

# Basketball comes out on top in nail-biter vs. DePauw



Sphinx Club members and honorary member Prof. Rick Warner cheer for the Wabash basketball team against DePauw on November 29, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

## Strategic recruitment efforts enrich Scarlet Honors weekend



Prospective students tour campus during Scarlet Honors weekend on December 2, 2022.

**JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER** • This weekend marks the first of two Scarlet Honors weekends for prospective students to come tour campus, learn in a classroom setting and meet the current students of Wabash. The next class of Wabash Men will be able to live as one with the student body to get an immersive experience in the next step of their lives.

There will be 187 prospec-

tive students on campus this Friday, and the office of admissions is expecting a total count of over 325 guests, including parents. Of the prospective students here for this weekend, 148 are expected to stay the night on campus, split 80% in fraternity housing and 20% in independent housing. For the second Scarlet Honors event on February 18-19, there are already 64 prospective students

registered to attend with registrations expected to continue coming in.

Scarlet Honors attendees are prospective students who have already applied to Wabash and have demonstrated the academic prowess to be a strong candidate for admission. Many of the students who come for Scarlet Honors look to take advantage of the overnight visit on campus and get to know student life on campus better. Wabash is one of the few colleges to offer overnight campus visits this early in the admission cycle. Prospective students will be given the chance to earn additional scholarships based upon their performance in classroom activities on Friday, providing another draw for attendees.

In addition to being an opportunity for prospective students to see what life at Wabash is like firsthand, Scarlet Honors also serves as a major recruitment tool for the office of admissions. Participating in a Scarlet Honors weekend takes a prospective student from a 20% chance at attending Wabash to a near 50% chance of becoming a Little Giant.

Continued page 2

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • There's no better way to start a conference season than with a win over DePauw. And that's exactly what Wabash basketball did when the Tigers came to town this week, sending them back to Greencastle with a 62-61 defeat.

Wabash fans were ready for the contest, packing Chadwick Court on November 29 to watch the Little Giants defeat their archrival. On the other hand, DePauw students, perhaps chronically running late or unable to navigate the 30 minute drive between Greencastle and Crawfordville, were only able to muster a handful of

spectators to attend the game.

The entire game was a close run affair, as the DePauw team managed to stay just one possession behind for most of the game. With their steady 2-3 zone they made the Little Giants find points in unique ways. With Sam Comer '24 and Ahmoni Jones '24 struggling to reach their usual output, other players got a chance to step up.

Edreece Redmond '24 led Wabash in scoring with 17 points, going 4-9 from beyond the arc against a defense that didn't expect him to punish them for giving him open threes.

"Tonight they were leaving me open and my team-

mates were finding me," said Redmond. "If I'm open, I'm going to shoot. And once I hit a couple, obviously my confidence goes up. So I'm just going to keep shooting them."

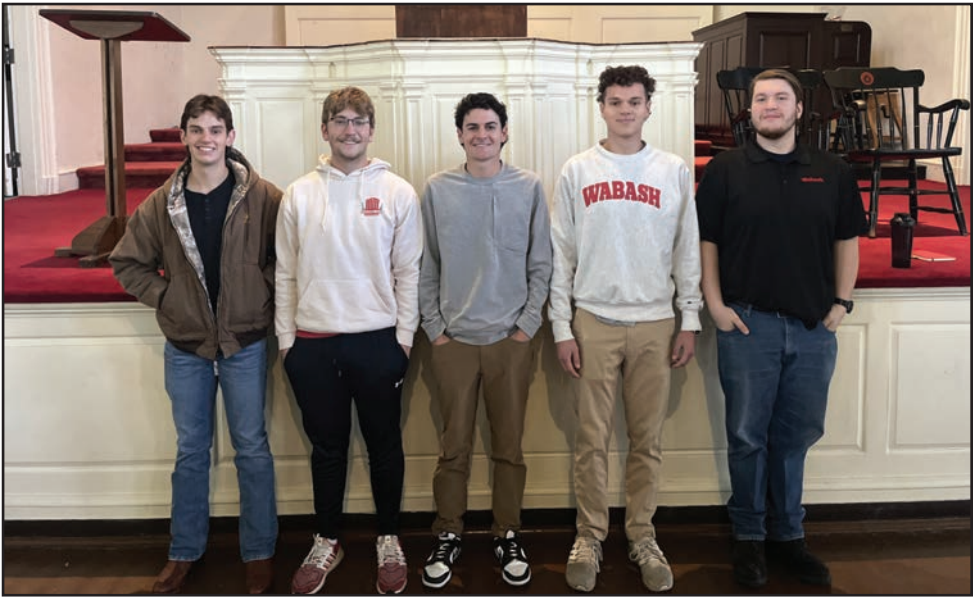
The statbook will do little to reflect the impact of Gavin Shippert '26 on the game. However, he provided a strong defensive presence and made sure that DePauw had their own scoring difficulties throughout the game. The team was plus seven while he was on the court.

Continued page 8



Wabash players fight for a loose ball on defense against DePauw on November 29, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

## 2023-24 IFC executive board elected



The Inter-Fraternity Council executive board was elected on November 28, 2023.

**SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** • After a resurgent year, the 2022-23 Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) cabinet has officially given the reins to a new group of Wabash Men. Matt Lesniak '25 has big shoes to fill.

The new cabinet was elected on Tuesday, November 28 in Pioneer Chapel. Lesniak was elected as president, Lucas Carpenter '26 was elected as Internal vice president, Dalton Waldman '25 is the new treasurer, James Wallace '26 was elected as the new secretary and Matthew Hendrick '25 was appointed

by Lesniak as the next external vice president.

This past year, Brett Driscoll '24 led the IFC as president and implemented multiple new initiatives that the new cabinet will continue.

"My main goal is to increase the rush numbers for next year," said Lesniak. "I think we're sitting right around 55% of campus in a fraternity right now. Our goal is to get 65% of campus to be a part of the Greek community next year. You don't want to go too high, but I think 65% Greek life is a pretty reasonable goal for us."

Lesniak believes that the key to continuing to improve rush is to improve relations between fraternity houses.

"I think the main initiative that's going to help us succeed is houses working together as opposed to them working against each other," said Lesniak. "If a prospective student comes up during Scarlet Honors weekend, and he tours a house, but the house doesn't believe that kid is a great fit, then I want them to recommend the student visit a house with a culture that fits his personality. I want the Greek communi-

ty working together, rather than working against each other and competing against other houses. I think that is what's going to help Greek life as a whole at Wabash and help us reach that goal."

Outside of recruitment, the new IFC cabinet has proposed other initiatives that they are eagerly looking to implement.

"I think the IFC can do more to bolster Greek philanthropy," said Carpenter. "I think, generally, giving is pretty lackluster among the houses especially when you compare it to other campuses across the country. And I think the IFC could sponsor some kind of event or a competition to help raise money for various causes."

This new cabinet will benefit from prior IFC experience. Lesniak and Hendrick both served on the executive team last year, while the three new cabinet members previously acted as IFC representatives for their fraternities. Hendrick was not subject to a vote by the fraternity presidents and IFC representatives, instead being appointed by Lesniak.

"My main reason for selecting him is [his] experience," said Lesniak. "Having somebody who's been on the cabinet and knows how the IFC executive team runs is invaluable. I know that he is capable of getting stuff done

and doing things outside of his job description. That's really important. I don't want people to just do what their job description says. I want them going above and beyond and helping out with different events as well as helping each other out."

"I think the two things that are going to help me sleep at night is if there's a boost in Greek numbers, big or small, as well as strong unity among the fraternity houses at Wabash."

- Matt Lesniak '25

Hendrick's experience coupled with Lesniak's prior experience is valuable as the cabinet begins their term. The combination of previous executive members with up and coming members has been a staple in past years.

"I think it's good for younger guys to get into leadership roles and show what they can do, because the younger guys have a lot of energy and are ready to get to work," said Hendrick. "Matt [Lesniak] and I have planned

events like Fraternity Day, Scarlet Honors weekend and Panhel week so we understand what needs to be done to make that happen. James [Wallace], Carpenter and Dalton [Waldman] have been involved in helping execute those events. I'm excited to see them get to work in leadership roles and take the next step in their IFC career. I'm excited to see what happens."

Once their term is over, the cabinet hopes that students will remember their time as IFC executives with two key takeaways.

"I think the two things that are going to help me sleep at night is if there's a boost in Greek numbers, big or small, as well as strong unity among the fraternity houses at Wabash," said Lesniak. "I don't want there to be any disagreements between houses or for houses to not like each other. I want the development of a strong community to be our reputation when we're done."



