

APRIL 29, 2022

McCullough '23 Elected Next Student Body President



WILLIAM GRENNON '24 / PHOTO

The McCullough-Sampsell Campaign ran on a promise to get Student Senate working again. With the new Constitution having been ratified, McCullough '23 and his cabinet will be able to get started immediately, as they were sworn in earlier this week and plan to begin working over the summer to prepare for next school year.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | STAFF WRITER • On Monday, April 25, Bryce McCullough '23 and Ben Sampsell '24 were announced as the 106th Wabash Student Body President and Vice President. The ticket garnered 414 votes (70.77%) to defeat Brayden Lentz '23 and Banks Schlosser '24 in a landslide victory. This election saw the highest voter turnout in Wabash history with 76.27% of students casting votes on both the Presidential Election and the referendum on the new Student Body Constitution. The constitution passed with 67.69% of the vote. One goal of the election commission was to improve voter turnout after a dismal showing from the student body in the Fall 2022 elections. "This year, we decided to do a few things to increase voter turnout," Ben Jansen '24 said. "The first was to hold the elections for an extra length of time, 12 days instead of the normal 5. Other than that, we encouraged people to vote by having a prize for the house with the highest percentage voter turnout. Both of these steps were very successful, as we were able to get the most campus voter turnout in a long time, 76% or 585/767 students."

Newly elected President Bryce McCullough and his cabinet ran a grassroots campaign that intertwined social media usage to push

their message across campus. "First, we wanted to go to the people," McCullough said. "The first step for us was to reach out to those leaders across campus. I contacted club leaders, fraternity presidents, and RA's to let them know I'm running, why we're running, and to see if they have any questions or recommendations for the Senate. Then we opened it up and went to almost every living unit to give our pitch and listen to students and hear their questions or suggestions." The McCullough-Sampsell campaign has consistently advocated for there to be more unity across campus and direct involvement between Senate and students, senate and administration, and senate and alumni. The campaign utilized social media platforms to push their message, with the catch phrase "Student Senate is on autopilot" being posted frequently to bring awareness to this issue.

Because the new constitution passed, McCullough and Sampsell will be sworn in before the semester ends, allowing them to begin work this summer. "First step, we are going to send out information about committees and form them this Summer," McCullough said. "I think that within the month after the semester ends, I'm hoping that we have those committees formed.

We want to place senators on committees so they are more actively involved in the governance of the Student Body, but we also want the most qualified candidate to be in the position." Another short term goal for the new administration is to contact club leaders and finalize the Fall semester events over the summer, including passing budgets over the Summer. "We want those budgets passed over the Summer, so our plan is to have one or two zoom meetings with the Senate this Summer. That way we can get budgets passed and club leaders can have events planned for the Fall."

McCullough's long term goals will be impactful, but will require Student Senate to be more active and involved. "First, we need to figure out what we're going to do with National Act. Everyone says that we need a year to plan that, which means we needed to get started yesterday," McCullough said. "I also think it would be good for Wabash students to have a Wabash student app where all of the accounts and websites that a student needs would be in one app. We could have MyBash, Timecard, etc. all in one place. In partnership with Crawfordsville to Campus, I hope to have a large-scale event for philanthropy, such as a talent show

where everyone on campus participates and then we send the money to whichever charity we've picked. Lastly, I think making sure that the cultural clubs on campus have the institutional support they need moving forward needs to be a priority and I also want to ensure that we have a strong foundation for the mental health needs of students."

Joining McCullough and Sampsell on the cabinet will be Ian Rollins '23 as Treasurer and Sarvik Chaudhary '25 as Secretary. McCullough is a PPE major and Rhetoric minor from Greensburg, Indiana. He was the College Republicans President, Lambda Chi Philanthropy Chair, Sphinx Club member, and former Secretary of Student Senate. Sampsell is the President of the International Student Association, President of the Wabash College Democrats, and former Vice-President of La Alianza; he plans on majoring in Political Science and minoring in Philosophy. Rollins is a PPE major and Business minor, currently serving as the President of TKE, Class of 2023 Representative, and Sphinx Club member. Chaudhary is also a PPE major from Surat, Gujarat, India, who is a Class of 2025 Senate Representative and Opinion Editor for *The Bachelor* while also being involved in WDPD, Wabash Think Tank, and Theater.

MXIBS Celebrates Long Anticipated 50th Anniversary Weekend



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Though the MXI's 50th Anniversary was actually two years ago, this event gave past and present members of the Institute a chance reconnect with one another and share their experiences of Wabash, from current Wabash students, like Kenny Coleman '22, Allen "AJ" Johnson '23, and Leo Warbington '22 (above, L-R) to former members, like Cleo Johnson '85 and Houston Mills '85 (below, on the right).



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Last Friday, the MXIBS offered a panel discussion of alumni members and spoke on their experiences during their time at the College and advice to current students.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The 50th Anniversary Weekend included a Glee Club Concert honoring the MXIBS.

Musk Buys Twitter for \$44 Billion



COURTESY OF FOX BUSINESS

Musk, who is worth more than a quarter trillion dollars, added Twitter to his portfolio on top of his ventures in Tesla and SpaceX. He promises to bring radical free speech measures to Twitter, aligning it with the First Amendment, a move many have criticized as too broad for the good of the platform.

ANDREW DEVER '25 | STAFF WRITER

• In a shocking turn of events, 50-year-old South African Billionaire Elon Musk purchased social media giant Twitter in an astonishing \$44 billion transaction. The Tesla and SpaceX CEO's proposed the final offer over the past couple of days, with Twitter's board of directors unanimously accepting and approving it early in the morning on Monday, April 25. The deal will take Twitter private, changing its status as a publicly-traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). On the stock market, Twitter's stock rose significantly by six percent following the announcement of Musk's purchase and the completion of the deal. As a result, Musk has gained total control over Twitter and its assets.

Musk's involvement in Twitter began on April 4, when the billionaire decided to purchase enough stock in the company to become a major

shareholder, holding over nine percent of Twitter's overall stock. Recently, SEC regulators had suggested that they had the power to subpoena Musk for allegedly controversial tweets that he had released from his account over the past year, incentivizing his substantive purchase of Twitter stock. The day after his purchase, Musk was offered a seat on the board of directors, which he originally accepted, according to current Twitter CEO, Parag Agrawal.

However, after further consideration, Musk decided to reverse his decision to join the board of directors due to his aspirations to buy the company and take it private. Within one week, Musk presented his first offer to buy Twitter, valued at \$43 billion dollars. After significant deliberation throughout much of the day, the board of directors announced that Musk's first offer to buy Twitter

had been declined.

