



Students Learn their Fates; Faculty Contemplate Meaning of Comps

RILEY FLOYD '13
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Associate Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander sits down at his desk with a stack of envelopes. In those envelopes lay the fate of each senior Political Science major. As the first reader, he removes the student's written exam from the envelope and detaches the blank index card paper clipped to the exam. He grades it, writes his feedback and grade on the card, flips the card over and reaffixes it to the exam. He then passes it on to a second reader in the department.

That second reader follows the same process then flips the card over to see if his grade matches up with Hollander's. If not, they meet and discuss the discrepancy. All of this review is conducted without knowing the student's identity. And it takes place for each senior Political Science major each year who completes comprehensive exams.

Just after the brief reprieve of winter break, this year's seniors returned to campus for their comprehensive exams. They sharpened

their pencils, pressed their shirts, tied their ties and prepared to complete the supposed pinnacle of their academic careers at Wabash. Distinction, High Pass, Pass, Fail. Four options—limitless connotations. But beside the grades do comps mean something?

"The whole reason you go to a liberal arts college . . . is that you're not out to get a grade or a mark or get a certain number of Latin words on your diploma. You're out to learn," Assistant Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander said. "Comps are really what test your

"I tend not to think of these as credentialing moments . . . it's about what the College continues to say about its mission."

Dean of the College Gary Phillips

knowledge, not your ability to master a particular class."

This year, 188 seniors had their knowledge tested. 17 earned Distinction (one was a double major). 45 students earned High Pass. 112 passed, and 14 failed.

Those results are consistent with the results from the past five years. Dean of the College Gary Phillips was not surprised by this year's results.

"It's a bell curve. You have about as many who distinguish themselves positively as those who distinguish themselves not so positively. I think what that tells you is that there is some general community standard that is operating across the College about what are the levels of achievement at the very high end and the levels of achievement at the very low end. And that's good news. Because what that tells you is that there's basically a kind of community standard," Phillips said.

And different departments have different ways of determining that standard. For Professor of Chemistry and Division I Chair Scott Feller, a numerical scheme takes

precedence over a subjective review. "We have a fixed percentage," Feller said, pointing to the grade thresholds that the Chemistry Department established for comprehensive exams.

Students who earn a 90% and above receive Distinction; 80% and above, High Pass; and 50% and above, Pass.

The Political Science Department takes a similar approach, but without a pre-established cut off for each grade. After compiling all of the scores within the department, the faculty review the scores and award Distinctions, etc. based on "sort of a logical cut point," Hollander said.

For example, if three students earn a 93%, 91% and 90%, respectively, and the next score is an 85%, the 90%-93% students received Distinction, and the 85% receives a High Pass.

Both the Chemistry and Political Science departments grade their exams anonymously. All exams are given a number and scored before the student identity associated with that number is revealed. And at least twice two different professors with-

See, COMPS, Page 3

By the Numbers

2010-2011
Distinction: 17
High Pass: 45
Pass: 112
Fail: 14

2009-2010
Distinction: 21
High Pass: 65
Pass: 113
Fail: 19

2008-2009
Distinction: 14
High Pass: 54
Pass: 123
Fail: 18

2007-2008
Distinction: 16
High Pass: 73
Pass: 99
Fail: 14

2006-2007
Distinction: 16
High Pass: 56
Pass: 79
Fail: 14

Gambling . . . at Wabash?



JUSTIN VASQUEZ | WABASH '14

Last Saturday, the SCAC hosted its annual Casino Night in Chadwick Court. Members of the Purdue Dance Team dealt the cards, and Wallies played to win raffle prizes. See Page 2 for more photos.

To the Tables of Wally Bon Vivant



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

Last week, some students, faculty, and alumni used Friday afternoon to discuss a topic of all Wallies' minds--food. See Page 3 for more photos from the fourth annual alumni/faculty symposium.

Lie of the Mind Promises to be Dark but Intriguing

SAM BENNETT '14
STAFF WRITER

Excitement abounds across the campus for the Department of Theater's performance of Sam Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind*. It is a production that promises to keep the audience intrigued, holding them from the very first minute until the very last.

Professor of Theater and Director Michael Abbott described it as "a masterpiece of poetic and theatrical brilliance that looks unflinchingly at love and family in the West. It is a depiction of American life that is at once hallucinatory and dirt real." With a description like that, and the positive reception of previous Wabash Theater productions, *A Lie of the Mind* certainly will not disappoint.

Performances have been going on since Wednesday, Feb. 23 and will continue until Saturday, Feb. 26. All performances have

been scheduled for 8 p.m. in Ball Theater. Cast members include Raynor Mendoza '13, Luke Robbins '11, Alex Moseman '11, and Reed Hepburn '12. The play also includes a few female roles that will be played by women from both Greencastle and Indianapolis.

Rehearsals have brought about some initial difficulties. "We've had cast members fall ill suddenly, freak accidents that kept people away from rehearsals, pretty much everything that could go wrong has gone wrong," Robbins said.

In addition, everyone involved with the play has had to brave recent weather conditions, including the ice and snow from the last few weeks. Sometimes, cast members were not able to make the trek from Greencastle or Indianapolis to Crawfordsville. But these setbacks have not meant disaster for the production. "I'll be surprised if we are anything but prepared come opening

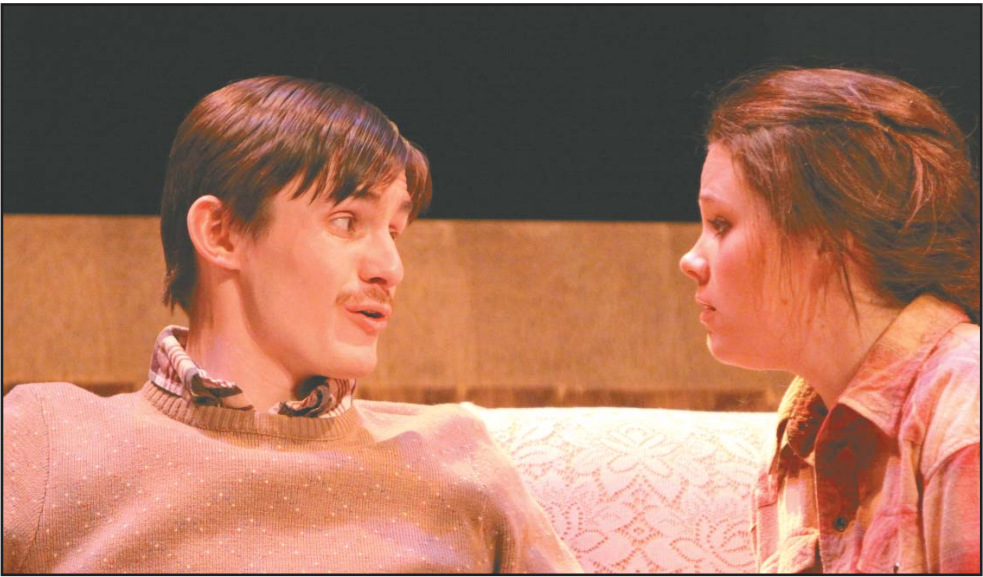
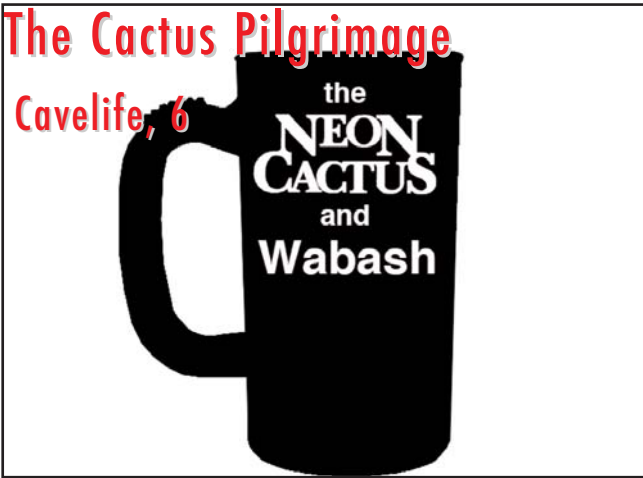