## This week in U.S. news

*All the news you need to know*

by Elijah Wetzel '27

**Supreme Court:** The nation's high court resumed hearing oral arguments in cases on Monday after a break for Thanksgiving. Cases this week included issues such as the double jeopardy clause in the Fifth Amendment, questions of discretion versus law and facts, and the powers of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Supreme Court will also hear arguments on December 4th regarding the maker's of OxyContin and their settlement of thousands of lawsuits with families who lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic. The court will decide whether the settlement violates federal law, and whether the Sackler family, the party settling with the families, are covered by bankruptcy laws even if they personally did not declare. The case will have important implications for future product liability lawsuits and how they will be decided within bankruptcy law.

**Congress:** Rep. Robert Garcia put forward legislation on Tuesday to expel Rep. George Santos after a House ethics committee report claimed it had “overwhelming evidence” Santos had broken the law by stealing from campaign funds and donors. Santos has been successful in fighting off expulsion legislation twice: in February and in November. A two-thirds majority is needed for expulsion of a representative and, if removed, Santos would be only the sixth representative in history to be expelled from the House. Some lawmakers cited the precedent that no representative in the modern era had been expelled without having been convicted of a felony, but after the House Ethics Committee released their report, more representatives have signaled their readiness to vote to expel Santos.

Also on Tuesday, Hunter Biden offered to speak publicly before Congress in response to the House Oversight Committee issuing a subpoena ordering him to appear for testimony on December 13th as part of a congressional probe looking into the Biden family's international business deals. The subpoena issued by the House does insist that Biden appear on the 13th but not in a public setting; rather, the House subpoena calls the younger Biden to appear for deposition behind closed doors. Hunter Biden and his lawyer asserted that if the Biden family's business dealings are of high public importance as the House Republicans have asserted they are, the testimony should be public so transparency can be guaranteed. House Republicans stood firm, insisting that a closed door deposition before public testimony is part of the standard process when issuing subpoenas crucial to investigations.

**Election News:** Nikki Haley received an essential endorsement in her bid to defeat Donald Trump in the Republican primary race, earning support from Americans for Prosperity, the political organization with the Koch family network. The Koch endorsement not only brings virtually unlimited funds, but also significant exposure to conservative voters, with whom Americans for Prosperity interacts by the millions. The Kochs' endorsement of Haley strikes a crippling blow to Gov. Ron DeSantis's campaign; DeSantis was expected to be Trump's main competition in the GOP primary but has been underwhelming so far. While the Koch endorsement is a boost to Haley, Trump still has a commanding lead in polls and Haley will need to make up serious ground in order to challenge Trump in a serious way in 2024.

While the Presidential election will headline the 2024 election cycle, the political landscape of Congress could be realigned after next fall's elections. More than forty members of Congress have already announced they will not run for reelection in 2024, and while some are single-term representatives, many senior lawmakers have decided to step down as well. While some are simply retiring, other members cited breakdowns in the civility of Congress as the main reason they are stepping away. If the elbows and insults continue to rain down on Capitol Hill as they have been in the past months, significant shakeup within Congress will be inevitable.

## Scarlet Honors cont'd



***Prospective students and parents fill Pioneer Chapel at the beginning of Scarlet Honors on December 2, 2022.***

“Getting to see the different living units on campus made me realize this is a place I could stay and feel welcome as a student,” reflected Alex Kling ’27, “It was enlightening for sure.”

The highlight of Kling's experience at Scarlet Honors was the open rush period and the class.

"I liked discussing current issues in a small setting," Kling said, "and open rush allowed me to get to meet

people on campus and find my new home."

Making this weekend a smooth experience is key to the continued success of Scarlet Honors.

"Welcome guests you bump into on campus. Help direct them if they appear lost. Make sure common spaces in your living units are clean — too clean," said Dean for Enrollment Management Chip Timmons '96. "If parents leave campus thinking 'there's no way it's always this clean', that's perfect. Let's all show our guests we're excited to welcome them to campus and we took extra time to get ready for their visit."

In an article in the most recent Wabash Magazine, President Scott Feller wrote about what has been deemed the “enrollment cliff.” This phenomena is the fast approaching 15% decline in the number of prospective students across the country beginning with the freshman class of 2026. This sharp “cliff” is a result of a decrease in the birth rate coinciding with the 2007-2008 financial crisis, which will affect liberal arts colleges

in the Midwest and Northeast especially hard. The Midwest is projected for a 17% total decline in prospective students while the northeast is projected for a 19% decline.

On showcase this weekend will be the College's strategic recruitment efforts. Informed by a new data-driven enrollment strategy and new resources, Wabash has been preparing for the enrollment cliff strike soon.

In the first step to combat against the cliff, Wabash started taking strategic action almost 10 years ago in efforts to increase retention and graduation rates. By focusing on supporting enrolled students through the Writing Center, WLAI, QSC and SI programs, there has been a measurable increase in academic success through these student support services. Part of increasing the resources at the College was the success of the Giant Steps Campaign. This allowed for the creation of over 100 new endowed funds, with the majority going to scholarships for students, helping to alleviate the financial bur-

den college creates.

The second step was the implementation of regional recruiters who can recruit far from Wabash to areas previously overlooked. Admissions has deployed regional recruiters to the American Southwest, as that region is expecting a 16% increase in the number of prospective college students.

The implementation of strategic recruiting tactics has proven its worth in recent years. The class of 2026 holds the record for the highest number of students from Texas as a result of the recruitment strategies, and was the second-largest class at Ringier-In that Wabash has seen in two decades.

"We've increased the number of applicants, admitted students and deposited students in markets where the number of high school graduates is expected to grow over the next decade," said Timmons. "We've made great progress since deploying regional reps to Arizona and Texas, but we have more work to do."



**FRANCIS AND MOUNT**  
CRAWFORDSVILLE

C R A W F O R D S V I L L E

131 N. WASHINGTON ST., CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

**WWW.FRANCISANDMOUNT.COM**

**FACEBOOK.COM/FRANCISANDMOUNT**



**\*MUST PRESENT WABASH STUDENT ID\***

# Wabash Club of Indianapolis

## It's Our Commitment to You.



**When Wabash students call, alumni answer.  
We help students achieve success  
with internships and job opportunities.**

[facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis)



Cousin Rick's Pick Three

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST • Lines and odds provided by DraftKings, accurate as of Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Please gamble responsibly.

Last Week's Record: 3-0  
Overall Record: 7-5



Iowa (v. Michigan) O/U 35  
(Over) -110

Despite Iowa setting records for low Over/Under lines this season, the team has still managed to consistently underperform offensively and overperform defensively, managing to hit the under in 10 of their 12 games this year. The reason why I like this pick so much though is that I can realistically see two ways Iowa manages this. Either the Hawkeyes defense performs above expectations and does enough to stay competitive in a low scoring rock fight, or Michigan proves themselves to be vastly superior in every phase and runs away with the game as the sole provider of scoring in the game. Either way, hitting a combined 35.5 points in this game feels like a tough ask.

Oklahoma State (v. Texas) at +15.5 (Oklahoma State ATS) -110



I can't blame the oddsmakers for setting the line this far out but this seems like the kind of bet worth taking advantage of. Anyone who has watched the Big 12 this year could tell you that any team week-to-week has been anything but consistent. For Oklahoma State, despite beating solid teams in Oklahoma, Kansas State and Kansas, the Cowboys have dropped games to South Alabama, UCF and almost BYU last week. For their part, Texas has often allowed inferior opponents to hang around. While the success of this pick is highly contingent on the intangible of whether or not Oklahoma State decides to show up for this game, expect the Cowboys to give Texas a good fight if they do and Oklahoma State to cover the spread.



Eagles (v. 49ers) at +3 (Eagles ML) +130

This game should be extremely entertaining to watch and could very likely come down to whoever wins the coin flip at the beginning of overtime, but I like the Eagles for a couple of reasons. For one, I was kind of surprised to see Vegas was not favoring them as these are two pretty evenly matched teams and the Eagles are in fact at home. More importantly though, the Eagles have one of the NFL's most valuable intangibles: they just find ways to win games. With the 49ers yet to discover similar consistency in the 4th quarter and the line on this game being what is, Eagles ML is a strong pick.

