

Chapel Sing competition ends in injury

Campus community weighs in on re-evaluation of tradition

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR • Students gathered on the Mall in front of the Chapel once again this year to participate in the time-honored tradition of Chapel Sing; however, things did not go according to plan. During this year's Chapel Sing, Beta Theta Pi pledges locked arms to guard the Chapel while Sphinx Club members rush them, as they do every year.

But this year, that tradition went awry, ending with the injury and subsequent hospitalization of a freshman Beta pledge. While the student in question is making a healthy recovery, questions still remain regarding campus safety and both the Sphinx Club's and school administration's role in regulating campus traditions.

"We've talked in recent years with Sphinx Club members, and students in general, about wanting to stay out of their business, but there's a couple of times when we need to get involved," said Greg Redding '88, Dean of Students. "Those are if someone gets hurt, if an activity seems to suggest that someone might get hurt, if there's property damage or damage to Wabash itself. If we can avoid those things, then we're going to stay out of student business and let them regulate their own lives."

As an all-male institution, the administration acknowledges that Wabash student life can often get physical.

"Dean Welch, I and others on our team recognize that horseplay is one way that guys show affection for each other," said Dean Redding. "Clowning around and knocking each other around a little bit is actually an expression of affection for guys much of the time."

In the past, Chapel Sing had straddled the line of student

physicality and safety to an extent that the majority of the administration was comfortable with.

"This tradition has been tolerated for now, because it stayed at the right level. We understood that it was kind of an expression of bonding," said Dean Redding. "I think it probably started with good intent but somehow escalated beyond that in this particular case. I think that the rapid escalation is what made it difficult this time. Suddenly it was beyond a level where you could step in and say, 'Hey, guys, let's bring it down a few notches.'"

"At what point are we holding on to traditions so tightly that we forget about what it means to be a community and a brotherhood?"

- Kim Johnson

Though this incident is an example of a consequence of Chapel Sing that has been widely scrutinized this year, historically Chapel Sing has never been the picture-perfect event that many consider it to be.

"It's not the first time that I have seen guys brought to the ground. It's not the first time that I have seen behavior that gives me pause at Chapel Sing; whether that's blowing smoke in guys' faces or pushing and shoving," said Kim Johnson, Honorary Sphinx Club Member and Director of Communications. "I know that it was worse 10 years before I got here and it's gotten better in some ways but, in many ways, I've also seen it become worse in terms of pushing and

shoving."

The tradition began as usual, with Sphinx Club members playfully bouncing off of Beta pledges; however, it quickly escalated into something more.

"It started as just a little bit of a push for show, but then I saw the Sphinx Club members line up and so I started heading in that direction," said Johnson. "I saw four or five Sphinx Club members and then as I saw the last person line up, I was thinking 'Okay, he's going to hold them back. He's not going to let it happen.' And then they took off and just went right into the middle."

I just kept thinking, 'somebody let go, somebody let go, somebody let go' and finally the young man went to the ground. I knew that he was on the ground. I knew that he didn't appear to be moving."

Others posit that this year's Chapel incident was a one-off and not indicative of any safety risks regarding Chapel Sing tradition.

"What happened at the Chapel that day was just an unfortunate combination of accidental factors, and things got out of hand too quickly," said Matt Lepper, a Sphinx Club member directly involved in the accident. "It unfortunately resulted in the accident that we saw on display. From my perspective, what went down was too much physicality than that in previous years."

"In this scenario, emotions ran too high, which led to a severely disappointing accident. Which is by no means the intended purpose of the prized tradition that is Chapel Sing," said Cooper Jacks, Sphinx Club President.

Both the administration and the Sphinx Club members have stressed that the outcome was unintentional and was not the result of ill will between fraternity members or specific students.

"The incident that occurred is absolutely not the outcome we had intended. Traditionally, Sphinx Club members jump into the Beta freshmen to test their ability to guard the Chapel," said Jacks. "To my understanding of the tradition, there is never meant to be any harmful or malicious intent. It is supposed to play out in the Sphinx Club members bouncing off the Beta freshmen, showing that they guarded the Chapel sufficiently."

"After talking with the mem-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Pledges of Beta Theta Pi guard the chapel as members of the Sphinx Club attempt to break through their ranks.

bers of the Sphinx Club, there was never any malice or ill will in what they did," said Cody Bevelhimer, Sphinx Club Vice President. "That's not to say that they are off the hook. The members involved in the incident have since had sit down conversations with the administration and the Beta freshman involved in the incident, and things are being handled internally."

While it's clear that there was no malicious intent behind the actions, the outcome still reflects poorly both on the Sphinx Club and the College as a whole.

"I was so incredibly disappointed with what I saw," said Johnson. "I kept thinking: if I had stepped in between would it have happened? And could I have done something differently? For me there was no greater honor than being asked to be an honorary member of the Sphinx Club nearly eight years ago. That was a really big deal, but now I'm not sure that I want to keep my pot. Because if this is what it means to be a member of the Sphinx Club, I don't want to be a part of it."

While attempts to reign in the chaos of Chapel Sing had been made during this year's Homecoming buildup, they weren't enough to prevent the injury that took place.

"We had conversations on the Wednesday prior with Sphinx Club leadership and with the current Beta Sphinx Club members as a group," said Dean Redding. "I thought we were all on the same page that this needed to be at the right level of intensity."

Despite attempts to commu-

nicate expectations regarding Chapel Sing, some standards were lost in translation and the messaging didn't make it to every member of the Sphinx Club.

"There needs to be a clear outline regarding what is expected and what is unacceptable for that kind of thing," said Lepper. "Personally, I would like to see Club members just be out of it and just have Betas guarding the Chapel. There are ways we can preserve the tradition and not squander Beta's legacy, while also eliminating any chance of some sort of physicality."

"In this scenario, emotions ran too high, which led to a severely disappointing accident, which is by no means the intended purpose of Chapel Sing."

- Cooper Jacks '24

The notion of Wabash students and the school administration working together to shift the traditions of Chapel Sing is in and of itself deeply rooted in Wabash, as Chapel Sing has looked very different at times through Wabash's history.

"I think we throw around the term tradition pretty loosely," said Dean Welch. "It says in our mission statement to think 'critically.' So yes, we have these traditions that we want to honor but we need to think critically about what they stand for. Should they continue? How do we continue them? How do

we evolve tradition to 2023?"

While Wabash traditions are malleable, the evolution of the traditions surrounding Chapel Sing is contentious among faculty and within the Sphinx Club.

"When I attend Big Bash, it's neat to see alumni from the 1940s to 2020s join in song—many with a different Chapel Sing experience and perhaps some without one at all. At the end of the day, we're united by Wabash and song, that's what's important," said Welch. "I would like the Club to take a more positive perspective and approach to Chapel Sing and other Wabash traditions, all while ensuring the safety of everyone."

"Changes are needed but I don't think we need to get rid of the tradition. The minute we start getting rid of traditions, we get rid of Wabash," said Lepper. "It's all built on tradition and the minute we start to squander that, we have to ask 'What is our purpose as a college? What separates us from any other institution at that point, if we don't have our best traditions?'"

"Moving forward, I think it is appropriate for the tradition of Sphinx Club guys jumping into the Beta freshmen to come to an end," said Jacks. "I think it's had its time and ran its course. I would love to work with Beta to see ways in which we can agree on how to evolve the tradition, as I don't think it's fair to Beta to outright squash a tradition without their input."

Communication between the Sphinx Club and Beta has been strong following Chapel Sing with ongoing conversations

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Snapshots from Homecoming Saturday



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Starting quarterback Liam Thompson '24 communicates with coaches in the stadium after an offensive drive for the Little Giants against Oberlin College.



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Sphinx Club members celebrate the 59 point offensive surge with pushups on the track. The members totaled 291 pushups when all was said and done.



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Students dressed and painted in Wabash red show their pride after a Little Giant touchdown on September 23, 2023 at Little Giant Stadium.

Chapel Sing competition ends in injury, cont.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

about how the tradition will be treated in the future.

“I spoke to the individual who was injured personally. We’re both there to support each other because we’re both going through it in different ways. What happened with the individual was physically and mentally taxing,” said Lepper.

“I expressed to the individual my want to support him in any way possible and he was very receptive. I haven’t been sleeping. This has been eating me up all week. It’s all I’ve been thinking about.”

The incident has sparked

questions about whose role it is to regulate traditional campus events and their safety.

“It’s very easy to think that the Club is at fault here entirely and completely, but we were not the only party at fault. I think the blame falls equally amongst the three parties,” said Lepper. “The club facilitated it, the students participated in it and the faculty watched and let it happen.”

While the incident has sparked a conversation on campus, questions remain about how to use this experience to analyze our traditions and pre-

vent further injury. Members of the Sphinx Club and members of the administration have met to discuss what went wrong and have pledged to discuss further in an attempt to learn for the future.

“I’ve had very supportive and encouraging conversations with Dean Redding,” said Lepper. “Now, I cannot say the same for other faculty. I won’t drop any names, but I have not been treated or reached out to in nearly the same regard or with the same respect.”

“Sooner rather than later, the Club leadership will deliver to us various protocols or ways to change or evolve Chapel Sing to ensure the safety of all students,” said Welch. “I don’t want to wait until next September to say: ‘Let’s talk about what happened last year.’ We won’t forget, but over time you lose the details.”

The goal illustrated by the Sphinx Club and the administration is one of cooperation where they work together to learn from what happened and implement productive changes for years to come.

“We’re all in it together because it’s a Wabash issue and

I’m glad it’s coming into conversation,” said Lepper. “The conversation has to be together because the administration has the power, but students have all the say. If you try to run with one or the other, we’re not going to reach the accomplished goal.”

The nature of being a student leader on campus and one that will soon graduate means that it will be difficult to ensure change is implemented after their tenure.

