhoon-exposed Philippines, and hurricane-hit Caribbean nations facing insurance retreat—bear the harshest climate displacement pressures. Yet as migration pressures rise, much of the Global North, accountable for high historical emissions, responds with fortified borders, externalized asylum systems, and expanding surveillance—from deadly Mediterranean crossings to U.S. asylum backlogs and offshore migration controls in Europe and Australia.

Climate change, alongside the quiet evaporation of financial safety nets like insurance, is reorganizing the global hierarchy of security and mobility—deciding who moves freely and whose movement is criminalized, sorting lives by wealth, nationality, race, gender and even age.

## Post-Grad Stability Checklist

### Protect Yourself

#### Audit Your Health Bundle

Don't wait for the first post-grad bill. Use the Health Connector's estimate tool now; the difference between a \$0 and \$500 premium sometimes hinges on \$1,000 of reported income.

#### Shop the Auto-Hike

If your premium jumped 36% after the July limit hikes, shop around. Companies like Geico and Safety Insurance are competing for the “student market” to offset property losses. (Some also offer Good Student discounts.)

#### Prepare the Renter's Defense

Document everything. Seriously. As insurers increasingly rely on machine learning and satellite-based risk assessments, maintaining a digital inventory of belongings—photos, receipts, and serial numbers—strengthens the credibility of claims and protects against underpayment.

### Help Protect Others

#### Make Knowledge Public

Colleges should (Ask Wheaton to) publish transparent information on the real cost of moving off campus, detailing typical renters insurance, transportation costs, health coverage transitions, broker fees, and security deposits. This is an information equity measure that ensures all graduates—not only those with access to financial guidance—enter adulthood prepared. Folks in LCDI, I know you're reading this.

#### Talk Money

Become comfortable discussing finances such as premiums, deductibles, and coverage limits openly. Silence disproportionately disadvantages those without inherited financial guidance.

Graphic created by Khushi Parikh '26

A post-graduate stability checklist.

rising medical costs, demographic change, and uncertain federal funding structures have driven premium increases that ripple far beyond individual households. In Massachusetts, the Health Connector, which allows young adults between jobs, fellowships, and graduate programs to maintain affordable coverage, was the “post-graduation bridge” for Wheaton seniors transitioning into the workforce for years. Now, with the expiration of federal Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (ePTCs) in December 2025, this bridge is hanging by a thread. While Governor Healey committed \$250 million to shield the lowest-income households, those earning modest professional salaries (around US\$65,000) are now exposed. For a new graduate in Boston, benchmark premiums can now exceed \$500 per month.

This transition is particularly jarring as, before graduation, colleges negotiate group coverage (the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)), pool risk across thousands of students, and buffer students from the volatility of the larger insurance market. Graduation abruptly sinks that SHIP.

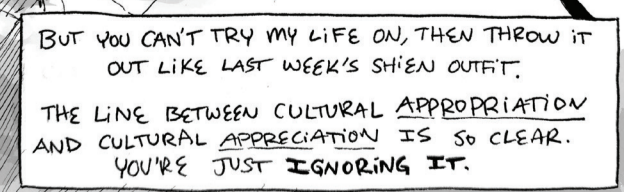
Furthermore, where previous generations chose cities based on opportunity or preference, young adults increasingly face a different question: *Where can I afford to live stably?* Some graduates retain mobility because family wealth absorbs these shocks. Others find their futures constrained not by ambition, but insurability.

Welcome to climate gentrification. As climate risk reshapes housing markets,

## So you say you're Chinese now.

By Emma Zhou '27

SO YOU SAY YOU'RE CHINESE NOW.



EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE IN A VERY CHINESE TIME OF THEIR LIVES.

AS SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN CHINESE MY WHOLE LIFE, I GET IT.

I LOVE MY LANGUAGE, MY CULTURE, MY FOOD.

BUT I'VE PUT IN THE WORK.

I'VE EXPERIENCED THE RACISM, I'VE BEEN THE ONLY PERSON IN A ROOM WITH MY EYES.

