

MXI Celebrates 50 Years

LIAM GRENNON '24 | STAFF WRITER

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies has been an integral part of campus life at Wabash since 1970. The fiftieth-anniversary celebration for the groundbreaking institution that was planned for April 2020 had to be postponed as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The MXI intends to commemorate the milestone in-person with current members and alumni sometime in the Spring of 2021.

The MXI has a storied history and stands in tribute to the academic success of its former members as well as their advocacy and service to the community. The Afro House, which predated the MXI, was originally a residential space students lived in. Established after two Black students with Afros refused to shave parts of their heads at Chapel Sing, the Afro House signaled the united interests of Black students at Wabash. The upstairs of the house was home to several Black students, including Charles Ransom '72, who The Bachelor spoke to about the Afro House's beginnings.

"My freshman class had nine Black students in it, which was at the time the biggest class of Black students Wabash had ever had," Ransom said. "There were probably around twenty of us on campus and we started to talk about forming a black cultural center. Myself and Victor Ransom traveled to several different GLCA schools that had cultural centers, and we started putting a proposal together for a cultural center at Wabash. Sophomore year, we were able to get a house which stood where the new Phi Delt house now is. Four of us lived upstairs while the Black Student Union was running out of the downstairs area."

Ransom remembered having to track down guys who had made calls to girlfriends from the house so they could pay the fee that came with long-distance calls at the time. Professor Peter Fredrick was hired in the Fall of 1969 for a one-year position to teach Afro-American History and became an integral part of the formation of the MXI. According to Fredrick, he was hired (in the words of the dean that hired him) "To help tame the militant Black students at Wabash".

"Well, I'd been teaching Black Panthers in Oakland, California in the late 1960s; so I have to say that as intensely activist as Wabash Black students were in 1969 (young men like Chuck Ransom, Vic Ransom, Preston Green, Keith Nelson, Tony Partee, Jack Johnson and Dock McDowell), in no way could they be called 'militant' except in the eyes of fearful white Hoosiers," Fredrick said. "In the spring of 1970, the end of my one year, in the midst of Black Power, Human and Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War protests, six or seven Black students came to my home and asked me to stay a year or more longer and help them create a Black Union center of some sort in a College-owned house at 416 West Wabash Avenue."

Professor Fredrick would go on to stay at Wabash for over thirty years.

Dr. Finley Campbell was a Black Associate Professor of English at the College who helped create some of the original Black Studies courses at Wabash.

"It would be open to all students, but it would have a focus on being a supportive service primarily for Black students," says Campbell. Originally situated where Trippet Hall now stands, the Malcolm X Institute was founded in the fall of 1970.

"Working with all 11-12 Black students, our/their vision was essentially to create a non-residential environment to facilitate Black academic and emotional success at Wabash, as well as to educate the White communities

of Wabash and Crawfordsville in the realities of Black life in America. The building, therefore, was a combined academic/social center. The first floor had a classroom with portable blackboard, a library of books about Black history and culture, and an office for a future Director more appropriate than White me. I taught both the Black History course and a C & T discussion section in that classroom, thus bringing in White students to learn and interact with Black students. The second floor was primarily a social refuge for Black students, with a lounge to hang out in and for meetings, a pool table, kitchen, and barber chair; it was a small island of Black comfort in a sea of campus whiteness."

In its early years, the Institute provided a place for Black students to come together in a safe environment, holding art classes, barbeques, and other events, as well as being a common space where students could speak freely with one another.

Professor Fredrick also worked closely with students on the creation of the Malcolm X Institute.

The decision to name the Institute after Malcolm X was a matter of controversy on campus. Just five years after his passing, members felt like Malcolm X was the right person to commemorate, in large part because of his emphasis on educational achievement and his own gritty and heroic self-taught education in prison. The administration opposed the decision to name the program after Malcolm X, which further affirmed the choice for the members.

In the words of Malcolm X, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

The concept of being a lifetime learner is at the core of today's MXI. "Malcolm X was, and as we try to emulate, a lifelong learner," said Malcolm Lang '21.

"The ability to learn consistently but also educate others on academics but also life and different perspectives and backgrounds take us one step closer to one another."

Bringing speakers to campus who can address issues of race and inequality is just one of the ways they work towards achieving that goal.

The MXI began its long history of giving back to the Crawfordsville community at this time, running summer camps out of the Institute for local high school and middle school students. They hosted competitions at Wabash Stadium for the kids, competing against local youth centers in athletic events.

Some of the first instances of advocacy from the MXI stemmed from the college's refusal to reinstate Professor Campbell. Members of the organization came to Campbell to offer him a role within the institute as a tutor and support staff for students, which the professor accepted.

"President Seymore said 'Nope.' He resigned and he was not going to come back under any circumstances'," Campbell said. "That led to a big march walk out with students skipping class in support of me and this plan."

A resulting meeting was held at the Chapel, which led to Seymore stating that if Campbell were to come back to the college, he would leave. Finally, an agreement was reached: So long as Dr. Campbell was associated with the Malcolm X Institute and not Wabash College, the MXI was allowed to hire Dr. Campbell. Campbell would work as a fellow of the Institute, serving as a tutor and mentor to members as well as working to support students academically.

The academic support of its members has continued to be a focal point of the institute even today. Current member



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Pictured are two early members of the Malcolm X Institute. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Black student organization.

Malcolm Lang '21 agrees that academics have always been the foremost focus of the MXI.

"The major goal here is to graduate in four years, or eight semesters," Lang said. "I feel like the MXI has done a really good job encouraging people of color, who aren't familiar with this place or aren't familiar with being in a predominately white institution more comfortable and more equipped to graduate."

Other instances of activism led by the MXI are scattered throughout the history of the organization, including protests about the lack of Black history taught at Wabash in the late '80s. An annual Halloween party for the kids of Crawfordsville, the creation of the KK&Q Mentoring program 1989, and various protests of Ku Klux Klan marches in Crawfordsville are other examples of the MXI's activism. Members would protest restaurants and establishments in Crawfordsville that wouldn't serve Black students and faculty. This year the MXI organized a peaceful demonstration to show support for victims of police brutality in the United States.

"I felt like us showing our presence on campus this year was very monumental, and us engaging in a peaceful protest to show what we are going through is serious, and isn't just a moment or temporary," Lang said. "It's something that has to be subsidized, and not just by us but by all people. At the end of the day, if you're going to consider everyone at Wabash your Wabash brother, then the problems that people of color go through, that's your problem as well."

Captain Houston Mills '85, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and the MXI, was the only Black student member of Lambda during his time at Wabash.

"A lot of my fraternity members had never met a black person let alone live with one," says Captain Mills. "To get to know people as human beings and to understand those shared values we have, to be able to have civil conversations and debates on thought processes and to be able to respect the different perspectives of others. So I

think the MXI has benefited the Wabash community by providing a place of cultural enrichment for all students, particularly for those seeking to understand."

Captain Mills' sentiment was echoed by most alumni when asked what the role MXI members should aim to play on campus and in the greater Crawfordsville community. The consensus seemed to be that the simplest way to enact this kind of change in a community is to show others who you are as a person.

Current member Johnathan Coleman '22 described the role MXI members play in the greater Crawfordsville community today.

"The City of Crawfordsville and community of Crawfordsville has embraced what the MXI has to offer, whether it be getting to know the members or including the organization in different community initiatives," Coleman said. "Whether it be us just showing up or us serving food or just sitting down and having a conversation with people who otherwise would not be interacting with African American men, or African Americans in general."

