

IN THIS
ISSUE



Rocha Debate Grips Wabash

ALEX ROBBINS '13
OPINION EDITOR

Dr. Sam Rocha has become a popular visiting professor among the students at Wabash College. His application for a new Teacher Education Program position has raised questions about his qualifications for the position and the Teacher Education Program's job description for the position. Complicating the matter, Rocha admits he is not fully qualified for the position.

The official reason Rocha has not been given an interview or scheduled for a talk is that the Owen Duston Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Teacher Education is not qualified to meet all requirements written in the program's job description on the Wabash College website.

Rocha meets the requirement for "background and/or interest in historical, theoretical foundations or philosophy of education" and also in his "commitment to teaching in a liberal arts setting."

Some students have been quick to suggest that the administration aimed to automatically disqualify Rocha because of personal conflict between the professor and Dean of the College Gary Phillips that factored into the process. Phillips denied that biases could affect any hiring situation, noting the number of people directly involved in the hiring process.

"In other words that I would be making a decision based on a relational issue with someone? No. I mean, I'm not going to respond to a hypothetical question like that," Phillips said. "But what I can tell you is

"The successful candidate should have: a Ph.D. or Ed.D. in a licensure content area; background and/or interest in historical, theoretical foundations or philosophy of education; knowledge of state licensure and/or national accreditation processes; a record of teaching experience at the college level preferred and experience in the middle or high school setting is required. Commitment to teaching in a liberal arts setting and evidence of scholarship is required."

Teacher Ed Job
Description

what in fact has happened."

Rocha has questioned how the job description was written.

"What is a little bit strange to me is how, although I don't qualify to the letter of the job description, I am, in many ways, doing the work that the person who would fill that position would do," Rocha said. "In the spring when Dr. Pittard is on her sabbatical, I know that I'll be doing a lot of the work. In fact, I'll be the only full-time Teacher Education faculty member, so that creates a certain cognitive dissonance. In my view, it's absolutely fair and just to say that



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

Upon hearing that the Owen Duston Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Teacher Education Sam Rocha was not granted an interview for a position beyond this academic year, students cried out in support of him via email and Facebook, demanding his retention by the College.

I don't qualify for the written, advertised position or that I only qualify to it marginally, but at the same time it raises the question of 'what am I doing here in the meantime?'"

Rocha noted that, while he and his family have bought into Wabash, he understands how a situation like this has been created.

"I don't feel excluded from the interviews. I think that what happens is that these job descriptions—writing a job description is an incredibly political process," Rocha said. "You have all kinds of different interests you have

to address, you have all kinds of perceptions of what people need. A job description is kind of like a mission statement."

Phillips explained the process of writing the job description and hiring a tenure-track position.

"You have, as we have, a programmatic need, a description that was written to meet that need, an open public invitation nationwide to anyone who could bring forward their skills, their credentials," Phillips said. "In search and solicitation of that position, that specific position, that happened. There was a com-

mittee put together made of senior members of different departments of the College, headed by the chair of the program, Michelle Pittard. All of the applications were vetted."

"The thing I was trying to communicate explicitly in my email to the student body, you must have clear correspondence between the skill set and interests and competencies of the job description that's being profiled and the applicants that apply," Phillips said. "You cannot not have that match. The law re-

See ROCHA, page 3

Swimming Starts Season Strong

RYAN LUTZ '13
STAFF WRITER

In a sport where times always seem to bet getting faster, how you train in swimming can mean the difference between first and second place. So far this season the Little Giant swimmers have done a decent job of performing in

the pool.

This past weekend the swimming team placed fifth at the Calvin College Invitational. Which included five top eight finishes during the tournament.

"The meet was a lot faster this year," Coach Barnes said. "But overall I think we swam well and I know we

got better with every round. We also had a lot of season best times and PR's too".

Some of the outstanding performers this weekend were Aaron Troyer who placed third in the 100-yard backstroke, finishing with a time of 52.41. Alex Hawkins and several other team members had a solid meet among

some of the tougher competition in the nation.

"Those guys had a really good meet," Barnes said. "I think the freshman did really well too though."

This is important for the team this year because with the loss of Rhinesmith and Birrer the team is without a superstar talent that can will them to a victory. This environment forces every member of the team to elevate their performance in the pool.

Training for swimming is highly individualized, every aspect of a swimmers training has to be tinkered with, the lifting, the diet, the in pool workouts and so on.

"Right now in the season we are going to start adjusting guys' workouts," Barnes said. "That involves everything from the volume of their lifting and swimming schedules to what type of rest they get".

And the coaching staff does this for every single swimmer on their team. Needless to say it is a labor

of love for the coaches.

"Yeah it's a very individual process because we are taking the time to cater it to each individual's needs. The end goal for us is to get them in the best position possible to swim fast for Conference, and for a few of the guys on the team the National Meet".

Naturally the more seasoned swimmers in this program are already adapting to the changes in training. For the freshman, however, the coaches are being very vigilant on everything.

"You kind of have to tinker with everything," Barnes said "it's all about being aware at all times to what is working for a player and what isn't. So we need to look at what has worked in the past for us as well as think of what might work well in the future."

Now as the season goes on and injuries happen, training programs change. This leaves the coaches constantly

See SWIM, page 3



KELLY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15

Freshman Aaron Troyer during practice this week. The Little Giants took fifth at the Calvin Invitational last weekend.

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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.

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Announcements

Friday, December 9 -
Sunday, December 11
Vanity Theater: Yes
Virginia, 7:30 p.m. (2:00 p.m. on Sunday)

Monday, December 12 -
Saturday December 17
Final Exams.

Tuesday, December 13
Midnight Munch, Sparks
Center Great Hall, 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.,

Thursday, December 15
Spring Semester Tuition
and Fees due at Business Office.

Sunday, December 18 -
Monday, January 16,
2012
Christmas Recess.

Thursday, January 5 -
Friday, January 6
Written comprehensive exams for seniors (double majors only).

Monday, January 9 -
Tuesday, January 10
Written comprehensive exams for seniors.

Wednesday, January 11 -
Friday, January 13
Oral comprehensive exams for seniors.

Senate: Get out and Vote!

Voting Process Changes Aimed at Higher Greek Turnout

PETER ROBBINS '12
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For at least the past four years, the president of the student body of Wabash College has been an Independent. Traditionally, Greek voting turnout has been lower per capita than Independent voting, so this year, Student Senate made an active attempt to get fraternity students to vote in elections to ensure that representatives, the President and other officers were elected based on a representation of the whole student body's true wishes.

"Before this year, you would go to the library, you would tell them what grade you were in, and they'd hand you a piece of paper with all the races you were eligible to vote for," said former Senator Brock Sibert '12.

Current Student Senator Matt Knox '13 outlined the basic changes in the system.

"The changes I've noticed are, not only do we have a booth stationed at the library during lunch and dinner hours, but we also have a booth set up at every fraternity house during lunch and dinner," Knox said. "We wanted to try to get the Greek system more involved in the election process instead of having them come to a central location on campus. It really doesn't give them an excuse not to vote."

Knox said voting proctors at the library and the fraternities convened every night to ensure that no student had voted twice. As of Wednesday, Voting Commissioner Kenny Farris '12 believed the system was an improvement, based on what he had seen.

"It's hard to say right now; library voting has not changed much," Farris said. "We've

had pretty good success getting fraternity guys to vote during the hour we've been at each house, with the exception of one house. We'll see how the numbers turn out in terms of the Greek vote generally, but right now it does look positive."

Sibert, also a former Lambda Chi IFC representative, alluded to the fact that the Greek community has been aware for some time that voting numbers were down and had tried to improve them.

"At IFC meetings they used to tell us (representatives) to encourage our fraternity members to vote, but a lot of guys never really did," Sibert said.

The motion to alter the voting system was first made by Senator Alex Robbins '13, who is also running for president in this election and is a fraternity member.

"Basically the idea was that Robbins made a motion that there would be polling booths at fraternity houses," Farris said. "The motion left the voting commission to determine how exactly that would be done. I thought it would be very simple to just use meal hours during the week, and it just made sense because there are nine fraternities on campus and ten afternoon meals. It's not just being in the house; meals take place in a common area. Just being by the booth gets people out to vote, generally."

Though he had been initially pleased with the system, Farris mentioned that some people have suggested some further changes they would like to see.

"One of the complaints that I've had is that there's not a voting booth at Sparks," Farris said. "My response is that we wouldn't be able to do that during lunch hours because the rooms around the Sparks Great



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

Friday's lunch hour marks the final voting round for this year's student government elections. Brittian Warner '13 takes advantage of new fraternity voting Wednesday at Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Hall are usually reserved. And the library is just so central."