“Sadly, there isn’t a whole lot that Cooper [Jacks] and I can do to impact the future of Chapel Sing. Not only is our tenure coming to an end soon, but the next Chapel Sing will occur when we aren’t students here anymore,” said Bevelhimer. “Our goals are to inform and influence our junior members to make educated and informed decisions about the future of these events. With our time left as executives of the Sphinx Club, we will be using that fine-toothed comb to look over other things within our jurisdiction.”

“I am currently working on writing a critical analysis of everything that went well with Chapel Sing, as well as everything that didn’t go so

well,” said Jacks. “This critical analysis will go directly to my successor when I hand off the torch, and it will be up to him to carry out my critiques how he deems fit.”

While conversations have been had and will continue to take place, ultimately tangible rules put in place would have a more direct and long lasting effect.

“I think there have been conversations before, but that’s all they are until something happens. It’s hard to be the one who says, ‘Look, do we have to go this far?’ but until somebody says, ‘don’t’, they’re still going to do it,” said Johnson. “Everybody is not going to make these traditions different until somebody stands up and says ‘something has to change’.

I’d like to think that we are an intelligent enough place that we’re always open to changing anything that we see is putting people at risk for any sort of injury or abuse. At what point are we holding on to traditions so tightly that we forget about what it means to be a community and a brotherhood?”

In the aftermath of such a consequential event, campus unity seems strong. There’s

a prevailing attitude that we should be learning from the experience in order to implement substantial changes in the future.

“I would expect the Sphinx Club to be a beacon of hope in the time being,” said Lepper. “We represent this college, and we want to do everything we can to support this community because that’s why we’re in the Club in the first place. It’s because we love this place. We want to keep it going for years. Expect some positivity and good changes.”

“Anyone can be the voice that makes a change,” said Johnson. “If you speak up, will support you and I will do whatever I can because I believe that you can be that person. And I believe any one of us can be that person. It’s not going to be easy, but I think that if someone does think something needs to change, then I’m ready to help. Whoever wants to step up and say ‘I want to be that person. I want to help them leave things better than they found it.’”

The injured student did not respond to *The Bachelor’s* request for comment.

News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER • North Korea

A U.S service member returned to U.S custody on Wednesday, two months after he dashed across the border between South and North Korea. Private Travis King was on a civilian tour of a border village when he fled to the North, becoming the first confirmed case of North Korean detainment of an American citizen in five years. While King’s motivations for crossing the border are unclear at this time, he was held for 71 days, a relatively short period of time for an American to be detained by North Korea.

[Photo courtesy of NPR]



Iraq

Nearly 100 people died in a fire at a Christian wedding in Iraq this week. The blaze was caused by a pyrotechnic malfunction, and many guests were trapped inside as the fire spread; eventually a bystander brought a bulldozer to break through the walls of the church, but many lives had already been lost at that point. Local officials blamed poor, highly-flammable building materials on the rapid spread of the blaze. This fire is the latest incident in a damaging series of events for the minority Christian’s living in the Hamdaniya region of Iraq as they have also been victims of militant attacks in recent years.

[Photo courtesy of NBC News]



Brazil

Brazil’s Amazon rainforest is in a period of severe drought that could affect up to 500,000 people officials predict. States in the Amazonas region are planning a relief package valued at around \$20 million to combat some of the issues inhabitants in the region are already facing; many are struggling to find enough food and water, and additionally the fishing industry, a sector crucial to the region’s economy, is facing significant problems dealing with the drought. Even though droughts are not uncommon in the Amazon region, the effects have been exacerbated this year in particular due to the El Niño cycle.

[Photo courtesy of CNBC]



Scotland

Government officials gave the go-ahead for a \$2.8 million project focused on creating “drug consumption rooms,” where individuals can go to take illegal drugs like cocaine and heroin in what authorities hope will be a controlled environment. The project aims to tackle Scotland’s national problem with drug-related deaths. Drugs won’t be provided at the facilities, and medical personnel will staff the rooms to offer medical intervention in case of an emergency. This plan will only be adopted in Scotland and not the rest of the United Kingdom as Scotland makes their own policy decisions on matters of health, and the United Kingdom as a whole has indicated they will be softening drug laws any time soon.

[Photo courtesy of BBC]



Niger

French troops and foreign ambassadors continue to withdraw from Niger as part of an agreement with the ruling coalition in Niger and the French government. French troops had long been stationed in their former colony to aid in the continental fight against jihad attacks, a problem that continues to plague Niger and its neighboring states. Seen by many western countries as one of the last democratically run countries in Africa, security officials are worried about the potential impacts the French withdrawal could have on any potential peace in the region.

[Photo courtesy of Al Jazeera]



This week at Wabash



Saturday, Sep. 30

1 p.m. | Football vs. Ohio Wesleyan @ OWU
4 p.m. | Soccer vs. Adrian @ Fischer Field

Monday, Oct. 2

4 p.m. | Flu shots drive @ Allen Center

Tuesday, Oct. 3

7 p.m. | Film Screening of “Virulent” @ Hays 104

Wednesday, Oct. 4

4 p.m. | Soccer vs. Depauw @ Fischer Field

Thursday, Oct. 5

4:45 p.m. | Screening of Ben Hur (1925) @ Hays 104

Friday, Oct. 6

All Day | Celebration of Giant Steps Campaign





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Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Do Battle, Rhetorically Speaking



Moot Court Callout: Wed., Oct. 4

facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

Wabash gives back to life-saving charity



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • This year's homecoming charity competition hit close to home for Wabash. The time-honored fundraising returned this year, with all proceeds going towards Josiah's Ride – Cruzin' 4 a Cure, a charity dedicated to fighting childhood cancer. Josiah's ride has significantly impacted the lives of several Wabash men, sponsoring their fights

with childhood cancer. Cody Bevelhimer '24 and Camden Cooper '24 were both benefactors of Josiah's Ride, in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Their prior history with the group inspired them to give back by offering them the chance to benefit from the Wabash Royalty contest. "My position in the Sphinx Club as Vice President meant I had a really big part

in organizing all of Homecoming," said Bevelhimer. "I knew that if I was elected, this was something I really wanted to do." Previous charities that have received proceeds from this contest include the Montgomery County Women's Shelter and Loved Well. Josiah's Ride began as a project of the Zionsville American Legion Riders to benefit Josiah Nelson, but soon became an annual effort to support children with cancer in Boone County, sponsoring one or two kids per year. The standard fundraising typically features a silent auction and a motorcycle circuit around central Indiana. "They stop at different restaurants and locations where they spend money getting drinks, food, snacks, you name it," Bevelhimer explained. "A portion of the money that they spend in each restaurant will get split between the restaurant and a kickback to the charity." Not only was giving back to Josiah's Ride a personal ambition of Bevelhimer's, but also made incredible logistical

sense. "Crawfordsville was already a pretty common place to stop," said Bevelhimer. "We talked and found that the Homecoming game this year just so happened to be right around the time of the ride. So instead of bikers going to Creekside and spending money to get food, they could come to Wabash and get food for free and then be given money." A critical factor that sets Josiah's Ride apart is their approach to the sponsor-benefactor relationship. Much like Wabash, those whose lives have been touched by the group describe it as a second family. "It's an eclectic group of people," said Cooper. "I would say it's like a family. They really come around you, they came around me and my family and I know they did for Cody as well. It's a strong community with a lot of great people." Not only is the community tight-knit amongst themselves, but their spirit of generosity is wide and welcoming to all who might need their help, with no questions asked.

Climate expert details West Africa research



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

BEN DOUGLAS '27 | STAFF WRITER • This week, Wabash welcomed one of the world's leading scholars on climate change. Tricia Glazebrook has made a name for herself in the field, having written several books and taught philosophy for over 20 years at Washington State University. Over the past several decades, she honed in her research on the geopolitics of West Africa in nations such as Ghana and Liberia, countries that

suffer from mass starvation and gender inequality. In her presentation, she carefully detailed how these West African nations have suffered over the past several decades due to low economic output among female laborers and how climate change impacts these people. Tricia Glazebrook first became interested in the topic of climate change on a trip to West Africa in 2002. Originally inspired by a love of African music, Glazebrook's travels revealed to her the effects of climate change in numerous aspects of West African life. "They knew everything about how climate change worked," said Glazebrook. They weren't using scientific words, but they were giving a perfect description of how it was back in 2002. The reason they were able to do that is because it's impacting their capacity to grow food and feed their children. I also realized that nobody knew what was happening with them. Most people that I met in the global north didn't have any idea at that point about climate change." This trip motivated her to become more aware of the issue of climate change, which fundamentally shifted her career to focus on bringing awareness to

the issue. During Tricia Glazebrook's talk, she communicated the gravity of climate change in West Africa, specifically in Ghana and Liberia. In these two countries, according to United Nations research, a man and a wife would need 119 children to cause the same damage as in the West with two children. This is because in Ghana and Liberia, they can't afford to use the same energy sources as Western countries, so they have to rely on reusable sources. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as of 2018, temperatures in Africa are expected to rise higher and faster than anywhere else in the world. Because of this, the results could be catastrophic, according to Glazebrook, bringing about earthquakes that could destroy farmlands and local communities. "Polar meltings could bring demise to the local island and coastal communities where they rely on the land for farming and agriculture." The other issue Tricia Glazebrook concentrates on is the issue of women's inequality in West Africa. One of her points in her lecture was that women in Africa contribute heavily to the Afri-

can economy, especially in agriculture, but they don't get treated fairly for it. She outlined how according to the 2019 United Nations report, women worked three times more hours than men for unpaid care or domestic work. In north-east Ghana, for example, the nation's food is grown by 65 percent women. In the upper east of Ghana, the situation is even more drastic. There, women grow as much as 87 percent of what is eaten there. To add on to this, 1.4 billion women on the planet are subsistence farmers. Despite all this farming, there is still a lack of food in this region, which causes women to sacrifice their nutrition for their children. Despite these rising issues, there are still actions that Wabash students can take to help. She emphasized the power that students can have when they get vocal in the community. "What people can do is put their voices out," said Glazebrook. "When people are trying to get into power, they don't want voters to get into big discussions. They want to avoid topics that need those types of discussions, but if enough people make their voice heard, they will come to the point where they realize it is needed for them to gain their vote."