The long lasting relationships between faculty and current and former members fostered by the MXI continue to set graduates up for success. Steven Jones '87, the current Director of the Malcolm X Institute, also serves as Dean of Professional development. Being able to ensure opportunities for all students beyond their time at Wabash is another goal of the institute.

The Malcolm X Institute's role on campus has never been assured. The MXI continues to have a profound impact on members, the Wabash community, and the community of Crawfordsville. From its founding during the Black Power movement of the late 60's and early 70's, to its activism and demonstrations during the era of Black Lives Matter, the continued place of the MXI has truly been a testament to the work of its members and faculty. The battle for equality and inclusion on campus, in Crawfordsville, and in America is far from over, but as we pass its 50th anniversary, the MXI continues to lead Wabash forward.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

A photo of the first MXI building. The original was located where Trippet Hall stands today.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Two members of the MXI in the 1970s. The Institute was the first in the nation to be named after Malcolm X.

From The Ramsay Archives: DOWN THE DANNIES



LEFT TO RIGHT—first row: Weiss, Sartore, Myer, Russell, Dacsener, Hiratsuka, McHenry, Blackburn, Glover, Colehower, Millikan, Hay, Craske, Starr, Zimmers. Second row: Gibbs, Munson, Acton, Hedges, Townsend, Babic, Vorce, Parmelee, Garrard, D. White, Crist, Hughes, Beal, Stone.

Third row: Arick, Ross, German, Nieman, Koller, Davis, Anderson, J. Endicott, Thompson, B. Endicott, Nizamoff, Millican, Crawford, Rabas, Metzler. Fourth row: Buntin, T. White, Michna, Atkinson, Boyer, Freeman, Diehl, Carman, Rodgers, Erickson, Verachtert, Kern, Hepler, Durand, Byers, Kristan, Campbell. *Bachelor 11/15/1961 p.1*

Thankful for Turkey



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Popovers are a light roll that will go perfectly with any Thanksgiving meal. Chef Prof. Warner reflects on his experiences with Turkey in California, Indiana, and Mexico and presents a recipe for a Thanksgiving favorite.

CHEF PROF. WARNER| GUEST WRITER • Well, we have survived the semester, more less intact. WAF indeed. We have nearly arrived at my favorite holiday: Thanksgiving. Obviously this is a big time for (over) eating so like other Wabash guys I am naturally drawn to the celebration. Turkey is indeed the center piece of 90% of Thanksgiving tables in the country, and ours is typical in that regard.

When I first started teaching at Wabash my students provided me with key moments of Hoosier education. I had no idea that the word “insurance” was pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, or that many of my students had experienced a right of passage called “de-tassling” (again, accent on first syllable). Then one day a student spoke of turkey hunting. I was amused, since the turkeys that I knew were hardly difficult to take down, and allegedly were so stupid that they might drown in a rainstorm if they looked up at the sky too long. Well, the hunters in the class set me straight: the wild turkey is actually a rather elusive catch.

Of course my experience with turkey was limited to numerous restaurant and home kitchens, where I have roasted a good number of these Toms. It turns out that the turkey most of us dine on at Thanksgiving is not at all native to Indiana, or the United States for that matter. No, in fact that domesticated chubby bird is a product of central Mexico. Our earliest historical information about the bird comes from Spanish conquerors such as the intrepid Bernal Díaz del Castillo (a long name, and that is only his last name!). The invading Spaniards were amazed at the variety of foodstuffs in the markets of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, including the unusual birds for sale. Among these was the

turkey that we have come to know and love. So, my fellow Americans, I must inform you that the turkey we love on Thanksgiving is indeed a Mexican immigrant, probably arriving here in the 17th century. Just to make historical matters more interesting, there are also some theories that the turkey traveled from Mexico to Europe and the Middle East, before crossing the Atlantic back to North America.

Turkey remains an important meat in Mexico, though as in the U.S. it is less common than chicken. Earlier in the semester I offered a story and recipe about mole poblano, the classic chocolate and chile sauce that is traditionally served with turkey pieces. I daresay that turkey sales in the US outside of November are quite low... aside from a certain market for ground turkey for “burgers” (sorry, need to put that in quotation marks). There is of course some sold sliced in the deli section for sandwiches as well. But turkey in general has become synonymous with Thanksgiving in the land of the red white and blue.

A sharp History student (that is, one who goes to school here rather than down the road) would likely note that the timing of the discovery of the turkey makes it unlikely that the Pilgrims and Wapanoag native peoples did not dine on the same Tom Turkey in 1621 that we see in Kroger today. There is only scanty evidence from those early days (welcome to the life of a historian) but I believe it is a safe bet that the first Thanksgiving table featured wild turkey in some form. I suspect that the native folks in the area, and perhaps even the English immigrants, were as skilled as my Hoosier guys in taking down a wild turkey for dinner. In any case, the turkey soon became a national symbol. Allegedly Ben Franklin thought it should be the national bird. (I for

Popovers

Ingredients

- 6 eggs
- 2 c milk
- 2 c flour
- 2 Tablespoons melted butter

Whisk eggs, then add other ingredients, whisk just until mixed. Spray large muffin tins heavily with spray oil (“Pam”). Pour batter to nearly the top of each opening in the tin.

one am glad that he lost that battle!) The turkey has come down through the years as an honored guest in November, so much so that by tradition the President spares the life of one Tom each year. (No, I’m not going to make any predictions about that this year... too soon!)

A student recently asked me the best way to cook a turkey. To be precise, he said “my dad never gets it right.” The difficulty lies in the fact that the white and dark meat cooks at different rates. Some people inject the white meat with white wine or some other liquid to keep it moist. What I do is to cook it breast side down for two thirds of the time, which allows the juices to run into the dry areas.... though the top usually does not look as pretty in the end. And of course some people swear by deep

frying it in turkey fryers. I’m not a big fan of those, but you do you. But as a member of the city Fire Commission, I implore you to be careful if you go that way. My fire guys tell me that they are pretty busy on that day with men trying to burn down their garage. Curiously, alcohol is often involved. (Not doing that either lol!)

I leave you with a recipe not for turkey but for an interesting bread to accompany the meal: popovers, or if you are in England, Yorkshire pudding. I made a version of these for brunch for many years while I worked as a chef in California. An English friend of mine has been schooling me in British cookery (no snide remarks please), but given the Americanness of our holiday I’ll be sharing the California recipe. Have a great break!

Glee Club Fall Concert Review



BEN HIGH '23/PHOTO

The Glee Club performs in the Knowing Fieldhouse. About one hundred Wabash community members attended the concert in support. They sang some Wabash favorites like “Old Wabash” and “Alma Mater.”

IO MAEDA '24 | STAFF WRITER • I was glad that there was a Glee Club Fall Concert on November 6th because it was the first official concert held in Wabash College this semester. However, I was surprised that it was placed in “Knowing Fieldhouse”, but not in “Fine Arts Center”. It was hard to imagine having a music concert in the gym.

The venue lacks an elegant atmosphere like in the Fine Arts Center. Instead of chairs with cushions, those were hard chairs that we used for the flu shot. Also, instead of a sounding board made of blown wood, the stage was surrounded by large white nets.

The concert was performed at Knowing Fieldhouse to have enough social distance of six feet. Many of the seats were filled by the students and faculty. Everybody desires to listen to music since they have had lost opportunities to enjoy music because many music events have been canceled due to the pandemic.

There was a lot of interaction between the students and the faculties. Moreover, this concert was not just for the audience there. The singers’ friends and families were watching the live performance

online.

