



A Writer’s Journey

Simmons ‘70 Pushes Writers to Hone Their Craft

TAYLOR KENYON ‘15
STAFF WRITER

Last Monday and Tuesday, acclaimed author and alumnus Dan Simmons ‘70 visited the College for the first time since 2003. Simmons gave a public reading of one his short stories and led a writer’s craft discussion based on his many years of experience.

An accomplished author, Simmons’ writing totals “more than twenty novels and story collections since leaving his 18-year career as a teacher and developer of a gifted/talented program in Colorado,” Director of Publications Steve Charles said. His novels are published in 27 foreign countries in addition to the U.S. and Canada. Simmons has received numerous prestigious awards such as the Hugo Award for his *Hyperion* and the World Fantasy Award for his *Song of Kali*. Some of his works are being adapted to film.

Simmons never knew he was going to become a famous, full-time author. His career started out as a childhood hobby.

“I started when I was about in fourth grade tip-tapping out stories on my mother’s giant underwood typewriter and then it came together here at Wabash where I had one instructor who said, ‘You should write. You should try.’

He didn’t say I was going to be a writer. That happened later in a sort of revelation moment with a professional writer,” Simmons said.

“The professional writer, Harlan Ellison, always quotes a movie, *Hearts of the West*, where the old writer tells the young Jeff Bridges, ‘Kid you’re a writer when a writer tells you, you are a writer,’ and I think that’s close to true.”

Wabash Professor Burt Stern encouraged Simmons to continue his craft during his undergraduate years.

“Well, he allowed me to write because we didn’t have any creative writing courses, and so Burt Stern had a creative writing course,” Simmons said.

“Burt had high standards. He always supported people, but what he said about my fiction was such that I kept writing, and I won the National Phi Beta Kappa prize for journalism. When you win something like that . . . it helps form your identity a little bit.”

Despite earning recognition for his writing, Simmons did not realize his true potential until nine years later.

After earning a degree in English at Wabash, Simmons earned his Masters in Education from Washington University in St. Louis in 1971. He taught elementary students for many years. During his



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Author Dan Simmons ‘70 returned to campus this week to speak about his journey toward becoming a professional writer. Simmons has won several awards for his work.

last four years of teaching, Simmons became involved in teaching in a gifted/talented education program—a program Simmons described as “college level work for third through sixth graders.”

“When I created the cur-

riculum for my own students, I would [expose them to] everything from Edgar Allan Poe to Gene Shepard. Each had a purpose of a certain type of style, which we would study in some depth. By

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Former
Student
Charged

KENNY FARRIS ‘12
STAFF WRITER

A former Wabash student now faces criminal charges stemming from an automobile crash on the night of February 4.

According to documents filed March 14 in the Montgomery County Clerk’s Office, Hoan Tan Khai Nguyen (then a student), 21, faces two counts of operating while intoxicated causing serious bodily Injury, a class D felony, and two counts of operating with a blood or breath alcohol content of at least .08 but less than .15, a class D felony. Nguyen must attend an initial hearing over the charges April 9 at 1:15 p.m in Montgomery County Superior Court.

“The College has a long-standing policy that it does not comment on ongoing litigation involving the College or its students,” Dean of Students Michael Raters said.

The charges stem from a crash that occurred just after 1 a.m. on Feb. 4 while driving on State Road 32 west of County Road 700 West. According to the police report filed by the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department, a black 2002 BMW M3S drove off the road and continued over 200feetuntilthecarhitatree.

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Event Aims to Help Students Get Jobs They Like

GABE WATSON ‘13
STAFF WRITER

This week students attended Career Services’s “What Can I Do with a Major In...” event to learn about different ways they might put their Division III major to use after graduation. Events like this showcase the purpose of the Schroeder Center for Career Development – to help students overcome ideas of accepted career paths and find a job they really want.

The WCIDWAMI series has brought alumni to campus from Divisions II and III. Division I majors will be covered next fall. Wabash-Works, the student resource for career development, has connections with 660 Wabash alumni with often prestigious careers in an immensely diverse assortment of fields.