The Greatest Beer Run Ever Review



COURTESY OF IMDB

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • B, double-E, double-R, U, N -- Beer Run! This song has been a staple in my house since I was eight years old, and I truly developed an appreciation for it during my college years. Naturally, when I saw the name of this movie, I was immediately intrigued. "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" is set in the midst of the Vietnam War and witnessed through the lens of neighborhood boy John "Chickie" Donahue. The New York neighborhood lifer has become a regular at his local pub along with a multitude of his childhood friends. As the war continues, some of the "boys from the neighborhood" have enlisted to fight for American ideals in the midst of Communist threat. Chickie is depicted as a lazy, uncommitted late 20s individual who spends his nights letting others pay for his bar tab. Much to his family's frustration, he wakes up hungover for Mass, but typically finds a way to BS his way through the day. As conversations with the World War II veteran bartender, nightly pub attendees and blindly faithful American citizens commence, Chickie falls further and further into his support of the American war effort. However, protests against the war begin to arise throughout the neighborhood, creating tension and discontent. The movie shines not because of the witty comments or comical situations but, surprisingly, because of the nuanced develop-

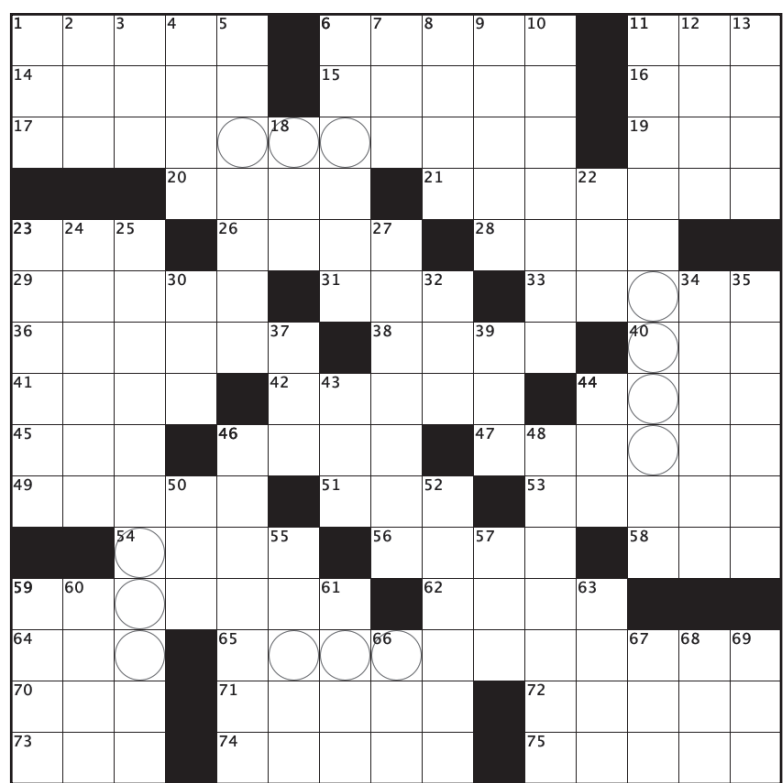
ment of Chickie. Concerned that his buddies fighting in Vietnam feel that no one back home supports them, he plans the only feasible solution; a beer run. The absurdity of the situation makes this story appear to be a fun, fictional comedy, but it's based on a true story. This happened. As Chickie finds his way to Vietnam, he miraculously makes his way to where the neighborhood boys are stationed and gives them a lukewarm, three month old, American-made PBR beer. The movie takes a turn and dives into the main theme that it works to convey: war from afar and war up close are two different things. Chickie learns about the war front and center in a mad dash to get back home, culminating in a bombing of the city that was thought to be safe. As he witnesses the death and destruction that entails, his personal feelings on the war shift from blind patriotism to frustration and fear. Originally, I thought I was in for a comedic film that would have me laughing on a casual Friday night. Instead, I was brought into a nuanced perspective of the Vietnam War. "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" excels in showcasing the point of view of the casual American during this period as well as the reality of the situation. In the end, neither view is villainized. Outside of the battle between America and Vietnam, the other prominent battle is between the media and government. How do we balance the reality of the situation with the adverse effects it may have on others? It may be a Vietnam War movie, but its themes are relevant today. This movie is well worth a watch. It balances the complex nature of that time period with well-timed humor that keeps the viewer engaged. It's not what you expect going into it, but you're glad you saw it afterward.

FINAL VERDICT:  
4.5/5 WALLYS



'Putting up the tree' Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

- Across
- 1. Daughter, for one
  - 6. Spherical map
  - 11. E.T.'s ship
  - 14. Baby food, often
  - 15. Gobbled
  - 16. Signal to an auctioneer
  - 17. Corroborating evidence
  - 19. Ordered, say
  - 20. Limited time?
  - 21. Haunted house sounds
  - 23. A drop in the ocean?
  - 26. Contiguous
  - 28. Nag
  - 29. Societal standards
  - 31. Tree dropping
  - 33. E-cigarette output
  - 36. Demolition cleanup vehicle
  - 38. I'm tempted!
  - 40. New stock listing: Abbr.
  - 41. Sacred bird of Egypt
  - 42. "The Grinch got a wonderful, \_\_\_ idea"
  - 44. "I got this"
  - 45. 1-Across, e.g
  - 46. Freudian stage
  - 47. Latin word of warning
  - 49. Minaret, for one
  - 51. FBS power conference
  - 53. Ctrl+V
  - 54. Picnic invaders
  - 56. Like many a cellar
  - 58. Capitol Hill VIP
  - 59. Football stat category
  - 62. Bridge
  - 64. Ending like -like
  - 65. Completely drench
  - 70. Prevaricate
  - 71. Testing stage
  - 72. Follow as a consequence
  - 73. Shaver
  - 74. One with congresspeople
  - 75. Crosses the aisle



- Down
- 1. It's proper ratio is 30:2, in brief
  - 2. Pigment
  - 3. Retirement acct.
  - 4. Blue
  - 5. Cabinet department
  - 6. Language source of "Kris Kringle"
  - 7. On the \_\_\_
  - 8. Mayberry resident
  - 9. Setting for the "Forrest Gump" movie poster
  - 10. Personalize, in one way
  - 11. Doom and gloom
  - 12. Head
  - 13. "May the \_\_\_ be ever in your favor"
  - 18. Redden
  - 22. Phanerozoic, for one
  - 23. Answer Uncle Sam
  - 24. Owie
  - 25. Like "sheep-le," in modern parlance
  - 27. Disheveled, as feathers
  - 30. ER VIPs
  - 32. 2π
  - 34. Poppy derivative
  - 35. Like Hamlet's Denmark
  - 37. Sought a seat
  - 39. Mother's prescription: Abbr.
  - 43. Is past?
  - 44. Future embryos
  - 46. Monet and Manet, e.g.
  - 48. It may be gay, at Christmas
  - 50. Nav. rank
  - 52. Rook
  - 55. Pig's sound
  - 57. Speed meas.
  - 59. Red or blue options, in "The Matrix"
  - 60. Region crossed by Mar co Polo
  - 61. Earth goddess
  - 63. Goose egg
  - 66. "WandaVision" actress Dennings
  - 67. Post-Anthem chant
  - 68. Lock, stock and barrel
  - 69. "For \_\_\_ a jolly good fellow"

Scan for solution!

Society of Physics Students screens 'Oppenheimer', lectures on nuclear physics



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Society of Physics Students President James Szalkie '25 outlines the fundamental physics of the atom bomb in Hays Hall on November 28, 2023.

CHRIS ZIMMERMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER • In spite of finals being right around the corner and stress levels being near their height for the semester, our campus is still lively for academic and athletic events. On Tuesday, the Student Events Committee partnered with the Society of Physics Students (SPS) to present a screening of the extremely popular new film, "Oppenheimer". The event was one of the first of its kind, as it included a screening of the film along with an explanation of the physics behind it by SPS President, James Szalkie '25. Szalkie chose "Oppenheimer" for a slew of reasons. Along with its deep dive into the world of nuclear physics, Szalkie emphasized the liberal arts aspect of a film of this nature. "Many institutions do not require students to deviate from the discipline of their choice," said Szalkie. "This is why you see musical artists highlighting problems only pertaining to them, filmmakers only producing works re-

flecting upon topics within their own realm of issues or scientific researchers devoting immense energy to research only in their sector of science. The release of "Oppenheimer" was significant because it crossed this metaphorical line in the sand dividing individual disciplines while also visiting the relatively unexplored intersection of science and film." Despite the busy time of year, the screening attracted around 50 visitors and was an undeniable success according to students, as well as faculty within the physics department. In light of this recent momentum, Szalkie has high hopes for the future of the Society of Physics Students. "We're going to blow this up, no pun intended. More events, more outreach and above all else – more physics." Szalkie aspires to use this position as a platform to highlight the work of Division I clubs across campus such as SPS, Chemistry Club, Environmental Science Club

and other organizations dedicated to pursuing the hard sciences. Looking at the future of SPS, Szalkie intends to continue to grow the club and promote education through its endeavors. More specifically, an event will be held in light of the upcoming solar eclipse, in which attendees will view the eclipse and learn about the physics behind the solar eclipse from the SPS. Additionally, discussion has risen regarding another movie screening in the future and a similar format with an explanation of the physics behind the film afterwards. In addition to "Oppenheimer" being a standout film, Szalkie's initiative to organize such an event has been reflected upon very positively by fellow students, particularly among student organizers and Student Senate. Brett Driscoll '24 of the Student Events Committee emphasized the level of dedication shared by him along with the members of SPS. "From a Student Events standpoint, we can continue to promote events like these by continuing to do what we do best - supporting our brothers, and leading by example," said Driscoll. "These two principles will continue to guide our campus life and engagement, and certainly need to be maintained." Support from students like Driscoll resounds strongly when unique clubs engage students, faculty and community. Positive community responses like those at the "Oppenheimer" screening bode well for the continuity of these events in the future.