When it became 19:30, all singers entered the stage wearing masks. I felt anxious because it would be hard for them to breathe. However, that anxiety dispelled when they started singing “Old Wabash”. Their fighting spirit united our Wabash community to enjoy having the concert that evening. This is the first time that we heard them singing “Old Wabash” live because of the pandemic. It was unfortunate that we were not able to listen to their performance at the ringing bell ceremony when a recording was used.

“Mighty Men of Song” was a marching song in which the singer reminded us about the joy of music, which we may have lost or forgotten. They sang fast and detailed note. They were not afraid of anything, and they were proud of singing it.

Then, they sang “Autumn Leaves” slow and calm. The long notes were sung well until the end. Its nostalgic timbre invoked in us the feeling that we should enjoy sunny days of autumn more, but we have to say goodbye soon because the cold winter is coming.

“Star Dust” was the only piece having

a soloist in this concert. Since they were wearing masks, it was hard to detect who was singing the solo part. Therefore, the soloist stepped forward to the mike to highlight his participation. The soloist had a high-quality voice as he represents the whole choir. He sang the higher pitches over the tenor range without hoarding but having a crystal voice.

“O Love” had a beautiful melody with each part crossing into one. It enhanced love and at the same time the melodies come together beautifully. The change of volumes (crescendo and decrescendo) reflected their change of emotion.

All voices united well in “Alma Mater”. The music was not slow nor fast but sung in a moderate tempo. The singers conveyed their warm affection to Wabash College, which will not change even after they graduate.

The last piece, “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel,” started with the piano playing just three notes. Then, the men sang in tension as if they were asking for help from God during the pandemic. The last note echoed through the gym hoping that our suffering would end someday soon.

If there was a screen or a pamphlet

showing the lyrics, it would have been helpful to understand them. Words in singing are hard to detect. Especially for the students whose native language is not English. It is hard to comprehend their unique ways of expression.

Although there was a distance between the stage and the seats, we were united to appreciate the precious opportunity. No one was looking at smartphones while they were listening to the performance. The pieces were not treated as background music because music was everything for us at that time.

We have never thought that we were going to hold a music concert because of the pandemic. However, thanks to all the Wabash communities having continued keeping safe practices, we succeeded in holding it. It was our first remarkable victory that we overcame during the pandemic.

The concert lasted just thirty minutes. Although it felt short compared to regular music concerts, the program was satisfying to forget our tiresome new lifestyle. We hope that we can hold glee club concerts and other music events next year.

Top Winter Movies

REED MATHIS '22 | NEWS EDITOR • Some of us will work, some of us will have an internship, others will sleep (like all of the time), and others will get comfy and go one-by-one through their movie watchlist for the next two months. Already having my first movie queued up for break; talking to you “Being John Malkovich (1999),” I think you can guess which category I prefer (money is always nice, so I will have to split my time up somehow). In the midst of a TWO-MONTH break from the rigor and mercurial nature of Wabash during COVID, I am thrilled to watch the holiday classics that have defined eras of film and become pillars of what to watch with a warm blanket in advance lighting and a hot chocolate (or your drink of choice) in hand. As we all have more time than usual on our hands, I hope some of my suggestions captivate your attention, and will leave an impact on you and your movie experience, as they have for me.

In order to provide robust, expansive options for all of you movie-goers, I compiled a list of films that not only fall under “holiday movies,” but also films that are not exactly holiday-themed. We can call these other movies the ones that you can watch any time of the year, but when it is snowing or a slow winter day, they just become that much better.

Before delving into my top ten list, I want to share some of my honorable mentions, along with, and more importantly, my DIShonorable mentions. Without a further adieu...

Honorable Mentions: “The Stranger” (1946), which very well might be Orson Welles’ worst film, yet it tells you *just* how masterful Welles is. “Miracle on 34th Street” (1947). “The Nightmare Before Christmas” (1993). “Santa Clause” (1994). “Meet John Doe” (1941), it is Frank Capra so can he really make a bad holiday movie? “White Christmas” (1954), ask your grandma about Bing Crosby. “Trading Places” (1983). “Frozen” (2013), because why not. “The Ice Storm” (1997). “While You Were Sleeping” (1995), a Sandra Bullock movie you might actually enjoy.

Dishonorable Mentions: The Two other “Santa Clause” movies. “Home Alone” (1990). “Die Hard” (1988), not a Christmas movie @ most 18-49 year old men. “A Christmas Carol,” besides Patrick Stewart’s version. Pretty much any Hallmark movie. All of the Ice Age films. “The Grey” (2012), we have had enough of you Liam Neeson. “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (2000). “Frozen II” and any other Frozen spinoff. “The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe” (2005), like the movie and this sentence, I fell asleep half-way through. “Elf” (2003), not even James Cann or Zooey Deschanel can save this movie. “Polar Express” (2004), more like Polar Depress(ing).

10. Coming to America (1988)
I found myself a bit torn here. I want to appreciate and give a shout-out to the

greatness of Eddie Murphy, and as you can see above in my honorable mentions, my choice came down to the family comedy “Trading Places” (1983) co-starring Dan Akroyd and “Coming to America.” Fellow co-stars, which include Arsenio Hall and James Earl Jones, provide excellent performances in a film highlighting the power in defying not only tradition, but wanting to carve our own paths in life. As Murphy’s character does over the course of the two-hour film, we can yearn, and even for some of us relate, to the feeling of satisfaction when you bet on yourself. With 2021 around the corner, what better time to have that in the back of your mind, accompanied with some laughs along the way.

9. Harry Potter series (besides Half-Blood Prince ...zzz)

In my best effort to organize my list as “holiday” films, I have to dock the Harry Potter series a few spots; however, with Christmas and winter scenes throughout all of the films and the general familial undertones it provides for viewers, it finds a way on my list. We all know the story of the boy who lived, so I will not belabor the point. At the same time, if you are looking for a movie marathon over break, the series will offer plenty of enjoyment and intrigue. If anything, watch the first film, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s/Philosopher’s Stone” (2001), as it provides beautiful Christmas and winter scenes that impress every time you watch. And yes, I have my wand I bought from Ollivanders™ at Universal in sight.

8. Beauty and the Beast (1991)

As someone who is not, in general, a fan of Disney, I will admit out of all of the highly-successful, critically-acclaimed films over the last ninety years, this film tops the list. As the title suggests, we watch the beautiful, yet more importantly brilliant and selfless Belle find herself locked away in the Beast’s castle, as she sacrifices her life for that of her innovative, yet scatterbrained father. It is a Disney movie, so of course there is a happy ending, yet throughout the film you will find yourself captivated by the superb and commanding score from Alan Menken, and the transformation of a soulless, cynical beast to a compassionate prince. There is a reason this is the only Disney film (excluding Pixar) to be nominated for Best Picture.

7. The Shining (1980)

If there is a chance I can mention Jack Nicholuson or a Stanley Kubrick film, I will. Also, in my best efforts to spruce up the list with movies for all types of movie-goers, we come across the Stephen King - adapted horror flick. The viewer follows the psychotic shift of a hotel caretaker who, with his family, succumbs to the terrorizing nature of the Overlook Hotel in Colorado. We are talking about Stephen King, so obviously the film is set in the winter, but your viewing experience will allow for a chill that only makes sense on a cold, howling winter night.

6. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)

Along the same lines as “The Shining,” we come to a film not naturally slotting in as a holiday movie, yet the Charlie Kaufman scripted movie finds its way on the list. I will be the first to say the movie does not scream joy and jubilation, but it does allow you to attach to the inimitable and tumultuous nature of falling in love, then losing it. With Jim Carrey, you never know what you are going to get. However, in my opinion you get the best and complete repertoire of Carrey, which elevates any capacity he can obtain in his comedic roles. We might be distracted by Carrey’s disrelihing role as President-elect Joe Biden on SNL, but do not let it discourage you from Carrey’s ability to provide a genuine and transformative lens into the complexities of what makes us human. For a movie that will evoke all of your emotions, allow this one to be on your mind during break.

5. Doctor Zhivago (1965)

A movie some of our readers might know, but probably a classic most of us have not watched. Although it does have a lengthier runtime than most other films (200 minutes), sometimes you have to sacrifice what is easy or comfortable in order to truly enrapture your senses during a day. To say the least, Doctor Zhivago succeeds in doing this ten times over, and with the film spanning six decades and encompassing every type of genre and Russian-trope imaginable, you are set to take away one thing from this film. In a tortured love affair, we have Dr. Yuri Zhivago (Omar Sharif) and Lara Guishar (Julie Christie) who, through it all, find a way to be with each other. Yet, like life, nothing goes to plan. When you get to the end, you will understand why I have this film as high as I do. Also, if you take the time to watch “The Irishman” (2019), you might find it even more enriching to spend three hours of your two-month break dedicated to a timeless love story.

4. National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation (1989)

In what is actually the first “true” holiday film on the list, I wanted to provide a film that, unless you are isolated in a cabin in Minnesota (check what comes 3rd on the list), you will have seen what comes over break. During a time where Chevy Chase was “socially acceptable,” he leads the Griswold family through another Chicago winter, and through red swimsuits, laughable office sizes (@ Mr. Shirley), and Cousin Eddie, you might find your holiday experience a little more similar to the Griswolds than you want to admit. What it lacks in technical achievement, like some of the other films on the list, you instead get the quintessential family Christmas comedy.

3. Fargo (1996)

The Coen brothers can do just about anything they want when it comes to film. In a movie where you feel like you are starting to get the quirky gimmicks and spot-on Minnesotian accents, it reminds you why it is a crime/

drama film. For me, there were 4-5 times in the movie where I tilted my head in true shock. For instance, in one scene transition you go from Frances McDormand (won Best Actress for the film) “chit-chatting” with a guy shoveling his driveway, because, you know, Minnesota, to having Steve Buscemi’s Carl Showalter murdering a man in a parking lot. In a movie that keeps you guessing, it will also allow for a more romantic, honest portrayal of the Midwest, and as a lifelong Midwesterner, I appreciate the attention, and maybe even at times dramatization, of the Midwest from the Coen brothers classic.

2. The Apartment (1960)

The ageless battle between love and success comes to a fever point in this Jack Lemmon - Shirley MacLaine romantic-comedy. Like “Doctor Zhivago,” this is another classic not exactly on everyone’s queue, but worth your undivided attention. Although it is depicted in different ways, we still today can relate to knowing or even being someone who is a mere “buddy boy” to the higher-ups, and is so fixated on a promotion, or in our case good grades, that we subject ourselves to the dissatisfying inclination to appease those around us. In how it connects to the holiday season, it reveals the somber reality that not everyone has friends or family they can rely on. Among our brotherhood, we have individuals who would fall under this classification, yet it should be all of our undertaking to make those around us just a little happier and together than they were yesterday.

1. It’s a Wonderful Life (1946)

What is there to say? It could be December 24th or April 24th, and I promise you I will shed a tear when George Bailey’s younger brother, Harry, in front of the whole town says, “A toast to my big brother George: the richest man in town,” every time. In what is now a holiday staple, I hope everyone has the opportunity to watch this film at least once. Still, I do not think it would do justice. In Frank Capra’s magnum opus, we follow the life of George Bailey, who through all of his successes and good-willed nature is never able to quite capture the dreams and aspirations he had as a young boy and adult. In what truly follows a man who sees himself as a failure, we cannot help but relate and empathize with the anguish and emotional unravelling George undergoes through life. We all aspire for the highest of highs, but life does not follow a script, and although we do not have a guardian angel to guide us, we do have the agency to succeed and prosper through all life throws at us. I would suggest if you are looking for a movie that licenses the ability to call into question our motivations at Wabash and in life, and what we seek in our relationships with others, this is the movie and story you need. In a movie that evokes all of your emotions, and with countless core points to take away, it is truly a movie that allows for you to appreciate all of the people and things you hold dear in your life.

Appreciate and Love One Another



Chris French '23

Reply to this editorial at
cefrench23@wabash.edu

It's easy to begin taking things for granted when you become so accustomed to how things are. I think we can all relate to that during this pandemic. In the spring, we were sent home from school and placed on lockdown in our homes. We could no longer go to our favorite taco joint back home with friends or go to the watch parties for March Madness that your friend's family hosts every year. It's the little things that add up and when they are taken away, we are left speechless. Now more than ever is a reason to tell your brother, family, and friends how much they mean to you and that you are there for them.

From a young age, I always took 'treat people the way you would like to be treated' seriously. But I took that saying and combined it with

another saying that was said around my household and around my community, which was 'tomorrow isn't promised'. I think everyone can relate to that more than ever during these times. Here's my testimony for this year alone... I've lost 4 family members (3 within the same week) and 1 close friend from my childhood. I witnessed someone get shot first-hand while begging for their life. I battled COVID-19 where I spent a night praying for the next day to come. I slept with ice bags on my face and on my chest, I vomited from both ends, and drank a full bottle of NyQuil in 3 days. Have you ever thought toothpaste could spoil? Well, I have because I couldn't taste the mint that I've become so accustomed to tasting after brushing my teeth. Food was a trigger at site.

I say all of this not for any sympathy or empathy for me, but for all of you to open your eyes and stop taking things and people for granted. Thanksgiving is a few weeks away; what better time is there to begin showing love to one another? I am at peace with every loved one that I have ever lost because I treat every time I see them like it could be the last. Now more than ever, you may catch yourself arguing with a friend or loved one about something like politics or the latest conversation on the BLM

movement or what the US should do about COVID-19.

Let's keep the main focus the main focus, because you never know when it's your time or someone else's around you. Embrace positivity, compassion, and love as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday and many more to come. I will end this article with a story about my first-time having Thanksgiving at my white friends' house with his family. 'Friend' asked would I like to come eat dinner with his family. To begin with, that was different. Where I'm from they say 'come by and get a plate' so instantly, I was stunned with the request. I felt honored. Next, the dress code, I never knew Thanksgiving had a dress code until this day. I get to the guy's house and they are all wearing khakis, sweaters, and button downs. I came in with a hoodie, skinny jeans, and those 'Watch my feet' new Jordan sneakers. Luckily, I wore clean socks that day, because they had asked me to leave my shoes at the door. I was hesitant and kept looking back at where I had left them. Where I'm from that's a setup, if someone asks you to take your shoes off by the door, don't expect to get them back. Finally, we are at the table ready for dinner. This is different for me; we

are eating family style. For those of you who do not know, this is when you pass the food around the table and serve yourself. I was sweating bullets trying to not mess up on the portions. You know black families like to build their plates like Mount Everest just to make the cook feel good. They'll set you up by saying 'there's plenty'; that means you don't have enough on your plate. After a while I would stop guessing the names of the dishes we were passing around, because I was just getting it all wrong. 'May you pass me dressing?' 'You mean stuffing, well here you go' 'How about those green beans over there, could you slide those over this way?' 'You mean that delicious green bean casserole, sure thing son'. After that, I would just stare at a dish for 5 minutes, waiting on someone to catch the hint. The proudest moment of my night was when that Peach Cobbler came out of the oven and I said that 'Peach Pie is smelling mighty delicious', and everyone smiled at me and clapped their hands. At that moment, I excused myself from the table and went to check on my shoes at the front door. On a serious note, great experience to say the least. I was 13 at the time, and let's just say I have a collection of sweaters in my closet now.