John Haley ‘13, who attended WCIDWAMI, said there is always something to learn from alumni. Tuesday night he was told that “the three things you should take from Wabash are communication, reading, and writing. If you can do those little things well, you can do anything.” This attitude is a great example of adapting your education to be successful with whatever you want to do.



JOE SUKUP | WABASH ‘15

Wabash Division III major students and alumni mingle at Tuesday’s “What Can I do with a Major In...” networking event in the Detchon Center International Hall.

Another tip from alumni for political science majors specifically was to read at least two newspapers per day.

“The little things lead on to the big ones,” Haley said. “Even if I just went [to WCIDWAMI] for an hour, it would have been worth it to get some of those tips.”

When considering future career options, Director of the Schroeder Center for Career Development Scott Crawford said, “students are thinking in a box.” Students

have certain ideas of what acceptable or normal career paths are, and they often think they need to fit their own skills into one of these paths.

“[Events like WCIDWAMI] are not to show that there is a bigger box,” Crawford said, “but that the options are open.”

“That box is only as big as you make it,” Crawford said. “Some of your future jobs haven’t even been invented yet.”

Social media managers,

for instance, are now virtually ubiquitous, yet they did not exist as recently as five or ten years ago. New paths are forged every day, but not by students who follow previous norms for their area of study.

“More standard paths are appropriate for some,” Assistant Director of the Schroeder Center for Career Development James Jeffries said, but the overall goal is to make students aware of their possibilities.

By representing every

major offered at Wabash, Career Services hopes to broaden the horizons of all types of students. Since some degrees present a few obvious but not always appropriate career paths, numerous alumni are available to present students with “ideas of what to do with your studies.”

“We want students to be happy in their work, and you don’t just luck into that,” Crawford said. “We also talk to alumni who did not take advantage of opportunities here, and they regret it. They’re not happy.”

Planning is required to build a happy future, and Career Services is there to help find and capitalize on opportunities.

Many specific resources are included on Wabash-Works, like the Focus system for interest assessment. This is a good starting point for students who want general ideas for career paths, but open-mindedness is always encouraged in putting one’s degree to use.

“We make it very easy,” Crawford said. And he challenges all Wabash students to “put down your video game controller or your phone down for twenty minutes, and look at this stuff. It will pay off.”

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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.

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Journal Review in Crawfordsville. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College.

All advertising published in *The Bachelor* is subject to the applicable rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

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

Announcements

- Friday, March 23 -
Thursday March 29
Pre-Registration for Fall Semester
- Monday, March 26
Humanities Colloquium,
12:00 p.m., Detchon
Center 209
- Screening of Michael
Bricker's *Natural Selection*, 6:45 p.m. - 10:00
p.m., Korb Classroom
- Tuesday, March 27
Write Stuff Workshop,
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
MXI 109
- Wednesday, March 28
Nic Brown Reading,
12:00 p.m., Korb Class-
room
- MARCH MADNESS
- Mad Talks, 8:00 p.m. -
8:30 p.m.
- Thurdsay, March 29
Chapel Talk: Dr. David
Kubiak, 11:15 a.m.
- Cole Lecture Series:
John Hinz, 4:15 p.m.,
Hays Hall 319
- Dining for Success,
7:00 p.m., Detchon
Center International Hall

Markey Savors
Competition

TAYLOR KENYON '15
STAFF WRITER

Each Friday night, Tim Markey '12 schools a friend or two in a familiar game of poker. In other words, Markey firmly believes in the Wabash value of friendly competition. "I like competition," said Markey. "It's not about winning but the fun of competition." Friendly competition finds its way into several aspects of Markey's life as a pre-law student. An English major and Political Science minor from Fort Wayne, Markey aspires to a career in law. But Markey initially planned a different route. "I was originally going to do Political Science when I came to Wabash; I always had plans on going to law school, so it seemed the natural thing to do," Markey said. "And then I realized you [could] pick any major you want, so I took a couple of English classes. I took Shakespeare with Professor Hudson and just fell in love with that class. And