However, Farris explained that after the process is complete, the Senate will be able to evaluate it and easily make any changes they see fit.

"It is just a motion, not an amendment to the constitution, so it could be changed in the future if people think this system doesn't work as it is," Farris said.

By today, it will be clear whether the changes to the voting system were able to greatly increase the Greek voting turnout. Either way, we'll have to wait for a presidential election with an independent candidate to know for sure whether a high Greek population turnout will influence the results of an election.

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Comps Changes Evident to Seniors

JACOB BURNETT '15
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College's numerous traditions govern student life: Chapel sing, rubbing Eli Lilly's head on the staircase in the library for good luck, the Monon Bell game, etc. But January brings the most anticipated and perhaps dreaded, of traditions for seniors: senior comprehensive exams. These exams consist of a written exam and oral exam to test the senior's knowledge of their major, minor or area of concentration, and overall education at Wabash College. The tests have gone through several changes throughout the years.

"Twenty-five years ago senior comprehensive exams were collegiate and community based" Dean Phillips said. "Guys would actually go down to a local state park and work together with faculty to prepare for their exams. It was kind of a retreat event."

Currently, the faculty focuses attention on the senior comprehensive exams as summative or comprehensive moments that capstone the student's experiences as a major in a department and at Wabash. The faculty works hard to identify the ways to make the exams more coherent. The faculty tries to make the written and oral exams a more successful experience.

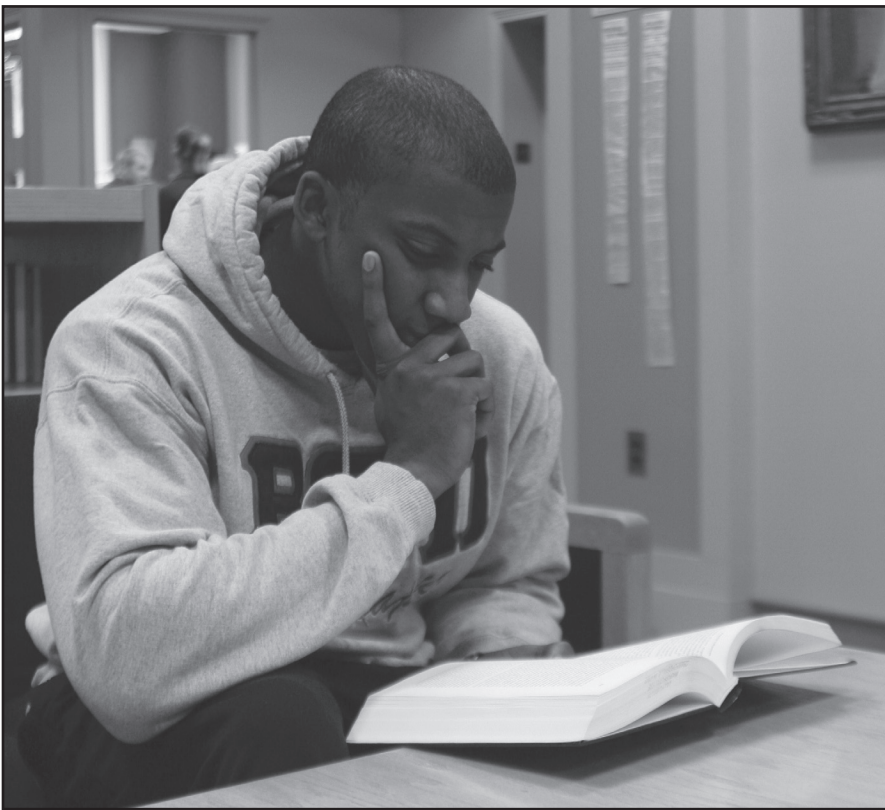
"They want to make the exams more effective for testing what students learn" Phillips said. "Their dissatisfaction has caused them to rethink their curriculum. They might add a capstone course or tighten the levels

of the curriculum in the major to make them more coherent. The faculty in each department want to help give the seniors the chance to show what they have mastered here at Wabash."

The senior comprehensive exams have undergone another minor change recently. Instead of having the oral examinations first semester, the seniors take the oral examinations the same week as the written examinations. By taking the tests in conjunction, the administration believes the process is more efficient and practical. The at-large bids, the third professor on the oral comprehensive exam board outside of the senior's major and minor, are determined through a computer algorithm. Dean Phillips believes that the comprehensive exams aren't necessarily an obstacle.

"One thing to remember is that the exams are one way to show what you have learned carefully, reflectively, and substantially," Dean Phillips said. "They are not a hurdle to get through. The exams are an opportunity to engage the material and faculty. My advice is to engage and tackle the experiences, use them to look back, and recognize the big issues and concerns that they have experienced in their major. This is the defining, golden opportunity as a liberal arts student to show that you know how to develop themes and coherencies."

Andre Adeyemi, a senior majoring in Rhetoric with a minor in Political Science, is preparing for senior comprehensive exams by breaking the studying into pieces.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Senior Andre Adeyemi has started preparing for comprehensive exams in January. Under recent changes, Andre will take his oral and written exam the same week.

"I want to take studying day by day and break it up in chunks" Adeyemi said. "I don't want to cram it all in at once. I want to work through the concepts associated with my major and then focus on my minor. I want to go through all my notes that I have taken over the years."

Adeyemi also took the capstone course for rhetoric which was devised to help students prepare for the senior comprehensive exams.

"The senior seminar did help for the most part," Adeyemi said. "It was a

good review, and it refreshed some aspects of rhetoric that I haven't gone over in a while. We could've gone through the material a little faster though."

The senior comprehensive exams have gone through some changes in the previous years, but one thing is for sure: the tests are meant to analyze certain aspects of the liberal arts education. The time has come to separate the boys from the men. This whale of a tradition will keep on keeping on for the Wabash man.

Rangel '15 Plays Drums for Autistic Kids

TAYLOR KENYON '15
STAFF WRITER

What do advanced drumming skills have to do with therapy for autistic children? The answer is "everything" for Joseph Rangel '15.

Rangel is a Wabash freshman from Alamo, Texas. He is a former cross-country runner and baseball player from PSJ Memorial High School. Rangel now lives in Martindale Hall as an Independent. He plans to major in music and minor in psychology at Wabash College. He chose this major/minor combination so he can use his passion for music to help others.

"I've always been interested in music my whole life and I think it's a great career opportunity," Rangel said. "With music and psychology I want to get involved with musical therapy to help autistic

kids with their problems." Rangel has developed a true passion for musical therapy through drumming.

"I've played music my whole life," Rangel said. "I've played drums my whole life as well and I still continue."

He started playing percussion in fifth grade and continued into high school. While in high school, he joined the prestigious Drum Core International. According to the DCI's website, 8,000 students audition for "fewer than 3,500 positions." Rangel proved his dedication, yet he decided to attend Wabash instead of a music school.

"I came to Wabash because my counselor gave me a great opportunity," Rangel said. "She told me it was one of the best schools for men. I applied and took the trip here. I liked it and saw that the mu-

sic program was really good."

As a result, Rangel participates in many of Wabash's musical opportunities. Two examples include the Wabash Jazz Band and the Wamidan music festival.

Rangel believes that the Wabash music program pushes his skills compared to high school.

"It's more straightforward here," Rangel said. "When you're expected to do something, you do it. During high school, they would baby you into doing things. I used to think, 'Why is this guy showing me this?' I like the Wabash way more."

When he is not drumming, Rangel creates music on his computer. Various music genres influence how he makes his music.

"I listen to a lot of hip-hop, electronic music, and



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Joseph Rangel '15 drums while relaxing between his classes.

dub step," Rangel said. To increase his speed, Rangel practices drum-

ming about two hours a day. "I want to be the best drummer I can be," Rangel said.

Rocha

quires that there be a match, so that what you can't do is say, 'well, this person has some or half of the skill set that we need, wink wink, nod nod, I'm going to let that person in the door.' You can't do that."

Rocha's main concern is focused on the mission of Wabash Teacher Education.

"The job description, which is open and available for anyone to read on the college website, clearly is principally steered toward the accreditation of teachers," Rocha said. "I think that's important, I don't think that schooling is outside the domain of education. But I don't think that schooling has a monopoly over what education is."

Phillips addressed the licens-

ing issue within the large debate.

"We have committed college resources to it and made the commitment to support the program as a licensure program first and foremost," Phillips said. "So when you think about if that's your primary commitment, which it is, your staffing has to follow that, your staffing has to support that mission. If you had more staff to work with you could do more things perhaps. In our case, we have two full-time, tenure-track persons committed to that particular and foremost task of licensure."