While Musk contemplated proposing a second and final offer to buy the company, Twitter's board mulled over the proper response to Musk's inevitable second offer. It was rumored that the board had been searching for another suitable candidate to purchase the company, with shareholder pressure mounting on the board to accept Musk's second offer, should it be more expensive. However, in the ten days between the rejection of Musk's first offer and the acceptance of his second offer, Twitter was unable to identify a suitable alternative for Musk. As a result, Musk and the board members finally came to an agreement.

Consequently, through Musk's purchase of Twitter, the social media giant will be going private. This means that Twitter's shareholders will no longer be able to trade their shares openly on the NYSE once

the deal is finalized. While the deal should be finalized this week, the process of delisting Twitter on the NYSE should take a couple of weeks, allowing the opportunity for people to continue to trade Twitter stock until Twitter is completely delisted. Currently, one stock of Twitter is worth approximately 50 dollars on the NYSE. As a result, upon the completion of the deal, current Twitter stockholders will be compensated \$54.20 in cash for each share of Twitter that they own.

Musk, self-described as a "free speech absolutist," released a lengthy statement following the public announcement of his purchase: "Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy... Twitter has tremendous potential [and] I look forward to working with the company and the community of users to unlock it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Begining to Look to the Future President Feller Reflects on Second Year as President of the College



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The summer months will include several restorative and implementative projects around campus that are needed in light of changes being made for the Bicentennial.

REED MATHIS '22 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

• "My hope is that next year we're able to celebrate a sense of community that we've been missing for about fifteen months," Wabash College President Scott Feller said in a similar sit-down in the April 23, 2021 issue of *The Bachelor*. Looking back on the year and at plans for the year ahead, the ambitions and plans for the future of Wabash are being put at the focal point.

In a year still muddled with the lasting effects of COVID-19 and dilemmas with housing and student life, Feller will remember the successes and ability to look ahead in the 2021-2022 academic year.

"The 50th anniversary of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) comes to mind right away in what will be remembered from this year," Feller said. "This past weekend was yet another example of the MXIBS being not only a building and organization but really a brotherhood."

Although he would not be the one to clamor about the event or focus too much on it, Feller's Inauguration last Fall stands out as one of the first premier, open events the College has had during his tenure. "The inauguration was a much bigger event than I probably imagined, and I had gone into it with more trepidation than anticipation," Feller said. It seemed that the Inauguration and many other events on campus represented a larger meaning and significance for Feller this year. "[On the Inauguration] I was happy it was an event that brought people together," Feller said. "Perhaps that aspect is the highlight of the year - events that brought us together."

Athletics greatly fostered the feeling of community, especially with the string of success and runs that many of our teams put on throughout the year. "The basketball team going to the Final Four in Fort Wayne is easy to recall from this year," Feller said. "I think the fact that

thousands of Wabash people filled up the tailgate and stadium and reports from all around the country coming together and cheering throughout the run, will be cherished too."

Feller's plans for the future start with a summer slated with events, projects, and conversations that will shape the next decade for the College. "With the completion of the Student Body presidential elections, I am anxious to sit down with Bryce [McCullough] '23 and learn more about his vision for the student body and student government," Feller said. Feller also talked about possible future generations of Wabash students. "We will have the first edition of a program called 'Pathways to Your Future' designed for high school sophomores and juniors," Feller said. "With hundreds of interested students applying and space for 25-30, we are excited about what that will bring."

In planning for the residential life of current and future students, the COVID-19 crisis highlighted a change Feller noticed in recent years. "In looking more forward as a College, I think one lesson I have learned was that the residential experience is crucially important here," Feller said. "We missed that aspect on campus, especially in the Spring of 2020."

While it is easy to stay fixated on what is going wrong or what to worry about, there are many individuals and constants that position the community for continued success. "We are blessed at our College to have a lot of very engaged stakeholders," Feller said. "The numbers are not all in for the Ninth Day of Giving, but it looks like on a per student basis, we will probably lead the nation again."

Ensuring this kind of commitment and affinity with members who graduated starts years, even decades in advance. "Our sustainability as a College relies on doing well in several areas, but one is maintaining a strong enrollment,"

Feller said. "With three remote recruiters in Chicago, Dallas, and Phoenix, we aim to continue to recruit strong in Indiana and with talented individuals throughout the nation."

Amidst turmoil throughout the nation with small, private institutions, Feller

remains cognizant of a distinction that helps guide him in leading our College heading to our bicentennial. "Wabash has always been a bit of an outlier in higher education," Feller said. "We have not taken the road most traveled. We always take the road less traveled."

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

Congratulations, Jack Davidson '22



IAWM Scholar-Athlete Award Winner

IndyWabash.org

@IndyWabash

Musk Buys Twitter, Continued

Interestingly, Musk has not always been so optimistic about Twitter’s role in social media. In the past year, Musk frequently criticized the company that he now owns for alleged censorship and violations of its users’ First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Musk has pledged that he will end unfair restrictions on free speech perpetrated by Twitter and strive to implement new policies to counterbalance Twitter’s alleged censorship. To prove his point, before the official announcement of the completion of his deal with Twitter, Musk released a tweet that said, “I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means”.

While the deal is relatively new, and fallout from Musk’s purchase will continue to ensue, Twitter will certainly change under the direction of Musk in the coming years. In a planned employee meeting, scheduled Monday afternoon to discuss the change in

ownership, numerous Twitter employees expressed vehement opposition to the purchase, voicing concerns over the billionaire’s plans to implement absolute free speech on the platform. Many acknowledged that while Musk has seen extreme success in running other companies, like Tesla and SpaceX, his unpredictability could prove problematic for the company’s future. Other employees were optimistic about Musk and his vision for Twitter, claiming that they were looking forward to seeing some changes around the company and that his record “speaks for itself.” The town hall also discussed the possibility that Twitter may no longer earn revenue from advertising.

For his part, Musk has continued to remain enthusiastic about this new business chapter in his life, fulfilling a dream he realized in a tweet from 2017. Musk remarked about his interest in Twitter, when a fellow Twitter user suggested he should buy the company. Musk replied: ‘How much is it?’ Five years and \$44 billion dollars later, he has his answer.



COURTESY OF FOX BUSINESS

The billionaire’s purchase of Twitter sends ripple effects across all markets and is top of mind for those who worry about the direction of Twitter.

Supreme Court Wrapping Up Term Full of Controversy

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | NEWS EDITOR

• Every year, the Supreme Court of the United State (SCOTUS) decides fewer than 100 cases, most of which are unanimous. However, every term, four of five cases get attention from most Americans because they are on the most controversial issues of the term. This year is no different. And with a more conservative Court ruling on guns, school prayer, immigration, vouchers, and abortion, this term is sure to be remembered.