I'VE BEEN THE OTHER. YOU HAVE NOT.

SO YOU CAN'T "BECOME CHINESE." YOU CAN LOVE OUR LANGUAGE, AND OUR CULTURE.

BUT YOU CAN'T TRY MY LIFE ON, THEN THROW IT OUT LIKE LAST WEEK'S SHIEN OUTFIT.

THE LINE BETWEEN CULTURAL APPROPRIATION AND CULTURAL APPRECIATION IS SO CLEAR. YOU'RE JUST IGNORING IT.

# Crossword: Creature comforts

Created by Max Aaronson '26 and edited by Professor Michael B. Berg

### Across

- 1 \*Purring slumber
- 7 Refs on the diamond
- 11 One feeling little to no romantic or sexual attraction
- 12 What you're supposed to do when a stock is at its peak
- 13 Least common
- 14 Isaac's oldest son in the Hebrew Bible
- 15 Electronic system needed to redeem SNAP benefits
- 16 Makes into law
- 18 \*Chirping soak
- 20 More distant, as a demeanor
- 23 Don't go down a dark one at night
- 24 \*Barking shelter
- 26 Medicines that restore or improve health
- 27 General \_\_\_\_\_'s chicken
- 30 How many razor blades you would need to fill a tractor trailer
- 31 Roam with the intent of attacking or stealing
- 34 Ready oneself for a challenge
- 35 Medical condition that might make your hands and feet feel cold
- 36 Views
- 37 \*Oinking mess

### Down

- 1 Give a darn
- 2 Like roughly 500 million people across the globe
- 3 Civil wrongdoing resulting in harm or loss to one party
- 4 "No" for one wearing a kilt, perhaps

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
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34					35					
36					37					

© 2025

- 5 Units you'll be glad to have on a hot day
- 6 Starring role in a Disney classic likely requiring winches and pulleys
- 7 Like a tool that serves a purpose
- 8 Actor Paul who played Lucius in "Gladiator II"
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ River, tributary of the Missouri River located in Nebraska
- 10 Like snow after a few days on the ground
- 17 Binding secrecy deals
- 18 Rear ends
- 19 Event that hosted global motorsports stars from 1973 to 2006, in short
- 20 Things to put on dog collars
- 21 "Sickness" commonly spread during elementary school recess?
- 22 Pay no attention to
- 25 Handy tool when learning about the 50 states
- 27 Iconic Australian biscuits Tim \_\_\_\_\_
- 28 Clubs, e.g.
- 29 Singer, model and reality TV actress Aubrey
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ Lorak, representor of Ukraine in the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest
- 33 "On the \_\_\_\_\_", modern slang phrase

## Tic-Tac-Toe

Have any interest in making puzzles for our newspaper? Email thewheatonwire@gmail.com or DM us on Instagram at @wheatonwire.

	X	

## Unhinged horoscopes

By Willow Whitelaw '26

- Aries**  
**(March 20-April 19)**  
Set aside some time to relax.
- Taurus**  
**(April 20-May 20)**  
This is your sign to visit home.
- Gemini**  
**(May 21-June 20)**  
Sometimes other people need some space.
- Cancer**  
**(June 21-July 22)**  
New friends are in your future.
- Leo**  
**(July 23-August 22)**  
Get some sleep for once.
- Virgo**  
**(August 23-September 22)**  
Work on those anger issues before it comes back to bite you.
- Libra**  
**(September 23-October 22)**  
Have fun now, work hard later.
- Scorpio**  
**(October 23-November 21)**  
Some things are meant to be kept private.
- Sagittarius**  
**(November 22-December 20)**  
Book that trip.
- Capricorn**  
**(December 21-January 19)**  
Buy yourself a treat, you deserve it.
- Aquarius**  
**(January 20-February 17)**  
Try to stop worrying.
- Pisces**  
**(February 18-March 19)**  
You need to get over the person you're thinking about.