Rocha refused comment on whether he was led to believe he would be hired for a tenure-track position, saying, "I'd prefer not to comment on that."

Swim

tweaking and altering the training program for their athletes. "You have to think of it as a long term process," Barnes said. "Because you need to take the time to get to know their bodies and see what they can handle and that takes a lot of work."

It comes down to the communication between the coaches and the athletes. Sometimes they pick up on things that the coach won't and vice versa. Coach Barnes's ability to re-

late to his players and get his ideas across helps a lot when figuring out training plans. Much work must be done before heading to Florida.

"We have about six or seven weeks of work to put in before we head out to Florida," Barnes said. "Right now though it is about getting their energy systems ready for levels of short high intensity, so that way they are better prepared for race days."

SCAC Discusses Spring National Act Survey

TYLER HARDCASTLE '15
STAFF WRITER

Every time National Act rolls around it brings with it debate over who should play or what music genre should be brought to Wabash College. This year was no exception. This year brought new ideas in the dubstep and country music genres, but these new ideas brought new energy into the conflict. The Senior Council Activity Committee goes to great lengths to find the best fit for Wabash.

"A lot of work goes in behind the scenes that many people don't see," said Cleve "CJ" Francoeur '13, member of the SCAC. Although last year a survey was not used to choose Lupe Fiasco, two were used this year.

"In the first survey we go through the general genres and some names that the student body is looking for," said Francoeur. "In the second survey we listed all the names and prices, we used this to figure which was most popular."

The process is far from over at this point. The Senior Council must then approve the most popular artist. After this they begin the back and forth with the artist's contract.

"Artists also have some crazy demands, all the stuff you read about they want," said Francoeur. "On top of these sometimes outlandish requirements, many logistical issues must be settled. When we have the contract locked in we have to go through a stage production company."

"There are a million variables that go into getting just one artist, people seem to think it is much simpler," Francoeur said.

Mac Miller came in first place by an overwhelming majority in the SCAC's survey. Third Eye Blind and Big Sean came in second and third, respectively. The results of the survey were rather surprising given the mood of the campus leading up to the survey.

"Mac Miller actually won first, second and third pick. Which is kind of surprising because people were saying that they wanted country or something other than rap," said Francoeur. The surveys were accurate and widely completed. Just over half of the student body filled out the survey.

The Senior Council will make the final decision and announce the result late next week.

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Students: Rocha Earned Interview

Upon hearing that Dr. Sam Rocha, Visiting Professor of Education and Philosophy and Rugby Coach, did not receive an interview to be considered for a tenure-track position with the Teacher Education program, students began to cry out via campus-wide emails in defense of the professor. The large number of students who have sent emails on his behalf is a testament to the impact the professor has had on the College as a whole. After all, what other measure of a teacher's positive impact could there be than the feeling by his students that he has taught them something beneficial?

STAFF EDITORIAL

The situation at hand is very complicated because there are nuances to the hiring system, as explained in Dean of the College Gary Phillips' email on Monday, that cannot be disclosed for students to know due to legal obligations to protect the privacy of the candidates and also to protect the College.

Given certain hurdles that may or may not prevent Rocha from getting an interview, the sentiment of the student body is clear: ideally, Rocha would stay as a professor at Wabash. And if there are students at the

College who wish to see him leave, they have not spoken out with the same passion. Besides, few professors have been as present at campus activities, promoting Wabash and its values in any measure, as Rocha has in his year and a half at the College.

While part of the Dean's job is to determine who is qualified to be on the faculty, the very strong praise of Rocha by the student body should be of some value in any consideration the Dean would potentially make about Rocha. It is the students, after all, who have learned from him both in and out of the classroom, and as critical thinkers, responsible actors, effective leaders and humane

people in training, we the students are certainly not entirely unqualified assessors.

We, The Bachelor staff, together with the student body as evidenced in campus-wide emails and a Facebook page, request that Dr. Sam Rocha be granted an interview to stay on at Wabash in any capacity that is possible within the College's hiring process. And if it is not possible, we request information from Center Hall, once the process is complete or whenever it is legally possible to disclose such information, why exactly Dr. Rocha would be excluded.

Why I Truly Hate the "Like" Button

The oft-bemoaned political apathy of U.S. voters (and, especially, non-voters) may be nearing the end of its reign, as evidenced by grassroots movements such as the Wall Street occupation and the Tea Party. But another manifestation of apathy is taking hold of our country's youth, which I will call, for lack of a better word, "cultural apathy." I believe that the decreased attention spans, overstimulation, and minimized social accountability engendered by the overlapping hegemonies of facebook, Twitter, and the smartphone have transformed our generation's concept of "cool." While there have long been American celebrities who make it "cool not to care," today's young culture exhibits what seems to me to be an unprecedented prejudice against honest enthusiasm that threatens to turn our entire lives into just one huge ironic joke.

As a very occasional tourist of the twitter-sphere who still uses a phone whose screen just gets smudgy when you press it, I must admit that I am only closely-familiar with one of my fingered culprits-- facebook. But this may be the ringleader of the three. Originally a network of self-generated profiles (an entirely separate, but equally disturbing can of narcissistic worms) amounting to a roid-raging rolodex with e-mail capabilities, facebook's series of self-reinventions over the years has pushed more and more of its focus onto the "news feed." This ticker-tape stream of updates on our "friends'" lives turns those of us who are our genuine friends (which is a vastly smaller amount than most people's facebook friends, or those we even call friends in real life) into a mere entry in a ledger. The clerical gaze which we are induced to

adopt is only the beginning of facebook's influence, however.

Another apathy-inducing feature is the ability to simply post items to our own walls. Once upon a time, if we found a song, video, picture, etc. that we particularly enjoyed, we would show it to a friend or two-- in long past ages, in person-- whom we believed would share in our appreciation. Now we broadcast the item to everyone-- and thus no one. Posting a video, for example, on our wall, we know how it will appear to most people-- as just another entry in their feed, to be ignored, nine times in ten. No one that doesn't like the video will take the time to finish it, much less comment, so we have nothing to lose and only praise (mostly in the form of "likes") to gain. Thus there is nothing at stake in our endorsement. To post an item on a friend's wall shows enthusiasm, since you liked the item enough to think of who else, specifically, would enjoy it, and to open yourself up to their feedback (which you are much more likely to get when the item is addressed to that specific person). We are becoming, through outlets like this, accustomed to stakes-less endorsement, afraid to show enthusiasm about anything.

The culprit who receives my most viciously-wagged finger is the "like" button. We scroll through our "friends'" thoughts, experiences, memories, etc. and flippantly approve of certain entries, free of any responsibility to explain our reasoning for such approval. We are similarly excused from indicating the level of our affection for said entry. A written comment implicitly betrays the enthusiasm or lack thereof behind the comment, but "liking" is the minimal commitment. Genuine excitement about a song or video is rarely



REED HEPBURN '12
OPINION COLUMNIST

ever expressed, especially in person. While it is not uncommon to hear fraternity guys raving about this or that video, for example, the infamous "Friday," it is almost always in a tongue-in-cheekmanner. Indeed, the videos that "go viral" these days tend to be not for their cinematic or musical genius, but for how bad they are, whether that comes from Rebecca Black's singing and lyrics or a performer's ridiculous 1980's pants which we say we love but wouldn't be caught dead wearing in real life.

Because of the lowered stakes, ticker-tape tonality, and shortened attention spans brought on by facebook and its partners in crime, we've become a popular culture that is essentially afraid of itself. We are afraid to heartily endorse (or criticize) anything for its genuine artistic or intellectual merit. We either "like" something with a single click, or are "over it," once its buzz has died out-- which often occurs because it loses cult appeal by becoming too popular. Although through this stoicism we may avoid ridicule for loving the "wrong" things, we also deprive ourselves of the full enjoyment that only comes from openly embracing those artists, books, movies, and more that we truly appreciate for their real, honest merit.

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The True Definition of Dead Week

Dead week is suppose to be a week when students have no assignments due. It is suppose to be the week when no new information is presented in class. It is suppose to be the week where students can study for finals and work on papers due during finals week.

Clearly if you are not a freshman you understand that this definition of dead week does not exist at Wabash College. This is the week where students that have been procrastinating all semester have an insurmountable amount of work due. For the students that have been working all semester this is the week you still have a mountain of work due. This work contains projects, papers, homework, critiques and tests. Dead week is also when professors cram the rest of the semester’s course material that they have not gotten to, into the last two to three days.

Since I have been feeling overwhelmed this week, I decided to offer students what professor’s definitions of dead week are. This will allow students to be on the same page as the faculty. This article will be the handbook on what is expected of Wabash students during dead week for years to come.