First, *Roe v. Wade* hangs in the balance, given the case on Texas’ abortion ban and Mississippi’s 15-week abortion restriction. The Texas abortion ban allows private citizens to sue women who get abortions after 6 weeks and people that might help them get them, including any employee of an abortion facility and the person that drives them to the operation. During the arguments on this case, lawyers from all over the political spectrum came out against this law. If Texas can essentially ban something by privatizing enforcement, other states could enact laws doing the same. In fact, California Governor Gavin Newsom pledged to create a similar law banning firearms in California if this law is allowed.

The other abortion case at the Court this term involves Mississippi’s law banning abortion before 15 weeks. At stake, in this case, is the legacy of *Roe*

v. Wade, which allowed limitations on abortions at the time of viability, commonly believed to be at 24 weeks. This law, if allowed to stand, would change that line. Many fear that a decision to move the line to 15 weeks might signal that the Court would allow other timelines or total bans on abortion. These two cases combined could signal the end of legal abortion in the United States of America.

As of Wednesday, April 27, none of these cases have been decided, but just yesterday, April 28, was a decision day. Many expect *NY Rifle & Pistol Association Inc v. Bruen* to be the opinion released yesterday. This case, which was the model for the Fall 2019 Wabash Moot Court, involves a New York law regulating gun licenses. New York requires that someone show cause that they need a concealed firearm before they give them a concealed carry license, making New York a “may issue” state, meaning that they do not have to issue concealed carry licenses. Two men are challenging that law as unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

This case’s implications are massive. Many expect this conservative Court to rule in favor of the gun owners in this case and interpret the Second Amendment to allow “constitutional carry,” meaning that anyone can carry a firearm concealed for any or no reason. Indiana recently adopted this sort of

policy and if the Supreme Court rules against New York, it would affect the laws of eight other ‘may issue’ states, including California, Hawaii, and Massachusetts. The Court hasn’t ruled on the Second Amendment since 2006, so this will be a landmark case, no matter the outcome. However, it won’t be the first landmark case this term.

Just Wednesday the Court heard arguments in a Biden Administration challenge to the Migrant Protections Protocols, otherwise known as the ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy. Last August, a judge in Texas reinstated the policy and the Supreme Court did not block that ruling, instead setting up this challenge to the policy. The Trump Administration implemented the policy to ensure that immigrants who came through Mexico did not cross the border and stay in America before they received a trial on their claims for asylum. This case will determine if the Biden Administration can end that policy, or if federal law requires that policy to remain in effect.

Religion in schools is back at the Court. The largest case involving religion in schools is one involving a Washington (state) High School’s Head Football Coach and his right to pray at school. *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* looks at a coach who was fired for praying at school - not because he was praying, but because his prayer may have been coercive to students, violating the Establishment

Clause of the Constitution. On one occasion, Kennedy went to the 50-yard line after a game and led a group of players in prayer from both teams in that game. Bremerton fired Kennedy because they felt that his public prayers may make students feel that they have to pray. In the record, one of Kennedy’s students said that he felt that he had to pray or else his playing time would be cut.

At stake, in this case, is a whole line of Constitutional interpretation reaching back to the 1970s from a case called *Lemon v. Kurtzman*. In that case, the Court ruled that any law must have a secular purpose, must not primarily advance or endorse religion, and must not excessively entangle the government in religion. Lawyers for Kennedy said that if the Court were to rule for him, they must overturn *Lemon*. After last term, if the Court rules for Kennedy in this case, it would signal a major change in Establishment Clause jurisprudence for the Court, looking at most issues through a Free Exercise lens, seeing any limitation on religion as an affront to Free Exercise.

The Supreme Court decides the most important cases in the country. The majority are nearly-unanimous. However, a select few cases, including those on abortion, guns, immigration, and religion are the most controversial. This conservative Court could change America as we know it. Be sure to pay attention as it does.

CAVE Life

MXI Honors Dr. Robert Wedgeworth '59



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Dean for Professional Development Steven Jones '87 (right) congratulating Dr. Robert Wedgeworth '59 (left), just prior to the unveiling of his portrait.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

President Scott Feller sharing a few words about Wedgeworth, who was the first Black member of the Sphinx Club.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

After a 2-year delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies celebrated its 50th anniversary.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

MXIBS alumni from across the nation came back to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Berg And Coleman Tapped to Speak At Commencement



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Adam Berg '22 (left) and Kenny Coleman '22 (right) were both nominated by their senior peers, and selected to speak at this year commencement. The commencement proceedings will return to the Mall this year and is scheduled for May 14.

SARVIK CHAUDHARY '25 | OPINION EDITOR • A few weeks ago, Dean of the College Todd McDorman sent an all-campus e-mail informing all faculty, students, and staff that Johnathan (Kenny) Coleman '22, and Adam Berg '22 would be the Commencement Speakers for the Class of 2022.

Early in the Spring, a message is sent from the Dean of the College's office inviting seniors to submit their names to be considered as Commencement speakers. Those students are then considered by the Dean of the College, Professor of Rhetoric Todd McDorman; the Dean of Students, Associate Professor of German Gregory Redding '88; and the three academic division chairs Professor of Biology Amanda Ingram, Professor of German Brian Tucker, and Professor of Economics Joyce Burnette; along with consultation provided by the Rhetoric department on the students' public speaking experience.

"We seek to select two students who we think will well represent their classmates on Commencement Day

and who have an interesting Wabash journey or story to tell," McDorman said. "We discuss the students' holistic Wabash experience and consider what they have done on campus. This includes considering their leadership roles, activities, and what they have contributed to campus life. It is a great honor to be selected as Commencement speaker and it is a tremendous opportunity to reflect on their and their classmates' time at the College while looking toward the future and their futures as Wabash graduates."

A lot of the students who knew either Coleman or Berg - or even both -, were incredibly pleased with Dean McDomarman's picks for the Commencement Speakers, including their fellow classmate, Reed Mathis '22. "It would be easy to say that these two are the perfect embodiment of what Wabash men represent, but I don't have to do it," Mathis said. "Look at the legacy they have left behind over the last four years. Whether with their respective athletic teams, living units, or the organizations they were a part of,

these two have represented the best of what Wabash has to offer."

Coleman and Berg have been resilient, as both a student and a leader, throughout their four years here, and have been constantly living up to, as well as setting the standards of being a Wabash man.

"Berg was the president of FIJI last year," Latham Davies '22 said. "He's always been a leader. And he's always been very principled. I think that makes him really approachable. He's so nice and considerate that people are attracted to his energy and that's certainly why he was chosen as the commencement speaker. He's one of those people that...you want to hang out with and you kind of want to be like them, and he's legitimately a person you can walk up to have a conversation with any time."