## The Wheaton Wire's Publishing Cycle

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Monday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b>
PITCHES GIVEN 6:00-7:00PM @THE WIRE'S OFFICE, BALFOUR HOOD	<b>LET'S connect</b> @ OPEN HOURS, 5-7PM THERE WILL BE PIZZA!	WEEKLY MEETINGS ALSO 6:00-7:00PM @THE WIRE'S OFFICE, BALFOUR	6-8PM, OPEN HOURS!! MORE PIZZA!! THE NEWSROOM EXPERIENCE: EDITORIAL DISCUSSIONS, WRITING STANDARDS, LAYOUT..	so, also 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday PITCH MEETING FOR NEXT ISSUE! SAME PLACE, SAME TIME
article writing ongoing	article writing ongoing	<b>DEADLINE</b>	ALL CONTENT DUE WEDNESDAY 10:00AM	ALL EDITED ARTICLES DUE FRIDAY 10:00AM

**NEW PAPER ALERT!**

## College Hearing Board, continued from front

This change was a long time coming. According to Irish, he had discussed this kind of move with previous CHB chairs for years, going back to Diana Blake '24. "Starting three years ago with Diana Blake and every chair since then, including the current chair, Jordan, when he was elected as chair last spring, we started the conversation right then and there."

A similar transition by WEB, Wheaton's events board, away from SGA earlier this year helped inspire CHB to act now. "We really drew inspiration from WEB this year with their move at the beginning of the year," Peterson said. "It kind of inspired us to be like, hey, we can do this now that WEB has done it, and they have the groundwork. They have

the baseline. Let's see what we can do with ourselves."

Both Irish and Peterson stressed that the move will not majorly affect the way the organization operates. "Jordan coined the term as basically like 'under new management,' and I like it because we're not changing anything. We're just reporting to somebody different," Irish said. "The reality is I'm still the adviser. I was the adviser. The students are still leading this organization. And so, really, nothing is changing other than no longer connected with SGA."

The main difference will be the selection of CHB's chair and vice-chair. These positions will now be filled by a selection committee rather than SGA elections. According to Irish, the com-

mittee will consist of the CHB advisor, two graduating senior members of the group, one faculty representative, and one non-CHB member of Senate. The committee will consider applicants who have served at least one full semester on the board and are in good academic standing. Applications for CHB chair and vice-chair are currently open.

The organization insists it will still be transparent, accountable, and accessible after this move. Irish highlighted that students can always apply to join the board and that it is fundamentally run by students. "It's going to be forever student-led," he said. "I think that is the only way to fully align with the honor code."

## POETRY CORNER

### Plastic Bag

By Lilly Martinez '29

Humans have our things we hold dear,  
I put my things in a plastic bag.  
One day I gave my bag away,  
I trusted him.  
It started with a small hole,  
I wanted it back but I couldn't take it back.  
It was too late.  
He held onto my plastic bag till it wasn't dear to him.  
He dropped my bag and left me scrambling to pick up the pieces.

I was lost but I found my way,  
I found comfort in my optimism.  
Safety with my plastic bag  
One day I gave my bag away.  
I trusted him.  
That small hole grew bigger  
with each kiss and touch.  
The hole became a tear and soon  
nothing was left there.

My bag was broken,  
shredded to pieces.  
There I was, holding what little I had left.  
Never to trust again...  
One day, I'll get a stronger bag.

## COLUMN: The Unfiltered Transcript

**Sierra Bausemer '28  
and  
By Julie Mahoney '28**

Extreme weather is hitting campus once again, coming out to well over 4 feet of snowfall, coupled with extreme wind gusts. The storm started late Sunday evening, Feb. 22, and went into Monday night. Students were advised to stay inside from 8 p.m. on Sunday to noon on Monday, mirroring the travel ban that went into effect in much of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Many students heeded this warning, which was apparent at the Easton Target on Sunday afternoon. If you were there, then you probably noticed the plethora of Wheaton students stocking up on meals, drinks, and snacks to tide them over throughout the storm. This blizzard is being discussed as the new Blizzard of '78. Anyone with parents or grandparents from New England has definitely heard of this storm. The blizzard brought unprecedented amounts of snow to the Boston area, and given the lack of instant communication, it caught many people off guard, resulting in an emergency state. This recent storm surpassed those old snowfall totals, yet still left many unprepared and stranded in their vehicles despite modern communication technology.