# Hunger Games review: Prequel misses the mark



COURTESY OF IMDB

**HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | STAFF WRITER**  
• The Hunger Games needs no introduction. If you were alive from 2010 to 2015, you'll remember the viral popularity of both its books and movies. Both had tremendous influences on the young adult and sci-fi genres at the time, as well as my psyche after having to hear "hanging tree" about a thousand times. Unfortunately, the series's newest movie, "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes", comes eight years after the series's conclusion in "The Mockingjay Part Two" and doesn't quite live up to its predecessors.

The film is a prequel that centers around the early life of Coriolanus Snow, the series's main antagonist, and the early stages of the brutal Hunger Games. Unlike the other movies, the protagonist doesn't actually participate in the Games. Snow must support Lucy Gray, a strong-willed tribute from, you guessed it, District 12, in the competition as a benefactor to restore pride to his family's tarnished legacy. It's an unconventional setup for the series and, while it starts slow, it eventually works.

Many of the positives of this movie can be attributed to its source material. Both Snow and Lucy Gray are fluid, complex characters that enhance the worldbuilding and, because of their sympathetic natures, draw audiences into the story. The two have a relationship that seems awkward at first, but begins to play out like a dance of wills, with one seeming to use the other for their own means while also developing a greater attachment to the relationship. I won't spoil anything, but the symbolism of the songbird and the snake encapsulates the dynamic as well as its conclusion perfectly, and it plays into the greater theme of the movie as well. The scenarios the story's main characters find themselves in are always unexpected and this subversion of expectations heightens the immersion of the experience.

While it's plain that the book is rich in character dynamics, the director stumbles in translating such depth to the screen. For a series that is centered around brutal murder, I didn't

expect the first hour or so of the movie to be a trip through some of the corniest, most laughable scenarios and dialogues conceivable. We are introduced to Lucy Gray, later a multilayered and fascinating character, through a played-out, "not like the other girls" scenario where she screams profanities at an audience and proceeds to sing a goofy little song. The sensationalizing of the quirks of the characters, instead of highlighting their actual depth, goes one step further in the movie's awful dialogue. While it's clear that the actors tried their hardest, no acting can redeem lines such as "That's what happens when you do stuff. You get attention". Most exchanges feel straight out of an old video game, where a character's motives are cheesily and overdramatically conveyed to one another in just about every interaction. Overdramatic is a word I never thought I'd be using in a review of a Hunger Games movie; the other movies profited by appealing to the charged emotions of teens and preteens through the exaggerated emotions of its characters as they came into contact with constant danger. However, this film lacked the serious tone and depth of the book, which haunts it until the end credits roll.

The film's quick pacing acts in its favor for much of its runtime. Despite this movie's shortcomings, it was never uninteresting. However, in the movie's second half, its speed works against its plot, making the last forty minutes of the film feel like a fever dream. Snow seemingly goes from a golden boy to a calculating sociopath in the span of two scenes, with little explanation for why. The transformation of Snow from this film's protagonist into the villain we know from the main series is one of the main selling points of the plot, so to have it blundered to such an extent after an almost two-hour buildup is indescribably disappointing. This could have easily been fixed by splitting the film into two parts.

While "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" was average at best, its mediocrity could have been avoided by better dialogue, pacing and ironically, less dramatization.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
2.5/5 WALLYS**



# EXmas review: Hallmark formula refined



COURTESY OF IMDB

**LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | MANAGING EDITOR**  
• ChatGPT to generate a summary for a Hallmark Christmas movie and it'll probably give you something pretty close to "EXmas" (I did, and it did). Overworked Big Tech employee travels from Los Angeles to his childhood home in Minnesota where he runs into his ex-fiancee. At first they each try to sabotage the other's Christmas celebration, but by Christmas morning he realizes family is more important than his job and they fall back in love.

Look, it's not a spoiler if every plot is exactly the same. It's not even the only "EXmas" on IMDb. (For the record, I'm reviewing the one released in 2023.)

"EXmas" accomplishes all the traditional Hallmark-esque tropes: Gay sister, ethnically ambiguous and woke-college-student brother in an all-white family and overly-excited parents whose entire personalities are hockey and Christmas.

In all fairness, they execute the tropes well. The production quality is solid, from music to costuming to casting. The plot, while generic, was well-written enough, and very economical — there were few wast-

ed moments that didn't serve a larger purpose in the narrative. I even sort of like the fact that the female protagonist's bangs were never perfectly fixed. They didn't look great, but it added to the authenticity of it.

What I appreciate the most about "EXmas," however, are the few, small ways in which they stretch or rework the status quo. There were a few times while watching when I thought to myself, "ooh, I'm surprised they went there." For example, when they accidentally bake THC butter into the Christmas cookies and the whole family gets stoned at the dinner table. It's not a big deal, but just a slightly braver choice than you usually expect from such a movie. Near the end of the film, one of the characters suffers a pretty severe medical emergency which serves to bring the love interests together and teach them that life is fleeting, yada, yada, yada. Again, kudos for making that choice. There's even a moment where the male protagonist nearly joins a throuple... Absolutely wild choice, but hats off to the writers for having the snowballs to add it.

The biggest example of this movie going the extra mile comes at the very end, right before the credits roll. I won't give away any more on the off chance you want to add this slightly-better-than-mediocre move to your rotation this Christmas season.

If you do, be prepared to smile, laugh a little bit and probably roll your eyes quite a bit. It's not worth a watch if you don't like Hallmark movies to begin with, but if you do, "EXmas" is a good new twist on an old classic.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
3.5/5 WALLYS**



# Jon Pardi review: Country cheese for Christmas



COURTESY OF AMAZON

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR**  
• Who needs reindeer, Christmas lights and Santa Claus, when they have pickup trucks, KC lights and Jon Pardi? Christmas meets country in Jon Pardi's newest album "Merry Christmas from Jon Pardi." The bizarre mashup of melodies will force even the most avid country music fans to ask whether some things just don't go better together.

The playlist opens with two original songs that find a good balance of "countrifying" Christmas traditions. Merry, fun and not taking itself too seriously, "Beer For Santa" and "400 Horsepower Sleigh" are probably my two favorite songs from the album. These two are exactly the kind of song I was hoping to get when I saw this album come out.

After that strong start, Pardi turns to a list of satisfactory covers of classics like "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow" followed by more obnoxious singles like "Merry Christmas from the Keys" that try way too hard to squeeze Christmas into an unrelated country song.

Almost unbelievably, one of my other favorite songs on this soundtrack was Pardi's version of "All I want for Christmas Is You." Mixing in a little country flair, Pardi topped the admittedly very low bar of Mariah Carey's song.

Halfway through the 40-minute collection, Pardi appears to find his stride in a new version of "Please Come Home For Christmas". His sad-cowboy country style combines perfectly with the somber tone of the song. It was a clear standout from the other songs, until, in the most absurd decision in music since Mr. West changed his name to Ye, Pardi transitioned the ending of the song into a dreadful rendition of "Amazing Grace." Attempting to turn the solemn tune of the song into a Broadway-esque spectacle, Pardi creates a flamboyant mess that would make even Dolly Parton blush.

After that, the playlist finishes with a few forgettable songs that I genuinely don't recall. A penultimate rendition of "Winter Wonderland" that was only better than all the other versions you've never heard before almost saved the album from a crash landing. However, "A Long December" finally brought this album to an end with an intolerably repetitive, "na-na-na-na. Na, na, na, na-na-na-na. Na-na-na-na, yeah."