Spanish department, Ramsay Archives research Latino history at Wabash



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

CHRIS ZIMMERMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER • One of Wabash College's hallmarks is the breadth and availability of numerous academic resources. However, there comes a time when informational

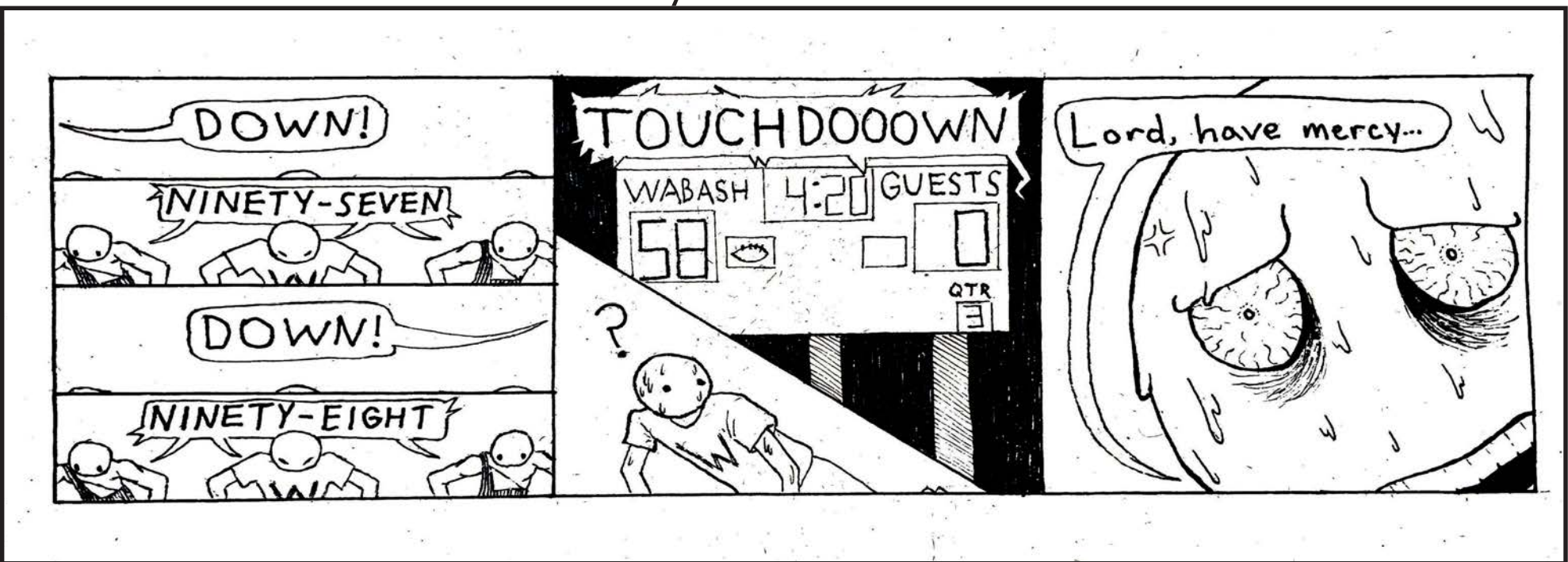
overload can occur, taking our attention away from the meticulously constructed programs here for our convenience. Dr. Matthew Greenhalgh of the Spanish department has been guiding his SPA-301 class through research-based and change-inducing work regarding the Latino experience of former Wabash students. Students were assigned an alumnus or faculty member of Hispanic descent and were tasked to page through information on these individuals in order to help build up the archival database with info depicting Latino experiences and biographies of the past. Students spent one of their class sessions in the Ramsay Archives sifting through old catalogs, yearbooks, and Bachelor articles with the help of archivists Nolan Eller and Evan Miller to gather information on their respective individuals. "There's not been a lot of work done with Latino students," said Greenhalgh. "This is somewhere where I think people have been aware that a project like this should be done, but it hasn't really come

to fruition yet." In addition, students will be submitting initial drafts of their work in Spanish, but will submit their final work in both English and Spanish and provide these extended biographies to the Ramsay Archives to supply increased information on these prominent Latino figures throughout Wabash history. Not only has Dr. Greenhalgh put in extensive effort to develop such an innovative project, the student responses to the project have been overwhelmingly positive, showing their devotion to the preservation of Latino history at Wabash. "It's a little disheartening to know that some of our Wabash brothers have been forgotten and are not remembered in the archives or at all, for that matter," said Will Neubauer '25. This project employs a bit of a symbiotic relationship, as students are able to engage with the rich history that our institution has to offer and potentially connect with successful members of our alumni network or faculty. Meanwhile,

students are supplying the Ramsay Archives with important work that will provide future students and others of the Wabash community with biographical accounts surrounding the Latino experience at Wabash. "I got an alumnus given to me as opposed to choosing someone, because I feel like if I got one, I would probably look for one that was either a wrestler or studied Chemistry or Spanish," said Ayden Lutes '26. "Instead, I got somebody who was a soccer player who studied Economics and Spanish, so I got to learn about a different side of Wabash was not previously exposed to." In addition to the work associated with this class project being beneficial to both the students and the College's hard-working archivists, the class is showing appreciation for the Wabash Latino community and is acting as an example for other students and faculty members to utilize the vast resources students have at their fingertips.

'The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak...'

Comic by Preston Parker '26



'Starfield' review: An out-of-this-world gaming experience



COURTESY OF VIDEOGAMESCHRONICLE.COM

HAYDEN KAMMER '24 | STAFF WRITER • “Starfield” released at the beginning of September and has captured the hearts (and time) of many fans. I was one of the few who purchased the early release version of “Starfield,” and I certainly was not disappointed.

Bethesda managed to perfectly capture the magic of “Skyrim” and “Fallout 4” and combine them to make a seamless, enjoyable experience. The main story felt relatively short for a role-playing game, only around 20 hours, but the massive amount of side content more than makes up for this.

One of the first things you’re greeted with is the character creation menu, which is totally different from Bethesda’s previous games. Now, in addition to customizing bodily features (in a new gender-inclusive fashion), Bethesda has implemented an important feature fans have been asking for for years: backstories. You can play as someone from one of the in-universe factions, be a wandering nomad who travels from planet to planet or a well-adjusted person with living parents and a home to return to. Plus, each option provides its own benefits and drawbacks, which is definitely a breath of fresh air from the “use your imagination” tactic many games have previously employed.

The story is complemented by stunning graphics and an even better musical score that immerses you in whatever planet you are on.

I won’t give away any of the story beats so as to not spoil anything, but the general plot can be boiled down to this: you discover an ancient artifact

that has the potential to reveal the secrets of the universe. You join a faction called the Constellation, a group dedicated to uncovering those secrets. As you navigate the cosmos to seek out answers to your questions, you encounter political conflicts and skirmishes, forcing you to take a side.

The game allows you to have multiple playstyles, whether it be the crafty thief who lockpicks their way into every secret, the researcher exploring new planets to chart new plant life or the machete-toting maniac who loots and pillages everything in sight. This becomes even easier through a skill tree system that puts both “Skyrim” and “Fallout 4” to shame. Additionally, the ability to create your own spaceship and engage in dogfights shows the level of freedom the game seeks to provide the player.

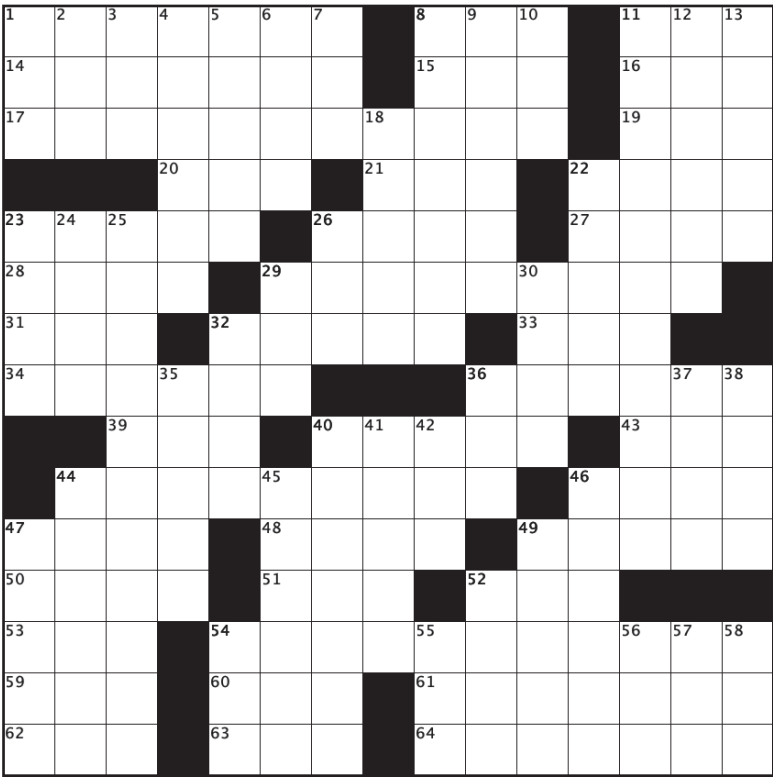
While the game has a lot going for it, there are some drawbacks. I felt overwhelmed at the beginning of the game whenever a new concept was introduced, and found myself having to visit online articles or other Wabash brothers to explain what I just discovered. Plus, for the hefty price of \$70 for the base game, I would have expected much more content.