It seems that maybe Wheaton was also unprepared for the snowfall once again. In the last issue, we mentioned the uproar over

parking and plowing, but it caused chaos once again. Students were notified on Saturday, Feb. 21, to move their cars to lots 1A, 3, 4, or 10 in anticipation of the snow. Come Tuesday morning, in an attempt to be proactive, many started digging out their cars to move them to other lots. As predicted, Director of Campus Safety Chief Roy Mulcahy sent out communication that afternoon, advising students to move their vehicles out of the previously listed lots to allow for further snow removal. Last storm, there were many cars that remained unmoved and many lots that remained unplowed for extended periods of time, making it difficult for students and faculty to find parking. With a similar course of action, it seems hard to believe that these issues will not be faced once again.

The snow also brought with it four days of remote learning and/or canceled classes, proving the perfect time to catch up on any 2026 Winter Olympics that may have been missed. Before coming to a close on Feb. 22, both the US women's and men's hockey teams secured a gold medal finish. For the men, this was their first gold medal in 46 years, with the last coming in 1980 with the infamous "Miracle on Ice" victory in Lake Placid, New York. The triumph did not last long before backlash was being faced by the US men's hockey team following a phone

call with Donald Trump and an invite to the State of the Union address on Thursday, Feb. 24. Trump's remarks included a joke about needing to invite the women's team (who declined the eventual offer) or risk being impeached. Other teams also brought home gold, with popular comeback skater Alysa Liu earning top honors in the women's single skating event.

Down in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, a shooter opened fire in a targeted attack during a local hockey game, killing two and injuring three before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The shooting comes only two months after the Brown University attack. With two cases of gun violence happening in such close proximity to Wheaton's campus, it is understandable that these events would shake the campus population. One can only assume that the additional safety measures in effect this semester, such as card reader access after hours to high-traffic buildings on campus, are in part a response to tragedies like these. Despite this, the campus is still open to the public during normal operating hours. For example, there were local Girl Scouts selling cookies just last week in Balfour-Hood Center. It was the perfect pick-me-up for students amidst the cold weather and a tough semester.

A prevalent issue students have encountered this semester is the sheer number



Photo taken by Scout Lowrie '27

A student's car in Lot 3 after the storm on Feb. 24, 2026.

of scam emails flooding their inboxes. From false alarms about email accounts being deleted to scam employment opportunities, the community needs to be careful about which messages they trust and which links they click on. Wheaton's IT department has sent out alerts reminding students of popular scams and confirming that they would never ask for password information via email, a common thread in many scam emails. See our full article on these recent phishing attacks for more details.

In terms of athletics at Wheaton, the aquatics program is doing exceptionally well. The school's Artistic Swimming team placed third at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF)

Championships, their highest-ever MPSF result. They beat out Texas Women's University by 10 points to secure their podium finish. Wheaton Swimming and Diving had a slew of bronze, silver, and gold finishes at NEWMAC Championships, breaking various school records in the process. Specific information regarding these finishes can be found on the Wheaton Lyons website.

Amidst the celebration happening in athletics, many people are mourning the death of actor Eric Dane. Dane is best known for his roles in Euphoria and Grey's Anatomy, two programs popular among college students. He died at 53 of ALS, a diagnosis he only shared with the world about 10 months ago.

## Acting phishy, continued from front

Once recipients of these emails mistakenly provide their information, the scammer's AI can access their data and use it to send even more emails from that legitimate Wheaton address, thereby continuing the scam. According to Gibson, in a recent case, after these scam artists gained access to an account, they were "sending hundreds, sometimes thousands, of phishing emails out within minutes of their gaining access to the account."