We the People



Austin Bethel '21

Reply to this editorial at
ajbethel21@wabash.edu

Can you be a proud American and still be disgusted with the actions of your country? The answer is yes, but just identifying the problem is not sufficient. We MUST make change happen. America is divided, and the reason is apparent. We are divided between two politicians who have both objectively been associated with sexual misconduct, racial stereotyping, habitual lying, and the spreading of misinformation. One can merely fact check each Presidential debate and view the fallacies claimed by both parties as authentic pieces of evidence. The false information is being dichotomized, which forces the nation to choose

between two untruthful narratives. We have had to decide between two corrupt individuals for our country's Commander in Chief and the leader of the free world. There lies the problem: in a democracy, the government is established for the people, by the people. WE THE PEOPLE have made these mistakes. WE THE PEOPLE have been misled. WE THE PEOPLE have given these men the power to rise to the top of our political structure and claim our nation's helm. WE THE PEOPLE rely on biased social media platforms, where false news travels six times faster than the truth, for our sole source of evidence. WE THE PEOPLE have become oblivious to the activities and actions in Washington.

Do we blame technology for creating this divide, do we blame the politicians and their words, or can we be strong enough to look at ourselves and realize this is a problem that WE THE PEOPLE have brought into fruition? Can we be strong enough to unify once again and start showing passion, interest, and involvement in our democratic elections from local to national levels? Can we start selecting the best candidates who represent and fight for the American

people and our specified values, instead of politicians who solely try to climb the political ladder in a hunger for more power? Or do we continue ignoring the glaring illness running rampant throughout our governing body? This problem plagues us regardless of ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, or socioeconomic class. And the problem is not resolved just because a new President-Elect has been selected. The problem of misrepresentation and corruption will continue until WE THE PEOPLE decide to wake up and take back the government meant to represent us.

This reclaiming does not happen through violence, confrontation, or extreme polarization. The journey back to political transparency happens through education on political issues, critical thinking, open-mindedness for those in opposition, and carefully selecting the candidates for all government elected positions. This task is no small feat and does take time and effort from the collective. Still, I argue these steps are necessary for our nation's unification during a time of uncertainty and unprecedented polarization in our nation.

I hope this message finds all of you well regardless of what side of the political aisle you reside on. For, at the end of the day, we are in the same aisle attempting to move in the same direction: a direction that establishes America as the land of opportunity and betters every American's lives in the process. However, this progression does not occur through the efforts of individuals on one side of the political spectrum. The progression is only feasible if we can settle our differences as a nation and unite the United States once again. Too often, we look to create enemies out of those in opposition to our beliefs. This polarization is cancerous and has no place in the home of the brave. Let us remember the words of Abraham Lincoln when he said, "I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends." I challenge readers of this opinion to begin the awakening process by limiting their social media news consumption (for more on this watch *The Social Dilemma* on Netflix), double-check all sources for credibility, and pay closer attention to the policies and actions of the politicians representing them. I believe in WE THE PEOPLE; do you?

The GOP Must Change



Jakob Goodwin '23

Reply to this editorial at
jmgoodwiz23@wabash.edu

President Washington, in his farewell address, warned us that "sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own, on the ruins of public liberty." I think, perhaps for the first time in American history, we have fulfilled this expectation. The GOP has become such a faction and President Trump has become

the leader of that faction. He has used his power to ban Muslim immigrants from our country. He has used his power to make his already-rich friends disgustingly wealthy. And he has used his power to make his problems with the law go away. The GOP has stood idly by and allowed him to do all of these things in the name of party unity and reelection.

President Trump has lost reelection and cannot be redeemed of his abhorrent failures as President, but the GOP can. The GOP can chart a new course. The GOP must go another direction. The Grand Old Party must return to its roots where Lincoln fought a war to maintain the Union. It must embrace the ideals of Ulysses S. Grant who freed his own slaves before fighting the Civil War. It needs to have the reverence of the Constitution that William Howard Taft had. The Republican Party needs to find the grace that John McCain had in his concession speech in 2008.

These are all easy things to say, but what does a new Republican Party actually look like? Well, let's begin with what might be the most divisive topic of the modern day: abortion. It's time for the GOP to get over Roe v. Wade. If the GOP wants to decrease the number of abortions, it should be supporting adoption reform, lower-cost birth control, reform in the foster-care system, and maternal & paternal leave. Next, climate change. The right needs to come to grips with the reality that climate change is real and that we can do something about it. This means investing resources in more renewable kinds of energy like hydroelectric, wind, and solar energy. Thirdly, the GOP needs to get the message that we all heard this summer and take criminal justice reform seriously. The First Step Act was good, but it isn't enough. The GOP needs to be leading on ending cash bail, record expungement, and decriminalizing

marijuana. The Republican Party loves to tout its "America First" foreign policy while abandoning the role that the United States plays on the global stage. The GOP needs to sprint away from the quasi-isolationist policies that President Trump has instituted. And finally, the GOP needs to be a champion for free trade around the world and not engage in trade wars that hurt producers and consumers.

The Republican Party is at a crossroads. It can stray further to the right, pushing into right-wing populism, isolationism, and downright fascism. Or it can move closer to the center, rebuking the Trumpist ideologies that have plagued the Grand Old Party for the past five years. If the GOP chooses the latter, it stands a chance to unite the country around vital issues and have a voice in changing our country. If it chooses the former, I have no doubt that our country is looking at more division, more violence, and a country in shambles.

COVID-19 and Gentleman's Rule



Kihyun Kim '24

Reply to this editorial at
kkim24@wabash.edu

As you know, at Wabash College, we students stand by just one rule of conduct: the Gentleman's Rule. The rule states that "The student is expected to conduct himself at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman

and a responsible citizen." Before I came to Wabash, this drew my attention, as having just one rule of conduct is quite an interesting thing. I heard that many other colleges, even including small ones like Wabash, have handbooks that contain lists of what students should not do. Therefore, I believe this 'Gentleman's rule' is one of the most interesting points of this college, except it is one of three remaining men's colleges in the United States.

I believe the reason Wabash only has one rule of conduct is this is a college for men, not for boys. Men should know what he has to do, and what he should not do. To become men, we have to develop self-reliance and personal responsibility during our college year. And, trite, but true, the best way to develop these skills is by

giving a chance to develop these skills. Having personal freedom and acting like a gentleman, we students will naturally develop these skills and, at some point, become 'men.'

However, although the oldest tradition at Wabash is the link students make between the enormous freedoms they enjoy with the responsibility that goes with such freedoms, I felt that the college still did not trust teenagers and students in their early twenties during this semester. Responsibility has been emphasized, but the freedom is gone. We have to follow several 'rules' like we should wear a mask, notify the dean if we leave the campus, and do lots of other things to keep the 'Wabash Bubble' from COVID-19. This is not what I expected

before I came to Wabash.

I do not intend to say that mandating wearing a mask or other actions are wrong. I believe those are understandable actions to keep Wabash safe from COVID-19. However, I believe that these are incompatible with the Gentleman's Rule. Obviously, we have several rules, not only one succinct Gentleman's Rule this semester. We lost our chance to act as gentlemen by ourselves.