While I definitely enjoyed a few songs in this album that I will continue to listen to for the rest of the season, I doubt many people will be listening to this playlist next year. But hey, at least it's not Mariah Carey. And with that final note, I bid a Merry Christmas to all, and to all the Mariah Carey fans, Bah Humbug.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
3/5 WALLYS**





# Immersion courses tour Big Apple, romp through Rome over Thanksgiving break



COURTESY OF CODY BEVELHIMER '24

Students and faculty pause for a brief photo in between theater productions. The group attended ten shows On- and Off-Broadway, as well as visiting museums and New York landmarks.



COURTESY OF CODY BEVELHIMER '24

The New York skyline floats above wintry Central Park. Sightseeing on the trip included other landmarks such as Times Square and Grand Central Station.



COURTESY OF NICK LOGAN '24

Ancient Roman ruins were among the many stops made by the cohort. Off the busy streets of Rome, remnants of the legendary empire offer glimpses into the ordinary lives of classical civilizations.



COURTESY OF NICK LOGAN '24

Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96 (center) kneels with students and alumni in the Colosseum in Rome. Hartnett frequently guides students through Rome on immersion courses, bringing ancient culture to life.

# OPINION

## BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,  
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

X: @WabCoBachelor\_  
IG: @wabashcollegebachelor

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sam Benedict • ssbenedi25@wabash.edu

### MANAGING EDITOR

Logan Weillbaker • laweilba25@wabash.edu

### NEWS EDITOR

Tiernan Doran • tldoran26@wabash.edu

### FEATURES EDITOR

Nathan Ellenberger • nvellenb26@wabash.edu

### OPINION EDITOR

James Wallace • jpwallac26@wabash.edu

### SPORTS EDITOR

Ethan Wallace • ewallac25@wabash.edu

### PHOTO EDITOR

Elijah Greene • eagreene25@wabash.edu

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.

*The Bachelor* reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

*The Bachelor* is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in *the Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

*The Bachelor* is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

## Altruism, acceleration and AI



Isaac Grannis '26

Reply to this opinion at  
idgranni26@wabash.edu

Today, we stand at the precipice of a new revolution. One year ago, OpenAI released ChatGPT as an experiment, expected to be used by researchers and a few consumers. Today, it has become a product used worldwide by millions of people, creating a full-fledged industry, and we are getting more advanced every day. AI is a tool with near-infinite unrealized potential – not even the sky is the limit.

However, two weeks ago, OpenAI's Board unexpectedly dismissed CEO Sam Altman, setting off an unforeseen chain of events. Within a mere 72 hours, the newly-appointed CEO attempted to rehire Altman in secret, leading the board to dismiss him and initiate a search for yet another leader.

In an extraordinary display of solidarity, 95% of OpenAI's staff signed a letter to the board, threatening to quit if Altman was not reinstated. Amidst the turmoil, the board appointed Emmett Shear, Twitch founder, as the next CEO, who then demanded an explanation for Altman's initial dismissal. The tension culminated when OpenAI announced an agreement to return Altman to the helm and dismissed two board members.

What caused all of this? While we don't know for sure, the evidence suggests that the Board felt that OpenAI was advancing too quickly and that this was a culmination of an ideological battle within AI research – and it has important implications for the future of our society.

There are two opposing ideologies in this battle: Effective Altruism (EA) and Effective Accelerationism (e/acc). EA believes in maximizing actions that create the greatest good for the world while minimizing risk. On the other hand, e/acc believes that technology can solve more problems than it makes, and therefore, we should innovate rapidly. Both e/acc and EA hold different beliefs on expanding AI capabilities and understanding. While

e/acc works towards maximizing the potential of AI, EA believes that we must slow down research as much as possible because the complete impact of AI is unknown.

Why does this matter? Because ultimately, this is a conflict about prioritizing safety versus prioritizing innovation – and prioritizing safety is the most dangerous thing we could do.

With nearly every major innovation in history, there have always been foretellers of doom – Socrates warned that writing would kill your memory, books were feared to ruin the minds of women and children, bicycles would cause mass infertility, radio would prevent children from learning, email will harm our intelligence, cars will make us lazy, the internet will bring terrorists and predators to your doorstep – I could continue forever.

Now, all those technologies have caused harm at some point – people have written horrible ideas, and cars have killed thousands. Every tool will eventually be used for harm. However, not only are our predictions often very wrong, but all of these things have also been used for an incomparable amount of good. Books democratized knowledge, radio brought large-scale remote communication and the internet transformed the global economy, created millions of jobs and accelerated research in every field, saving countless lives.

Prioritizing innovation – working to solve real problems in the world – caused all of that, not safety. Prioritizing innovation created ChatGPT and prioritizing safety nearly destroyed it in less than three days.

One side focuses on solving today's problems by building practical solutions. In contrast, the other side is more concerned with worrying about the possible problems of tomorrow that may or may not occur. Every day we delay AI research, we miss countless opportunities to save lives, solve problems and create wealth.

Our world is on the brink of a revolution, and we shouldn't fear it. Will humans make mistakes? Yes. Will AI be misused? Yes. But we will also have unimaginable capacity for creating. We are beginning what may be the most chaotic time in human history – what will you build from it?

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SCHOLASTIC

*Hi-Five to the new Hunger Games movie for a \$200 million opening. It's not often that a movie is in development before the book it's based on is published, but leave it to Suzanne Collins to find new ways to monopolize on the murder of children.*

### IT'S TIIIIIIIIIIIIIME!!

*Hi-five to Mariah Carey for another successful de-thaw. If people ever get tired of her music, she always has a promising career in Cryonics.*

### RETURN OF THE MELCH

*Lo-Five to the man who got arrested for streaking on the "It's a Small World" ride at Disney World. When people came to see a small world, I don't think that's what they had in mind.*

### "YOU DON'T WANT THAT SMOKE"

*Hi-five to Snoop for "giving up smoke," only to announce his new endorsement deal with SoloStove. A man only has room in his life for one type of smoke, and stove smoke just doesn't hit the same as that sweet Ganja.*

### DOES ANYONE ACTUALLY READ THESE?

*Hi-Five to The Bachelor staff for managing not to get canceled for a single hi-five all semester. There's always next year...*



# Wally's Wall: Scarlet Honors

**The Prompt:**

What is your favorite or funniest memory from Scarlet Honors weekend?

**Jonathan Silva '24**

One of my favorite memories is when I arrived at the basement of FIJI and for the first time, in the whole tour, I met Spanish speaking prospect Latinos. The magic of this is that a year later, the people I met in that room became my La Alianza hermanos (Francisco Jimenez' 24 and Jesus Monroy '24).

**Alex Schmidt '27**

Rooming with THE Logan Weilbaker '25 and getting a full tour of the Fine Arts Center. He is the sole purpose of my human existence.

**Derek Miller '24**

I'm legally not allowed to say...

**Augustine Grannan '27**

I remember a few stand out moments from going to Scarlet Honors last year. Highlights for me include speaking to professors during a dinner served in the Allen Center, philosophizing with fraternity guys in their rooms, and going to sleep in current opinion editor James Wallace's cold dorm bunk. This year I'm really looking forward to the boat races.

# Climate politics and the myths of human immortality



**Dr. Matt Harvey**  
Reply to this opinion at [harveyem@wabash.edu](mailto:harveyem@wabash.edu)

there is a strong correlation between income level and the size of one's carbon footprint.

A recent report published by Oxfam International found that the richest 1% of individuals collectively have a larger carbon footprint than the poorest 66% of humans on Earth. Our own carbon footprints from meat consumption, car use and air travel pale in comparison. In a cruel irony, the nations of the Global South (with relatively higher populations but lower carbon footprints) face the most immediate and severe threats from the climate crisis.

At the same time, the wealthy elite recognize the threat of climate change, and are investing accordingly. Ajay Chaudhary notes that the creation of luxurious "shelters" and the privatization of water sources around the world reveal that the climate crisis can be weathered, at a significant cost of (poor) human and non-human life. Thus climate justice and economic justice are inexorably linked — there are solutions to help mitigate this crisis that are plainly apparent if we had the political will to seize them.

Yet, we do not! And here is where we get to my view of "why" our current political climate cannot solve climate change — *there is no political recognition of humanity's fleeting mortality*. In the foundations of Western political theory, there is no recognition of nature, of a living world, that truly matters before humanity emerges as a rational, unique political animal. Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, as the foundational theorists of the social contract, all offer us a state of nature that revolves around human existence — despite the fact that humanity's presence on Earth is a mere period of weeks at the end of the geological calendar.