Gibson claims that since the phishing emails are coming from disguised Wheaton email addresses, the attacks become "more potent." Even more alarming, a large number of Wheaton College alumni have also fallen victim to these cyber attacks. "Since the class of 2016, we have allowed graduates to keep their email accounts for life, so with each new year, the potential number of targets has increased, making this tougher," said Gibson. "With these recent phishing campaigns, we probably had to track down and clean up more alumni accounts than current student accounts." The number of people with Wheaton email addresses grows each year. This only adds to the number of people susceptible to this wave of phishing attacks.

These scam emails operate in one of two formats. The first format: a stern

message threatening to shut down all email addresses with unverified passwords. This email contains a Google Form that asks for the recipient's email password. Wheaton has issued a statement stating that no one will ever ask for the password of a Wheaton email through this method. If a password is requested on a form, it is likely a scam.

The second format: false job offers. These jobs are advertised as being "part-time" or offering the fabulous option of "remote work from campus". These 'offers' often pay an exorbitant rate for a student intern, such as \$550 per week or \$35 per hour. Likewise, these messages are followed by a link to a Google Form. As with all phishing emails, each message seems to be sent from Wheaton Student Employment. The real Wheaton Student Employment sent an email on Feb. 23, addressing these fraudulent job postings and directing students to contact them with any questions or concerns about emails they may have received.

Wheaton's IT department has taken several precautions to stop phishing emails and prevent further, future attacks. These measures include a new software that Gibson says will be rolled out "sooner, rather than later." This software includes the work of "vendors that tie into our

Google Workspace infrastructure, whose products use AI to help combat these phishing attacks," as stated by Gibson. Steps are being taken to help people whose email has been compromised when they fall victim to these scams. "When we find that someone's account has been compromised, we reset their password, and we use tools on the Google back end to kill any logged-in sessions into the account. Just to be safe, we then replace the person's 10 Google 2-step backup codes and contact them via text or an alternate email address to let them know what happened. They usually already suspect that something is up before we contact them, and we help them reset their password." This ensures that the account is reset and all personal information is inaccessible to the scammer. Beyond simply resetting the password, the email of the person who was scammed has many Google backup codes that IT also replaces in order to further protect them from scams. For now, IT has published a banner at the top of students' Canvas pages that warns against providing passwords or verification codes to anyone. Until the attacks are stopped by Wheaton's IT Department, all students should be wary of all suspicious emails sent to their Wheaton accounts.

## Issue #6 crossword answers

1	S	U	B	Z	E	R	O		8	A	T	T	
11	F	R	E	E	G	A	N		12	C	H	A	
13	O	N	E	T	O	G	O		14	E	E	K	
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17	P	O	M	P		20	R	E	S	O	R	T	
22	A	L	A	S					23	A	N	E	W
24	R	E	S	I	S	T			27	D	E	M	O
28	T	O	T			29	W	O	K	S			
31	T	O	O			32	A	R	R	A	Y	A	L
36	W	I	I			37	M	I	O	C	E	N	E
38	O	L	D			39	P	I	C	K	S	I	X

Rearrange the ends of 1-across, 36-across, 10-down and 17-down to reveal the theme!

To connect with  
the The Wheaton  
Wire, contact:

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Call: 508-286-3821

Got an article? An op-ed? A letter to the editor?  
Perhaps some art? Poetry?

**SUBMIT  
TO THE  
WIRE  
HERE:**



## Battle of the Bands returns to the Lyon's Den



Photo taken by Emma Smith '26

Members of People's Entrance celebrate winning with their trophy in hand. From left to right: Leo Edwards '28, Annie O'Connor '26, Zach Rakotomaniraka '27, and Mark Monteiro '26.

### Musical talent on campus increases as new competition arises

By Claire Martin '28 and Grayce Howe '29

Wheaton's annual Battle of the Bands opened up in the Lyon's Den on Saturday Feb. 21, hosting some of the best bands on campus in a night of friendly competition. Hosted collaboratively by ResLife, the Music Co-Op, Art Haus, and MAD House, the event aimed to crown a winner for the campus tradition. Midnight Melody took home the golden statue for 2025, but this year it was anyone's game.