So here is my suggestion: why doesn't college just make rules of conduct like other colleges? It seems that everyone will be happy with many rules of conduct. Having only one rule of conduct is 'cool', but if it is from the teeth outward, then it is a better choice to have many rules of conduct as it is a more practical way.

President Feller Q&A

AUSTIN HOOD '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF •
Q: I'll start by noting that we're coming to the end of an unprecedented semester and year. How do you think the past few months will change Wabash in the coming years?
A: So, I'm going to focus on the positive. I think it has a chance to do several things for us. One: I think the past few months has shown that we can do some things we might not have guessed. If a year ago you had said "Hey, I think the college might need to go to virtual classes," I think everyone would've said that would be a disaster. And it wasn't. I hope that we learned some ways that we can interact in ways that are both personal yet virtual. That's been a big part to me...I have always associated the virtual with the impersonal. But now I've lived through it, and I bet a lot of other people have, and now I can say we can have some good interactions with people through a virtual space...I hope it also taught us some of the value of the things we are missing. I think how much we really do miss the time spent together over a meal. I think we've come to appreciate the importance of immersion learning and study abroad...I feel like we lost a lot by not having students abroad this semester...I just hope that we've also seen how important community is. I've told a few people that our last big crisis was the financial crisis of '08/'09 which really just seemed to focus us unproductively on our individual economic advancement. This crisis is very different than that. It seems like it's maybe teaching us about our connections to others. So, I'm hoping maybe we can learn more about the value of the communal.
Q: What do you think that the student body has done well and not so well this semester?
A: I think people adapted to the mask wearing way better than I thought we could. I reflected with Dean (of the College) McDorman a couple nights ago that in about May, he and I came to a realization that we would have to be six feet apart in the classes and there'd have to be masks. There was a moment where we both said "I wonder if this can happen." It just seemed like it would be really hard...In terms of cooperation with our health center and showing up for testing, that's been great.

I think the students really stepped up. The CARE team members really stepped up...All of those things are to the positive. I don't have a big disappointment. I think we all got tired of this business. But that's a critique of all of us, not just the students. If there's a place we stumbled, it's that we didn't keep up the high level that we started with and we got a little worn out. I think that reflects what's happened in our broader community as well.
Q: Is there any fear that we won't be able to return in-person in January. The way that cases are trending now it's not exactly a rosy picture.
A: Dr. (Ann) Taylor and I discussed this yesterday. Apparently a lot of people are more afraid than we are. She and I are pretty optimistic by nature. I think that it won't be easy. I'm hoping that we're going to turn a corner in terms of changes in behaviors and cutting down on large gatherings and understanding that we can't have unmasked social interactions. I guess I'm hoping that this current surge is going to moderate come January. I will admit, if this kept on it would be challenging on some dimensions...If the rates of COVID remain where they are right now it would be a strain to maintain our food services, our janitorial services, all the things there aren't virtual replacements for...That worries me some, but I think we can come back in January with a renewal in commitment to our health practices. I'm hopeful that by January we maybe a little bit better positioned on testing, for example. We've done okay, but I think that more testing capacity and faster turn around may help us. I'm hopeful.
Q: Are there any plans in the works about a vaccine rollout at The College?
A: I wouldn't say that it's at the level of The College. Last week I participated in a discussion with private college presidents and the State Health Commissioner Dr. (Kristina) Box, and we did talk about vaccines. Since then, we've got pretty good news about the Pfizer vaccine...A hopeful timeline includes a vaccine approved under emergency use authorization yet this calendar year. Available to healthcare workers in January, and maybe other essential workers in February,

which may include education professionals. That does not mean students. Most of the scenario planning I've seen suggests April, the beginning of the second quarter of 2021, before college students will be able to access it.
Q: Leading up to that will there be an easing of restrictions?
A: I would imagine if we could get the more vulnerable members of this community vaccinated, that's going to let down a big pressure on us. If that can happen in the first quarter of 2021, that will be great. Will it happen soon enough is an open question.
Q: By-in-large the mood on campus is that we dodged a bullet this semester. Certainly the first few weeks were filled with discussion about how we probably won't make it to the end of the semester, and here we stand a week out from it ending. Are there any missteps that you would point to as far as administration policy?
A: I should have tried to keep us from celebrating the good months we were having in September and October. We went something like three weeks in a row with no positive tests. The scientist in me probably knew that it was still endemic, We probably could've been messaging more about 'don't take your foot off the gas here.' Also, I should've known how tiring it would be to not have a fall break. We could have addressed that in the planning in the summer. I don't think any of us realized how taxing it would be to go all this time without a break.
Q: There has been an increasing concern about student morale this semester...Is there anything being done to combat that right now and into next semester?
A: Right now, we're trying to finish the semester. Then we'll have a period of reflection in December and begin to plan new things in January. I think planning activities that aren't academic in nature but can meet our emotional needs, that's definitely a piece that we want to support better...The students may not believe this, but Dr. Taylor and I talk about guest policy probably more than you do...We want to come up with a policy that's safe and gives people a chance to have some interactions. We're working on more event

guidelines to get some more things happening on campus...I'm still holding out hope that we can have some athletic events next semester.
Q: We're coming to the end of a very tumultuous election cycle that many think has revealed some deep divisions in this country. Is there worry at all about how those divisions might show up in life at Wabash College?
A: I will say that I was nervous before the election. I think I shared some of my thoughts in an email to the campus which was about how my hope was that we could disagree but at least keep talking to each other...I want this to continue to be a place where we can continue to have debates. I think when we talk about divisions in the country one of the issues is that there's not even a lot of conversation happening across party and ideological lines...It's definitely challenging, but I remain hopeful.
Q: In addition to the political and cultural divisions that have emerged over the election and COVID-19, one thing that has come to define 2020 is the issue of race coming to center stage in America once again. Where do you think Wabash fits into that conversation?
A: I would hope that we can contribute. I think my thinking on the issue of race and The College's role has broadened. I might have initially thought 'It's important to understand each other in this community.' But I think college's need to see themselves as social goods and as a part of civil society. My feeling is that we need to send people out of Wabash to be leaders. And I don't think you can be a leader in this century if you can't think critically and communicate effectively on the issues of race. I hope that we see this as not entirely a problem to solve, but also an opportunity to show what unique things a liberal arts college can do. It might go back to what I started with about the difference between worrying about our individual economic advancement and thinking more broadly about our role in making better communities. I'm hoping we can see that it's not just about making a certain amount of money, but that we can understand that part of what we do here is leave prepared to contribute towards the making of a better society.

Presidential Election Process Roundtable Recap

COOPER SMITH '23 | ONLINE EDITOR •
 This week, the Wabash College Republicans and Wabash College Democrats co-sponsored a virtual roundtable discussion about last week's presidential election. Dr. Derek Mong hosted a panel of four political science professors – Dr. Shamira Gelbman, Dr. Matthew Wells, Dr. Ethan Hollander, and Professor Scott Himsel – who answered pressing election questions. Last week, as Tuesday night became Wednesday morning, Biden chipped away at Trump's early lead in a variety of key states. On Wednesday, Trump asked on Twitter, "How come every time they count Mail-In ballot dumps they are so devastating in their percentage and power of destruction?" While this tweet may not have been intended as a genuine question, the panel answered why mail-in ballots leaned so heavily towards President-Elect Biden. Pennsylvania, which is a key swing state worth 20 electoral votes, is an excellent example of this trend. On Tuesday night, Trump appeared to be winning Pennsylvania by a wide margin. But, as more ballots were counted, the race began to tighten. Dr. Gelbman said, "You saw PA flip from a pretty big Trump lead on Tuesday night, but that kept shrinking." According to The Associated Press, Biden eventually won Pennsylvania by 54 thousand votes. So why did Biden's victory take so long? What accounts for the overnight shift in lead in several states? The panel pointed to several factors, including the parties' tendencies to vote by mail or in person. Dr. Hollander explained Republicans overwhelmingly voted in person, while Democrats more heavily voted by mail. He said, "Why not getting a disease has become a partisan idea, I don't know." Because of messaging from both parties before the election, many were anticipating this division in voting method. Hollander said, "These absentee ballots, we knew ahead of time, would be very Democratic. It wasn't a surprise as you counted absentee ballots the Democratic