So as a public service for my fellow Wabash brothers, here are the definitions of dead week offered by many of Wabash’s great, most-esteemed, academically groundbreaking, awe-inspiring, and amazing genius faculty. Note: dead week is the perfect time to praise your professors so they remember you when they are thinking about your final course grade.

First I have a definition by a relatively new but great professor. Dr. Wilson’s position on dead week “It is the week where you find dead students all over campus.”

The next quote is by the highly esteemed Dr. Olofson “The hypothetical week where you don’t get work. “ The amazing and incredible administrative assistant Pam Sacco graciously gave me her wonderful perspective of dead week “One week until finals and students are gone, and I get a lot of work done. Yeah for Christmas Break!”

The glamorous Professor Hoerl wearing her purple/pink tiara and with a big smile on her face offered her earth-shattering theoretical insight on the definition of dead week.

“It’s a time when students have a legitimately high work load and for some students this situation is made even worse by the fact that they’ve procrastinated on work that they should have done earlier in the semester. Sometimes students come to me at this time and all I can think is ‘I wish you would have come in a month ago.’”

Next Professor Salisbury gave her genius historical assessment on the definition of dead week as “Professors lecture and pretend not to look at zombified students who are clearly worried about their work and not what the professors have to say.”

Professor Warner, knowledgeable on all things Wabash, and forever one of its leading academics offered this accurate portrayal of dead week “It is the period when professors



STEVAN STANKOVICH ‘12
OPINION COLUMNIST

have very little work to due and the smart ones try to avoid students who bring last minute concerns.”

Finally Professor Byun gave her clear and concise socio-economic, cost-benefit analysis of dead week. This was the most shocking definition, and I suggest everyone prepare to run out and get a gun after this assessment. “Students look like the walking dead except wearing pajamas, I guess we need to get ready for the ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!”

I hoped this article provides a survival guide for my fellow Wabash men for future dead weeks to come. Also this article clarifies for all students what is expected of them during dead week. Finally I will offer my definition of dead week. Since Wabash always fights, Wabash cannot be dead. So Wabash men when anyone asks you how dead week is, reply “Dead Week! What is Dead Week?!”

Christmas Dominates December Music

December is a horribly bleak month. As the seasons trend towards winter, the weather turns for the worse conditions imaginable. It’s starting to get cold, and with the cold comes the driving snow and sheering winds, mixed with ice and probably rain, making outside conditions completely unbearable. Light even leaves the northern hemisphere as daylight is blotted out with the ever noticeable charge towards the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year. Truly, this would be a horrible time of the year, if it weren’t for Christmas.

Christmas is, without a doubt, the best holiday ever. The lights, the decorations, the gift giving, the eggnog, and the music make Christmas the best time of the year. On the darkest days of the year, Christmas comes as a champion of good times and cheer, bringing festivities to its wayward populace, gently cooing them to sleep as Santa arrives to pull of the most legal B&E imaginable. Indeed, it is an amazing holiday, but what of those who don’t celebrate it?

The thought is at the periphery of American consciousness, but the sentiment is true, there are those who do not celebrate Christmas, and those people are completely forgotten year by year. The other two powerhouse holidays of December, Hanukah and Kwanzaa, are left at the side of the road of Holiday cheer, waiting for their turn in the limelight—a time that will never come. Disregarding the Christmas themed decorations and color schemes that line the walls of every department store in America, there is one decoration that is important above the rest, and that is the Christmas music.

As the world is becoming more politically correct, the Christmas season has been asked to share December with the other holidays, forming the triumvirate of the Holiday season instead. With this change, more things have become holiday oriented instead of Christmas oriented, except for the music. Holiday music has always been dominated by Christmas music, or generic wintery music, but never music of Hanukah or Kwanzaa. The

reason is understandable, nobody knows about the music for the other two holidays.

Hanukah, also known as Chanukah, Hanukkah, Chanukkah, Chanuka and the Festival of Lights, has existed as an idea for centuries before Christ was even born. In remembrance of the Maccabean Revolt, it’s been hard to place when exactly Hanukah started to be celebrated. Regardless of actual date, the idea has existed for centuries, but without musical recognition. There are religious songs, mostly only known in the Jewish community, but none with the mainstream success, excluding Dreidle, Dreidle, Driedle, by Samuel Grossman, which everyone is aware of. There was no quintessential Hanukah song, until the great Adam Sandler took it upon himself to save the holiday. With his movie Eight Crazy Nights and a song from his album, “What the Hell Happened to Me?” “The Chanukah Song,” he thrusted Hanukah onto the mainstream stage. Although its popularity has faded, The Chanukah

ALEX TOTTEN ‘13 CAVELIFE COLUMNIST

Song is a shining example of a rogue song willing to step up and steal the limelight from Christmas.

Kwanzaa, on the other hand, doesn’t have a champion like Hanukah. Most of the songs are only known in the celebrating community, so, although it is a refreshing change to a focus in family and ideals rather than religion, there hasn’t been mainstream success like Hanukah. With varying songs called, The Kwanzaa Song, including some raps, there doesn’t appear to be any standardization with the mainstream music of Kwanzaa, which is tragic.

Christmas music needs to step aside. The same old songs playing through Macy’s as I try to shop are starting to get so bland. Kwanzaa, it’s time to step up and make an awesome song to replace some of this tired Christmas music, or, at the very least, get something in the rotation and stop bench warming.

Wade for Dean of Advancement

When Dean of Advancement Joe Emmick leaves his post at the end of this semester, the college will search frantically for the next person to lead Wabash in is endeavors for increasing and protecting the endowment. While he may not meet specific qualifications that the job will require, it cannot be said that the best candidate for the job is Tyler Wade ’12.

Wade operates with an undoubted love for Wabash College and passion for all things scarlet that could not be questioned. Whether it’s by serving as the Vice-President of the Student Body, blessing your ears with Public Announcing skills at football games, calling play-by-play action for Little Giant basketball, or running the Sphinx Club, Wade never takes his hat of Wabash salesman off.

The next time you see him watch how many hands he shakes, how many names he knows, and how many conversations he can have while walking toward the next conversation. The ability that Wade has to communicate about Wabash with an array of different types of peoplenatural born political. The only thing I’ve never



ALEX ROBBINS ‘13
OPINION EDITOR

seen him do for Wabash is kiss babies on the track behind the Wabash sideline.

Now, I’m not an alum and have made no financial contributions to the college yet. However, I have to assume that the keys to gaining donations from alumni is a reminder of the love we all have for Wabash and lingering memories of days gone by. If only one living person could revive those memories and remind a man of the passion and loyalty he should continue to have for this place, it is Tyler Wade.

Eventually Tyler Wade needs to be named Dean of Advancement at Wabash College. I guarantee that it would be the single greatest move ever made for this college’s endowment.

Letter to the Editor

Dear search committee and faculty deciders, Sam Rocha loves Wabash. True, many faculty members and administration love Wabash, and many more say they love Wabash. But words and actions are the currencies of politicians and lovers, respectively. Some would rather have us lose the Bell so it not ring two weeks each year. Some would rather not support our athletes at home games. Some would rather not attend student events, or even department events. Some would rather not have anything to do with clubs. Some would rather not shoot the breeze with the young men on this campus. And while words may swell of how much one loves Wabash, we should be reminded that Wabash is not red brick and trillions of printed pages nor are words a sufficient measure of love.

Rocha does not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. While many professors also share this love, their deeds stop short of his. It is fine to have different degrees of love; I hope you love your family more than you love your coffee. Different degrees of love is natural. His actions, however, demonstrate a love surpassing others’. Dr. Rocha argues that love is best-expressed by presence. That’s a lesson I painfully learned 9,000 miles away from home this summer. That’s a lesson every young man learns their freshman year at Wabash. That’s a lesson to be taught and to be lived.

Dr. Rocha is present often, and present many times when no other professors or faculty are there. He wants to be with the students—he wants to be with us. He is with us in the classroom, he is with us on the storied brick walkways, he is with us in the cheering section, he is with us on the rugby pitch, he is with us at department events, he is with us at parties, he is with us at club meetings, he is with us.... He loves. And that’s why we love him.

It may be said that he shouldn’t have fallen in love, that he shouldn’t have been enchanted by Wabash. After all, many professors sojourn here for a brief year or two, and can leave just as easily as they left grad school. I would argue, however, that if you can stop yourself from loving then you couldn’t truly love at all.