As the reigning champions, Midnight Melody opened for the event. The band composed of five sophomores took the stage as the crowd danced,

cheered, and clapped. Their opening song was Lit's "My Own Worst Enemy."

A total of eight bands competed, two per round, but only one took home the title. Between each act, the hosts of the event, Jacob Packard '27 and John O'Meara '26, offered entertainment to the crowd and advised everyone to vote for the band and music they liked the most. Engaging audience members, Packard and O'Meara captivated the crowd with skits and jokes about pop-culture, campus ongoings, and the horror franchise Five Nights at Freddy's.

Well-known bands like Midnight Melody, People's Entrance, Vicious Kid, and Outlive the Dinosaurs joined

ranks with bands newer to the spotlight like Drip Dry, Mourning Glorie. Making their debut were bands to watch, Hallowed Ground and Lepht Shu.

The pressure was on for the young bands, as the prizes this year were especially incentivizing. The winner received a professional photo-shoot voucher, while the top two received the opportunity for a mini concert in one of our own academic buildings, reminiscent of NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series, a departure from the prizes received last year.

By playing both original and covered music, the bracket advanced from the qualifiers, to the semifinals, and then to the finals. Midnight Melody, Drip Dry,

People's Entrance, and Vicious Kid all advanced to the second round.

Afterwards, Drip Dry played against Midnight Melody and won by 1 percent of the vote. People's Entrance played against Vicious Kid, and successfully moved on as well.

The finale was intense as Drip Dry went against People's Entrance. Playing original music, the first-year student band potentially had a shot at winning the entire event. However, People's Entrance—comprised of Mark Monteiro '26, Leo Edwards '28, Zach Rakotomaniraka '27, Annie O'Connor '26, and Walker Elsaesser '24—covered Måneskin's "Beggin" and swept the entire competition.

"Everyone involved in the Battle of the Bands was so amazing and we are so thankful to be a part of such an amazing community," People's Entrance said after their win.

In a twist of fate, the band had actually lost the finale last year to Midnight Melody after a close battle, so this was a full-circle moment for the friends.

They also expressed that this isn't their last show. "People's Entrance are all such good friends and cannot wait to continue playing for everyone around campus. So much love!" the band shared.

The next event will most likely be Wheaton Woodstock, so keep an eye out for information regarding that!

## MLK Legacy Celebration, continued from front

But his work reaches out much further than that, as Dr. Darren Wallace '07 made abundantly clear in his keynote address that he delivered at the celebration. Dr. Wallace is an associate professor of education policy and an associate professor of Africana studies at Brown University, as well as a Wheaton College alum.

The substance of his speech mentioned current attempts by the Trump administration to mock and erase Black history, along with their assault on educational institutions, but more so jabbed at the root of ignorance: the overall decay of history as a whole. He used King's "I Have a Dream" speech as an example; it was popular and influential, but Dr. King likely wouldn't have even improvised that portion of his speech had it not been for Mahalia Jackson, a prominent gospel singer who urged Dr. King to "Tell 'em about

the dream."

Furthermore, Dr. Wallace elaborated on his own experiences. He spoke about his exposure to Dr. King at a young age and his interactions with students in London and New York City, noting a clear limit on Black history studies in the educational system. He found that currently, the curriculum tends to silence the stories and sacrifices made by people like Dr. King. "We should not undermine Dr. King's message, as we cede power to fools," Dr. Wallace proclaimed.

All in all, Dr. Wallace's address never sought to invalidate King's speech but instead aimed to highlight that the moment may be one of the few familiar instances that people can recognize — that there were more pieces to the Civil Rights Movement and more advocates that made it so. When Dr. Wallace mentioned Rosa Parks and what

happened following her arrest, he noted how silent sacrifice truly is, as she struggled financially afterward despite her celebrated actions on Dec. 1, 1955.