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sam Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind*, directed by Professor of Theater Michael Abbott, debuted this Wednesday. The show's run in Ball Theater will continue through Saturday.

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In This Issue:



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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. The Bachelor and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 300 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.

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

Students Search for Internships

JOHN DYKSTRA
WABASH '13

As spring break continues to creep closer, students already have sights set toward the summer. Many students have applied for internships and are preparing themselves for interviews.

Career Services, located in the Arnold House on the west side of campus, has provided several internships on Wabash Works and helps students build their resumé and locate possible internships beyond Wabash Works.

Scott Crawford, Director of Career Services and Betsy Knott, Assistant Director, emphasized that Wabash Works is not the only location where internships can be found. In fact, Knott worked with one student and found thousands of internships within three different websites.

"The internships we post are primarily from a connection that we have in some way, or they are funded by the school," Crawford said. "It is fairly easy to apply for the ones through the school, but they are limited and very competitive. So, you have to apply for lots of internship opportunities and be open."

Knott added that "what students really need to understand in regards to internships is that the 'end all, be all' place to look is not just on the internship search option on Wabash Works. There is a copious amount of internships out there. It is all a

matter of how the student goes about obtaining an internship. If they are proactive about it, chances are likely they will end up with some type of internship."

Crawford and Knott stressed the importance of pursuing an internship sooner rather than later.

"There are still internships posted through April, but waiting until then really is not a good idea because you are going to miss out on so many good opportunities," Crawford said. "Internships demonstrate the funnel effect; around June there is hardly anything left."

Sam Starbuck '12 has a verbal agreement with Dr. Toby Herzog, Professor of English, to conduct research and analysis related to Tim O'Brien and American Literature for five weeks this summer.

"I was approached by Dr. Herzog with the opportunity and decided to jump on it," he said. "I have a specific interest in War Literature, as does Dr. Herzog, and I figured what better way spend five weeks of my summer than learning from none other than a Vietnam War Veteran and War literature scholar himself."

I will be looking at various forms of information from books, to online journals and publications to compile a copious amount of information for a bibliography that will be used by Dr. Herzog at a later date," Starbuck said. "I will also be helping him prepare for his Senior Seminar in the fall entitled 'Literature about the Vietnam War.'"

Crawford said the importance of internships is gaining experience



FRANCISCO HUERTA | WABASH '14

Career Services has information and skills to help students find and earn admission to summer internships as well as many other opportunities.

for possible careers after Wabash. Starbuck was confident that his internship will help him become a better writer overall.

"The internship should help me tremendously," Starbuck said. "I will learn how to perform in-depth research, and write detailed summaries of what I have just read. I will also be doing some editing which always helps in making oneself a better writer. Overall it should be a great experience that I will be able to carry with me out into the real world. I'm looking forward to it."

An internship workshop about creating your own internship will take place Feb. 28, 7-7:45 p.m. Students Adam Miller '12 and Jake Kersey '13 will lead the workshop.

"Part of our job is to find opportunities for students or to check out a new website to see if it is user friendly to internships and students looking for opportunities," Crawford said. "If you want an internship, you need to come over to Career Services and talk to us and we will help you out."

Lie of the Mind

From Page 1

night," Robbins explained.

Character development has also been a very difficult process in the short number of weeks that the cast has had to prepare their performance of *A Lie of the Mind*. Robbins has had to portray the character of Frankie who happens to be very similar to his actual self. "Because I relate to Frankie and consider us similar people, I have had more difficulty building the character than I expected. It's easier to play a char-

acter unlike yourself," Robbins said.

Raynor Mendoza, who plays Jake in the performance, also expressed that shaping himself to his role was not an easy task. "Jake is very unique and complex, and with that comes an entirely new way in which to 'become' him. Jake has taken a lot more mental concentration to fill his part," Mendoza said.

"I chose *A Lie of the Mind* because I knew it would test and provoke us, as theater artists and as a Wabash audience," Abbott explained. "Shepard gives us the

trappings of a familiar family drama, but he twists that vision into something peculiar and disorienting."

All who are involved with the performance are thoroughly excited for the performances. This play is something challenging, something thought provoking, and something fresh for the Wabash community to indulge itself in. "This play is going to be dark, and like previous Wabash theater productions, it is going to deliver in a big way," Mendoza said.

While attempting to synthesize everything together into one composition, it is true that those involved with the play have had their setbacks. But this does not suggest that the Theater Department's production of *A Lie of the Mind* will prove to be anything other than exceptional. As Robbins said, "We are going to bring a quality production to campus, regardless of the difficulties we've faced, and people will be surprised."

Time to take a Few Risks . . . with Fake Money



Announcements

Saturday, Feb. 26

Wabash Theater's
A Lie of the Mind
8 p.m. Ball Theater

Saturday, Feb. 26

Red Velvet
9 -11 p.m.
Malcolm X Institute

Monday, Feb. 28

Layers Exposed
Art Exhibit 8 p.m.
Dean Gallery

Tuesday, March 1

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Comps Results

From Page 1

in the department grade all exams. “It’s sometimes a pain in the butt, but it’s always a well worthwhile pain in the butt,” Hollander said, because comps are “one of the particular strengths of Wabash.” Despite rumors among students of pre-established quotas for the number of Distinctions awarded in each department of the College, Phillips, Hollander, and Feller were each adamant that no such quotas exist. The idea of a comprehensive exam for undergraduate students is not one peculiar to Wabash. Indeed, a few private, liberal arts colleges across the country require similar exams. Kenyon College, Bethany College, and the Catholic University of America all require some sort of comprehensive exam. But for Wabash, that intensive oral and written exam experience is a hallmark of its liberal arts philosophy. “It [comps] elevates the academic performance of students to a high level and moves it beyond simply the course unit of measure to the college unit of measure. And that’s really important because if a student’s success and experience in the college is framed by his disciplinary work then the question of what he’s doing as a liberal artist is missed,” Dean of the College Gary Phillips said. For Feller, the comprehensive exams serve as an evaluative tool—both for faculty and for students.