Coleman is equally appreciated by his friends who have worked and known him throughout their four years of college. "Kenny is easily one of the best leaders and hardest working students I've ever met during my Wabash experience," Leo Warbington

'22 said. "When I first found out he was a commencement speaker, I was excited for him, but not surprised, especially because he's a very vocal and articulate individual. He's the perfect commencement speaker you could ask for. I look forward to his many well-deserved successes after Wabash."

"Kenny and Adam were ideal representatives of the sorts of qualities and experiences that I've mentioned," McDorman said. "They have made an impact on this campus. They have been leaders—at the MXIBS for Kenny and as a CARE Team Leader and part of global health for Adam. And they have sought to make this place better. They are also strong inside and outside the classroom and involved in activities all over campus, from athletics to leadership positions that serve their fellow students. They are great representatives of the Class of 2022. But I'd also be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that there are other great representatives too. This is a hard decision! And we know other students have both made a lasting impact at Wabash and would do a great job too."

Climate Change and Lake Michigan

JUSTIN TO '23 | STAFF WRITER • A large majority of Earth's surface freshwater can be found within the 10 largest lakes around the world, one of these being Lake Michigan the fourth largest lake. Lake Michigan provides a multitude of services not only for our local communities but many other people around the country/world. A couple examples of these services include providing drinking water and water for agriculture, food, and tourism. Each of these services help to sustain local communities touching the lake, but as well as communities such as ours here at Wabash College. However, as climate change continues to alter temperature levels throughout the year, Lake Michigan and other lakes around the world will begin or continue to change as well.

With air temperatures continuing to rise due to climate change, it has been observed that both surface-water and deep-water temperatures are rising as well. In order to observe this, researchers from the Great Lakes

Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI looked at nearly 30 years of data from various points on Lake Michigan. Utilizing this data, Eric J. Anderson et al. were able to determine that the lakes water temperatures followed an almost "heart-beat" like pattern, but continued to warm as time went on. This "heart-beat" like pattern is not the concerning part, but rather normal. This is because as the seasons change throughout the year, the temperature of the water will change as well. These changes in water temperature eventually causes for the water within the lake to move, or turnover. In other words, when the air temperature begins to decrease, moving from fall to winter, the warmer water at the surface of the lake will move towards the bottom of the lake pushing the colder water at the bottom to move upwards. The process of turnover is important to keeping a lake healthy because it helps to move nutrients around, balances various animal and plant populations, and helps maintain water temperatures

as a whole.

However, as fall temperatures continue to rise and extend further into the year turnover starts later and later, lowering the winter "cooling" period for Lake Michigan, leading to overall increases in water temperature.

With changes in turnover rate and water temperatures in Lake Michigan, various other processes are at risk of being altered or are continuing to be changed in ways that may have yet to be discovered. As determined by Anderson et al. 2021, Lake Michigan fits the criteria for a shift in turnover processes, moving from two mixing events to only one. This shift can cause for a reduction in dissolved Oxygen renewal in deep waters, thereby harming food web structures and the potential for invasive species to become more prevalent than native species. On top of this, these alterations may cause for a change in nutrient levels and pH value which can help to promote algal blooms, blooms that can be very toxic to humans and organisms within the lake. As well as

the change in water temperatures could affect fish growth and development, potentially hindering the fishing industry.

All in all, climate change is a very real and prominent part of the world that we live in. It has been a part of our lives since the day we were born, and will continue to impact our lives for a large portion of our future here on Earth. The impacts of climate change can be seen in a multitude of ways, with Lake Michigan being one of these places of observation.

As temperatures throughout the year begin to rise, scientists and local communities are seeing water temperatures also rising changing various delicate processes within it. With the many changes in turnover rate and warming, there is the increasing potential for toxic algal blooms and invasive species to become more prevalent, changes in nutrient levels to impact agriculture and fishing, and organismal development to potentially be stunted impacting many in the community and around the country.

Intramural Basketball Champions

Commissioner Caster '23 Recaps Another Great Season of IM's

MARK CASTER '23 | STAFF WRITER • As Wabash has pulled itself out of the remnants of a global pandemic, campus life has slowly begun to return to the highly-involved, student-led environment that pre-COVID Wabash was renowned for. Perhaps no extracurricular this spring better represented this restoration than Intramural basketball. There was a lot of expectation as the season began, and with the brutal flag football season in the fall still fresh in players' minds, said expectations were not very high. However, if there's one thing everyone knows about this place, it's that Wabash Always Fights, and fight, it did.

Over the past few months, Intramurals saw over 225 students (24 total teams) competing twice a week in vigorous competition. But it was more than just wins and losses. "IMs was a great way to

get some exercise and compete with the best there is, i.e. Beta, Baseball House, and Chops," Mark Stolte '25, Free Agents' forward, said. "IMs to me symbolized the reigniting of healthy student life here on campus," Nate Butts '23, Phi Delt star and second team All-IM guard, said. "By having IMs back, I feel like we can continue the great brotherhood that I experienced firsthand my freshman year...I think having IMs this spring was a great start to the Wabash we hope to build on next year." Intramural basketball, perhaps more than anything else, proved that anything is possible when Wabash men come together as a cohesive unit. They may not have been on the same team, but everyone participating shared the same ultimate goal to continue to put the past behind them and help foster a welcoming student-led community for Wabash men from all backgrounds.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @WABASHBETA

This year's Beta Theta Pi team included many uper classmen, including Nick Drehs '23, who was selected to this years IM's first team.

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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body’s interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas. Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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Crossword By Logan Weilbaker '25

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT

Hi-Five to Wabash students for getting through this semester. Now, where’s that Brew credit?

SOFTER THAN A DANNIE

Lo-Five to Ben Simmons for sitting out the first round of the playoffs. At least the Dannies take the field before getting swept.

BLIND AS AN ... ANGEL?

Lo-Five to Angel Hernandez for being a god-awful umpire. If you ever feel down, remember that he lost a discrimination suit against MLB because the judge agreed that he just plain sucked .

FINALS GOTCHA SCARED

Lo-Five to Bon Appetit for leaving the feathers on the chicken for Theta Delt this week. Only other students get to make fun of them like that.

GDIS VS THE WORLD

Hi-Five to Independents for getting to paint the bench. Lo-Five to the constant emails and YikYaks about it.