Love is the true measure of who belongs at Wabash. Yes, there are logistics and details which make it seem like it will be too difficult for Rocha to stay at Wabash. But what do husbands and wives do after they discover they will have a child, after they love the child? Do they not make arrangements for having the child stay with them for 18 years? Love overcomes obstacles. That’s what the students are asking of the administration. Overcome whatever obstacles there are. Your actions will show your love for us, and lay another enchanting brick upon the foundation of what makes Wabash great.

Sincerely,
Micah Chowning

Christmas Across the Globe

How China, France, and Latin America Celebrate Christmas

China: An Ever-Evolving Christmas Culture

JOHN DYKSTRA '13
CAVELIFE EDITOR

The materialistic aspect of Christmas is not foreign to younger, and in some cases even older generations of Chinese citizens.

Dr. Qian Zhu Pullen, BKT Assistant Professor of Chinese History and Language, said the way Chinese people celebrate Christmas depends on their age.

“Instead of having a family gathering or reunion [Christmas in China] is all about young people, young friends being together,” Pullen said. “So, on Christmas Eve young couples go out to dinner and exchange gifts. It’s like another Valentine’s Day—just to give them a chance to exchange gifts and have a date.”

Pullen said the materialistic facet of Christmas appeals most to Chinese youth, and department stores have accommodated that interest.

“Christmas has become very commercialized in China because it is about giving gifts,” Pullen said. “In China, factories and department stores will have this Christmas gift section for the young people to choose gifts for their friends, parents, and lovers.”

China’s older generations celebrate Christmas in a more traditional manner by attending Christmas masses. It is common for non-Christian citizens to accommodate their Christian friends at church on Christmas Eve.

“My parents’ generation [does not celebrate the way the younger generation does],” Pullen said.

len said. “My mom has Christian friends, and they go to the Christian church and celebrate Christmas there on Christmas Eve. They will eat there, have a communal dinner, and then have a Christmas mass.”

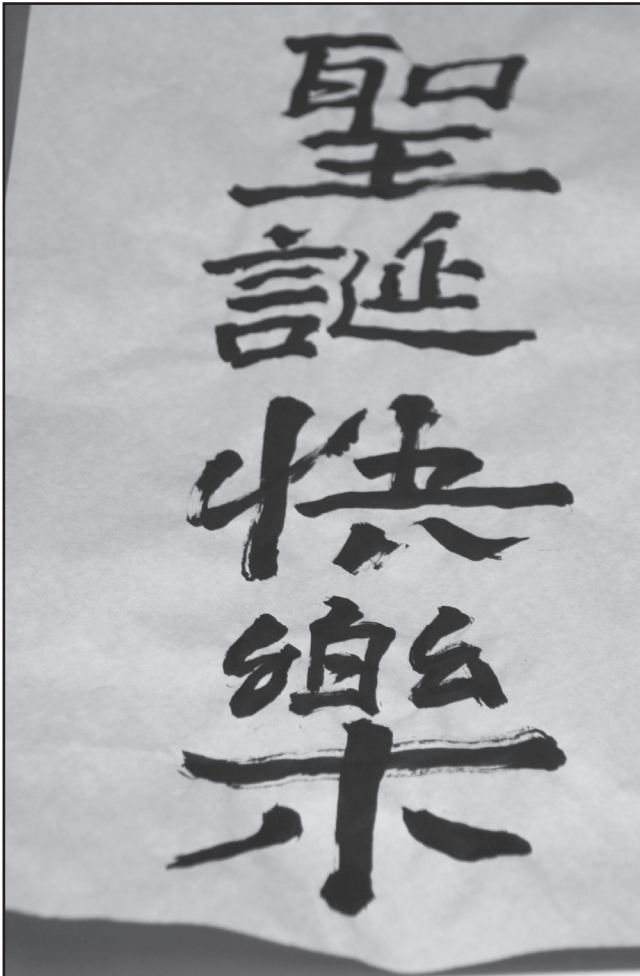
However, older generations are also becoming more fluent with the gift exchanging Christmas tradition, but not the actual meaning of Christmas.

“My 80 year old aunt asked me last year if I would get her a Christmas gift,” Pullen said. “So, everyone actually knows what Christmas is, but older people like my aunt will never understand the meaning of Christmas Day instead of getting gifts. The only thing she knows is that it is a foreign festival and that people give gifts.”

According to Fox News, 80 million to 130 million Chinese citizens are Christians. Nonetheless, it is not common to see Christmas decorations outside of department stores

“Families do not decorate,” Pullen said. “Department stores will have Santa in their stores, so people can take pictures with him. You can hear Christmas music everywhere if you go out on Christmas Eve. Department stores will have Christmas lights on and decorations, but only for commercial purposes.”

China’s celebration of Christmas is not too different from America’s celebration of the holiday in regards to gift exchanging and materialism, and the images of department stores prove just that.



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“Merry Christmas” in Chinese calligraphy.



COURTESY OF VELOSOLEX-IN-BRITTANY.BLOGSPOT.COM

France’s celebration of Christmas is more food-oriented than America’s. Oysters are an elaborate meal that French families prepare for Christmas festivities.

France: Emphasis on Food

REED HEPBURN '12
STAFF WRITER

In France, just as in the U.S., Christmas, or Noël, is probably the most extensively-celebrated holiday. Many of our traditions are shared by the French, such as family gatherings, exchanging of gifts, tales of Santa Claus (Père Noël, or “Father Christmas”, to the French), and shimmering snowflake/mistletoe/holly-berry/etc.-shaped lights suspended across city streets. Not surprisingly, though, France just doesn’t seem to make as big a deal out of Christmas as we do. For example, university students get only two weeks off for Christmas vacation, and even then, most work during that time to pay for living expenses. In fact, many of those students in retail positions even work on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, since the majority of adults who work throughout the year take those days off.

One key difference in the French celebration of Christmas is the timeline. French families have a lavish meal on Christmas eve, which begins early in the evening and often lasts until midnight or later. Traditional French Christmas repast includes escargot, oysters, and a festively decorated cylindrical cake called the “Bûche de Noël” or “Yule log.” Champagne is a common drink here, as at all celebrations, but a drink that is specific to the holiday season is vin chaud, a hot spiced wine made with cinnamon, clove, sugar, and oranges. The festivities culminate after the meal at midnight, when the opening of presents commences. Often a family member dresses up as Santa to distribute presents. The fact that the presents are already under the tree when Santa shows up may help to explain a lower rate of childhood belief in Santa Claus.

France is not immune, however, to the problem the U.S. experiences of “Christmas Creep.” Decorations are also coming up earlier and earlier in France, now arriving as early as the first week of November. Store soundtracks are sprinkled with Christmas music beginning at this point as well. Christmas music-- just like year-round music-- in France consists of both traditional French songs and American imports, so Parisian and Marseillais mall-goers know just as well as we do what Mariah Carey wants for Christmas.

Latin America: Family-Centered

TIM TAN '14
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season approaches, thoughts of family, friends, fond childhood memories, and home begin to draw near. However, for those members of the Wabash community who hail from Latin America, home is very far away indeed. Like many other countries, Christmas time is probably the most important observance on the Christian calendar.

For most kids who grow up opening presents on Christmas morning, it might seem strange and maybe a little infuriating that kids in many countries around the world get to open their presents a day earlier. Yet that is exactly what young celebrants in Uruguay and Argentina do. In other Latin American countries, kids are allowed to stay up past midnight in order to open their presents.

As many of the rituals, traditions, and celebrations in central and Latin America originate in Roman Catholicism, a person celebrating Christmas in Europe, for instance, would easily recognize many of them. Yet, due to the influence of traditions held by African slaves and native indigenous peoples, many of them oral traditions, there is a rich admixture of cultural expression that finds voice during the holiday season.

Caroling, for example, is a feature associated with Christmas in almost every locality it is celebrated in. In Mexico, this tradition is particularly hallowed. Families decorate their homes with flowers and evergreens, welcoming the Holy Family into their households. Each night of the nine-day holiday period, bands of carolers known as *santos peregrinos*, or holy pilgrims, assemble for the procession of Las Posadas. They then proceed from house to house looking for a place to lodge, carrying candles and chanting songs, and thus reenacting the Nativity story.

In much of Latin America, Christmas Eve, or *Noche Buena* as it is known, is a day that is primarily dedicated to family. Many attend the midnight mass known as the Misa del Gallo, or Rooster Mass. Many families also choose to stay home and gather around Nativity scenes and sing traditional holiday songs known as villancicos, many of which can be traced all the way back to medieval Spain. At the stroke of midnight, loved ones exchange gifts, wish each other a Merry Christmas, and sit down for the big dinner that has been prepared earlier in the day.