Dr. Wallace then wrapped up by leading everyone through an exercise: finding someone in the room they hadn't met before and discussing what they would choose to do differently following the address. Wallace then left the crowd with, "No feel-good stories, as Dr. King wouldn't want that." Along with that, these instructions: Demand democracy, defend diversity and dismantle educational inequality.

Other speakers at the event included President Michelle Whelan, the Black Student Association, Dr. Luis F. Paredes and Dean Raquel Ramos, the latter two of whom led the distribution of awards for the MLK Student Creativity Showcase and the MLK Legacy Awards.



Photo taken by Jonathan Purvis '29  
Dr. Darren Wallace '07 delivering his keynote address at the MLK Legacy Celebration.

## The Only Thing I Fear By Tala Bridgeland '28

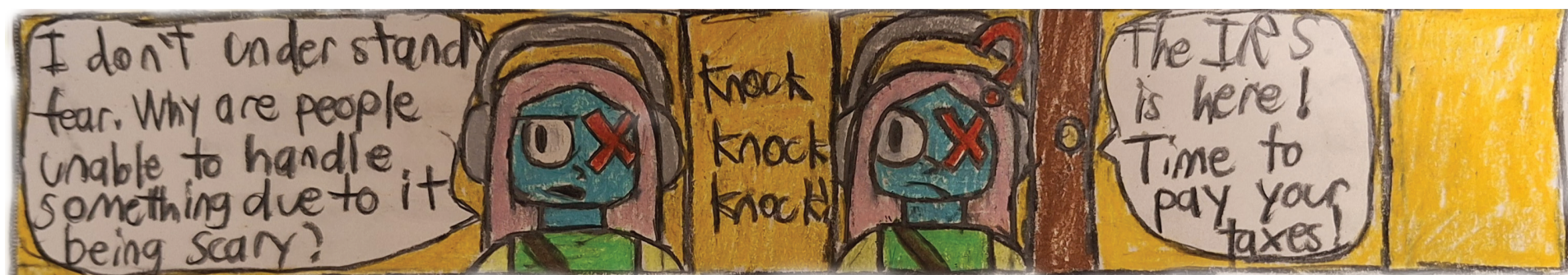




Photo taken by Deren Sozer '27

Wheaton's East Asian Student Association Executive Board poses with Imperial Lion Dance Group performers. From top left to bottom right: Gabriel Albernaz '26, Emma Zhou '27, Rebecca Fang '28, Stephanie Kumnick '28, Chumeng Zhang '27, Mandi Zhu '26, and Adri Rhee '27.

## A Roaring Start to the Lunar New Year

**Khushi Parikh '26**

On Feb. 20, 2026, the East Asian Student Association (EASA) welcomed students, staff, and faculty alike with red envelopes as they trickled into Emerson Dining Hall for the much-awaited Lunar New Year celebration. The evening featured student dance numbers, a stellar KAOS set, and a guest performance by Dance Revelasian, whose breath-taking martial arts-inspired showcase drew cheers from the crowd.

The evening's program

was thoughtfully curated to keep the audience engaged throughout. Between performances, interludes such as spontaneous Lunar New Year trivia invited audience participation, with winners earning priority passes for food. Did you know why dumplings are traditionally eaten during the new year? Their shape resembles ancient Chinese gold ingots, and eating them is said to usher in prosperity and wealth.

The main program culminated in a showstopping Imperial Lion Dance. The lions leapt and weaved through

the audience, playfully “nibbling” heads for good luck before ending with a festive burst of confetti.

But even after the final bow, the celebration continued, as students sampled a wide array of East Asian dishes, closing their meals with fortune cookies. Simultaneously, a calligraphy booth hosted by Kunbo Sun '26 offered students the opportunity to have their names or festive greetings written in Chinese characters on decorative red paper—another keepsake of the evening celebrating the Year of the Fire Horse.



Photo taken by Deren Sozer '27

Imperial Lion Dance Group performs the New Year Lion Dance.