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| | | 13 | | | | |

Previous Puzzle

Answers:

Down: 1. DISPUTE, 2. IRA, 3. SENATES, 4. FOIL, 5. RNC, 6. NFER, 7. AIR, 11. SIS

Across: 1. DIS, 4. FIRE, 5. ROSANNE, 8. NIP, 9. ALL, 10. CLUSTER, 12. TIER, 13. ESS

- ACROSS:
1. Speak negatively about

4. Give the boot

5. 1982 Toto hit

8. ____ it in the bud

9. The Louisville Lip

10. Tight-knit group

12. Rank

13. Winding road shape
- DOWN:
1. Disagreement over a land border

2. Lyricist Gershwin

3. Employers of Todd Young and Julius Caesar

4. Distributive method acronym

5. GOP organizer

6. Cardinal or Dodger, e.g.

7. Play on television

11. Member of the fam

Mental Health Through A Global Pandemic

ANDREW DEVER '25 | STAFF WRITER •

As Wabash enters one of the most stressful periods of the year, with numerous essays, presentations, and final exams looming ominously on the horizon, mental health becomes a common area of concern for many in the community. Those concerns have only worsened with the continued effects of a global pandemic.

Mental health continues to be consistently overlooked over the course of the pandemic. According to a National Institute of Health (NIH) study reproduced by Mental Health America, the United States’ leading mental health non-profit, “46 percent of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition in their life.” However, in 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, approximately 20 percent (50 million Americans), experienced mental illness. At the same time, while the percentage of adolescents and young adults with a mental illness had been slightly increasing during the 2010s, the COVID-19 pandemic served as a catalyst to exacerbate both the severity and frequency of mental health illness in these demographics globally. According to the World Health Organization in March 2022, “In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25%”. The stress and anxiety stems from the constant stream of negative information, higher death rates, and worrying statistics especially affected child and young adults, including college aged men. A recent Center for Disease Control study backed this statistic, finding that 37 percent of U.S. high school students reported regular mental health struggles during COVID-19.

Unfortunately, Wabash is seeing the same national and global trend of deteriorating mental health in the community, coming from the stresses and anxieties resulting from the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Many Wabash students struggle to deal with the changes and added responsibilities in the COVID-19 era, coupled with the

continual demands and stresses of returning to a normal Wabash education. While recent discussion in the public sphere about mental health has increased, male students are often overlooked and forgotten. This comes down to a lack of awareness about the pertinence and prevalence of mental health concerns in young college men and the meticulous attention required to properly address men’s mental health. Luckily, Wabash is promoting different mental health initiatives on campus.

Wabash leveraged different groups, wellness committees, students, and athletic teams to combat the stigma associated with mental health. These various organizations strive to foster and maintain a healthy environment for all students on campus that does not criticize and judge Wabash men for dealing with mental health struggles. This is especially necessary given the difficulty of Wabash College, a rigorous education provided in the middle-of-nowhere Indiana, an important theme exemplified in the popular “Wabash Is Not Easy” t-shirts.

In addition to the frequent outreach, resources, and open counseling safe spaces provided by the Counseling Center, which has seen a resurgence in its role in aiding students after the pandemic, the #BASHtheStigma movement greatly improved public perception of mental health. Through the Mental Health Concerns Committee (MHCC), Wabash organized numerous events to promote discussions about mental health and restore the Brotherhood damaged by the pandemic. For example, last semester saw several Wabash students participate in a #BASHtheStigma panel, which consisted of the panelists discussing their experiences with mental health on campus, struggles and successes with various issues, and successful strategies they found helpful in improving their health. Additionally, this semester has seen weekly fireside chats, a Chapel talk, and QPR certification sessions to aid Wabash students in recognizing



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Jacob Maldonado '24 destressing with fellow students at a football game this past fall.

and attending to mental health issues.

These efforts culminated this past weekend during the tailgate for the home Rugby tournament. Before the Wabash Rugby team cruised to victory in several matches, continuing to build on their momentum by remaining undefeated on the season, the MHCC partnered with several Wabash organizations, including the Sphinx Club and La Alianza, to host a charity cornhole tournament and a homerun derby contest at Goodrich Park. The entry fees were donated to Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services, a locally based organization in Crawfordsville dedicated to helping people struggling with their mental health.

While considerable progress is needed, the efforts made by Wabash

organizations, such as the Counseling Center and MHCC, have already demonstrated the possibility of meaningful change in the perception and treatment of mental health. Hopefully, this will help Wabash push back against the national trend of increasing mental illness and serve as a model for other universities striving to help their students.

Additionally, the Animal Welfare League (AWL) and MHCC will be hosting an event, similar to the AWL event in the fall, where Wabash students can come meet and pet dogs. This will happen April 28-29, from 3-4.30 p.m. and will allow students to release some stress before a jam packed week of finals.

Letter to the Editor: The R-Slur

Luis Rivera '25 & Dakota Baker '22

The “R-word”: a slur that was originally a medical term used to describe people with intellectual impairments, is now at the forefront of harmful rhetoric used in our society today. It is as dangerous as any other slur or form of hate speech but appears more prevalent and casual. Why is that? Why is it that a slur towards the disabled community is more comfortably said than any of the others? Why is it that in practically every living unit on campus, the word is uttered daily without a second thought?

Consider what is meant by using the r-slur casually to your friends, where it may seem an innocuous enough use of the term among close company.

You might reason that no one in your company would take the term as a personal affront to their identity – surely, none of us at Wabash could account for ourselves for using the term in reference to its historical victims – but what does it mean that we are so comfortable and unthinking in our use of the term towards our friends? The offense doesn’t cut short within our circles – in its casual and repeated use, we reinforce the term as sufficient language for describing people and their behavior. When we give oxygen to such language, we sustain its harmful meanings and continue to marginalize those for whom the language was built to reduce.

Additionally, humor is not an excuse

to spew artifacts of hate. Even if you do not believe you are an ableist, your use of this slur innately is, and there is no way around that. Just because it was “just a joke” does not make it okay. As members of the Wabash community, we should hold ourselves to a higher standard than allowing humor to be a trojan horse for hate speech and harmful rhetoric.

These claims might seem obvious, well-worn, or possibly tedious to some on campus, but we encourage those who find themselves comfortable (or perhaps, indifferent) with this ableist language to think critically about how this slur could still find a home at a school that prides itself on gentlemanly conduct. We implore you to rethink

the ease with which you say this word, as well as how easily you may accept others’ use of the word. Even if you don’t mean to be hurtful, saying this word as synonymous with “dumb” or “idiotic” equates the disabled to such things. You simply cannot say this word without innately reducing the disabled to less than, and we ask that, in the pursuit of a more inclusive and thoughtful community, we collectively abolish such language from our vocabulary.