It's all too easy to assume that we, through our uniqueness, are the center of the universe. We cannot imagine a world existing before humanity, and nor can we imagine the possibility of a damaged Earth that continues to orbit the sun and support life that does not include our presence.

The ultra-rich, with their growing interest in preserving their quality of life in multimillion-dollar fallout shelters, assume that humanity can magically survive if the ecosystems upon which our life is dependent (such as the oceans and rainforests) collapse.

Growing public interest in the fantasies of space colonization and artificial intelligence also indicate, in my view, a desire to ensure the immortality of (select members of) humanity. In short, we have a profound lack of environmental imagination that takes seriously the fragility of our existence on Earth.

At this point, you might ask what my ideal solution to the climate crisis might look like. I truly wish I had one to offer, both for the sake of the species and because it would be cool to win a Nobel Prize.

I truly believe that abandoning the myths of human exceptionalism and immortality need not lead to an existential crisis, but a joy and reverence for the living world we inhabit and the wondrous forms of life we share it with. We can imagine a future where all life flourishes and evolves, and not just humanity — and such a future might then be worth fighting for. Perhaps, if we cultivate a more radical environmental imagination, we might be able to cultivate a more radical political imagination to fight for that future.

A growing body of work in the environmental humanities frames the climate crisis as one that requires a practice of "self-work" to repair our relations with nature and the myths of human existence and I truly believe that is a vital first step.

From there, it is clear that our current political climate is unable, or unwilling, to address the global disparity between our carbon footprints and those of the 1% regardless of electoral outcomes — so what would it take to realize a more environmentally and economically just world? I leave you with that question to consider, with the note that we likely can't vote our way out of this crisis.

# Perspectives from an international student



**Nishant Humagain '27**  
Reply to this opinion at [nshumaga27@wabash.edu](mailto:nshumaga27@wabash.edu)

# The indubitable ranking of the many Dr. Pepper flavors



**James Wallace '26**  
Opinion Editor  
Reply to this opinion at [jpwallac26@wabash.edu](mailto:jpwallac26@wabash.edu)

3. **Dr. Pepper and Cream Soda**

Dr. Pepper and Cream Soda, as the name suggests, combines the two magical flavors of Dr. Pepper and Cream Soda, both of which are two of my favorite libations. This unique combination results in a balanced sweet and spicy liquid that pours with ease. It serves well as a comfort drink, specializing in evenings by the fireplace during the cold winter months. Though not as adaptable as the two preceding flavors, it makes a solid case for third place.



5. **Whataburger Dr. Pepper Shake**

Though not a different flavor from the original Dr. Pepper drink, the limited edition Dr. Pepper shake (available only at the best fast food chain in the nation, Whataburger) deserves at the very least a shoutout. There's only one thing better than an ice cold Dr. Pepper on a hot summer day, and it's the sublime Dr. Pepper Shake. The frozen goodness is unmatched when it comes to other shake flavorings, and while it brings moments of pure bliss, its yearly departure from the menu leaves a hole in your heart.

6. **Diet Dr. Thunder**

This atrocious sub-human concoction of chemicals hardly deserves to be on this list. However, I couldn't ignore such an impressive failure of corporate America. Even though it technically isn't in the Dr. Pepper line of drinks, its similarity to the all-glorious soda makes it necessary to include, if only for the purpose of disgracing it with a last-place ranking. Drinking Diet Dr. Thunder is truly a fate worse than death, and I implore the Walmart location in Greencastle to continue to stock the drink.

4. **Dr. Pepper Strawberries and Cream**

Every year, Crawfordsville hosts its annual Strawberry Festival, a new tradition that I got to experience this past summer. However, as I wandered through the festival in search of strawberry-flavored foods or drinks, my disappointment grew and grew. The festival was a good time, but I was left with an overwhelming craving for strawberry flavor. Months later, I finally tried Dr. Pepper Strawberries and Cream, and finally my craving was fulfilled. The extra sweet drink represents everything that is right about strawberry-

1. **Dr. Pepper**

I still remember the first time the cold, sparkling combination of Dr. Pepper's unique flavors hit my tastebuds. It was truly a moment of enlightenment, as the 138-year old drink revealed to me the secrets of the universe. And while many variants of the original flavor have popped up within recent years, the original taste of Dr. Pepper stands alone in prestige. There's a reason why Dr. Pepper floats are nearly as common as root beer floats down in Texas — the drink is simply edifying.

2. **Dr. Pepper Cherry**

Taking a very close second, Dr. Pepper Cherry holds a special place in my heart. After overcoming my initial shock at the quite grotesque, teal coloring of the can, I was able to unlock the wonderful secrets within. Marrying a perfect combination of the original spice of Dr. Pepper with just the right amount of sweet cherry, the drink closely rivals other cherry-flavored drinks on the market. While my Chick-fil-A order currently includes a Cherry Coke, if Dr. Pepper Cherry was offered as well, I would make the switch quicker than a Danny realizing he chose the wrong school after depositing. Dr. Pepper Cherry continually fulfils the thirst of my fellow cherry enjoyers.



**Free small drink when you show your Wabash ID!**  
\*With a \$5 minimum purchase\*

**114 W Wabash Ave,  
Crawfordsville, IN**

**765-362-2764**

Like us on Facebook!  
[@Arni's Crawfordsville](#)

6 | BACHELOR.WABASH.EDU | THE BACHELOR



## Murky waters ahead after Pebworth Invite

*Wabash finishes fourth amongst top teams in the nation*

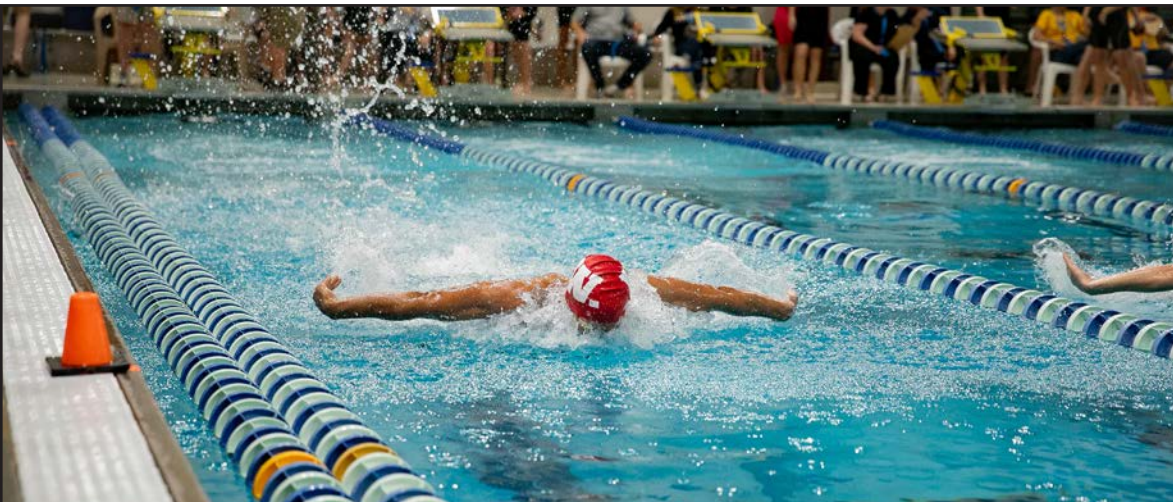


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Wabash swim finished fourth in the three-day Gail Pebworth Invitational held between November 17 and 19, 2023 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.**

**HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26 | STAFF WRITER** • It's been a long time coming, as the swimming & diving team gets ready to face DePauw in their highly-anticipated dual meet. Before heading home for break, the Wabash team hosted the Gail Pebworth Invitational from Friday, November 17th through Sunday, November 19th. The meet saw the Little Giants matched against some of the best competition from across the country.

Wabash started sixth in the team standings through day one. With perseverance and multiple top-10 finishes across the three days of competition, Wabash was able to climb the ranks and finish fourth out of 11 teams, scoring 652 points.

One standout performance from the meet was Quinn Sweeney '27, who swam to a second-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle on Friday, a second-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle on Saturday, and another second-place effort in the 100-yard individual medley on Sunday.

"I wouldn't have been able to have a large impact if it wasn't for the support of all my teammates," said Sweeney. "We are always there for each other and that is a big reason why we had such a strong team performance. It is easy to go fast when I know that I will have the support of my brothers no matter what."