Overall, whether you’re a longtime fan of RPGs, a fan of space exploration, or just need a way to better understand Dr. Ross’s astronomy class in a creative setting, “Starfield” is a must-try for anyone.

FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS



'Bachelor pad' Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

- 1. Tea-time snack
- 8. Scoreboard abbreviation
- 11. Biblical exemplar of patience
- 14. TV reception enhancer
- 15. Spa sound
- 16. Time span
- 17. *Bachelor of Music?
- 19. Prepared to take an exam
- 20. Spanish 101 verb
- 21. Crawfordsville-to-Indianapolis direction: Abbr.
- 22. Oodles
- 23. "In space, no one can hear you scream" movie
- 26. Niña, Pinta and Santa María, for one
- 27. Dot on a map
- 28. Minus
- 29. Good quality for a stage actor's voice
- 31. Actress de Armas
- 32. Summer fabric
- 33. Homeric exclamation
- 34. Declared
- 36. "Peter Pan" playwright
- 39. Long ____
- 40. "Magic Mike" star
- 43. Radio host Glass
- 44. Bald-faced

- 46. "Big" requests
- 47. Like fine wine
- 48. The moon and Saturn
- 49. Full of chutzpah
- 50. Boyle's and Charles's, for two
- 51. Golf ball position
- 52. "Above," in an anthem
- 53. Its business is booming
- 54. *Bachelor of Chemistry?
- 59. Shakespearean stir
- 60. Zebra on a field
- 61. Goes it a loan?
- 62. Was printed, as a news article
- 63. "____ Warren's Profession" (Shaw play)
- 64. Like most fish sticks

Down

- 1. Black Halloween animal
- 2. Ltd. relative
- 3. "Drain ____" (90s Swedish rock band)
- 4. Lets up
- 5. SAG-AFTRA, e.g.
- 6. Like printers' fingers
- 7. Chinese "way"
- 8. Fiery emotion
- 9. Add to the payroll
- 10. ____ Guy (Mario character)
- 11. *Bachelor of Religion?
- 12. Delphi inhabitant
- 13. Get into hot water, maybe
- 18. Prose counterpart
- 22. 17-year-old, legally
- 23. "Oh, woe!"
- 24. Mardi Gras follower
- 25. *Bachelor of Physics?
- 26. Judge's number
- 29. Shed
- 30. Hebrew for "man"
- 32. Camera feature
- 35. Cauldron additives, perhaps
- 36. Homie
- 37. Ticks off
- 38. No trouble at all
- 40. What's imposed on imports
- 41. Color, name or gem
- 42. WRs' teammates
- 44. Where Idi Amin once ruled
- 45. Appalachian neighborhood
- 46. Chicago suburb
- 47. Church part
- 49. Pop or jazz
- 52. Big stink
- 54. Activate, as an alarm
- 55. Wane
- 56. Gym rat's pride, briefly
- 57. Farm female
- 58. "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" subject, supposedly



Scan for solution!

'Boys of Faith' review: Zach Bryan stays true to the journey

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | STAFF WRITER • Hailing from the dusty plains of Oklahoma, America’s favorite western troubadour kept the records rolling last week with this new EP, “Boys of Faith.” This next set of songs is only a month removed from his chart-topping eponymous album.

Lead singles “I Remember Everything”, “Hey Driver” and “Spotless” all featured talented artists in a variety of genres, ranging from The Lumineers’ catchy indie-folk to the bluesy soul of War and Treaty. In “Boys of Faith”, the Navy veteran brought in leading folk artists Noah Kahan and Bon Iver for “Sarah’s Place” and “Boys of Faith” respectively.

As the first of the lead singles, “Sarah’s Place” captures the bittersweet thread of nostalgia that permeates the album.

In the collaboration, Bryan and Kahan trade verses reflecting on a lover that has left them. With that comes images of backyards, lawn chairs and late nights by a cozy fire where everything is as it should be, but with towering skylines far away in the backdrop. Completing the aesthetic, Kahan’s lighter, upbeat voice lends a solid contrast to Zach’s more raspy, somber timbre to complete the nostalgia of a good thing lost. This song provides a solid entry point into Noah Kahan’s style of music, while retaining Zach Bryan’s signature song writing.

Justin Vernon of Bon Iver supports the Oklahoma poet in the second lead single that shares the album’s title. The chorus ends with the words “movin’... slow” which mirrors the pace of the song. In keeping with the indie rock sound of Iver, “Boys of Faith” features some slick guitar behind the fuzzy ambience of the layered vocals. Mix the slow pace with a soft, sorrowful sound, and you get a song lamenting the time it takes to “get our pockets up” and that “boys like us fade away.” Though not my favorite song from a musical perspective, one who enjoys the laid-back vibes of indie has a Zach Bryan favorite here. Opening with a friendly harmonica and a smooth lead guitar



COURTESY OF GENIUS

riff, “Nine Ball” is a rare upbeat and fun Zach Bryan bop. Though in his characteristic fashion, it still contains meaningful lyrical undertones. Centering on a worn-out billiards table, a younger Bryan’s father is counting on a bank shot in “his boy’s game of nine-ball pool.”

Though he wields a pool stick that was a gift from dad, there is a touch of sadness in the words “Won’t you take me fishing? And I wanna try out for the seventh-grade football team.”

He completes that thought with “You’ll probably be nothin’ but this town’s old drunkard and die on a smoke-stained stool.”

In the end, “Nine Ball” highlights the human experience of both joy and sadness surrounding many father-son relationships.

As my personal favorite on the EP, “Deep Satin” plays out as a powerful song of longing. The outlaw singer paints a picture of a push and pull relationship that would play out in a romance drama: he sees her in a stunning dress “in Manhattan rollin’ in deep satin,” though her friends describe him with the song “Friend of the Devil.” So, he takes off “west-bound to the sea,” wondering if there “is a chance you’re thinkin’ of me.”

However, what makes the song

is Zach’s signature growling singing in the chorus found in “Quit-tin’ Time” and “Heavy Eyes.” The power and defiance found in this style put a feeling of resilience in my chest that seems to scream “I will make it through.”

To complete the album, “Pain, Sweet, Pain” reflects the other side of the coin where the trials and pain are not so easy to face. In the face of these summits in the way, he starts “thinkin’ it’s about time someone else is strong.”

In order to finish the climb, he must “make amends with the boy” he was, in order to “keep on going.”

Zach calls us to “learn something” from it”, that is the pain and struggle we experience at various points in life, well summarized by the other songs on the record. To those struggling now, Zach says to stay true to the journey and “keep on goin’, you’ll soon arrive.”

FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS



Welcoming Ann Sobierajski to Dean of Students office

DEREK MCDONALD '27 | STAFF WRITER • This semester, Wabash welcomes Ann Sobierajski as the College’s new Senior Administrative Assistant for the Dean of Students. Sobierajski has found little difficulty adjusting to life here at Wabash. With her undergraduate in Elementary Education from Ball State University and her 20 years of teaching experience, it is no wonder she finds herself right at home in the scholarly walls of Wabash. However, she has found a number of other pursuits to broaden her skills outside the classroom.

“I left education and had been working in administrative roles pretty much ever since,” said Sobierajski.

Pursuing administration after teaching, Sobierajski has served as Development Coordinator and Administration Officer at the Office of Administration for the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation.

After working intermittently in human resources, she wanted to return to administration. Thus, her background in education made her a perfect candidate for the role of Senior Administrative Assistant for the Dean of Students.

There is a misconception on campus that the Dean of Students Office is only a place one goes if they get into trouble. Sobierajski wants to dispel this misconception. Above all, she wants to show that there is passion in the Dean of Students Office and take that passion across campus to create a positive student experience.

“I want people to know that our office isn’t just there for when you get into trouble,” said Sobierajski. “We oversee all aspects of student life, including student activities, housing, student programs, etc. We connect students with resources and are passionate about providing a positive student experience.”

Relationships are the key to living a meaningful and fulfilled life. The relationships that are developed during students’ collegiate careers can last a lifetime. While at Wabash, Sobierajski wants to



COURTESY OF LINKEDIN

focus on her role as a relationship builder.

“It’s been a passion of mine to be a relationship builder,” said Sobierajski. “I want to build relationships with not only students, but their families beyond the classroom.”

Building relationships was very fundamental for Sobierajski’s predecessor, the beloved Sherry Ross. Ross was an influential role model on campus who went out of her way to develop relationships with students, faculty and other faces on campus. Sobierajski understands that she has big shoes to fill and she is very excited to take on this task and promote those same values.

“She set me up for success,” said Sobierajski. “I’ve been told that the only thing that I could have made this job better is if I could have worked alongside her.”

Ross was very involved with student life, showing out to support everything from sports to Chapel Sing. She continues to get involved on campus and has an impactful presence when doing so.

“I know students will love to be able to stay connected with her,” said Sobierajski.

Relationships are a trademark of life here at Wabash. The addition of Sobierajski continues on with that tradition and we are lucky to welcome her to the Wabash family. Sobierajski will have no problem making Wabash not only a place of work, but a second home as well.

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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 800 words.

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Staff Editorial: Read more, think more, feel more

Six months ago, a South Carolina teacher was reported for teaching a book highlighting the Black experience in America. Mary Wood’s story is not unique. In fact, she’s lucky not to have lost her job, like many teachers have for similar infractions—just last week an eighth-grade teacher in Texas was fired for reading her students an illustrated version of Anne Frank’s diary.

When The Washington Post brought Wood’s story onto the national stage with a September 18, 2023 article, it struck a chord among members of the Wabash community. Why? The book she was reprimanded for teaching was Ta-Nehisi Coates’s “Between the World and Me,” one of the required Enduring Questions readings for all freshmen at Wabash since the spring of 2022.

“Between the World and Me” is framed as a letter from the author to his teenage son about what it means to be Black in America: growing up experiencing systemic racism and having to find a place in American society as a minority.