lead would either be created or grow."
 Different states have different rules and processes for counting ballots. Pennsylvania was one of several states that prohibited mail-in ballot processing before election day. In an election held during a pandemic, mail-in ballots were certain to increase. And, because of restrictive Pennsylvania procedures, Pennsylvania was ripe for a delayed call. In a state that first counts in-person ballots, which skew Republican, but counts Democrat-heavy mail-in ballots later, it is likely that an early Republican lead could give way to a later Democrat victory. And that is precisely what proceeded to happen. State policies discouraging mail-in voting may seem odd. Liam Buckley, President of the Wabash College Democrats, asked the panel why states like Pennsylvania were so insistent on making mail-in counting more difficult. Dr. Melissa Butler, longtime political science professor and first woman to achieve tenure at Wabash, provided her insight as a political scientist and Pennsylvania native. She said, "Basically, the legislature was resistant because they wanted to depress turnout."
 To fit his "stolen narrative" election, Trump has vowed legal challenges. Professor Scott Himsel, political science professor who teaches on the American judicial system, discussed these challenges. He said, "The grounds of the lawsuits that have been filed so far deal with the process of the election. They also have to deal with whether the states are treating types of voters differently. Are all counties following the same rules?"
 Professor Himsel discussed Republican strategy in these lawsuits. He said, "You'll see there is an effort to scope and style these so they fit under the federal constitution. The pathways into federal court are limited, and typically need to fit a breakdown in process or a violation of a federal statute." Because Republicans have recently confirmed many conservative federal judges, many think their best chance of overturning election results lies with the federal judiciary.

When asked about how the challenges have fared, Himsel replied, "Not well. Not well so far." Himsel attributed the legal losses to the lack of evidence so far. He said, "But in court you have to have evidence. At every level. And it remains to be seen what kind of evidence will be used. "We'll see if the campaign can come up with evidence."
 Part of Trump's post-election ire has also been aimed at major media outlets who have declared Biden the winner. Trump, alongside other conservatives on Twitter, has encouraged Republicans to quit watching Fox News and instead rely on OAN and Newsmax. Fox called a Biden victory in Arizona long before other networks, prompting retaliatory tweets from Trump. Due to the increased attention on media election calls, the panel addressed how networks determine when to declare a victor in a given state. Dr. Gelbman explained that the media tries to reconcile speed with accuracy. She said, "It's in their best interest to make a call as quickly as possible, but also to be correct. They tend to be pretty cautious, but when they feel pretty confident about the call, they call it."
 Gelbman also reminded the audience that media calls do not determine the election. She said, "There's nothing official about media calls. But media outlets for years have been doing this."
 If recounts, alleged voter fraud, and disputed media calls make your eye twitch with flashbacks to the 2000 Presidential Election, you are not alone. One student asked the panel to compare the current situation to 2000. Professor Himsel assured that this is not the same scenario. He said, "In 2000, you ended up in Florida with a margin of 537 votes. You had a technology breakdown from punchcard ballots. This is different." He explained that there have been no allegations of technology breakdowns in 2020. Furthermore, he pointed out that Trump would need successful legal challenges in several states, not just one, as was the case

in 2000. But it seems that Trump's supporters want to make this election seem as similar to 2000 as they can. Professor Himsel said, "They're trying to fit the Trump foot into the Bush shoe. If you're a Republican, you want this to look as much like Bush v. Gore as possible."
 Even though Trump is contesting the election, the international community is anticipating a Biden presidency. Dr. Wells said, "The world is moving on in a way the President is not." He noted that several prominent world leaders have congratulated Biden on his victory. He drew special attention to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recently congratulated Biden. Netanyahu has previously supported Trump's policies, claiming Israel has had no greater friend than Trump. As Dr. Wells explained, congratulations from Netanyahu only solidifies the consensus around Biden's victory. As the semester ends and the holidays approach, the ongoing election saga is likely to dominate many dinner discussions. Bryce McCullough, Chairman of the Wabash College Republicans, asked, "How do you respond to friends and family who are convinced that the only way Trump could lose is voter fraud?"
 Professor Himsel pointed to two arguments. First, he said, "This election got a tremendous amount of transparency. I don't think we've ever seen this kind of transparency in an election in recent years." Second, Himsel also pointed to election results. He said, "If this is a fraud, it's very poorly executed. You have the Republicans very likely to keep control of the Senate. They've gained seats in the House of Representatives." For those interested in more information on the subject, Himsel recommended two resources: the Brennan Center for Justice and the National Constitution Center. The transition and its challenges are barely underway. With pending lawsuits and misinformation, the already-lengthy 2020 election saga is likely to continue – and staying informed is essential.

COVID-19 Procedural Updates

THOMAS JOVEN '24 | STAFF WRITER •
 Leaving campus in a couple weeks might be one of the most normal processes of the semester. However, with Covid-19 in the air, there are still some details that students should be aware of before heading home. There is hope for students who are afraid of bringing the Coronavirus back home to their families. Dean Redding said, "We are looking at the possibility of pre-departure Covid testing." The full idea of this potential plan is still being worked out, but if the pre-departure tests do happen, they will be optional. On the topic of testing, Wabash now has Quidel Rapid Antigen tests for Covid-19. Dr. Anne Taylor said, "They are currently only approved for use in symptomatic cases. The good news is that means we know in 15 minutes if an ill individual should move into isolation and start contact tracing, but it doesn't change anything for our asymptomatic process or overall policies." In the past, some students, such as winter athletes, and international students have stayed on campus over break. Dean Redding emphasizes that doing so is not an option this year. Redding said, "We are officially closing all housing, so students need to be out by noon on the 25th of November." This is a very extended break, so Redding and the administration want people to take home as much of their stuff as possible. He said, "Big pieces of furniture can stay, fridges can stay, but smaller things, especially anything of significant monetary or sentimental value, should go home."

School supplies is part of the list that students definitely should bring home! "For seniors, anything that they might need or want for comprehensive exams should go home," said Redding. Underclassmen should do the same, for while the college expects to return to residential learning in late January, you never really know with Covid-19. Another bright spot is that the college is trying to allow winter athletes to return to campus early. Redding said details about that are still up in the air. For the general student body, the return to campus should look something like the return to school in August. We want to be "Scheduled and staggered," Redding said. Students should expect an email from Dean Redding with options of times that they can return to campus next semester. At the beginning of the year, students were allowed to come to campus before they got a negative Covid-19 test result back, since CVS was taking a long time in many areas throughout the nation. Redding is confident that, because testing has been going on for a while now, the college will be able to control this process better. Dr. Taylor said, "Since students will have more advanced notice to get it scheduled and done, a negative test within a week of your return will be required for moving into your living unit." Wabash students and all faculty should enjoy their break and the holidays, for after this semester, it is more than deserved. Then, we should be prepared to grind once more upon our return to campus next year.



Cheers to Future Monon Bell Game Triumphs!