“For me, both the written and the oral comprehensive exams are really important ways for me to know if our system is working—if our curriculum in the Chemistry Department and our curriculum at the whole College is meeting our goals,” Feller said. “It puts faculty on notice that their work in teaching students is a college-wide experience,” Phillips agreed. And as for what comps mean to students not going on to graduate school, Phillips and Feller both agreed that comps should be equally meaningful to both groups of students. “I’ve never seen this as focused toward students going to graduate school versus students who might go directly into the workplace,” Feller said. “I tend not to think of these as credentialing moments for going on to graduate school. It’s not so much about the credential; it’s about what the College continues to say about its mission,” Phillips said. With so much of an impact on graduation honors, comps take on an even greater significance for those going on to graduate school. Senior Adam Brasich earned Distinction in Religion. “Comps evaluates your abilities in this area perhaps better than any class grade or my GPA can. Personally, I viewed comps as proof of whether or not I had grown as a student or not during my time at Wabash. Did Wabash teach me anything? Did it help me develop my critical thinking abilities?” Brasich said.



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

Last Wednesday, the Dean’s office released the seniors’ comprehensive exam results. Results were available electronically on AskWally. This year’s results seem to follow a general bell curve trend with the majority of the students (roughly 60%) receiving a Pass.

Wally Bon Vivant: A Spicy Symposium on Food and the Liberal Arts



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

Copy Editor Needed

If you’re interested, please contact Riley Floyd via e-mail at rhfloyd13@wabash.edu. We need a copy editor to review our pages on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

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Comprehensive Exams

Reflection, Introspection and Growth, Oh My!



If it wasn't apparent by the robust show of Wally swagger across the mall, the senior class is still beaming over completing comprehensive exams. Minus a few, the eldest members of the student body are now bound to graduate in May—which means the Class of 2011 can finally exhale and relax during the last few months at their Alma Mater.

And enjoy they shall; in some ways, completing comps requires much more than surviving and performing through a grueling gauntlet of exams. To endure comps is to answer for three-and-a-half years of choices, lessons and improvements; to exhibit adequate levels of academic and personal growth; to provide the College with assurance that your (and its) educational investment actually came to some sort of fruition. Comps prompt Wallies to reflect and introspect on the significance of their experience: of attending a demanding undergraduate institution, of living and learning through adversity, of facing the world through the very specific and intimate

The Issue:

The scores for Seniors Comprehensive Exams were released during the middle of last week.

Our Stance:

The ceremony of Comps serves an important purpose for those about to graduate from the College.

lens of their chosen discipline.

Seniors are finished. They have been called, and they have answered. As these gentlemen journey onto their next Odyssey, with pride will they remember the hurdles over which they conquered. Comps will amount as a capstone of these, a rite of passage, which they share with every other Wabash Man.

As a last remark: the *Bachelor* staff invites seniors to send in any thoughts; we appreciate the fresh insight regarding the College and its traditions.

A Fair Fight. . .

Those of you who attended my chapel talk yesterday surely know by now that my politics are a little goofy, starting with the fact that I don't like to frame things in political terms and I reject the ideologies of both major U.S. political parties. Because of this, I am often called apathetic or an idealist.

At the same time, I am also passionate about politics in many ways: sometimes as a guilty pleasure and other times as a serious affair. This time, it's serious.

Tomorrow morning, Saturday at 8 am, Indiana state senator Phil Boots will be eating breakfast in Detchon International Hall. Phil Boots is a second term Republican state senator from Crawfordsville. He has an active and long voting record on many issues—including a recent bill I am probably supportive about that legalizes alcohol

and car sales on Sundays. The one I want to raise here is Senate Bill 590, of which Boots is the second author.

The content of the bill (which I have read and you should too) is not what I am concerned about here. After all, legislative bills are not always about their literal content, they are also about framing a conversation.

The bill is about immigration. It proposes making nineteen changes to the law "concerning enforcement of federal immigration laws." In my opinion, these changes include things that range from uncontroversial to silly, from vague to objectionable, and the rest. What these variations share is that they are framed within a singularly criminal concern.

See, Protest, Page 5



Pepsi Max Commercial Controversial?