Another standout performance came from Ethan Johns '25, who finished eighth in the 50-yard freestyle, third in the 200-yard freestyle and second in the 100-yard

freestyle. Both Sweeney and Johns were also on the 200-yard freestyle relay combined with John Allen '26 and Conner Craig '25 to finish fifth.

"We are a team full of racers and competitors," said Johns. "We were excited to get up and go fast at the invite. At many points throughout the meet, we had athletes elevate their game and seize their opportunity to compete leading to some really fun and fast swims."

Head Coach Will Bernhardt was encouraged with the performance his team produced at the invite.

"Overall we achieved 58% of season best times, 31% of personal best times, broke a freshman record, won two relays and added five guys to our All-Time Top 10 Times list," said Bernhardt. "The team as a whole was competing very well all weekend and the men learned a lot about their race strategies and how to improve as we move into the second half of our season."

The next outing for Wabash will be a trip to Greencastle for a dual-meet against DePauw University on Friday, December 1. Wabash beat DePauw in the team rankings at the Pebworth Invite. However at this time there won't be other teams to dilute the rankings. It's a one-on-one showdown between the rival teams.

For the athletes, the focus isn't only to win this meet, but to make a statement to the School Down South.

"A bad taste was left in our mouths after we watched the Danies storm our field a few weeks ago," said Sweeney. "Complete dominance will be on display when

we head down to Greencastle on Friday. I have full confidence that our team will walk out of there with a substantial victory."

"I feel extremely confident in our ability to not only win but dominate this Friday when we travel down to Greencastle," said Johns. "One thing that makes me so confident going into this meet is that our team is not satisfied with just winning this meet, we want to win every single event and display our dominance in their pool. Most of all, we understand that this won't just happen, we have to make it happen and we understand what that will take."

**"We had athletes elevate their game and seize their opportunity to compete leading to some really fun and fast swims."**

- Coach Will Bernhardt

For Coach Bernhardt, the goal is no different.

"No matter how the meet looks on paper, we will not take any race for granted," said Coach Bernhardt. "Our goal is to dominate the meet from start to finish and come home with a W. We may not have the Bell but on Friday night we plan to give it a ring before leaving Greencastle!"

## Chase Baczek '25 claims title at wrestling invite after five wins



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Chase Baczek tries to pin opponent in the Little Giants meet against Albion College on November 9, 2023 at Chadwick Court.**

**WILL MCKINZIE '26 | STAFF WRITER** • In an impressive display of skill and determination, the Wabash wrestling team showcased their prowess at the 2023 Concordia University of Wisconsin Open on Saturday, November 25. Chase Baczek '25 emerged as the star of the day, claiming the 184-pound weight class title with a series of dominating victories.

Baczek's path to victory was nothing short of spectacular. The wrestler secured his title with five wins, culminating in a 4-0 triumph over Wartburg's Karey Ross in the finals. Baczek's journey included an 18-0 tech fall in the opening round and a lightning-fast pin in the second round, demonstrating his versatility on the mat. His flawless performance continued with a 16-0 tech fall and an 8-0 major decision in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

Not to be overshadowed, Daniel Uribe '24 secured an impressive second-place finish in the 149-pound category. Uribe's journey featured four victories, including two tech falls and a hard-fought 11-6 win in the semifinals. Although he faced a tough opponent in the finals, losing 6-4 to Charlie Dojan from Wartburg, Uribe's overall performance was a testament to his skill and determination that he continues to show this season.

Ray Arebalo '25 added to Wabash's success by clinching second place at 174 pounds. Arebalo's journey to the finals

included two tech falls and a solid 8-3 win in the semifinals. Despite a valiant effort, he fell short in the finals against Wartburg's Zane Mulder, settling for second place in a competitive field.

Tyson Nisley's '24 tenacity earned him a respectable fourth-place finish at 157 pounds. Nisley's performance included an 18-2 tech fall and an 8-0 victory in the early rounds. Although he faced setbacks in the later stages, Nisley rebounded with a decisive 4-1 victory in the consolation semis.

Blake McGee '25 rounded out the team's success with a fifth-place finish at 149 pounds. McGee's journey featured impressive victories, including two tech falls and a thrilling 4-1 overtime sudden victory. Despite facing challenges in the semifinals and consolation semis, McGee's determination prevailed with a commanding 19-2 tech fall to secure fifth place.

While team scoring wasn't officially kept at the open event, Wabash's collective performance demonstrated their strength and depth. The team is now gearing up for the annual Indiana Little State Tournament on Saturday, December 2 at Indiana Tech, where they aim to continue their winning streak and make their mark in the wrestling world.

# Greene: On classic Indiana football rivalries

*An insider look on the Bell and the Bucket with the Heldt family*

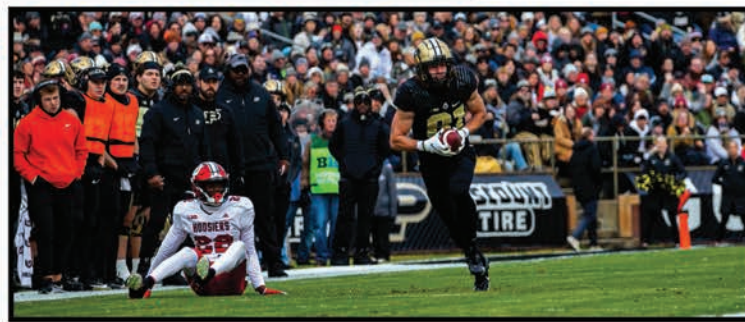
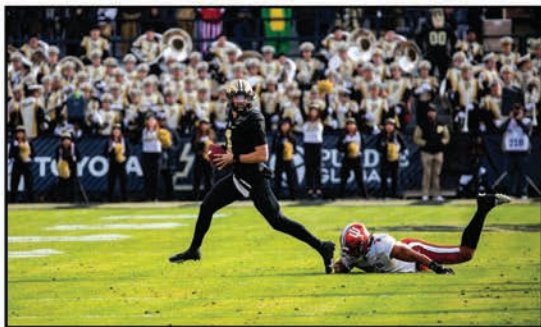
**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR** • When most college football fans think of the state of Indiana, they will almost immediately gravitate towards the age-old rivalry between IU and Purdue. And rightly so. With storied players, coaches and classic games aplenty, the battle for the Old Oaken Bucket over the decades has had its fair share of memorable moments.

But just a few miles south of West Lafayette, Wabash's campus was bathed in a sea of red and white alongside the black and gold of DePauw University on the morning of November 11, 2023 for the latest installment of the Monon Bell Classic. This rivalry can compete with almost any other—even that between Purdue and IU— in longevity and fierceness, with a 300-pound locomotive bell as its top prize to boot.

As the photo editor for this year's Bachelor staff, I was privileged enough to attend both of these intense rivalry matches between each set of schools. While different in magnitude (the Old Oaken Bucket battle makes the Bell Game look like a high school football game in terms of attendance), the intensity of each game's fans can never be overstated. The crowds were roaring and the players jawing at one another for no other reason than the color of their jersey. This is all to be expected.

What I didn't expect was the similarities between the two games to be so noticeable and for their influence and impact on those involved to feel so alike. But I only know half of the story. To tie both of these rivalries together, I spoke to the Heldt family— Tom, the father (DePauw class of 1997), Jack Heldt '23 and his brother Will, a freshman defensive end for Purdue. Together, they lent their experiences and perspectives regarding the similarities between these two classic Indiana football rivalries in tandem with my observations from the sidelines.

The first glaring similarity is the two trophies. The Bucket and the Bell both represent the struggle for



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Combining history and tradition like no other, The Monon Bell Classic and the battle for the Old Oaken Bucket are two of the country's oldest football rivalries. This year, both black and gold teams emerged victorious, with Purdue University winning the Bucket for the third year in a row and DePauw defending their title from the year prior. Wabash looks to redeem its two recent heartbreaking losses in the Bell Game next November down in Greencastle, bringing the Bell back to its rightful home.**

dominance over the state, both at the DIII and DI level. Whoever wins becomes not only the keeper of the trophy, but the owner of the state for the next year.

"[The Bell] is a symbol," said Jack Heldt. "It's the center of the tradition that we have the whole week leading up to it. It's the focus of the rivalry and a reminder of the hard work the guys on the football team put in that season to earn that tangible trophy."

"Both of the trophies are great," said Tom Heldt. "The Monon train that ran between Crawfordsville and Greencastle, the age of [the Bell],

the fact that it came off the train, the symbolism is fantastic. And the age of the Bucket, too. [I love] how every time one team wins they put a 'P' or an 'I' on the chain that goes inside the Bucket."