It’s no secret that Wabash doesn’t have the most racially diverse student body, currently sitting around 75% white. It’s exactly for that reason why books like “Between the World and Me,” which highlight experiences other than those predominantly featured in our culture, must not be removed from school curricula.

The report filed against Wood charged her with breaking a South Carolina state law prohibiting teachers from making students “feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress” due to their race.

Rules like the one in South Carolina are extremely detrimental to individuals and to our society at large.

With books such as “Between the World and Me” and “To Kill a Mockingbird” topping the list of banned literature, states across the U.S. have begun to self-fulfill the dystopian society prophesied by Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451,” and Indiana is no exception. Among those banned books are “Looking for Alaska” and “The Fault in Our Stars”, both written by Indianapolis native John Green.

The next time you are at your local bookstore, take a look at the “Banned Books” section. Notable inclusions from Indiana may include:

- “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison
 - “Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe
 - “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” by Stephen Chbosky
 - “Slaughterhouse-Five” by Kurt Vonnegut
 - “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson
 - “Flamer” by Mike Curato
 - “Lawn Boy” by Jonathan Evison
 - “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie
 - “Crank” by Ellen Hopkins
- If someone is banning a book, you should

go read it, because there must be something in there worth reading. You may not agree with everything in it—you probably won’t—but you’ll be a better person for working through the internal conflict it may cause.

Ask any Wabash student and they’ll tell you the mission of Wabash is to educate men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively and live humanely. How can one live humanely without considering the lives of humans different from oneself? How can one act responsibly without being responsible for one’s own education? How can one lead effectively without understanding the views of those they may be leading? How can one think critically while clinging to preconceived beliefs and ideas? How can one do any of it without reading books that are intellectually, ethically and emotionally challenging?

While the EQ reading list for the spring of 2024 has not been finalized, co-chairs of the Freshman Year Experience committee Crystal Benedicks and Neil Schmitzer-Torbert are adamant that “Between the World and Me” is here to stay.

“I can say without any reservation that we are dedicated to teaching books that engage with issues of historical and systemic racism, among other systems of injustice,” Professor Benedicks said. “How can we have an equitable future if we refuse to recognize the legacy of the past?”

Freshmen: When you read “Between the World and Me” next semester in EQ, you might feel uncomfortable. In fact, it’s almost guaranteed. Lean into the discomfort; it leads to critical thinking, and critical thinking is crucial to being a Gentleman and a responsible citizen.

Sophomores and Juniors: Think back to your time discussing this book with your classmates. What was notable to you? What made you uncomfortable? How did you deal with the discomfort? How did you grow from having to engage in complicated discussion about race? What can you take from it in your Wabash journey and beyond?

Seniors: Get yourself a copy of Ta-Nehisi Coates’s “Between the World and Me.” Get a friend on board and you can discuss the book together. Whatever your race, ethnicity or background, Coates’s tale of American life can teach us all something about ourselves. As you head out into the “real world,” be prepared to feel the same discomfort you have felt at Wabash.

Students, alumni, faculty and friends: Let’s all do our part to be citizens united with one another and for one another. It starts with educating ourselves. It starts with having difficult conversations. It starts with taking a stand for freedom and truth both in your communities and at the polls.

Read banned books. Get comfortable with discomfort. Think, rethink, and in doing so, become a more compassionate person and a more responsible citizen.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL

Hi-Five to Pete Davidson for allegedly dating Madelyn Cline. Once again us Wabash men are mystified by your dark arts.

“MAKE LOVE TO THE CANVAS”

Lo-Five to the art gallery that put Bob Ross’s first “Joy of Painting” on sale for \$10M. Usually happy little accidents only cost a few grand a year.

STRIKE-OUT!

Hi-Five to Hollywood and the WGA for coming to an agreement and ending the writers’ strike. Now all we need is the SAG-AFTRA strike to end and “The Summer I Turned Pretty” Season 3 will be right around the corner.

YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE

Low-Five to the Washington Commanders for getting sued by a group of Native Americans to change the team back to the Redskins. Leave it to the team in D.C. to be more influenced by its lobbyists than its own supporters.

IT’S THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Lo-Five to Sen. Bob Menendez for getting caught taking bribes from various New Jersey businessmen and the Egyptian Government after googling how much a bar of gold was worth. Thanks for the daily reminder that you should regularly be clearing your browser history.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



Cristian Cantu '26

Reply to this opinion at
ccantu26@wabash.edu

Hispanic Heritage Month holds a special place of importance in the United States and, increasingly, on college campuses across the nation. At our very own Wabash College, a small liberal arts institution with a primarily white student body, this month takes on even greater significance.

As the current Vice President of La Alianza, the Hispanic and Latino club on campus, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the positive impact of Hispanic Heritage Month on our community.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, histories and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

It allows us to recognize the achievements and resilience of a community that has made an impact in various fields.

Beyond celebrating achievements, Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to shed light on the unique challenges and issues that Hispanic and Latino communities face, such as immigration, language barriers and disparities in education and healthcare.

For many Hispanic and Latino students, this month serves as a source of pride, connection to their roots and an affirmation of their identity. It helps combat stereotypes and misconceptions while promoting a deeper understanding of the complexities within the community.

Moreover, it encourages individuals of all backgrounds to learn about and appreciate the contributions of a group that has played a vital role in shaping the

cultural diversity of the United States.

Wabash College, like many small liberal arts institutions, faces its own set of challenges in fostering diversity and inclusion. With a predominantly white student body, creating spaces and opportunities for underrepresented groups to share their experiences, cultures, and traditions is essential. Hispanic Heritage Month at Wabash College does precisely that.

La Alianza plays a central role in organizing and promoting events during this month. These events range from cultural celebrations, such as dance performances and traditional food tastings to educational programs addressing important issues facing Hispanic and Latino communities.

One of our most significant contributions is the creation of a safe and supportive environment where Hispanic and Latino students, including many first-generation college students, can find a sense of belonging and connection. It empowers them to be visible on campus and to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the college community.

Furthermore, it offers a vital opportunity for these students to connect with their “Hermanos”, build supportive networks and engage in meaningful conversations about their unique experiences as members of the Hispanic and Latino community.

One significant aspect of Hispanic Heritage Month is its potential to break down stereotypes and misconceptions. By hosting events that educate the broader campus community about Hispanic and Latino cultures, we can minimize stereotypes and foster a more inclusive campus atmosphere.

This, in turn, benefits not only Hispanic and Latino students but also the entire student body, as it promotes cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. In addition, Hispanic Heritage Month encourages collaboration between student organizations and academic departments.

At Wabash College, we have seen partnerships between La Alianza and departments such as Spanish, History, and the Hispanic Studies department leading to informative lectures, workshops and panel discussions that expand our collective knowledge of Hispanic and Latino cultures and issues.

While Hispanic Heritage Month significantly impacts Hispanic and Latino students, its reach extends far beyond this demographic. It contributes to a more inclusive campus culture by fostering diversity and encouraging students to embrace different perspectives.

When a primarily white campus like Wabash College celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, it sends a powerful message that all cultures and backgrounds are valued and respected. This celebration also encourages students to think critically about issues of equity and social justice.

It prompts important discussions

**Looking to join the conversation?
Want to make your voice heard?**

If so, contact James Wallace at jpwallac26@wabash.edu and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.

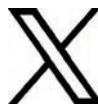
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Did Wabash win... or change?



Brandt Guthrie '24
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baguthr124@wabash.edu

Wabash has changed a lot, to say the least. Picture yourself in 1977, Crawfordsville, Indiana, for the homecoming game. All the Sphinx Club men are wearing double-strapped overall stripes, Wally mascot looking like nightmare fuel and the student body is excited to go to the game AND the school.

Fast forward to this past weekend. Wabash won the game by quite a margin, but was the culture and passion really there, especially from the student perspective? Who is to blame? How much is this change negatively impacting the students? The student experience?

This past week was homecoming, a week meant to unite and celebrate what it means to be a Wabash man. Instead of uniting, I have a gut feeling that we grew further apart. What has happened to the Wabash I heard about on my prospective senior tour in 2019?

Lucky for you, I have a hypothesis: the world is going soft and more specifically, Wabash is going soft. Plain and simple. Everyone is so quick to get offended and go up in arms about any moment, instead of just taking each moment at face-value.

My pledge class (PC) was removed from Beta this year, for example. Think about us seniors: all advanced in majors/minors, involved in extracurriculars and well-known across campus. Do you think it's fair to kick out 13 seniors who did not set any dining room tables or couches on fire on the back porch?

To qualify these questions even further, do you think these 13 seniors are responsible for holding the early alumni brothers accountable at 3:00 A.M. the night before the last day of finals? Because of the actions of two individuals, the entire Beta PC '24 was removed from the house, not allowed to go back into the house or even go into the back

parking lot for Cooking Club "meetings."

Us Beta seniors have essentially been outcast because of a few alumni individuals who don't have kids of themselves and who want to control and dispute with college-aged men who just so happened to be in the same chapter.

The moment Beta elected their new Housing Board President, the path started going downhill. This election is local and performed by our chapter's alumni only, not the national fraternity level.

In January, the house was shocked to be put on probation and eventually have many brothers put on "early alumni status" (EAS) after a small application and 30-minute interrogation style meeting with an alumni advisor (one of) and a worker for the Beta national fraternity.

When all of the reorganization process was happening, the alumni advisors brought it upon the house, not the actual national fraternity. That's one way to "connect" with your alumni.

After the reorganization was conducted, the Housing Board nor national fraternity could offer any concrete evidence as to why Josh Fedorchak or John Spagnolo were put on EAS. They were the first two to receive EAS, and eventually my entire pledge class and myself were put on EAS as well (after the back porch incident).