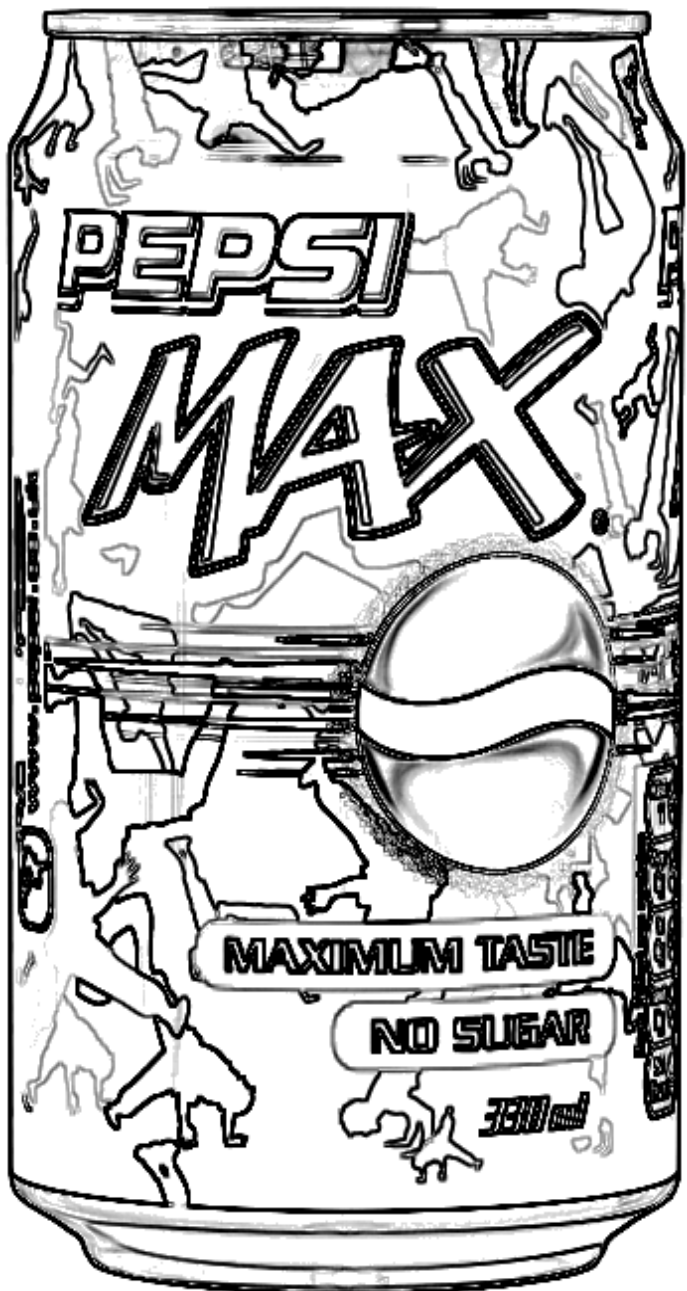


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If you missed or don't remember Pepsi's controversial Super Bowl commercial, entitled "Love Hurts," it can still be seen all over the internet by Googling "Love Hurts Pepsi." The spot was one of this year's most talked-about ads due to accusations of its promotion of racial stereotypes. After viewing the spot, one can imagine that this storyboard, brought to life with Pepsi's six or seven-digit marketing budget, would prove comical to almost any demographic. Husbands and wives, or anyone who grew up watching their married parents interact, would find humor in the common conflict between this ad's couple. And everyone with a funny bone (with the exception, perhaps, of avid joggers) would laugh at the oblivious passerby unexpectedly beamed in the head by a flying object. Many of us would also relate to the embarrassment such a situation would cause to the perpetrators and likely be struck as well with the instinct of running away. These are the core jokes in the spot—the spousal conflict is the build-up and leads to a simple slapstick punch-line.

The detail with which many viewers took offense was the race of the characters. The husband and wife were black and the runner was white. Offended parties claimed that the conflict was cashing in on racial stereotypes of the black wife as overbearing and controlling, and of black people in general as given to criminality and refusal to face the consequences of these crimes. It is impossible to determine whether these stereo-



REED HEPBURN
'12
STAFF
COLUMNIST

types were intentionally exploited for comedic purposes, but it may be helpful to imagine ourselves in the shoes of the casting director and hypothesize as to his or her thought process. The storyboard itself provides ample humor. For what characteristics in our actors would we look in order to maximize the effect of these jokes? Personally, race is not a criterion that comes to my mind. A more relevant detail would be the physiques of the actors, because the conflict is over diet, and the object of the husband's illicit desire in the last scene is a more physically fit woman.

If there is any humor added by the fact that the couple is black, it is a highly marginal gain relative to the humor in the plot itself. I do not believe that Pepsi envisioned any such increase in humor from this detail, because it would only exist if such a stereotype was prominent, and if it were, that humor would not be worth the backlash that would inevitably result from a commercial that blatantly espouses racial stereotypes. I sincerely believe that the casting of this commercial was, in regards to the comedic message it attempted to convey, completely race-blind.

But what if the casting direc-

tors did acknowledge that the aforementioned stereotypes were believed with problematic prevalence in our culture? How should they go about casting the commercial? Should they intentionally avoid the issue by only considering non-black actors for the parts? I find it counterproductive to allow such misconceptions to dictate what can and can't be portrayed in the media. Aside from the obvious injustice to any black actors who may have wanted those parts but were rejected because of a stereotype against them, to refuse to show instances of behaviors which may be seen as stereotypical in an attempt to avoid promoting these stereotypes only grants greater power to these ideas. This type of political correctness assumes that viewers will extend qualities portrayed by individual characters onto their demographic groups. If we are ever to develop a society that can look at an individual without making qualitative personal presumptions based on their race, we must abandon this hyper-race-conscious thought process and cease catering to those who operate within it. Instead, we must assume, and hope that others will do the same, that characters shown in the media are individuals, not representatives of their race. This mindset inherently precludes finding causality between race and behavior or personal characteristics, and is much more likely to effectively dispel stereotyping than trembling adherence to a fickle, ever-evolving code of stifling political-correctness.

The Importance of Student Grievances

What do students do when they have a complaint against a professor? Professors have a lot of power over students, but shouldn't students have some way of calling out professors? All the surveys show that Wabash students are very satisfied with classroom instruction here. The College cultivates an atmosphere of close relations between faculty and students. But even at Wabash, things can go wrong—and when things go wrong, it is usually too late to try to figure out the best method for dealing with the situation.

Most Colleges have a student grievance board for students and faculty alike. Wabash has no standing grievance committee for faculty and offers very little help to students who find themselves in a conflict with a professor. We do have a procedure in place for students who want to petition for six or more courses (or to drop a course past the allowed date), but we have no system for adjudicating faculty-student conflict.

I have nothing against informality. Conflict is usually best handled on an ad hoc and personal basis. Students can talk to the professor, and if that does not resolve the situation, they can talk to their adviser, the Dean of Students or the Dean of the Faculty. But notice how exposed this leaves the student. The professor has all the power, and there is nothing another professor, or even a Dean, can do to change that. Of course, if



DR. STEPHEN WEBB, '83
GUEST COLUMNIST

the professor actually assaults or abuses the student in some way, the Dean of the College can intervene and discipline the professor. Short of that scenario, however, tenured professors have virtually no limit on their power over students (untentured professors, of course, have to please their students in order to receive tenure). And even in the case of the intervention of the Dean, there is no procedure guaranteeing the rights of everyone involved. The Dean can simply side or not side with a student and punish or not punish a professor for the alleged wrongdoing, without any oversight whatsoever to his action.

So what about a situation where the student feels like he has been the object of discrimination? What if the student feels that the professor has made a false claim against him? What if the student feels that the professor has given him a bad grade

out of spite or retaliation? What then?

Grievance boards are good when they substitute rules for emotion and fairness for personal privilege. Sometimes an outside perspective is needed to resolve conflict. Grievance procedures do not have to be based on a "winner take all" outcome or a "guilty or not guilty" judgment. Grievance committees can help people work through misunderstandings. They can create the conditions for healing. They can be, in fact, great educational tools. Sometimes even teachers need to learn a lesson! At least, teachers need to learn how others perceive them and how their actions are not above scrutiny and discussion.

Now I need to make one thing perfectly clear: A student grievance committee would not endanger the Gentleman's Rule. We all know that every other college and university in America has a plethora of student rules. I am not suggesting that we make a list of rule for students to follow. On the contrary, a grievance committee at Wabash would function to preserve student freedom, not limit it. A grievance committee would have no power to create or enforce rules for students. Instead, it would give students a non-threatening and non-intimidating place where they could work out a serious difference with a member of the faculty.