The constant arrival of new immigrants and the influence of popular culture have seen the introduction of such secular traditions like Santa Claus and the Christmas tree. In Mexico, Santa brings the gifts, while the traditional gift-bringers, the Three Wise Men that are known to fill children’s shoes with candy, tangerines, nuts, and sugar cane, arrive on the feast of Epiphany. But however it is celebrated, by individuals and communities, the holiday still remains a time for families to gather and take a welcome break from the grind of daily life.



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Large Christmas decorations are suspended onto buildings in Mexico City.

It's an Indie Christmas!

Indie Artists Add Twists to Christmas Music

ALEX TOTTEN '13
MUSIC COLUMNIST

As Indie is the last bastion of creativity in this bleak world we call “Music”, it’s only natural that Indie bands have been taking Christmas classics and making them into modern music smash hits. Ever since Pomplamoose did that super hip Hyundai commercial, i.e., sold out, indie bands have been throwing their hats into the Holiday music scene. Bringing clove cigarettes, cool scarves, and general apathy, the hipsters have officially re-invented Holiday music in their own image, something they’ve seen to do so well within other instances.

The most prevalent example of a cool, hip new interpretation of Holiday music is She and Him’s *A Very She and Him Christmas*. Zooey Deschanel, known for the Christmas movie *Elf*, and indie powerhouse M. Ward started She and Him in 2008 with the release of *Volume One*, which was a mix of Alt Country, light psychedelia, Indie and Twee Pop, and overall audible gold. With *A Very She and Him Christmas*, which was released in October, She and Him take classics such as “Sleigh Ride,” “Blue Christmas,” and “Baby, it’s Cold Outside” (which some



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Members of She and Him, Zooey Deschanel and M. Ward pose for their recent album, *A Very She and Him Christmas*. The album was released in October.

will remember that Deschanel sang with Will Ferrell in *Elf*) and make them their own, which is the only way to cover. The songs retain their original lyrics and sound, but the instrumentation is unique.

It’s undeniably fresh, which is something that Christmas music needed. Listening to archaic copies of old songs sung by artists long since passed gets a bit tired. The standards were far too standard, they stagnated. She and

Him took everything that was so good about those songs, the relateability, the nostalgia, the coziness, and made them super cool and hip, which, regardless of what mainstream music says, isn’t always a bad thing. The fringe re-invents, and, in this case, they changed it for the better.

Along the same lines, Bright Eyes’ *A Christmas Album*, was making Christmas songs Indie before it was cool. Conor Oberst, Wichita’s na-

tive son and Bright Eyes’ wunderkind did roughly the same thing She and Him did. He took classic Christmas songs and put a fresh new spin on them, but, unlike She and Him, he made them markedly darker. Bright Eyes has never been a terribly happy band, so this move makes sense, and it changes the overall meaning of the songs he’s performing. He takes, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” and makes the listener think that he’s not com-

ing home for Christmas. It’s weird, it’s different, but it’s expected.

Even local bands are getting into the holiday cheer. Indianapolis’s own Standard Recording Company has been putting out *A Very Standard Christmas*, an album that showcases the band’s on the label. Instead of doing what She and Him and Bright Eyes have done by taking classics and covering them, they take musical tropes instead of songs and remake them. In layman’s terms, they make new Christmas songs by taking themes of Christmas music and lyrics and changing them. The songs seem dark and anti-Christmas, which is indicative of the musician’s overall hipsteriness, but, again, that isn’t necessarily a bad thing. On volume one, Munice’s Arrah and the Ferns put out “Merry Christmas, not Xmas” a song about the commercialism that Christmas has gained. No longer about cheer, Arrah points out the hypocrisy of Christmas, something unseen in mainstream Holiday music.

With every field, as much as people hate hipsters, the fringe changes and transforms what gets complacent and Holiday music isn’t immune. There’s a bright light on the horizon. No longer is the status quo acceptable; change is in the cold winter breeze.

Students, Faculty Showcase Talents

FRITZ COUTCHIE '15
STAFF WRITER

At this year’s Wabash Has Talent, hosted on Friday, December 2 in the Fine Arts Building, local music authorities judged many acts in this year’s talent competition.

Wabash Has Talent grants students of Wabash College the opportunity to showcase their skills in a manner that lacks the constraints of the various clubs and productions that represent the Fine Arts extra-curricular to Wabash College. Freshman David Gunderman of Kappa Sigma was not aware of Dirty Mercury until the competition, but after listening he thinks they are excellent and hopes they play around Kappa Sigma more frequently.

Anton Crepinsek '13 was this year’s winner; he performed “Colder Weather” by the Zac Brown Band. Taking second place was Diamond Reese '12; he sang “Change is Gonna Come” as performed by Sam Cooke. Third place was given to Reginald Steele '12 for his version of the improvisational song “What You Want Me Too” based on cupcakes, Christmas, puppies, and DePauw.

Other performances were also well received. Freshman Trevon Stovall sang “You Raise Me Up” by Josh Groben. Sam Bennett '15 played the

guitar too and sang his original song “Insert Name Here.” Larry Savoy '14 sang “Don’t Change,” and freshman Adam Neal played movement 13, “The Swan” from the “Carnival of the Animals” by Saint-Seans. Cam Stewart '15, known by his stage name Freddy Franchise, rapped an original song “Head Held High.” Dirty Mercury—a band comprised of Caleb Delk '15 and Philip Kubisz '14 both of Kappa Sigma, sang a song called “Come My Way”. Visiting Modern Language Intern Sophie Scharrier sang a song in French, her native language, to round out the show. Although he did not perform his own act, John Murrell accompanied many others on the piano. After winning, Crepinsek performed “Free Fallin’” as performed by John Mayer.

Although there was a struggle to fill seats this year, with an all campus e-mail sent 10 minutes before the show noting that only eight people were in attendance, seats did begin to fill once the show started and those who went gave positive reviews.

Rudolph Altergott '13 said, “I was very impressed with the diversity of the acts. We had freshmen, seniors, an intern and some of the performances were incredibly creative. Next year, I would like to see a couple more participants and definitely a larger audi-



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15
Diamond Reese '12 sings “Change is Gonna Come” in the fourth annual Wabash Has Talent competition. Reese placed third overall.

ence. This could be a great Wabash event.”

Alejandro Maya '13 said “Trevon has the voice of an angel. I just wish the judges gave Freddy Franchise [Cam Stewart] more criticism; they only complimented his shirt when I

thought his song was amazing.”

It is anticipated that Wabash Has Talent will take place next year as well, continuing the four year Wabash tradition.

Santo Elected into Hall of Fame Posthumously

ALEX ROBBINS '13
OPINION EDITOR

This week, legendary Cubs third baseman Ron Santo, number 10 as Cubs fans love to recall, was finally granted baseball immortality—he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

What’s funny, as a Cubs fan, is that the one man who all Cubs fans wanted for so long to get what he deserved is finally getting his bust, yet, it is to most of us the saddest thing we have encountered as Cubs fans. Not even the heartbreaking playoff losses or terrible seasons of recent can compare to

the amount of torture that it is knowing that Ron Santo will never know that he was honored for being what he was, a great baseball player who was the heart and sole of a team and a city for many summers, because last December, Ron Santo died after his long, hard-fought battle with diabetes.

It is a true shame that it took so long for a man who, undoubtedly in the minds of fans (even Cardinals fans) should have been elected long ago had to endure questions most of his life about what it was like not being in Cooperstown. Now, it is truly bittersweet. Sweet that everyone’s favorite Cub, Ron Santo is heading home to Cooperstown. Bitter

that he left us and the world too soon and we were never able to honor him during his life.

“Not even the heartbreaking playoff losses or terrible seasons of recent can compare to the amount of torture that it is knowing that Ron Santo will never know that he was honored for being what he was, a great baseball player who was the heart and sole of a team and a city for many summers...”

Little Giants Prepare for Scots

BRANDAN ALFORD '12
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second season in a row, Wabash and Wooster’s basketball teams will meet in Crawfordsville in an early season battle between unbeatens. The two teams will play Saturday at 2 p.m. in Chadwick Court.

Wabash comes in the contest with a 7-0 record overall, 1-0 in North Coast Athletic Conference games. The Little Giants already won a road victory over Denison (71-65) last Saturday before coming home to face the Scots in their first NCAC contest at Chadwick Court.

“This is a statement game for us,” senior Derek Bailey said. “This is going to be, by far, the best team we play this season. We want to come out and show that we are a pretty good team, too.

“We have the pieces to the puzzle, and can make a championship run. Hopefully we can show that Saturday.”

The Scots (5-0, 1-0) come into this week not only having to prepare for their road tilt against the Little Giants; Wooster will first play host to another conference favorite in Wittenberg tonight. This week begins an important stretch of games for the Scots in the early going as they face the Tigers and Little Giants before heading to Puerto Rico for games Dec. 19 and 20.