IndyWabash.org
@IndyWabash

BACHELOR

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

Twitter: @WabCoBachelor_

Instagram: wabashcollegebachelor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Austin Hood • aghood21@wabash.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Reed Mathis • rwmathis22@wabash.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Alex Rotaru • arotaru22@wabash.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Blake Largent • jblargent22@wabash.edu

CAVELIFE EDITOR

Drew Bluethmann • dmblyeth22@wabash.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Benjamin High • bchigh22@wabash.edu

ONLINE EDITOR

Cooper Smith • cesmith23@wabash.edu

COPY EDITOR

John Witzcak • jbwitzca21@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.

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Winter Break Plans for International Students



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Pictured is a student during New International Student Orientation. Due to concern over travelling, many international students will stay in Chicago over semester break.

IO MAEDA '24 | STAFF WRITER • Wabash College has provided an opportunity for international students to stay in Chicago, during this year's long winter vacation. They are going to stay at Hostelling International, which is the facility that Wabash College has used before.

Wabash is still working on transportation from Crawfordsville to Chicago. Other than a place to stay, it is also important for Wabash to have an accurate count of how many students will take advantage of this opportunity. It is not only about students moving, but also bringing their belongings at the same time.

There is a large kitchen and other amenities within the facility. It is located in downtown Chicago, with easy access to public transportation and a walkable distance to many attractions, services, and restaurants.

The College has come to this decision because being on campus for the extended break, during a time that will be cold and dreary and features few people around, will not be good for the students' well-being. It is also important that staff and faculty have a true break after a difficult spring, summer, and fall.

The length of the Chicago stay is unprecedented for Wabash, because the winter vacation is usually just one month long. Half of the international students go home while half of them remain in the dormitory in a usual year. However, all the Wabash students have to leave the campus without any excuse this winter vacation.

All international students can go back to their home country. However, the pandemic makes it unclear whether all international students will succeed in coming back to campus for the spring semester. Since another winter is coming, the tight travel restrictions might be implemented as they were in the beginning of the year.

The difficulties that international students face can be hard to imagine for the domestic American students. Also, most international students do not have U.S. citizenship, which they have to have in order to fill out

the complicated Student Visa (F-1 Visa) applications. Studying abroad is not for enjoyment, but rather for training in another country the students are not accustomed to.

Let me tell my personal experience of how I succeeded in arriving at Wabash College during the pandemic. Until July, all the U.S. embassies in Japan were closed. The only way I was able to apply was "Emergency Appointment". I was able to apply for this just thirty days before the academic year began. After getting approval from the Osaka U.S. embassy, I was finally able to buy the airplane ticket and prepare for arrival here at Wabash.

Ms. Amy Weir, from the International Center, said, "I think it is important to have an option for you guys (international students) because most international students do not have a family in the U.S. that they can stay with for a long time. Also, it is really a lot to ask a friend to stay at a friend's house for two months. It is a 'big ask.'"

Dean Welch, who is one of the members in charge of this plan, said "Yes, it is difficult and different." Although there are exceptions for winter athletes and international students during the usual winter vacation, Dean Welch explained that, "There are good students and they have good reasons, but I have to say no. That adjustment is difficult."

Welch, on a positive note, also said, "I think it is a really good opportunity. I am excited about it." Even though the transition to Chicago life may be a hard task, Welch went on to speak about the international students who are headed to the windy city, saying, "I want them to enjoy it: Rest, relax, rejuvenate."

It will be a good experience to live in an urban city in the U.S., unlike Crawfordsville, although some of the international students may miss their home country. While the faculty and staff will enjoy complete rest without having to take care of students, the international students will be able to enjoy an urban lifestyle that can widen their worldview. It is a win-win situation for both of them.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

JOSEPH JULIAN IS NOT MITCH MCCONNELL

Hi-Five to Student Senate for finally getting something done this semester with the COVID hoodies. At this rate, they're on track to be as unproductive as the United States Senate. At least it isn't led by a man who looks like a turtle who was just attacked by a dementor.

SIGN OUT OF YOUR BURNER, BRO

Lo-Five to former Pennsylvania Congressional candidate Dean Browning for tweeting his support for President Trump as "a gay black man." Needless to say, Browning is in fact not a gay black man. Then again, he's of the same political persuasion that threw its full support behind the former host of The Apprentice, so who's to say how grounded in reality he really is.

HOOSIERS WHO?

Hi-Five to former Wabash Football Assistant Coach Tom Allen for leading IU to their first top 10 ranking since 1967. In a year when literally anything is possible, we still didn't anticipate people caring about that program.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Hi-Five to the American people for approving all the marijuana-related ballot initiatives this election cycle. We look forward to a time when EQ professors can spark a joint in class and TGIFs feature bong-rips with Rhynies.

BROWN THOUGHTS

Hi-Five to the \$10 Brew credits. This semester moved quick, but we are expecting this coffee moves through us even quicker.

SPORTS

Athletic Trainers Take the Lead on COVID Testing

KIHYUN KIM '24 | STAFF WRITER • The weather is becoming colder, and the leaves are falling. Finally, the end of the semester is coming.

This semester is not like any other semester. COVID-19, a disease that began spreading in Wuhan, China, had arrived in the United States in early 2020, and Crawfordsville is not immune to it. Though many other colleges around the nation, including Depauw University, did not allow every student to be on the campus, Wabash opened its door to every student who wanted a residential experience this fall. But unfortunately, COVID-19 restricted our ability to partake in traditions and changed many typical things in this semester: Study abroad programs were cancelled. Chapel Sing was not like that of a normal year. Everyone, including students, staff, and faculty members, wore a mask in public spaces.

Although there were some troubles, this has been a memorable semester. Despite the global pandemic that made several colleges shut down their campuses and force off their students, Wabash fought against the virus and successfully completed the academic calendar, as it had planned before this semester started. This success can't be done without students' hard work to make a bubble that shelters the student body from COVID. However, though it is easy to overlook, there are silent heroes who worked hard to help Wabash students and make Wabash campus safe from COVID. Athletic trainers Mark Elizondo, Lauren Vincent, and Erin O'Connor are obviously three of them.

Over 40 percent of the student body competes in varsity sports. Therefore, athletic trainers are vital in the Wabash community. "We are responsible for the health and safety of the athletes," Mark Elizondo, Head Athletic Trainer, said. They are project managers for student athlete's wellbeing. Everything from orthopedics to doctor visits, mental health, and referring to the student health center for medical issues are



JACOB MALDONADO '24 / PHOTO

Since the beginning of the semester, the College has been conducting weekly random COVID testing in addition to testing symptomatic students. Nurse Christine Amidon is pictured above during one of the rounds of testing earlier in the semester.

their job in normal time. However, this semester, in addition to their typical work, they got a new task due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would say it's doubled our workload," Elizondo said. "Double-time," Lauren Vincent, Associate Head Athletic Trainer, said before making an additional remark, "COVID never sleeps." This semester, athletic trainers did a ton of 'new' work related to COVID, including monitoring the COVID app, administering the COVID

test over at the Hays House, and tracking those results. This COVID-related work made them work as late as 11 at night, and even extended their work hours into Saturdays and Sundays. "It's overwhelming," Vincent said. "When COVID takes the majority of our attention, it's hard to give our attention to athletic training. But," she added, "It also works well because they both affect each other." Fortunately, their new task had some positive influence on their

work. According to Vincent, as many students are student-athletes, this work helped them to manage athletes to some degree.

Not only athletic trainers, but also many other staff members, including Brent Harris, Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director, and Nurse Amidon worked hard to make this success possible. People tend to forget easily. However, we students will not forget the hard work these staff members did this semester.