During my twenty plus years at Wabash,

I have had a handful of students come to me to share serious disagreements they have had with a professor. This is an unusual occurrence, but it happens. First, I tell the student, "Go to your professor and try to work it out." Sometimes they take this advice, but sometimes they say they have already done that, with no luck. And sometimes they are so afraid of making the situation worse with their professor that they do not want to do that. So then I say, "Go to your adviser or one of the deans," but really, what can an adviser or a dean say to a professor about an alleged abuse of authority? The answer is, not much. So usually I end up commiserating with the student and giving him advice about how to forgive and forget. I don't know how well this works, but I do know that I wish I could have sent some of these students to a committee where their complaint would have been taken seriously, and where their conflict would have been mediated, rather than hidden from view.

I think we owe our students the opportunity to have their voices heard when they feel like they have been seriously wounded by someone in authority. We faculty certainly are rarely silent when we feel like someone has wounded us; how could we deny this privilege to our students when we claim it as a right for ourselves?

Protest

From Page 5

The language reads as follows: "A bill for an act to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure." In effect, this bill frames immigration within a discussion about criminal law. Senate Bill 590 has the rhetorical effect of criminalizing the issue in advance.

This, as I see it, is misguided, ignorant, and dangerous.

It might seem too predictable: a Hispanic professor speaking out against a Republican bill on immigration—more of the same unsurprising humbug. Don't get me wrong, though; if I wanted to level an ethnic argument I could and would. But I am not. For me, this is about the liberal arts.

If we believe in the liberal art of discourse, then we must defend the conditions that make conversation honest and respectable—gentlemanly. One of those

conditions is that you cannot stack the deck. If we begin a conversation on alcohol consumption framed within a concern about addiction and pathological behavior, then, guess what the result will be? Unjust, to say the least.

Regardless of what you think about immigration or other issues and no matter what your political affiliations are, I invite you to join me tomorrow at 7 am to stand on the mall (across from Detchon) and silently

show Senator Boots that Wabash believes in honest talk.

I will be there to represent what is implicitly meant when we say "Wabash Always Fights": Wabash always fights fair. An unfair fight is no fight at all. All I want is a fair fight, a real fight.

Will you join me? Will Wabash advocate for a fair, honest, and gentlemanly conversation?

We'll see tomorrow morning.

On Fiscal Reform

Confront the Unions!

The newly elected governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, has emerged as one of the foremost fiscal reformers in the nation. He is one of the first to accost the leading cause of the high deficits in many debt-ridden states — public unions. These union's unrealistic demands have lead to a \$574 billion funding gap as a resulted of all the unfunded state and local employee pension plans. When a private corporation's revenue decreases, it is forced to cut back salaries and benefits to remain solvent. State and local governments often don't have this option because of union contracts. In order to vitiate the exorbitant amount of debt in this country, public unions must be confronted.

Public unions have a vise-like grip on the budgets of many states. There are 22 forced-union states, including Wisconsin, in which public employees either join the union or leave the profession. The public union's collective bargaining agreements affectively allow them to completely dictate public employee pay and benefits. Thus, these state budgets cannot be balanced without union compliance. Walker simply seeks to end this asinine collective bargaining power.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Far from draconian, Walker's proposal would limit pay increases to not more than the Consumer Price Index unless approved in a local referendum. It would also reform public employee benefit plans. State employees would be responsible for making a 5.8 percent contribution into their own pension plans, and pay 12 percent of their health care benefits. As it currently stands, public employees pay 6 percent their pension and 0.2 percent to their healthcare. These reforms are very moderate relative to Wisconsin's budget crises.



TED PLUMMER '13
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Naturally, Democrats are screaming foul play to this proposal. Huge protests started to form around the capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin last Wednesday. The chief concern amongst the crowd seemed to be the belief that Walker's proposal would somehow completely destroy Wisconsin's education system. The crowd toted absurd signs denouncing Walker as a hater of children and education. But the real underlying goal of the union bosses who orchestrated the mindless crowd was to preserve the public union's power at the expense of state insolvency.

The protest consisted mostly of teachers and union heads both pretending to be defending the interests of school children. Ironically, roughly 1,000 teachers called in "sick" to attend protest which forced many schools to close down. This is not only grossly hypocritical, but selfish as well. This brazen act alone warrants the teacher's benefits be cut entirely. Schools exist for the students, not for the teachers.

For far too long public unions, particularly the teachers unions, have been a leech on the wallets of the American people. Union heads derive a great majority of their income from teacher's salaries, which in turn come from the tax payers. Teachers need to dismiss the self-centered notion that they are somehow entitled to more than the average worker, and realize that they are being used by the unions. During difficult economic times everyone must cut back. There is no reason that teachers and other public employees should be immune to this.

Governor Scott Walker should be applauded for his efforts towards actual fiscal reform. Instead, he is being chastised by many including our own president. It should be noted that Obama came out against Scott Walker, an elected citizen, much sooner than he came out against the dictator Mubarak. But perhaps this is out of jealousy since Walker is proving to be a much more competent and effective leader than our president will ever be.

"Teachers need to dismiss the self-centered notions that they are somehow entitled to more than the average worker, and realize they are being used by the unions."

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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avtgisa@wabash.edu