“They are going to come in here wanting to win,” Wabash head coach Antoine Carpenter said. “We have to be prepared mentally and have that



Senior guard Brian Shelbourne goes up for a shot in the basketball team’s game against Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.) on November 19.

focus and play together as a team. Everyone has to understand their role and do their part.”

Through seven games, the Little Giants have played excellent defense en route to their unblemished record. Wabash’s opponents are only averaging 53.1 points per game while shooting only 40.5 percent from the field. The Little Giants are forcing 14 turnovers per game with a rebound-

ing advantage of 5 boards per contest.

Offensively, Wabash has relied on a balanced attack with seniors Bailey and Aaron Zinnerman leading the way. The duo is averaging 16.9 and 13.9 points per game, respectively, and have combined to hit 31 three pointers while shooting 50 percent from long range. Fellow senior Brian Shelbourne has averaged 8.4 points per game, an impressive increase

from his 5.6 average a season ago as a junior.

“This is exactly what our team wants,” Zinnerman said. “We are ready, and we are going to be even more prepared on Saturday. We want this game and we feel like we can give them a run for their money.”

Freshman Kasey Oetting has had a strong start to his collegiate career, averaging 9.1 points per game. Senior Nick Curosh has been a strong presence in the post, both offensively and defensively, averaging 6.4 points and 8.1 rebounds per game.

The Scots certainly will have a different look this season than they featured a year ago. Gone are graduated seniors Ian Franks, Nathan Balch, and Bryan Wickliffe who combined to average 40.3 points, over half the team’s average, and 16.2 rebounds per game. Franks was the NCAC player of the year the past two years, including first-team all-NCAC for three consecutive years. Balch was a first-team selection a year ago while Wickliffe was a second-team selection.

However, the Scots do return Justin Hollowell who has started strong in his senior season. Hollowell is averaging 13.0 points and 5.4 rebounds per game entering tonight’s contest. Freshman guard Xavier Brown has been huge for the Scots to begin his college career, leading the team with a 17.8 scoring average to go with 3.4 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game.

As a team, Wooster is shooting

See HOOPS, page 10

Raeburn Reflects on Successful Season

BRANDAN ALFORD '12
SPORTS EDITOR

While the stings of last Saturday’s 20-8 defeat at Mount Union is still fresh in the minds of the entire Wabash football program, the successes of a 12-win season and quarterfinal appearance are hard to ignore.

For the first time in three years, the Little Giants captured an NCAC championship, avenging consecutive losses to Wittenberg en route to the title and an automatic playoff berth. A year after failing to make the playoffs a year ago, Wabash went on an impressive run to the quarterfinals, earning home wins against Illinois College and North Central (Ill.) before falling to the Purple Raiders.

“As I reflect back on the season, I am most impressed with the progress our team made from the start of the season until late in the year and into the playoffs,” Wabash coach Erik Raeburn said.

That playoff run came to a difficult ending for Raeburn, not only from a football perspective, but a personal one. Raeburn is a Mount Union alumnus, having played and coached for the Purple Raiders for a total of ten years. Beyond that, his uncle, Larry Kehres, is the Purple Raiders’ head coach.

“Playing against my uncle was tough,” Raeburn said. “It’s the first time I have ever rooted against Mount Union. I think it was good for our guys to play against them. It shows you where you are defi-

cient and what you need to improve upon.”

While his squad came up short against Mount Union, Raeburn certainly had plenty of reasons to be pleased with his team’s defensive effort. The Little Giants limited the Purple Raiders to 236 yards of total offense, including 136 yards rushing on 42 attempts. That defensive effort was headlined by senior linebacker C.J. Gum’s performance. Gum totaled 13 tackles and 2.5 sacks against an offense that entered the game only having allowed ten sacks all season.

“C.J. played amazing all year, but down the stretch and in the playoffs he was unbelievable,” Raeburn said. “As a whole, we played well defensively.

“We didn’t play the run as well as I would have liked, and Mount Union was able to rattle off some big runs that hurt; but if we had played better on special teams and offense, we had a chance because our defense kept us in it.”

That defense got huge contributions all year, and especially in the three playoff games, from four freshmen. Houston Hodges, A.J. Akinribade, Cody Buresh, and Denzel Wilkins will certainly be pieces that next year’s defensive unit is built around.

“We got some great play from those four players on defense,” Raeburn said. “It is impressive for those guys to play at such a high level in such a short time in our program.

“The fact that we return so many of the guys

who started on defense gives us confidence heading into the offseason.”

One question, not one new to this year’s team, will certainly be the quarterback situation heading into the spring. After orchestrating one of the greatest comebacks in Wabash history, senior Tyler Burke has the opportunity to apply for a fifth-year of eligibility after spending his sophomore year at Western Michigan. Also, Chase Belton, who started 11 games this fall, returns for his senior season. Sophomore Andy Walsh made several appearances this year, and is expected to compete for the spot this coming season as a junior.

“Whether Tyler returns or not, we try to create competition at every position,” Raeburn said. “Everyone needs to have a great offseason so they can have an even better year next season.”

The fact that this season came to an end with a loss, in a game many players felt they had a chance to be more competitive, is not one this coaching staff relishes. However, there are certainly positives that can, and will, be drawn from this year’s successes.

“Hopefully the playoff run will give us some momentum heading into the offseason workouts and some confidence heading into next season,” Raeburn said. “From a recruiting perspective, you hope it gives you a boost and generates some excitement when prospects consider our program.”

See FOOTBALL, page 10

All-NCAC

1st Team

Jonathan Horn	Sr.	WR
Bryan Elliot	Sr.	C
Weston Kitley	Jr.	OL
A.J. Akinribade	Fr.	OLB
C.J. Gum	Sr.	ILB
Pat Clegg	Jr.	DL
Austin Hodges	Jr.	DB
Wes Chamblee	Sr.	RET

C.J. Gum - Defensive Player of the Year
A.J. Akinribade – Newcomer of the Year
Erik Raeburn – Coach of the Year

2nd Team

Chase Belton	Jr.	QB
Vann Hunt	Jr.	RB
Wes Chamblee	Sr.	WR
Jack Ruddy	Sr.	OL
Jake Shaffer	Sr.	OL
Luke Zinsmaster	Sr.	DL

Kyle Najar	Sr.	DB
Cam Sobleski	So.	P

Honorable Mention

Cody Buresh	Fr.	LB
Jorge Diaz-Aguilar	So.	DL
Houston Hodges	Fr.	DB

D3football.com All-North Region

1st Team		
C.J. Gum	Sr.	ILB
Wes Chamblee	Sr.	RET
2nd Team		
Weston Kitley	Jr.	OL
3rd Team		
Pat Clegg	Jr.	DL

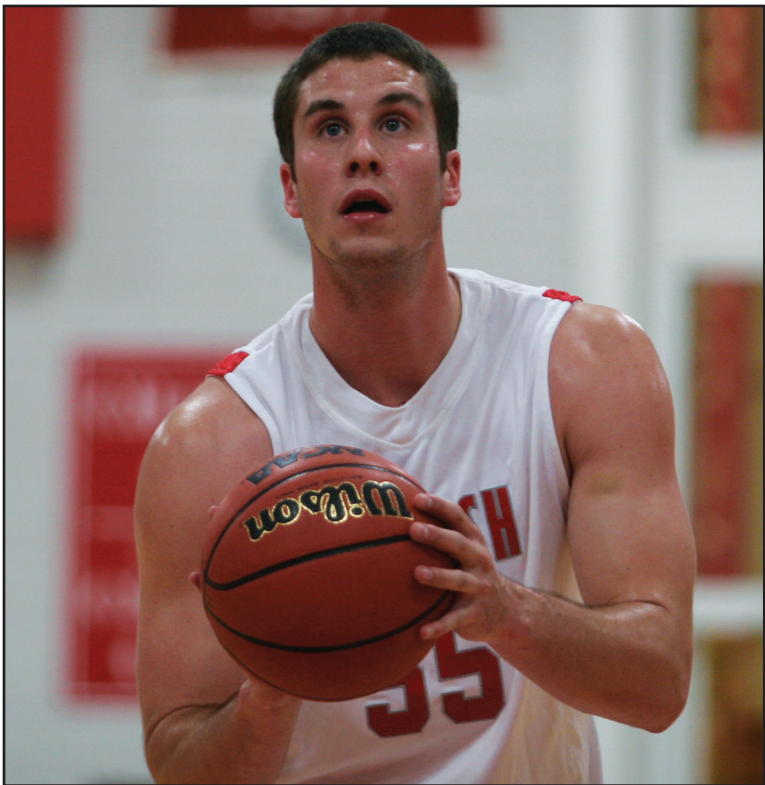
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Early Basketball Action

Photos by Grant McCloskey '12 (top) and Kelly Sullivan '15 (bottom)



Strong Showing at Little State

RYAN LUTZ '12
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giant Wrestling team had a strong showing this past weekend as they hosted the Little State Championships. Wabash had two individual champions and six top-3 finishers in the two-day event.