You can reply to this column at djbaker22@wabash.edu and lrivera25@wabash.edu

The Smallness



Latham Davies '22

Reply to this editorial at lldavies22@wabash.edu

It’s hard to construct a vision of Wabash that grasps its ethos in a personal way. And perhaps that’s why we fall on our cliches to attempt an epitaph for these College days. The lyrics from Old Wabash and the clanging of the College’s mission statement fall flat on chapped ears, all faces in agreement but all hearts wishing for something more sincere. Any student will hear those phrases from their first day till their last and there’s no changing that. We have a story and we’re sticking to it. Love it or loathe it, it’s here to stay. But I truly believe that there is something distinct about Wabash beyond its name and marketing. Something brings people back

to walk the brick paths, see the Monon Bell game, and meet with the students who attend here with the hope of their success. It could probably be boiled down to a type of nostalgia, but even that doesn’t ascribe to it the right amount of character. It has few things to do with the academics or the rigor. For me, the memorable things weren’t the tests I took or the commendations I achieved. It was more the things that were left undone that fill me with pathos.

There is something to be said about the smallness of these four years, about one’s personal skirmish with this physical half of a square mile. From my perspective now as a senior, the brevity feels all too apparent. And more recently my mind has turned to be excited for my friends who will remain here. In all the small ways, they will grow in their capacity as a College. Getting mud thrown up their pant legs by a brick, finding their new reading spot, stumbling upon time to go to Chapel, or discovering a way to blow the downtime during finals week are experiences that will color our reminiscence more than we think. The wonderful mysteries that keep people coming back are in those small personal moments with the essence of the College, the spirit of the physical

place, the structure, and, the people that happen to be there. I sometimes confide in people about the concept of “Wabash Characters,” folks that you see too often on campus and who have personalities to match their prolific nature. It’s beginning to set in that I will not have another somewhat awkward yet illuminating conversation with my own set of Wabash Characters for a long time. That makes me feel like I missed something.

Four years of tenure is too little time to allow you to meet everyone who you’re supposed to meet and do everything you probably should, but it’s more than enough time to make you realize that there is no other Wabash out there and that in this small place you have likely been a significant part of a story that will continue into perpetuity in the minds of many. People will ask questions about where you came from and where you went, the deep lore about your Wabash era. And the mantle of the legacy of everything you know here will be taken up by someone new. Your books you leave behind, the things you said in conversation. You may not know the ways, but it is all so real and contained in this place. And although that wouldn’t look good on the website, it’s true.

And now I’ll leave you with a sample of

smallness that I think about often:

I used to work late nights at the Brew sophomore and freshman year. 7 to 11pm, 4 days a week. I’d mop my way out of those 300 square feet, throw a heavy trash bag of old coffee grounds and recycling into the dumpsters next to Sparks, and I would slowly make my way across the Mall in the snow and dark in the early Spring. My eyes were held open by both the caffeine buzzing in my head and the sharp cold hitting my eyes as I stared down the short trek across campus to the FIJI house. Many times, as if being called to, I would look up to see the Pioneer Chapel illuminated by flood lights, almost ominous. The structure lorded over everything around. Light was thrown down the alley of the academic strip, gleaming off the snow coating the ground. And as if it were a good friend I hadn’t seen in a while, it was a serendipitous meeting. I would stop and stare. My mind would be blank for a moment. The air like a cold blanket would wrap around my ankles up to my face. The Mall felt like a glacial expanse and the Chapel magnified. It was almost ghostly, as if it were a dream. I would look around. No one would be around. But I had the feeling that I wasn’t the only one to have had that encounter.

In Lieu of an Adieu...



Alex Rotaru '22

Reply to this editorial at arotaru22@wabash.edu

So, this is it, huh...? The final opinion of my time as a student. It’s been a rough four years, filled with ups and downs, from every fraternity and the Sphinx Club rejecting me more times than I can count to presenting at the Celebration of Student Research and leading the Chemistry Club into a completely new direction. Truth is, I’m exhausted, and I don’t blame anyone for being the same. As my final sleepless Wednesday for a while comes to an end, I just wanted to give you my final pearls of wisdom as a student, before this chapter ends.

One of the big things I have noticed around these parts is how much people pick up their in-group’s mannerisms, phases, and behaviors. I’d highly encourage you to get out of your in-groups and find people with whom you can keep interacting. I know I never had an in-group, and the further Wabash went into the pandemic, the

more isolated I started feeling. So, I encourage you to start breaking free of your small world, be it your house or some organization you spend a lot of time in. You might find your newest best friend - that’s what happened to me!

Second, dispel your ignorance and become an advocate for the voices who need to be heard. My legacy with *The Bachelor*, and with Wabash in general, involves building larger tables where people of all walks of life and of all diversity are welcome. This is something I never would have even expected coming in, just because I didn’t know what DEI truly meant and what role it served. I’m glad I got a chance to experiment and learn about these topics through my classes and through my involvement. If you need help getting started, one way is to ask any diverse person what they need, and listen.

Third, question everything. And I mean everything. Everyone comes from an environment into Wabash, which is completely different, and assimilates without questioning. I scrutinized everything, even though (or, should I say, which is why) I seemed to buy into the place wholeheartedly. As I learn more about things I need to look out for, what I perceive changes, and so do my opinions. Though my love for Wabash did wane quite a bit over the past few years, it never truly died, as I know I couldn’t be where I am today without it. In some ways, it simply morphed into a quieter appreciation for the little things: for the faculty’s kindness and for the good coffee, for learning about race and gender and for making my first friends.

Know that it’s fine to change. Seriously, I can say I’m not the person I was when I started Wabash - heck, I’m not the person I was when I started the year. I let go of a lot of things in my time here, including my ungodly schedule from freshman year, when I used to sleep 4 hours per day. I can’t pull that off anymore - and I shouldn’t!

Am I bitter? Very. I have been passed over for so many things during my time here. However, because of my insane schedule, I had a warped sense of what was ‘enough.’ It literally took getting quarantined last Friday and realizing I needed to message 20 people about it that it finally broke through to me that, even though I was at my lowest involvement in years, it was still a lot. It took almost giving up my editorial position out of frustration to realize how much it meant for me to be a campus journalist for the past four years.

Though I’m not a Commencement Speaker, a Senior Chapel Speaker, or a Class Agent (and I’m still very bitter for not getting the latter), I have a legacy with this place. It’s in playing my part in building the diversity I see at staff meetings with *The Bachelor*. It’s in stepping up for my first role in a Theater production, *Where is Our Beloved Community?*, when I dropped my accent publicly for the first time as I told a story about how people of color feel unsafe walking out into Crawfordsville at night. It’s in the various articles and opinions in this publication. And, most of all, it’s in bits of tape you can still find on chairs in Ball Theater and on the floor upstairs in the Chapel, as well

as with a seemingly-innocuous piece of wood with a little paint on its ends that has been tagged and sitting in the Archives for over a year.