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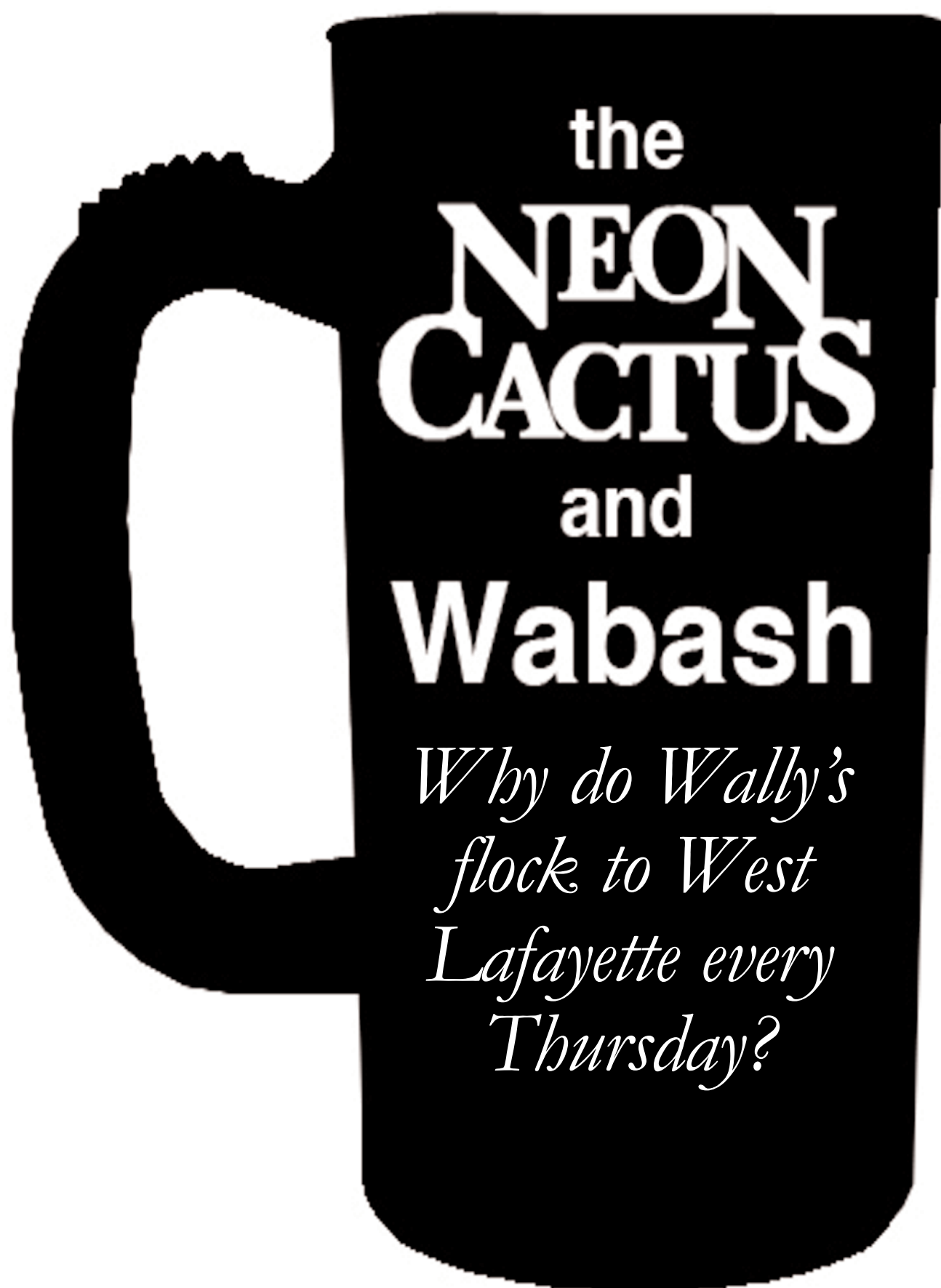


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JOEL BUSTAMANTE '11
CAVELIFE EDITOR

On the surface, it's just a calm Thursday night. Some underclassmen scan pages furiously while others scribble away on yet another essay. For Wabash men over the age of 21, however, Thursday night becomes a fanatical frenzy to abandon campus and head to West Lafayette's Neon Cactus.

"I have rescheduled meetings, done an extra day's worth of homework, begged people to drive me—all just so I can enjoy the Cactus," Nick Marzotto '11 said.

The nightclub and bar hosts its weekly "Crock-N-Rock" event every Thursday, offering beer for only 50-cents to completely fill a 32-ounce multi-colored mug. After a five-dollar cover charge, the Neon Cactus is a definitively cheap way for Wabash men to enjoy themselves and mingle with the "privileged" students of the co-ed Purdue University. Wabash's attendance is so great that even the Neon Cactus' official website boasts pictures of several

Wally's enjoying themselves on a Thursday night.

"The appeal of the Cactus comes from the atmosphere of the party as well as the prices of the drinks that are cheap enough for college students to afford," Marzotto said.

One problem, however, remains in transportation. Oftentimes freshmen will take up the driving responsibilities so that the older men may enjoy themselves, but this is never a fixed sentiment. While some organizations are able to get a guaranteed designated driver, most students are not as lucky.

"For years now, I have wished that Wabash chartered a set of buses up to Purdue on Thursday nights," Jordan Brewer '11 said. "With designated times for drop-off/pick up, students could go drink and enjoy themselves without having to worry about freshmen or a smelly taxi cab driver driving you back thirty minutes."

At day's end, the Neon Cactus offers more than simple drinks and opportunity to interact with students from another college. The camaraderie that seniors and of-age juniors experience during their half-hour trip goes beyond flashing lights and thumping beats of the latest Lil Jon track.

"Most importantly, it's worth it simply for the sheer fact that it creates a lifetime worth of memories with some of your closest brothers," Brewer said.

Furthermore, second-semester seniors seemingly rush to complete the "normal" events that larger universities experience regularly. While Indiana University has its bar-filled street on Kirkwood and Purdue University has its storied Chauncy Hill, Wabash seeks to fill the void left by the lonely Lew Wallace Inn.

"There is not much time left to enjoy a 'true collegiate experience' as we witness at public universities, so I must squeeze in as much into this as I can," Brewer said.

The Neon Cactus originated as a southwestern-style bar next to Purdue University's campus, but eventually evolved into a more modern dance club for students. Even though the dance floor covers the majority of the club's floor space, there remains a piano bar for those who would rather join in song with their friends.

"It's nice to see a city still alive past eleven o'clock," Brewer said. "It's nice to escape the everyday monotony of Crawfordsville."

"It's nice to see a city alive at eleven o'clock."

Jordan Brewer '11

COURTESY OF NEONCACTUS.BIZ

Right: A group of Wabash Students enjoy a Thursday evening at the Neon Cactus.



By the NUMBERS



Little Giants Dethrone Lords

RYAN LUTZ '13
STAFF WRITER

In what was most likely the final home game of the year, Mac Petty and the Little Giant basketball team won in convincing fashion. Defeating Kenyon 72-61, the basketball team moves on to the NCAC semifinals where they will face Wittenberg.

The key to the win over Kenyon was the incredible bench play and rebounding. "We had guys come off the bench and come up big for us" Coach Petty said, "It came down to players doing their job". Some of the guys who came out and did their job were Jordan Surenkamp and Nick Curosh. Surenkamp came off the bench and scored 15 points in 16 minutes. While Curosh grabbed 12 rebounds, seven of which were offensive rebounds.

"Each game we stress three important things" Petty said, "We focus on the fight within the game not the outcome. We bring

our weapons, and we come out their prepared". The way the team played last night in front of a home crowd, they brought out every weapon in their arsenal. "What guys did last night was bring their weapons, that's one thing I was pleased with" Petty said.

From the starting five to the key bench players it was a solid showing all the way around. In large part it was because of the preparation the players put in and the three key things stressed by the coaches. "There are three things in the game ball possession, free throws, and rebounding. The rebounding is the offensive end. You've got to beat them on the offensive boards, get to the line and make free throws, and take care of the basketball" Petty said.

The team executed that game plan perfectly as they out rebounded Kenyon, got to the line more and had more points off turnovers. "They are things we continually get better at" Petty said.

But at this point in the season the team is focusing more on consistency in their game instead of improvement, along with continuing to work on their lock down defense for the upcoming game. "It is a mental thing" Petty said, "I have to stress to the guys to think about it".