Wabash junior Jake Strausbaugh won the 149 lb. weight class and was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. He defeated two top-seeded wrestlers en route to the victory, besting Reece Lefever from Indiana Tech by a score of 10-7 in the championship.

Another weight class championship performance was turned in by sophomore Dalton Stanley in the 165 lb. class. Stanley entered the tournament seeded fourth in his weight class but knocked off second seeded Wisconsin-Whitewater wrestler Cedric Gibson 6-5 in the championship match.

Strausbaugh was excited about the victory but has his sights set much higher. "Winning a tournament is always a good thing and getting most outstanding wrestler really shows that I'm headed in the right direction," Strausbaugh said, "but the only thing I'm interested in is a national championship."

The Orrville, OH native is a two-time MVP for the team and qualified for the national championships last season.

Other top finishers for the Little Giants included senior Josh Boyer, who finished second in the 125 lb. weight class. Freshman Colin Downey and

sophomores Dylan McBride and Drew Songer all finished third in their weight classes.

Tommy Poynter '15, Pat Parham '15, Josh Sampson '14, Cody McKinnon '15, Greg Rhoads '12, and Austin O'Neal '13 all finished in the top eight of their weight classes.

As a team the Little Giants are currently ranked 28th in the latest NCAA Division III coaches' poll. Strausbaugh thinks the team is poised for a successful season.

"There is no doubt our team has the potential to win a regional championship."

However, he realizes they still have much work left to accomplish.

"The regional championship is still a long way off so we need to focus on the next competition and keep building from there," Strausbaugh said.

The Little Giants return to action this weekend on the road in Naperville, Illinois at the North Central Invitational. The next time Wabash will wrestle in front of a home crowd is on January 21st when they host the Max Servies Wrestling Duels.

This year's Midwest Regional is hosted by Case Western Reserve on February 25th in Cleveland.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12
Jake Strausbaugh led the Little Giants with his title in the 149-pound weight class this past weekend.

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News On the Go...

This Weekend in Wabash Sports

Friday		
Track and Field	@ Illinois Wesleyan	12:00 p.m.
Saturday		
Wrestling	@ North Central Invitational	9:00 a.m.
Basketball	vs. College of Wooster*	2:00 p.m.

*NCAC Contest
(All Wabash teams with NCAC championships in 2011 will be honored.)

Little Giants Well-Represented in Alliance

KYLE BENDER '12
STAFF WRITER

As most NCAA Div. III football fans know, Mount Union has long been a dominant force, winning 10 national championships in the last 18 years. At the college ranks, sustained winning seasons often breeds additional financial support from loyal alumni, proud of their institution’s performance. Mount Union is no different. Upon arriving in Alliance, Ohio, Wabash fans were impressed with the Mount Union Stadium complex, which featured amenities such as a large Daktronics scoreboard and spacious three story press box. Inside the press box, pictures of former Purple Raiders players once named national player of the year or to All-American teams adorned the walls leading to the media tables. The faces of Wabash CFO Larry Griffith and head football coach Erik Raeburn were sighted, fabled Mount Union football players from the past. The atmosphere in Alliance on Saturday certainly had the feel of a successful program who knew they were good at what they do. Perhaps due to the lack of live-stream video of the games, Mount Union fans routinely pack the stadium each week to watch their Purple Raiders destroy Ohio Athletic Conference foes. As one Purple Raider alum said during the game, fans don’t come to watch bloodbaths, but rather to witness perfect execution on both sides of the ball.

Interestingly, according to the same alum, there are at least 10 high school football complexes in the surrounding area deemed more impressive than Mount Union Stadium. The Northeastern Ohio region is well-known for its strength of high school programs and also hosts the Pro Football Hall of Fame in nearby Canton, Ohio. While Indiana is remembered for its large high school basketball arenas, Ohio makes its mark for imposing gridiron facilities. The last time Wabash faced the Purple Raiders was in a 2002 semi-final matchup in Alliance. Just as before, Little Giants fans came from all across the country to support the College. Wabash fans were loud and proud from 15 minutes prior to kick-off until the last Little Giant left the football field. “I think the UMU folks were impressed by how well Wabash traveled and how strongly we supported our team,” Political Science professor Lexi Hoerl said. “We had a good crowd, though we weren’t really able to group the students into a “student section” because of the fact that seating was assigned. “The Wabash crowd got a little fired up when their band lined up in front of us just before the half and started playing; that led to a round of pro-Wabash cheers and we sang “Old Wabash” during their first halftime song, which was a nice moment.” A large group of Wabash students, including junior Ryan Cronin, made the long trip. Cronin believes that the support by Little Giants fans was



KELLY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15
Loyal Wabash fans invaded the tailgate at Mount Union last Saturday, proudly marking their territory with a conspicuous scarlet flag.

noticed by the Purple Raiders. “I had a couple of great conversations with Mount Union fans at halftime and they were impressed,” he said. “Furthermore, the females in their band were pretty keen on several of our students and the energy we brought. Although there were Mount Union fans sitting on our side of the field, we drowned them out with our chants. “All in all, despite their national ranking and reputation, it really just felt like another game for our team. Afterward, I think our fans and the team both felt we were just as good as them and deserved to be there.”

Aside from a state-of-the-art press box, Hollett Little Giant Stadium boasts all the bells and whistles found in Alliance, with perhaps a more dedicated and passionate fan base. One noticeable component lacking during Saturday’s contest was the presence of Purple Raiders students. Only a handful of Mount Union undergraduates were spotted in the end zone bleachers. The Wabash faithful can be proud of the growth of its football program and how it has grown into an emerging national power, ready to challenge the likes of Mount Union and Wisconsin-Whitewater.



KELLY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15
A Sizable contingent of the stands at Mount Union were wearing Wabash scarlet last Saturday for the team’s playoff game vs. the Purple Raiders.

Hoops

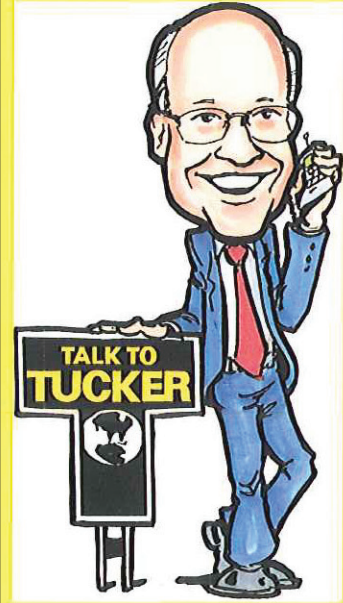
50.6 percent from the field, including 43.8 percent from beyond the three-point line. The Scots are averaging 80.6 points per game while allowing only 62.6. Opponents are only shooting 38.5 percent from the field, including a paltry 22.2 percent from deep. A year ago, the Little Giants and Scots split the season series, with the road team winning both matchups. In last year’s first game, the Little Giants entered 13-0 while the Scots were 14-0. Wooster won that first matchup 67-65 before Wabash exacted some revenge later in the

season, knocking off the top-ranked Scots 69-68 in overtime. “I feel like that experience gives us poise,” Zinnerman said. “All four seniors played big minutes in both of those games. That gives us a lot of experience, knowing how the environment is going to be.” Wooster won the NCAC regular season and tournament titles a year ago. The Scots advanced to the Division III championship game against St. Thomas (Minn.). Under head coach Steve Moore for the 24 seasons, Wooster has become the gold standard in the North Coast Athletic

Conference. “Any coach would aspire to have the kind of success coach Moore has had,” Carpenter said. “I aspire to be where coach Moore is and if my tenure at Wabash lasts that long, I’d love that. We have had some success, and we are going to continue to build on it. It is going to be a great matchup on Saturday, and we are just glad that it is going to be at our place.” Saturday’s game will tip-off at 2 p.m.

Football

One thing is for sure: a season like this definitely can’t hurt when Raeburn and his staff head to high schools throughout the Midwest in the coming weeks. While the future of Raeburn’s program seems particularly promising after the 2011 campaign, it is important to note the players that paved the way for those successes: the 2011 senior class. Two conference championships, three playoff berths and one quarterfinal appearance is a tremendous legacy left by those 17 Little Giants.



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