## Spring 2026 elections: What you need to know

The election season for the Student Government Association is officially underway and candidates must attend at least one information session in order to run for an open position. The declaration of candidacy form can be located on Engage after attending one of the following sessions in the Club Hub:

- \* Thursday, Feb. 26 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- \* Sunday, March 1 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM
- \* Monday, March 2 | 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- \* Wednesday, March 4 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM
- \* Thursday, March 5 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### Campaign Period:

- \* Begins: Monday, March 16 at 9:00 AM
- \* Ends: Wednesday, March 25 at 9:00 AM
- \* Campaigning may begin only after candidates receive an email titled “You Are Cleared to Begin Your Campaign” from SGA Advisor Nicole Cullura.

### Key election dates:

- \* Feb. 23 – Mar. 5: Information Sessions Period
- \* Mar. 2 (12:00 PM): Declaration of Candidacy Opens
- \* Mar. 11 (12:00 PM): Declaration Closes
- \* Mar. 13: Candidates Cleared by End of Day
- \* Mar. 16 (9:00 AM): Campaigning Begins
- \* Speech Night: To Be Announced
- \* Mar. 23 (9:00 AM): Election Day in Balfour Hood. Voting Opens 9:00 AM
- \* Mar. 25 (9:00 AM): Voting Closes
- \* Mar. 25 (12:00 PM): Results Announced

### Open Positions

#### Core Four:

- \* Student Body President
- \* Vice President
- \* Executive Secretary
- \* Executive Treasurer

#### Executive Board:

- \* Sustainability Board Chair
- \* Accessibility Board Chair
- \* Sexuality, Gender, and Inclusion Board Chair
- \* Academic Advocacy Council Chair
- \* Student Alumni Association Chair
- \* Intercultural Board Chair

#### Class Officers (Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029):

- \* Class Chair
- \* Treasurer
- \* Marketing & Communications
- \* Member-at-Large(s)

### Voting

Election Day: Monday, March 23, 2026

- \* Voting opens at 9:00 AM in Balfour Hood.
- \* Voting closes at 9:00 AM on March 25.
- \* Visit Balfour Hood Atrium on March 23 from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM to celebrate Election Day!

## Wheaton safety, continued from front

“They haven’t said anything,” Russo noted, “but they’re doing something.”

Jay Taylor '26 shared their experience as a Sandy Hook survivor about how the lack of transparency from Wheaton surrounding the tragedy at Brown was discouraging and difficult.

“We all see what’s happening,” they said, “we know a shooting happened.”

Taylor, along with others in the SGA meeting, explained that as students at Wheaton they wished there was more transparency from administration.

“We are adults,” Russo said, “We want to be treated like adults.”

Irish explained that both himself and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Darnell Parker spoke to dual-enrolled Wheaton students on Brown’s campus on the night of the shooting to make sure everyone was

okay and safe. From that point onwards, the administration focused on enhancing safety protocols on campus, meeting on Jan. 5, 2026 to discuss the matter.

According to Wheaton College President Michaele Whelan, who spoke to the Wire via email, Wheaton immediately contacted its students at Brown following the news of the shooting. “We were able to reach all Wheaton students enrolled in courses at Brown to ensure they were not on campus at the time and were safe,” she said. “We stayed in close contact with Norton PD for updates regarding the search for the shooter. Authorities indicated there was no known impact or threat to the Wheaton campus or surrounding area.”

Whelan also spoke on administration’s decision to not put out a formal

response. “Our decision not to issue a campus-wide announcement was based on the information available to us at the time—specifically that there was no direct threat to our campus community,” she said. “We had largely concluded final exams, and most students had already left for the holidays, which further informed our assessment.”

“We strive to balance timely communication with care not to create alarm or circulate updates when there is no immediate safety concern or change in information.” Whelan continued. Recognizing the emotional weight of the situation, she encouraged any concerned community members to reach out to the Dean of Students Office or Human Resources for supportive resources, according to the email.