The fact that Tuesday night's game would most likely be his last ever at Wabash College did not even enter into Petty's mind until someone mentioned it to him after the game. "I didn't really think about it and when someone told me, it took me back" Petty said "All I had been thinking about was the seniors and getting ready for the next game".

The next game will be against Wittenberg on a neutral court and the team will look to keep this swan song going for that much



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Wednesday's 11--point victory over Kenyon advances the Little Giants to the NCAC semis.

longer. It has been a little over a week since the team knocked off Wittenberg on their home court. So the team knows what needs to be done in order to win. "We won't change our approach against Wittenberg," Petty said, "It's been less than a week since we played them here. We'll come in Wednesday and review what we did against them the last time in our preparation".

This season has been quite a ride for Petty and the Wabash basketball team. Going from an unranked team to number seven in the nation and everywhere in between this team has the potential to be remembered as one of the best Wabash teams in recent memory. With each game having the potential to be the end of an era the guys know what they have to do: keep on winning.

As much as Petty has done for generations of Wabash men, the players on the team do so much for him as well. "I walk out on the basketball court and I see those faces and my whole attitude changes, because of their smile and they're ready to go" Petty said, "That's what kept me young".

Senior Ben Burkett put it best by saying, "he is probably one of the best men I've met in my life." The Wabash community feels the same way.

The Little Giants are back in action with their semifinal matchup with Wittenberg at 6 p.m. at Wooster's Timken Gymnasium.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Sophomore Jordan Surenkamp came off the bench to score 15 points in the victory over Kenyon Wednesday.

Swimming Sends Five to NCAA Championships

SETH HENSLEY '14
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash swim team rounded out their conference meet finishing third. This meet was the last meet of the year for most of the team. However, there are still five Wabash swimmers that haven't hung it up quite yet. Charles Williams, Eric Vaughn, David Birrer, Evan Rhinesmith and Adam Current will all be advancing to nationals in March after qualifying out of the regional round.

The University of Tennessee will play host to this year's Division III National Championship. The NCAC will have an impressive showing at Nationals. Kenyon sends 18 swimmers while Denison sends 15, Wabash five, and Allegheny one.

"This is a good opportunity to come away with some hardware. We are just keeping everything in perspective." Coach Barnes explains.

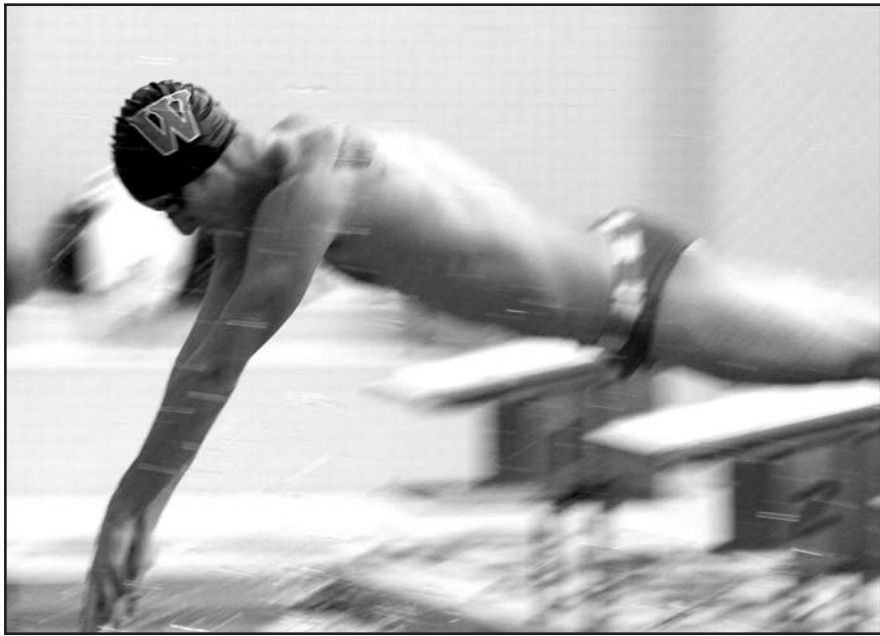
Wabash will be represented in the 100 fly, 200 fly, 100 breast, and the 400 medley relay at Nationals, respectively by the five swimmers. Out of the five guys, four of them were at nationals last year. The sole addition to this forceful group is freshmen Charles Williams. A freshman qualifying for nationals may be unexpected to some people, but not Coach Barnes.

"We expect freshmen to contribute every year." Coach Barnes said. While that may be true, Williams may have higher expectations than even most freshmen. Williams is said to be one of the fastest in the conference and the nation in the 100 free.

The two top qualifiers for Wabash at Nationals last year were David Birrer

"There is no difference between our first meet and nationals when it comes to preparing. There is just obviously more on the line."

Coach Steve Barnes



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Senior Evan Rhinesmith, along with four teammates, has qualified for nationals.

finishing 19th and Evan Rhinesmith finishing 17th. Evan Rhinesmith is representing Wabash in the 100 breast this year. His expectations for this event are to be competitive and to go fast. He mentioned that he wanted the race to be memorable for the right reasons. In order for him to do that, he will have to swim his best against the fiercest of competition. One swimmer on his radar is Pavel Buyanov from the College of Staten Island. Buyanov is a two time national champion. However, he did not defend his title last year and will be looking to go out on top this year.

When asked about preparation for the national meet he said they were doing nothing different.

"If it isn't broken don't fix it." Rhinesmith said.

His preparations have worked for him so far and he trusts the advice of Coach Barnes. Although the preparation has not changed, Rhinesmith says he still is fine-tuning.

"We are working on a lot of speed and power mechanics right now. Historically, I've been kind of slow on the first half of my races, so we are trying to get a lot of front half speed without sacrificing power at the end of the race."

Rhinesmith and his teammates Current, Birrer, Williams, and Vaughn are taking this month off to refresh and

refocus for the last event of the year. It is a combination of settling any nerves and fine-tuning any last minute adjustments.

"I am not preaching too much, everything we talked about has been

"This is a good opportunity to come away with some hardware. We are just keeping everything in perspective."

Coach Steve Barnes

said. The big thing is confidence. There is no difference between our first meet and nationals when it comes to preparing. There is just obviously more on the line." Coach Barnes explained his role in preparing his swimmers.

Both Rhinesmith and Birrer came up just short last year of swimming in the final round of nationals. Birrer was short by one second and Rhinesmith by 12/100ths of a second. With this chip on their shoulder and you can guarantee all will be left in the pool when the Wabash swim team touches up their final race.