The last piece of wisdom I have? When your time comes, let it go. It can be so easy to get all caught up in doing everything on campus and feeding your ego and resume while you’re at it. I always knew senior year involved rendering myself obsolete by the end, but it was much easier said than done. It can be hard to disentangle yourself from campus life, especially when you know you will be bored, but that’s something I learned in quarantine: let it go; the sun will rise tomorrow if you give your positions to someone else, especially if you have your legacy set in stone, like I do. And you will know when your time comes: that’s what getting hit by senioritis is all about!

My time has certainly come. It’s been a weird four years, but it’s time to pass on the baton. No more making sure the apostrophes all point in the right direction. No more spamming everyone with an email about writing an opinion piece at 7.30 a.m. And certainly no more late Wednesday nights in the basement of the Armory. It’s bittersweet, and I feel like all Little Giant athletes can echo the feeling of retiring from something that has been a core part of your life. As I write these final sentences, tears begin falling from my eyes, knowing that this was it. I’m at peace with what I’ve done here, at Wabash, and with whom I’ve become in the process. I hope you will, too, when your time comes.

Eugenics, Disability, and Wabash



Ethan Brown '24

Reply to this editorial at ecbrown24@wabash.edu

In the early 20th century, states in the U.S began to sterilize those with disabilities, and disproportionately, women of color. These sterilization laws were used as an attempt to prevent the birth of children with congenital illnesses. These laws became the framework for the laws in Nazi Germany. The opinion of SCOTUS Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, was used in the Nuremberg trials as a defense for the actions of the German government’s extermination of the disabled, of Jews, and of other undesirable groups. These sterilization

laws have not been overturned in the United States. When talking about California’s ‘Asexualization Acts’ Adolf Hitler wrote, “There is today one state in which at least weak beginnings toward a better conception [of citizenship] are noticeable. Of course, it is not our model German Republic, but the United States.”

The last state sponsored sterilization in the United States was in 1981. In 2018 a judge reduced the sentence of a woman who underwent voluntary sterilization, which he recommended, for cashing a counterfeit check.

Why does this matter for Wabash? When our buildings aren’t accessible, or when our teaching isn’t inclusive of neurodiverse students, we are participating in the legacy of eugenics. It is a hard pill to swallow; it is a pill, though, that must be swallowed.

The Beatles, a Roman Synagogue, and City Trash: My Three Pillars of a Wabash Education



Drew Bleuthmann '22
Reply to this editorial at dmblyeth22@wabash.edu

If I have learned anything at Wabash over my four years, it is the following. First, you should spend as much time learning about and doing what interests you. Second, seeing and experiencing something is learning something. Third, applying what you know in the real world is the liberal arts. These are my three pillars of a Wabash education. I have had the opportunity to do many unexpected things at Wabash, but I need not look back further than the last twelve months to illustrate these points. I will discuss each of these pillars and how they have affected my Wabash experience the previous year, and I will conclude with what it should mean for the future of the college.

First, you should spend time studying what interests you. This past semester, I took a course titled *The Beatles: A Cultural History* with Professor Royalty. This class was my favorite class I took at Wabash. From a young age I have always listened to rock music. This semester I saw that Professor Royalty was offering this class on the Beatles, and I could not pass it up. In this course, we studied the origins of Rock n’ Roll as an African American invention. We examined how Elvis popularized the genre. And we learned how the Beatles borrowed from these artists, sympathizing with the

genre as young boys from blue-collar families in North England. We listened to the Beatles’ albums and examined how they evolved in songwriting, song production, and as musicians. We studied the cultural context of their albums and how the world affected them, and how they sometimes affected the world. What made this class impactful for me was that I was intensely interested in its topic. I was getting credit for listening to some of my favorite music and learning about those who made it. I would not argue that you should not take any classes that do not interest you or that classes should be easy. However, you should be interested in what you spend the most time studying because school should be exciting. I was not necessarily interested in formal music topics. But I was interested in learning about the Beatles and the history of the 1960s. What I got out of this class was a deeper understanding of the Beatles’ catalog and a newfound interest in the formal structure of music.

My next pillar is that you learn best when you can physically see or experience something—in other words “immersion.” Last semester I took a course titled “Jesus and Jewish War with Rome,” and we studied the Jewish-Roman wars in the first century. This course was taught by Professor Royalty (I swear that this is not only a promo piece for taking Professor Royalty’s classes, but you should because he is a great professor). Part of the course included a 9-day immersion trip over Thanksgiving break to Rome. While the course was outside of my usual studies at Wabash, I took a chance on it for the immersion component. And I am very fortunate that I got into the class. While I had fun on the trip and the adventure that comes with traveling to a different country with fourteen Wabash cavemen (trust me - I have stories), that was not the most impactful part of the experience. I was shocked to find that my new understanding of the

course material through seeing ancient sites. One day during the trip, we went to Ostia Antica, an excavated ancient port city outside Rome. In Ostia, we could walk the ancient streets. These streets were cobbled paths with cart wheel lines carved into stone. We could walk into ancient bakeries, lavatories, and houses. The most relevant site was the Ostia Synagogue. We could stand inside an ancient synagogue similar to a modern synagogue that we saw in Rome. The most significant takeaway from seeing Ostia for me was that the world in ancient times is much like it is now. Seeing this for myself demystified the ancient. Through immersion, you gain a better understanding of what you learned in class and how the world functions in relation to academic jargon.

My third pillar is that applying what you learn is the basis of the liberal arts. Last summer, I got the opportunity to do an internship through the CIBE to work as an intern with Mayor Barton ’00. My fellow intern, Coledon Johnson ’23, and I were assigned to create a report on the City of Crawfordsville’s public trash service. This experience allowed me to apply what I learned as a political science major about how the government functioned and apply some business skills I had learned in the CIBE and other experiences. As it turns out, Dr. Hollander is correct—there is a difference between “doing politics” and “studying politics.” The knowledge that I gained working in city government changed how I understand the government and how individuals work in the government. On a city level, party ideologies vanish to a certain extent. I realized that the government has a much more community focused perspective outside of large scale DC politics. The question is, “how can we make Crawfordsville a better community?” And the question is not “how can I keep my party in power?”