What always makes Wabash special is the students. The drive, the passion, the culture, all of it combines into a student experience. We have gone so far from self-governance to the point that there are outside hands reaching in to make decisions on our campus (take the Beta pledge class as an example).

Did the deans do anything to help or offer support amidst a reorganization? No, they didn't. It was disheartening to not have the support of our deans during a tumultuous moment in our Wabash careers.

When asked for guidance and support, the deans took the opposite. Now, 13 Beta brothers live spread apart in independent housing units on campus. Even when we reached out at the beginning of the summer for help in figuring out housing situations, anticipating a removal from the chapter, we were left in the dust and not helped until the last few weeks of summer.

After the Beta freshmen took that

Wally's Wall: Fake fans

The Question:

Does leaving the game at halftime make you a fake fan?

Joshua Taylor '25

I don't believe that it necessarily makes you a bad fan. I believe that you have to take the situation of each person into account, as some people have deadlines such as papers and homework assignments to meet. For example, I had a 5 PM deadline on an essay for one of my classes and needed to make one last edit. If I stayed at the game for the whole duration, this would have made it a bit trickier. The lopsided score at halftime allowed me to mark the game as a win and make sure all my ducks were in order afterwards.

Augustine Grannan '27

Yes, a real fan stays to watch their team throughout the entire game. If your support is conditional, it's not real support.

Seth Acero '25

No. It's not my fault Oberlin can't put together a good football team. Maybe if they spent less time losing \$43 million lawsuits against local bakeries in false accusations of racial discrimination they'd be able to score more than one touchdown a game.

Kyle Foster '27

I believe that if you go to the tailgate at halftime then you are still a fan. However, if someone leaves the game entirely then they are not a dedicated fan. On the other hand you could argue that a true fan would stay and watch their friends play in the game.

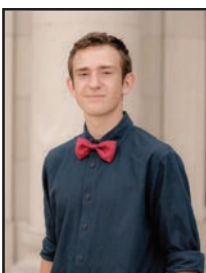
accidental tumble on the Chapel Steps on Thursday, I knew things were going to change at Wabash even more. To me, Wabash used to be a safe haven for college-aged men.

Wabash used to be great, but it has been declining. Getting rid of the sheepskin diplomas, getting rid of Bouts at PDT, removing pledgeship in many houses... culturally we are becoming SOFT. We are losing tradition after tradition.

It will continue to fall and become more soft as long as students feel afraid of the administration. Students, brothers, Wabash men: it is our obligation to know that we are the reason this campus exists. Without students, what does a college do?

With a college of all men, it's time to

The importance of sensitivity



James Szalkie '25
Reply to this opinion at
jwszalki25@wabash.edu

Those at this college who have taken fatherhood are probably familiar with Dr Olofson's 'one big word' throughout the course, sensitivity. Sensitivity is the ability to know when you are and are not needed. It's hard, especially for individuals like myself, who struggle with social cues, both understanding and delivering them. But that is the subject of my message today.

During this year's homecoming chapel sing, I was in a new position which I had never experienced before, as the unofficial support crew for the event. As I went around house to house delivering water, and saw the faces of all of the young men as they became initiated into the Wabash brotherhood, I thought about the weeks of work put into practicing and perfecting our song. I am proud of all the guys who stood their ground on the mall this week, but I am especially proud of the guys who did this against harsher odds.

Our brothers with sensory processing disorders, who are more sensitive to the raucous noise that is the event. Those who have dyslexia likely struggled writing this lengthy song many times over, as is a common memorization preparation strategy. But the point is, they did it.

This is important to me. As somebody who is trying to go all in on the Wabash experience while I am here, I have often felt discouraged, and that certain things 'weren't for guys like me'. Maybe that means the nerdy guys who spend their Saturdays studying and tinkering. Or maybe it means guys who carry around a diagnosis of some kind in their file. It's easy to feel weighed down by these labels, even if they are only meant to help those who receive them.

It is a complicated relationship between an individual and their diagnosis, struggling to understand if this is a gift, or a life sentence to being misunderstood. But out there on that lawn, we are all equals, with one common goal. And though it is hard, chapel sing is an incredibly liberating experience.

It is often difficult weighing how best to approach chapel sing for individuals who it may not come as easy to. If English is not your first language, or perhaps your memory isn't quite like others. Maybe you have a very legitimate reason why this age old event is just a bit harder for you. But at the end of the day, nobody asked for it to be easy.

So how do you approach something like this when you feel you may have been born at a legitimate disadvantage? What happens when you often feel your brain works against you? I'll tell you what I'll do, I ask for help. Maybe it takes a little more time to get the words down, or adjust to the environment on the mall. Maybe you have your hands clenched waiting for the next rhynie to come by with water, so you can have a moment to collect yourself. We all have our ways of coping, in advance or in the moment.

But what's important is that we the individuals know how to ask for help. Many people assume those who are part of this divergent community don't want these challenges. In truth, they can be very intimidating. But what we don't want is for the challenge to be overwritten on our behalf. If you talk to a mountain climber with a physical disadvantage, they would never ask you to lower the height of the mountain. They may however ask for different tools to get there.

The truth about challenges for the neurodivergent community is that we want the freedom to decide our limits, and push them, on our own terms. The infantilization of people on the spectrum, or with down syndrome or many other diagnoses that can make us feel singled out diminishes the sense of accomplishment that is found on the other side.

The best way to help your neurodivergent brothers is to have the sensitivity to decide when to intervene or reach out, and when to let us figure some of these things out on our own. At the end of the day, we all face challenges of some kind. But learning to ask for help, and having the brother to be there for you, is what makes this world of wabash what it is. For all types of brains.

No Woman's land



Mara Kramer
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This very letter means a lot on this campus. Everybody who is a part of the Wabash Community has their very own interpretation about what it means to them. Yet, one could question the normative space that is associated with Wabash College. Yes, it is an all-male college: testosterone is everywhere, as well as assigned gender roles. What does this mean when coming here as a female from another continent?

For sure, I would have expected some change when it comes to social climate, but there have been other surprises. For one, the spectrum for behavior in an all-male social surrounding is very diverse. From feminists to Men's Rights Activists, every position can be found on campus.

For instance, after having auditioned for Glee Club, another female Teaching Assistant and I had proven that we were able to sing Tenor I range. Meaning, that we would be able to sing amongst Wabash College Glee Club. However, after attending one rehearsal, we were not allowed in the club anymore, since we were not male Teaching Assistants. It was very sad to learn about that, especially since the former German TA was allowed to be a member of Glee Club.

At times, it is these incidents that make it crystal clear what sexism actually means and how it is shaping the everyday life of women, despite living in 2023: It often times means having no access to a certain social sphere. Furthermore, it means that your body is questioned and evaluated in order to meet norms about your size or width.

Another great example would be Chapel

Sing. After having talked to Deans, Human Relations and the Sphinx Club, all the Teaching Assistants got the admission to perform the Wabash Fight Song during Chapel Sing. Since the permission was given on such a short notice, the other Teaching Assistants felt too uncomfortable with the pressure and could not make the time to learn the lyrics by heart. For other male Teaching Assistants, the access to this tradition has not been questioned in the past.

It is like in Marilyn Frye's theory: Lesbians or woman-identified women do not exist in a phallographic society. We do not have any space, yet any agency in a normative society that is cut out to the male perspective. The problem is not very obvious, yet very existent: When it comes to likeability, it is often connected with availability. Not being available often connects to being either respected or completely disrespected in a surrounding that is shaped by the social norm of being a white, heterosexual cis-man.

This would not have been a problem in 1832. Now, in 2023 it actually creates problems that we can name, because academia worldwide became more inclusive and diverse: Concepts like epistemic injustice or gendered knowledge are established and receive more and more attention when it comes to best practice behavior in academia. In order to keep up with this pace that is already on the rise globally, Wabash has the chance to approach these topics proactively and has the chance of being a role model.

That being said, Wabash is also a space for women: There are lot of women involved on this campus: Moms, sisters, nieces, aunts, employees, faculty and others. All of us are also a part of the Wabash community. Every person on campus is shaped and supported by at least one woman in their lives. To all the students and people aware of that, there is some wisdom to be shared: I will pass on the best advice that has ever been given to me by a professor: Don't go on a diet. Take up space.

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NOAH MCROBERTS '25 |
SPORTS WRITER•

**DePauw University Tigers (3-0,
2-0 NCAC)**

The DePauw Tigers slaughtered the Ohio Wesleyan rushing game, allowing a demoralizing -2.0 yards per carry in what was a beatdown in Greencastle. The fact that they did well against a legitimate opponent is a minor miracle in and of itself. I guess the Dannies can play some football every once in a while, but they won't be proving anything next week in Oberlin.

Wabash College Little Giants (2-1, 1-0 NCAC)

Wabash nearly ran out of reserves in their Homecoming smackdown on Oberlin. Everyone on campus got in the game, including President Feller, who picked up a couple yards on a jet sweep. Now that Wabash has strengthened its backups to the backups' backups, they are well equipped to take on the Battling Bishops in Delaware, Ohio this weekend.

Denison University Big Red (3-1, 1-0 NCAC)

The Big Red never let the dogs out in their most recent game against Hiram. The senior bulldozer Trey Fabrocini improved on his seasonal numbers, bringing him up to 10 touchdowns in four games after his terrorization of the Terriers. However, next week won't be such an easy task as we have our first prime-time matchup of NCAC play in Granville, where Denison faces Wittenberg.

Wittenberg University Tigers (2-1, 1-0 NCAC)

Though the final score doesn't look too bad, Wittenberg didn't have a good time against top 25 candidate Alma College. The Tigers scored three of their four touchdowns in the last 22 minutes of the game in a tough loss. We learned that Witt's defense is no match for an elite offense, in that they allowed 566 yards. Facing a tough matchup this weekend against rival Denison, I might have to take back the praise I had offered Wittenberg in my last couple editions...

Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (2-2, 1-1 NCAC)

Things aren't looking good for the Wesleyan faithful. They sit at an even .500 right now after beating two chump teams and being beaten by some very solid schools. At this point, the only thing they have to look forward to might be a few Ws against some Terriers, Owls, and whatever the heck Yeomen are. Can you even call those Ws?

The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (2-2, 1-1 NCAC)

Though Wooster shot down the Owls, it wasn't without a scare. The Fighting Scots only held a 7-point lead heading into the second quarter. Fortunately, they held them off, if only to remain just above the worst teams in the entire Division III in football. Good job Wooster. I won't forget you this time.

Hiram College Terriers (0-4, 0-2 NCAC)

Congratulations Hiram, your patience paid off. Thanks to the sorry efforts of Kenyon and Oberlin you are no longer ranked last in the conference. However, patience isn't always the best strategy. Next time don't wait until the third quarter to finally score against Denison. For now, we'll wait the rest of the year to see if you get a win.

Kenyon College Owls (0-4, 0-2 NCAC)

Kenyon, Kenyon, Kenyon. I think you should stick to the country club. I'm not sure if you know, but in football, throwing the ball to your own players is usually a good idea. For those of you who don't pay attention to Kenyon sports, which is probably everyone, the Wooster defense had more touchdown catches than Kenyon's entire team, while gaining half as many yards. So, next week might be the one, and only, opportunity to stream Hiram's defense for your fantasy teams.

Oberlin College Yeomen (1-3, 0-2 NCAC)

Poor Oberlin can't seem to catch a break, after back-to-back blowout losses to Denison and Wabash, the haggard Yeomen will take on the Dannies in what may be their biggest loss yet.

Homecoming victory against Oberlin

Football opens conference season with decisive win at home



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The Wabash football team enters the tunnel at halftime against Oberlin College on September 23, 2023, on Frank Navarro Field at Little Giant Stadium.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR• After a difficult three-week stretch to start the season, a cathartic victory against Oberlin opened the conference season for the Wabash football team. Heading into the September 23 Homecoming game against the Yeomen, nobody doubted the Little Giants' ability to get the job done. Oberlin, coming off a blow-out 70-0 loss to Denison the week before, was lined up for another beatdown. What no one expected was how quickly Wabash would secure the win.

The game was over after the first quarter. The Yeomen had no sooner stepped off the bus, when Donovan Snyder was carrying the ball into the endzone for the first of many first-quarter

touchdowns. Capped off with a 39-yard touchdown run by quarterback Liam Thompson '24—his second rushing touchdown of the game—the first quarter ended with a staggering 31-0 lead for Wabash.

After two more touchdowns in the second quarter, Head Football Coach Don Morel sent in the Red Squad to finish out the game. Unfortunately for Oberlin, the hurting wasn't over, as the backups put 14 more on the board in the third, before the game ended with Wabash on top 59-6.

Perhaps Oberlin's most impressive feat was making the Wabash defense look like national contenders in the first half. Altogether, the Yeomen lost nine yards in their nine first half

drives. With 57 of their 71 total offensive yards occurring in their last drive of the game, where they scored their singular touchdown only to bunder the 2-point attempt, Oberlin spent more time going backwards than forwards.

"Daily improvement is a standard for us, and our guys buy into that," said Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings. "They are working hard. It was good to see our guys do their jobs against Oberlin and play to their ability."

On the other side of the ball, the Little Giants looked like a top-tier offense playing against a lacking defense. A season-high 492 total offensive yards should speak for itself. The only surprise was how the Little Giants achieved that total, as a usually pass-dominant team put up 293 of those yards with their run game.

"If my salary depended on it, we probably would have scored 150 against Oberlin," said Morel.

After this game, Oberlin will settle into their place at the bottom of the conference with the unique honor of having given up 129 points in two games. However that total is sure to rise substantially after the Yeomen face DePauw on Saturday. This game, coupled with Wabash's upcoming game against Ohio Wesleyan University, will provide a good point for comparison when evaluating last year's top two teams in the conference.

Currently, the North Coast Athletic Conference has the Little Giants sitting at the middle of the pack in both offense and defense. However, the Little Giants' tough nonconference schedule renders these rankings useless for comparing them to teams like DePauw, who seemed hesitant to face a strong nonconference opponent. Coach Morel doesn't lose any sleep over where the team is ranked for offense or defense. He says he will worry where they are ranked after the Bell Game.

"I think a football season is like reading a book," said Morel. "You don't know what will happen un-

til you've read the last page."

The team will take their first trip to Ohio this season on Saturday, September 30 to face Ohio Wesleyan. The Battling Bishops currently sit just outside the top pack of the NCAC with a 2-2 (1-1 NCAC) record. The team boasts a 49-20 win against Wooster and a 28-7 loss to DePauw.

The Battling Bishops are a well-balanced team on either side of the line. Their one clear disadvantage is their run game, where Ohio Wesleyan is ranked last in the NCAC, averaging only 82 rushing yards per game. It's hard to say exactly how well the fifth-ranked Wabash run defense will hold up against OWU, but it is unlikely that they will be giving up massive gains on the ground. The Battling Bishops will also bring a fifth-ranked passing offense, who airs out 248 passing yards a game. However, Wabash currently has the best-ranked air coverage in the NCAC, allowing only 137 passing yards per game.

"If my salary depended on it, we probably would have scored 150 against Oberlin"

- Don Morel

Going the other way, the Scarlet and White sport a fifth-ranked rushing offense which averages 178.8 yards per game. Allowing only 159 rushing yards per game, Ohio Wesleyan is ranked fourth for ground defense in the NCAC. Ranked seventh in the NCAC, the Battling Bishops' air passing defense will be hard pressed to contain Liam Thompson and Co. who average 231 passing yards per game. This should be a favorable matchup for the Litte Giants, as OWU gives up an average of 265.3 passing yards per game.

This will be a tough matchup for the Wabash, one of those matches that threatens to spoil a perfect conference record, which is what it will almost certainly take for the Little Giants to walk away with the conference crown.

"Ohio Wesleyan is a good team," said Morel. "We'll have our work cut out for us."

Soccer stumbles ahead of NCAC season

Homecoming defeat builds the team's resolve as conference opponents approach

RODOLFO ELIZONDO-ALCALA '27 | SPORTS WRITER• After opening with five undefeated games, the Little Giants have fallen into a three game streak without a win. As the conference season approaches, they will look to make the most of their remaining games before facing opponents from the North Coast Athletic Conference.

In a challenging Homecoming match, the Little Giants fell short against Hope College, losing 3-0 due to defensive errors near the net. This setback was followed by a 1-1 tie against Illinois Wesleyan University. The team is now committed to improvement as they await the upcoming NCAC season. The team will look to finish the preseason strong, finalizing their game against Adrian College on Saturday, September 30.

Wabash kicked off Homecoming with an aggressive start, resulting in fouls on young attackers, Brice Kinnaman '27 and Jose Escalante '26. This left Wabash with limited attacking options, forcing them into a defensive stance.

Twelve minutes into the contest, Hope College managed a shot on goal, but Fernando Ramos made a crucial save, leaving a live ball that Hope College eventually converted into their first score. The relentless attack by Hope continued, and with 20 minutes left in the first half, they netted their second goal. In the second half, Hope College further extended their lead with another successful goal. The game ended in a 3-0, with Wabash college enduring seven fouls and three shots on net.

The loss offered valuable insights into the team's current state and its path forward.

"The loss against Hope was a tough one to take, but I think we will learn from it," said Jackson Grabill '23. "We shot ourselves in the foot



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Goalkeeper Fernando Ramos '26 (left) carries the ball as midfielder Emilio Paez '25 (right) recovers in game against Hope College on September 23, 2023, at Fischer Field.

that game by making mistakes that cost us the game. I believe we will learn from these mistakes to get better as we move towards conference games"

"We shot ourselves in the foot that game by making mistakes that cost us the game."

- Jackson Grabill '24

In the game against Illinois Wesleyan University, the teams remained locked in a close contest. The crucial moment occurred in the minute 34, when a foul led to the Titans being awarded a penalty kick, which they successfully converted, taking a 1-0 lead. However, Bruno Zamora '25 came to the rescue, leveling the score at 1-1 five minutes

later. Despite the Little Giants' 13 shots on goal, they grappled with converting their overall dominance into the score. The game ended after 80 minutes for poor lighting conditions.

Despite the on-field outcomes, players managed to uncover valuable learning moments and takeaways for the upcoming NCAC season.

"Every game is a learning opportunity, that is the beauty of it," said Fernando Ramos '26. "The game did not go the way we wanted to, nor how we expected it to be. We faced a tough opponent, but we fell short. The loss showed us that our objectives for this season ultimately depend on us".

"Our goals this season focus on controlling what we can control," said Jackson. There are a lot of things in soccer that we have no control over, but we can always work hard, communicate, and play for each other.

As they prepare for the upcoming

NCAC season, set to commence on October 4, against DePauw, the Little Giants are brimming with hopes and determined goals to make their mark in the competition.

"The past few seasons we have made it to the conference tournament but hit a wall once we got there," said Jackson. "We have a long way to go before any of that, so right now we're just taking it one game at a time and focusing on what's in front of us. If we continue to work hard and control what we can control I think we have a chance to be successful this season."

"The loss showed us that our objectives for this season ultimately depend on us."

- Fernando Ramos '26

Additionally, Ramos said he is working with the team to help the team give better results in the field. The team is motivated and ready to start the conference season on the right foot.

"I am working day by day to improve all aspects of my game, not only to improve as a player but also to make an impact on the team," Fernando said. "Our group is hungry and our mindset will put us where we want to be."

The Little Giants will look towards the final nonconference game against Adrian College on Fischer Field at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 30. They will start their NCAC season schedule against DePauw University on Wednesday, October 4.