Duo Provides Spark Off the Bench



BRANDAN ALFORD
SPORTS
EDITOR

As Wabash heads east to Ohio this weekend with its sights set on an NCAC championship, the storyline regarding the Little Giants will almost certainly begin and end with senior Wes Smith. The conference's leading scorer (22.1 ppg) and most versatile athlete, Smith has frustrated defenses all season with his three-tiered offensive attack. And with such an arsenal has, and will continue, to come harassing defensive efforts on opponents hell-bent on stopping Smith.

To this point in the season those efforts have been largely unsuccessful. Credit Smith for finding ways to get his, and get it in bunches. But while Smith has been the overwhelming leader in the scoring category, it has been anything but a one-man show. With no other player in double-figures offensively this year, the Little Giants have utilized a host of role players, none bigger as of late than junior Derek Bailey and Jordan Surenkamp.

Bailey, who was an on-and-off starter a year ago as a sophomore, has embraced his role as coach Mac Petty's sixth man this season. Playing an average of 19.9 minutes per game, Bailey has been one of Wabash's most efficient scorers at 8.1 points per game, good for third on the team.

However, that kind of sustained action has not been the storyline for Surenkamp's sophomore campaign. After a nondescript freshman season, Surenkamp saw much of the same limited action throughout most of this season.

But that all changed three games ago when productivity and scoring from both Surenkamp and Bailey came at the best possible time. Facing then conference-leading Wittenberg in a must-win game at home, Surenkamp came off the bench to score 12 points in only 21 minutes of action. Not to be outdone by his fellow reserve, Bailey merely led the team in scoring with a 17-point performance. The pair helped keep the Little Giants afloat in the at-large pool.

Two games later, in Wednesday's first round win against Kenyon, the pair was at it again. With Smith struggling in a 3-12 performance from the floor, Surenkamp jumpstarted the Wabash offense with 15 points, eight of which came during an important stretch of the first half. The sharp-shooting lefty connected on all three of his attempts from deep as well as his four free throw attempts. While Bailey only finished with five points, he was again in the thick of things at critical times.

During the important three-game stretch to close the regular season, the duo combined to average 20.7 points per game, and more importantly, only turned the ball over once.

If this Wabash team is going to succeed this weekend in hostile territory, Wes Smith is going to have to put up the kind of numbers he has all season. But don't be surprised to find Surenkamp and Bailey among those reasons why the Little Giants may be successful when the conference's champion is crowned Saturday.

New Venue, Same Title Hopes

Deep, talented baseball team sets sights on NCAC crown in 2011 as Wabash unveils new stadium this spring

KYLE BENDER '12
STAFF WRITER

Returning every starter while unveiling a new stadium, the Wabash College baseball program looks to make a splash as it jumps into 2011 play this weekend.

The team will travel to Chillicothe, Ohio for a four game series in all-turf V.A. Stadium. Competition against Bluffton College and Case Western Reserve will prepare the Little Giants for their annual Spring Break trip.

As part of the historic season about to unfold, the program will make its first-ever trip to California, traveling to the Los Angeles area for games against five Southern California programs. Although the West Coast tour has been in the works for several years now, Head Coach Cory Stevens still needed the early season practices to determine his final travel roster for the trip.

“In today’s age with all the air travel restrictions, it’s been a difficult few weeks,” Stevens said. “We’ve managed to set a roster and get everyone on the same flight. The guys are excited to go to a new location and play against some great teams. The weather should be great and we’ve also set

up some alumni events. It should be a great experience for Wabash baseball.”

Beginning his fifth season as the Wabash head baseball coach, Stevens returns his most experienced squad. Led by seniors PJ Tyson, Dave Seibel, Brian Van Duyn, Joe Johnson, and Tanner Coggins, the Little Giants look to return to the NCAC Tournament for the third straight year and set another season-wins record.

“Experience is certainly going to be our biggest strength and it starts with our five seniors,” Stevens said. “They have each played a role since they came on campus and have seen this program improve each year. All have given huge contributions to our program and are great leaders.”

The five seniors have developed a close bond during their Wabash baseball experiences, so the team’s 2011 season slogan, “Win Today and Walk Together Forever,” seems ever the more appropriate.

“We consider ourselves very fortunate,” senior second baseman Joe Johnson said. “We get to play baseball with our best friends. Not very college kids get that type of opportunity.”

Stevens expects the huge offensive numbers put up last season to continue. The powerful middle lineup of John Holm, Tan-



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Senior Brian Van Duyn, one of five seniors, is looking for a breakout season on the mound.



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Senior Tanner Coggins, a .354 hitter a year ago, is one of Wabash’s most experienced players returning in 2011. The Little Giants return all eight position players this spring.

ner Coggins, and Montana Timmons returns as well as four other starters who hit .300 or better.

“I think our offense will pick up right where it left off,” Stevens said. “We hit the ball well last year and only gained in maturity and experience since then. Defense will once again be solid. Perhaps our only question mark will be on the mound, where we struggled some last year. We have a new pitching coach this year in Paul Kubon and he’s done a great job; we’re anxious to see how our pitchers will step in and perform.”

With Earlham choosing to leave the North Coast Athletic Conference, the 2011 season will see a new conference format. Instead of four game weekend series against only division teams, Wabash will instead play a doubleheader against every NCAC team. Once DePauw joins the conference next year, it is unsure whether the new schedule will stick.

“I’m in strong support of this new conference schedule,” Stevens said. “This year is being used as a sort of trial run before DePauw joins. I’m excited for the opportunity to play everyone, as opposed to divisions. The concern is what we will do about make-up games against long-distance teams such as Allegheny and Hiram. Currently the answer will be to find a mutual date later and midway point but a rainy spring could make it interesting.”

Finally, the arrival of Honor Scholar

Weekend will mark a historic time for Wabash baseball. The team is set to first play in the new stadium on Saturday, March 19 in a doubleheader against Wilmington College.

“To say that we are excited about the day would be an understatement,” Stevens said. “It is going to be a terrific atmosphere with many former Wabash baseball players and alumni back on campus, future Wabash students here for Honor Scholar Weekend, and our current students out in their usual numbers.”

“It’s all about taking the next step as a program. In my eyes, it’s the perfect time for the new stadium. We’ve taken the step forward as a program in terms of wins and loss and postseason accomplishments. The new stadium just takes it even further and raises our status as a program on the national level, as well as a great way to send our seniors out.”

“The new stadium will do a lot for our program and add to the atmosphere we already have,” senior pitcher Brian Van Duyn said. “We already had great support at Mud Hollow where our fans had nowhere to sit. I can’t imagine how many more fans we will add with permanent stadium seats and a hill in left field for our students. On top of it all, we should put a product on the field that will compete in every game we play.”

Basketball Action From Wednesday’s Win



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

(top) Junior Derek Bailey goes up for two of his five points against Kenyon on Wednesday.

(bottom) Junior Nick Curosh looks to reverse the ball on offense against the Lords. Curosh finished with a career-high 12 rebounds in the NCAC first round victory for the Little Giants.



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