Reflecting on these three experiences over the last three months leads me to think about the future of Wabash

College. I believe that a liberal arts education is advantageous, but only if you learn how to apply your education to the real world from the start. Wabash already does an excellent job at promoting this. Freshmen tutorial topics often focus on real-world issues. Enduring Questions books often take high-level philosophical topics grounded in subsequent readings during the course. However, Wabash can do a better job at promoting this. Two organizations that stand out to me in my experience at Wabash are the WDPD and the CIBE, and other WabashX initiatives. These organizations allow students to spend time on campus pursuing real-world interests that supplement their liberal arts education. In the WDPD, students can learn valuable skills about proctoring meetings, leading discussions, and promoting civil discourse. In the CIBE, students can explore different business interests in nearly any industry. What is stopping Wabash from expanding these WabashX initiatives? I can see a future where there are more WabashX initiatives that promote students learning in the real world. There are still more programs that could be developed in the future to promote learning in the real world and developing skills that make you a better man and gainful citizen after graduation.

These three experiences at Wabash are just examples of many more experiences that formed the person I am today. Study what interests you, learn through immersion, and take chances at applying what you have learned. At Wabash, you have these opportunities, and you should take every one of them. While I suggested expanding WabashX initiatives at Wabash, the choice is ultimately the students’. Take advantage of the amazing opportunities you have here, or make your own opportunities. You will be amazed what you can accomplish with a free hour a day, some coffee, and a Student Senate writeoff for a new club.

The Second Best Movie Ever Made



Kwaku Sarpong '22
Reply to this editorial at kksarpon22@wabash.edu

Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather* is widely considered the best movie ever made. Today...I won’t contest that. Instead, I would like to make the case that *The Dark Knight* is the second-best movie of all time. Out of eight different lists of the best movies of all time, the three movies with the most mentions were: *The Godfather* (all 8 lists); *The Shawshank Redemption* (4 lists), and *Citizen Kane* (4 lists). I’ll go ahead and explain why I think *The Dark Knight* is worthy of second place and point out where *Shawshank Redemption* and *Citizen Kane* fall just short. To analyze each movie, I will analyze three categories on a 1-10 scale – Acting, Plot/Storyline, and Iconic moments. And this contains spoilers!

Sure, *The Dark Knight* is a Batman movie, but there is so much more to it. The cast is stellar. Sir Michael and Morgan Freeman deliver memorable Alfred and Lucius Fox performances.

Gary Oldman is great as the gritty, battle-hardened commissioner Jim Gordon, Aaron Eckhart’s as the idealist Harvey Dent, and Maggie Gyllenhall’s Rachel, a crime fighting woman torn between two men she cares about. Christian Bale’s Bruce Wayne is arguably the best Batman on record. These are all excellent performances, which would warrant a solid 8/10. But Heath Ledger’s Joker takes the acting to stardom. Most good movie villains are evil cold-blooded killers, and the Joker definitely is that. But the Joker is different because he wants to do more than kill people – he wants to kill the good in people. That’s why he doesn’t kill the hospitalized Harvey Dent, but instead turns Harvey into the vengeful Two-Face. That’s why he tried to convince Gotham residents to kill Coleman Reese – to prove a point. To add to this already great performance, Heath Ledger masterfully portrays the singularity of the Joker’s character. Whether it is his maniacal laughter in the interrogation scene or waddling away from the exploding hospitals, Ledger is an absolutely brilliant Joker, and his performance makes this acting crew one of the best of all time. 9/10

Nolan’s plot writing is also brilliant. This starts as a normal Batman movie, where Batman beats up criminals, and the Joker comes to kill Batman. But from there Nolan launches us into an unflinching battle between good and evil. The Joker blows up a judge, and he kills Rachel after setting Batman on a nearly impossible race against time to save her. But even beyond this are the questions the movie asks us. We see the Joker turn Dent, Gotham’s white knight, into Two-Face, a man who kills people

based on the flip of a coin. We criticize Dent in the film, but how do we decide what is fair in a world where much is not? And how do we respond when we can’t protect those we love? The Joker sends the town of Gotham into a frenzy when he claims that he would blow up a hospital unless someone killed Coleman Reese. Again, we ask: when the chips are down, what will we look to to know what is right? The action, great scenes, and deep questions take this movie to a 9/10.

Finally, for any movie to be rated as the second best of all time, it must have legendary moments that mark it in popular culture, such as great quotes (“an offer he couldn’t refuse” – *The Godfather*), or great scenes (i.e. Michael Corleone’s first assassination - *The Godfather*). In *The Dark Knight*, many know Alfred’s great line: “Some men just want to watch the world burn.” This came at a pivotal moment in the movie, where Alfred’s simple explanation helped Wayne understand he was fighting a different type of criminal than any before. The quote is simple but profound. It’s hard to forget the Joker’s “Why so serious?”, as he uses his knife to put a smile on people’s faces. And then when the Joker burns his grand pile of money. Nothing beats the Joker sliding down this pyramid of dollar bills, lighting it on fire, and calmly saying: “It’s not about the money. It’s about sending...a message.” While maybe not as strong as *The Godfather*’s incredible iconic moments, these are strong contenders nonetheless. 8.5/10

In *The Shawshank Redemption* Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins deliver excellent lead performances with a great supporting cast. But due to the lack of a

Heath Ledger level performance, I have to give an 8/10. With the plot, we root for Dufresne as he fights injustice, and we cheer as he wins in the end. Justice, honesty, and determination take the day. But it does not considerably differ from other films, such as *Cinderella Man* and *The Pursuit of Happiness*, that have very similar plot arcs. 8/10. The film is surely iconic as the “No one looks at a man’s shoes” scene, and Andy Dufresne have greatly endeared themselves to popular culture. One learns much about the film before even seeing it. 8.5/10

For *Citizen Kane*, Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten had good all-around performances. Welles as Kane is particularly memorable, but again, it was not distinctive in the same way the Joker was. 8.5/10. In terms of plot, we follow the rise of Charles Foster Kane, a wealthy man who is slowly corrupted by greed and power. This film does force us to ask the important questions about the value of life and the dangers of money, power, and pride. 8.5/10. “Rosebud” is a great iconic moment, the cry of a great man who wanted a simple life. And one cannot forget his shout of ego as I call it: “I am Charles Foster Kane!” 8.5/10. These movies certainly deserve a more thorough review, but for the sake of space I must let this very short analysis be a conversation starter.

The final scores, *The Dark Knight* – 26.5/30. *Citizen Kane* – 25.5/30. *The Shawshank Redemption* – 24.5/30. Again, these are all great films, and I hope I have shown proper respect to all of them. At the end of the day, however, *The Dark Knight*’s acting, plot, and great moments combine to make it the second-best film ever made.

Thank you so much for reading our publication!

We will be back in August!

This is our last issue of the semester. We are grateful for the Wabash community's support. Have a wonderful summer!

Little Giants Put on a Show in an Undefeated Weekend



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The NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships are May 26-28.