Another notable similarity is the intensity between the rival teams on gameday. The tension was palpable on the sidelines, with players waiting to snap and wreak havoc on one another between the white lines. Players are chipper than usual, prone to late hits and antics that would normally warrant a personal foul. But even the referees understand that something greater is at

stake.

"It's everything, really. It's the last game of the year. You could tell from the opening kickoff how the game was going to be," said Will Heldt. "The refs were obviously letting things slide and there weren't very many personal fouls, but it was definitely getting chippy on both ends."

"[The Bucket] was sitting right in the center of our team meetings for the whole week," continued Will Heldt. "Everybody sees it. You're thinking about what you are going to do that day to keep that sitting in your facilities."

While the trophies and the intensity remain constant, year in, year out, it takes time to appreciate the meaningfulness of these two great clashes in November. Regardless of the outcome, all four schools look forward to their respective games and circle the next one the second the previous game clock ticks over to zero.

"The more you experience rivalry, the more you appreciate it," said Tom Heldt. "Even though it's a bitter, bitter rivalry on the field, as the games wind down I think everyone appreciated each other and the competition."



# Salpietra: Basketball over break



Gavin Schippert '26 plays tough defense on a difficult shot contest in Wabash basketball's home win against DePauw on November 29, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

**AYDEN SALPIETRA '27** | SPORTS WRITER • Over Thanksgiving break, while most students were enjoying a well-earned rest from classes and enjoying a bit too much turkey, the basketball team played four games, winning three. In the Bill Merris Tournament hosted by Illinois College, the Little Giants beat previously 21-ranked North Park University in the first game, before losing 53-68 to Illinois College in the championship game. Then after a road win against Earlham College, the team returned home for a blowout 84-42 win against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Little Giants' bench came up big in several games over the past week. Together the secondaries put up 39 points against Rose-Hul-

man, which was three fewer points than the entire Fightin' Engineers team, while also contributing 29 against Illinois and 18 against Earlham. The team's deep bench took a lot of pressure off the starters and continues to be one of the team's best assets. Rich Brooks '26 was a major part of the trend, coming off the bench to lead the team in scoring with 24 points against Illinois College. Starting Forward Ahmoni Jones '24, who leads the Little Giants in points and rebounds while shooting a lights-out 41% from three-point territory, started slow in the team's four games, but heated up as games went on. After only scoring three points against North Park University, he posted double-digit points in the next three games,

while leading the team in scoring in the Rose-Hulman game with 23 points. During the game Jones hit a career-record seven threes to help lead the Little Giants to a blowout win. One area that the team continued to struggle in was turnovers. They consistently gave the ball away 8-10 times with a huge spike to 18 turnovers against Rose-Hulman, which was mostly due to so many members of the team getting their first minutes of the season in the blowout contest. Fortunately, these turnovers were not a driving cause in the loss to Illinois and made their wins against North Park and Earlham more difficult. If this continues to be an issue for the team it could factor in against better teams down the road.

The Little Giants also posted double-digit assists in three of their four games over break. The team got a lot of guys involved with assists, something that Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett stressed at the beginning of the season. Unfortunately Wabash, with their 4-2 record heading into their matchup against DePauw, fell out of the D3hoops national rankings. They were previously ranked 16th in Division III. Despite their two losses on the season, the Little Giants are still in a very good spot moving forward. Wabash's rebounding efforts have been the winning edge, and will continue to be throughout the course of the season. Bench scoring will also play a pivotal role in the team's success as the season progresses.

## Basketball wins 62-61 cont'd

Another player who shined brighter than usual was Randy Kelley '26, whose 13 points came in all the right moments, as he stepped up to knock down three threes and led the team in assists. The normally paint-dominant Wabash combined for 13-33 three-point shooting, which was enough to keep them chugging ahead of DePauw down the stretch. "Making 13 threes is not really the MO of this team," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "They [DePauw] had a good game plan. They were going to sag and try to clog the paint. Edreece [Redmond] made them pay." Everything came down to the wire. In the final minute of the game, Wabash nearly bled away a six-point lead, when they missed three-straight free throws, when the trailing Tigers were forced to foul. Down one, DePauw had a chance to score a final bucket and win the game. A clutch move by Kelley to poke the ball free, just as time was running out. The buzzer sounded, but officials ruled that the ball was out of bounds before time expired. Everyone lined up for a final in-bound pass directly under the basket with 0.2 seconds remaining on the clock. Then Jones, as always, showing up exactly when needed, intercepted the in-bound pass to save the game. The Little Giants moved to 5-2 (1-0 NCAC) on the year. While this certainly wasn't the strongest outing for the team, the fact that they were able to tackle a tough conference opponent despite the hurdles they faced, is a promising thing. It will be a long hard road for them to achieve their goal of winning the conference. Maybe a few extra close games under their belts will give them an advantage heading into the postseason. Next, the team will face a dangerous Oberlin 4-4 (0-1 NCAC) team on Saturday, December 2. Despite a middling record and a long stretch of losing seasons, the Yeomen have a nasty habit of upsetting the top teams in the conference, which they have done in the last two seasons. Wabash will have to find a way to fight through once again.

# McRoberts: The NCAC's top-10 basketball players

## 1. Ahmoni Jones '24 SR. Wabash College



Jones is the best all around player in the conference, as he is able to score anywhere and everywhere, while finishing at the free throw line, and adding an unmatched clutch factor.  
OVR – 95  
Pump Fake – 99  
Athleticism – 69  
3PT – 88  
Mid-Range Shooting – 98



## 6. Gefen Bar-Cohen, JR. Kenyon College



Bar-Cohen is a true double-double threat every week for the Owls, shooting 58% on the season while averaging just over 6 RPG. If he perfects a free throw, he could become a force in the post.  
OVR – 86  
Inside Scoring – 89  
FT – 71  
Athleticism – 82  
Off. Rebounding – 92



## 2. Jamir Billings, JR. The College of Wooster



Billings brings trickery to both sides of the ball, compiling a stunning 6.4 APG in addition to 3 SPG, while also leading his team in rebounds and compiling double digit points each game. He is the best guard in the NCAC.  
OVR – 93  
Steal – 93  
Playmaking – 98  
Rebounding – 83  
Overall Shooting – 79



## 7. Darren Rubin, SR. Denison University



Rubin was Second-Team All-NCAC last year as a guard who was competent outside the arc as a scorer and distributor, while also finishing at the line. He has started the year injured.  
OVR – 86  
3PT – 81  
FT – 89  
Finishing – 88  
Toughness – 75



## 3. Ricky Radtke, JR. Denison University



Radtke stands as the most dominant pure forward in the NCAC, as he combines elite post scoring, shooting 60% in his career, with a formidable offensive and defensive presence on the boards.  
OVR – 91  
FT – 58  
Inside Scoring – 96  
Def. Rebounding – 89  
Paint Defense – 84



## 8. Trey Killens, JR. Wittenberg University



Killens seems the only playmaker for the Tigers this year, adding 20 ppg to 5.8 RPG and 4.3 APG. If he maintains these numbers in conference play, he'll make First-Team All-Conference.  
OVR – 85  
Playmaking – 88  
Draw Foul – 93  
Ball Control – 82  
3PT – 87



## 4. Vinny Buccilla '25, JR. Wabash College



Buccilla was the conference leader in 3PT shooting last season with 43% as well as cracking the top 5 in overall shooting at 53%. However he has struggled mightily to this point in the season with numbers below 15% and 28% respectively.  
OVR – 89  
3PT – 92  
Layup – 89  
FT – 70  
Streakiness – 99



## 9. Grant Niego, SR. DePauw University



Niego, as the primary PG for DePauw, has started off the year as a fine facilitator, with 5 RPG, 3.8 APG, and a 91% FT shot, though he struggles with turnovers.  
OVR – 84  
Playmaking – 87  
Ball Control – 69  
FT – 86  
Danny Ineptitude – 99



## 5. Trent Jakacki, JR. Hiram College



Jakacki leads a high-flying Terrier team, sporting 23 ppg coming off the back of a 37-point effort against Bluffton. Playing 38 minutes a game, he could lead the conference in scoring this year.  
OVR – 86  
Shot Creating – 89  
Endurance – 94  
Off Rebounding – 82  
3PT – 90



## 10. Nick Everett, SR. The College of Wooster



Everett is a true postman at 6-8, 250. He had a 69% FG percentage, which was easily the best in the conference. However, he is the lone big man in Wooster this season and struggles with foul trouble.  
OVR – 84  
Inside Scoring – 90  
FT – 58  
Discipline – 62  
Overall Rebounding – 80