Rugby prepares to face Denison

Recruiting success ignites hope of another run at Rugby Nationals

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • After a third-place finish at the National Collegiate Rugby Championships in the spring of 2023, the Wabash Rugby Club plunged deep into their fall schedule with their weekend double-header against the Indianapolis Impalas rugby team. The Little Giants, fresh off of a nationally-ranked season, face a new set of hurdles as they navigate a season after losing many key players.

As with all college athletics, time is the ultimate enemy. After recording their best-ever season the team graduated several top members of the team, whose contributions cannot be overstated.

As the reigning Allegheny Rugby Union 2022 Player of the Year, Brayden Goodnight '23 was in many ways the heart of the Little Giants rugby team as they made their push into the national tournament last season. Goodnight was both lead scorer and team captain, as well as mentor to developing players. Since his graduation at the conclusion of the 2023 spring season, Wabash has been looking for a player to step into his giant-sized shoes.

However, his shoes may be filled quicker than most people realize. Massive recruitment efforts, thanks to the newfound national recognition, have brought in many new players to improve the squad's future. During this fall season nearly three-quarters of the team is new to Wabash rugby. The roster, which usually averaged close to 20 members, has ballooned to 30.

"We lost six of our top nine players. So we were up for a challenge recruiting this year," said Derek Miller '24. "Luckily, being a top team in the Small College division of collegiate rugby has helped us with



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Little Giants battle for possession in semifinal round of Men's Small College Rugby Nationals against Springfield College on April 30, 2023, in Germantown, Maryland.

"While we might not currently be the force of a team that we were over the last two years, the commitment and athleticism shown by our newcomers are genuinely commendable," said Matthew Brooks '24, who acts as both a captain and mentor for the team. "It's really exciting, especially as we navigate this developmental fall season and gear up for the spring."

The scarlet-striped squad played two games against the Impalas. The first game was a 5-3 win for Wabash. The team had a chance to run four separate groups of seven different players over the two games. While the team lost their second game, their performance reflected tremendous development by the younger players on the team.

"Following the graduation of our seniors last year, we have a considerably young team this season," Brooks said. "However, I am very optimistic and

extremely impressed with the team's growth in just three weeks of practice."

The team will take their new talent to the Denison Invitational on September 30, where they will get a chance to play a benchmark tournament including the likes of Denison, Cedarville University, Oberlin, Ohio Northern University, Ohio Wesleyan, Wit-

tenberg and Tiffin University. This will be the first tournament of the year worth points, which the squad will need to earn for entry into preliminary tournaments later in the year.

"We have progressed well throughout the fall semester," said Miller. "But we will know where we stand fully after this weekend's invite to Denison."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash rugby team hold the third-place trophy after Men's Small College Rugby Nationals on April 30, 2023, in Germantown, Maryland.

Weiss collects medalist honors

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Indiana and Mississippi are two drastically different states to compete in. The Wabash College golf team experienced this first hand. Playing at Tunica National golf course in Tunica, MS, the team traveled over eight hours by bus to face competition that they wouldn't normally see.

"It's interesting going and playing on Bermuda greens that require you to read the grain, but overall it was a lot of fun going down south," said Lewis Dellinger '25.

The Tunica National golf course is 7204 yards long with a slope of 126. The slope of a golf course is the difficulty of the course for a bogey golfer relative to a scratch player. For comparison, the average slope for a golf course is 120.

Wabash competed against the likes of LeTourneau University, Dallas College, and Texas Lutheran, but also saw familiar foes with Depauw University and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology participating.

After the opening two rounds of tournament play, Wabash saw itself in the middle of the pack, following team scores of 298 and 297. Brayden Weiss '24 shot a combined 141 over the course of both rounds to earn him a place on the individual leaderboard tied for second.

Weiss and Sean Bledsoe '26 posted scores of 73 in the final round to lead Wabash to a final round 298. The team's consistency is impressive considering the mounting pressure coupled with the fatigue of 54 holes of golf in 48 hours.

The tournament concluded with Wabash tied for 4th place and Weiss earning medalist honors as he finished two strokes under par for the tournament. This is the first time in team history that Wabash has posted three scores under 300. Depauw and Dallas matched Wabash's score of 893 with strong showings throughout the tournament. Depauw and Wabash appear to be evenly matched, something to watch as the team inches towards the conference tournament.

Jack Heldt honored at halftime of Homecoming game



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25



Building brotherly bonds

Cole Shifferly and Ethan Koeneman praise tennis culture

JACOB SITZMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER • After a successful opening tournament with only underclassmen, the tennis team has a bright future with their young talent. Two of those underclassmen, sophomores Cole Shifferly '26 and Ethan Koeneman '26 have had successful Wabash careers so far and are preparing to take significant steps this season.

In high school, Shifferly visited Wabash on behalf of a recommendation. Once he visited campus, he knew he wanted to come here.

"People tell you that when you're on campus, you'll have a feeling that this is the right place and that's exactly what happened to me," Shifferly said.

He also attributes his decision to Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett, who recruited him to play tennis at Wabash.

Shifferly was pleased with his first year on the Wabash tennis team, where he played both singles and doubles. Coming from a small high school, it was a big change having a team full of competitive players who could push him every day at practice. Shifferly attributes much of his growth in both tennis and leadership to the environment.

As a leader, Shifferly finds it important to be supportive of everyone on the team.

"My goal is to reach out to as many people as possible, to make sure they know I'm there for them," Shifferly said.

This year, Shifferly hopes to build on a strong start to his college career. His biggest goal on the court is the ITA tournament on the weekend of September 29-30. The biggest tournament of the year, Shifferly hopes to go in and be competitive,

with goals of advancing to the later rounds of the tournament. By the end of his time at Wabash, he wants to claim an All-American title.

Koeneman chose Wabash because of the academics, brotherhood and Coach Bickett.

"My goal is to reach out to as many people as possible, to make sure they know I'm there for them."

- Cole Shifferly '26

"He [Bickett] is awesome, energetic, he gets us, so that was one of the main reasons," Koeneman said.

Now in his sophomore year, Koeneman is confident he made the right choice. As a member of Lambda Chi Alpha along with Shifferly, Koeneman feels the tennis team is like a second group of brothers. On the team, Koeneman sees himself as a source of energy for the team who also gets to wear a jersey and make contributions on the court. Coach Bickett touts Koeneman's charisma and team-first attitude.

"He does a good job of interacting with the guys and of having some fun," Bickett said.

He is competitive and contributes significantly to the team. As a freshman, Koeneman found himself playing in the doubles lineup, competing for spots with teammates, especially the talented new class. Koeneman has improved over his first year and the summer and comes into this year prepared to face the best in college

tennis.

This season, Koeneman looks to continue playing in the doubles lineup. He also wants to be able to get a spot in the singles lineup on the team. And for the team, he hopes they are able to improve on the regional ranking from last year. For both guys, building the team's culture is very important. In a sport sometimes criticized for a sterile audience, the Little Giants plan to bring a distinctly Wabash atmosphere.

"I really love the team culture we're cultivating," Shifferly said. "We're getting loud, supporting each other and we're all really competitive."

Koeneman also believes this, pointing to the strong bond of the team. Despite the unique differences individuals bring, they are able to unite around their common struggle, no matter what happens. With a strong underclassmen group, both Koeneman and Shifferly find a common bond of competitiveness and uniqueness.

"I don't think I could've found that competitive, fiery nature at any other school."

- Cole Shifferly '26

"I don't think I could've found that competitive, fiery nature at any other school," Shifferly said.

With a team of supportive and competitive players backing them, Shifferly and Koeneman have great opportunities for this season.

XC implements rigorous training mid-season

JAMES DALY '24 | SPORTS WRITER • The Little Giants cross country team has been keeping busy, balancing academics with their intense Monday through Friday practices, which have become increasingly advanced in their rigor in the aftermath of their race weeks ago at Denison University. This week, *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary as well as returning XC runner Joseph Barnett '24 to get an inside look into the cross country team's recent workout routine.

Given their performance in this North Coast Athletic Conference Preview meet was underwhelming largely due to their top three runners facing illness and injury, the Redpack 's focus has been on getting their fastest men back into shape and training vigorously for their upcoming event this weekend, their first since September 9. The team's rigorous exercising schedule over the past few weeks has mainly revolved around so-called block training. This consists of work in tempo in addition to aerobics.

"We really wanted to focus on aerobic training," Coach McCreary said. "A lot of it was good tempo work to help us for the whole season. We got some really high-quality training in and then sprinkled in some more work that will prepare us to start running quicker as we start getting into the back end of the season."

Veteran cross-country runner Joseph Barnett also weighed in. Barnett's performance thus far in the season has unfortunately been halted as a result of having to

treat a physical inquiry, but he has thankfully since recovered it and hopes that the last three weeks will pay off over the weekend.

"I think I've been really focused, especially after missing a week of training," Barnett said. "Speaking for our team, we've had some illness, we've had some minor things here and there. So I think our biggest obstacle is making sure we're confident. I don't think we lack confidence right now. A few minor setbacks aren't going to hurt us. And we'll be able to get through it and be really good."

With the most crucial members of Wabash's XC team having finally gotten back into the swing of practice over the few weeks since the team last raced, the overwhelming energy of the group remains optimistic, especially as the team's overall performance this year has yet to meet the team's lofty goals.

"We've seen a lot of tempos & hills, and then got some repeat K workouts that I think put us in a really good position," Coach McCreary said. "Our upperclassmen have been running well. Those guys look ready. We have a solid six to seven guys that will help us at conference championships and beyond. The freshmen have been really solid. I think everyone's in a great position for Saturday."

The Little Giants have their next meet Saturday, September 30, where they will run on the University of Louisville's E. P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park course as part of the Greater Louisville Classic. This meet will give the team a chance to put their hard work to the test.