so I decided to do English since that is what I enjoyed more than anything else." Currently, Markey is waiting to hear responses from various law schools. "I am still waiting on a lot of schools," said Markey. "I applied last semester and I've heard back from some schools. University of Chicago is one I am very interested in." After law school, Markey hopes to become a judge. "I feel that my strengths and ways of thinking about things fit. I originally wanted to be a poli-sci major and go to law school to later become a politician. [Although] this is a way I can influence politics without selling my soul." Until then, Markey hones his lawyering skills in the Wabash Moot Court Competition—an event he has participated in for three years. Argument is the epitome of Markey's competitiveness. See MARKEY, Page 3



KELLY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15
With an offer from the University of Chicago Law School, Tim Markey is ready to take on the challenge of studying the law.



Deig Discovers
Medical Interests

JACOB BURNETT '15
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College prides itself on bringing the best and brightest young men into the working and professional world. Every year, approximately 8 to 10 percent of seniors go on to pursue a medical degree. The College's 89 percent medical school acceptance rate to medical school far exceeds the national average of 40%. One outstanding senior will achieve his dream of attending medical school in the fall. Chris Deig is a brother and active member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, Sphinx Club, and College Mentors for Kids, a four-year baseball player, and a future doctor. "Coming to college I was interested in the sciences, and I talked to Jill Rogers and arbitrarily got on the Pre-Med track," Deig said. "I involved myself in some research, community service, and volunteer opportunities. Those activities piqued my interests. In the summer, I got involved in more community service. I worked in Kenya, did some

volunteer stuff in Peru, El Salvador, and Jamaica. I did a lot of third-world health-related things that led me to a career path after medical school." These journeys taught Deig numerous lessons that he might not have learned elsewhere. He understands that the healthcare system in the United States is an important issue. However, Deig believes that Americans take for granted the existence of the healthcare system altogether. In Deig's experience, if an American gets sick, he or she has the option to go to a doctor. If someone in a third-world country falls ill, he or she might have to drive four to five hours to get to a hospital that may or may not have the medicine to help. The main lesson Deig learned is that people need help. Deig hopes to go into medical school with an open mind about what type of doctor he will become. "I really like the idea of family medicine just because of the longevity of the relationships you have with patients," Deig said. "However, in medical school, you have to go in with an open mind. You try to learn as much as you can. See DEIG, Page 3



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14
Senior Chris Deig has been accepted to medical school, much in line with his being a Division I major. However, in addition to studying the sciences at Wabash, Deig has been a member of the baseball team, a brother of Sigma Chi and a member of several campus clubs.

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Denari '83 Speaks for Pacers

SCOTT MORRISON '14
STAFF WRITER

Every Wabash man, both past and present, has heard many times of the benefits of a liberal arts education. This liberal arts pitch at times might become trite or clichéd, but the careers of the college’s alumni, like Indiana Pacers broadcaster Chris Denari ’83, really prove the profits of the liberal arts at Wabash.

Denari’s story before his Wabash days parallels many Wabash students. He was an Indiana guy as well as an accomplished student with well-rounded interests. His family moved to Westfield in his junior year. He graduated class valedictorian and played basketball for his father who coached the high school team.

Denari came to Wabash because he sought a quality education and the opportunity to continue playing his high school sport. “When you are 5’9” you are not going to get the opportunity to go Division I,” Denari said jokingly. “I was recruited by Coach Petty, and Wabash was a good fit.”

While at Wabash, Denari stayed very active around campus. A brother of Sigma Chi, Denari majored in English and minored in Rhetoric, and he played golf and other sports for Wabash. Denari captured a national championship with the 1982 Little Giant basketball team.

Denari remembers one semester in which he was sports director on the radio, sports editor on *The Bachelor*, and also a pledge trainer for Sigma Chi along with his usual academic and athletic responsibilities. “I was very busy there [Wabash], but that helped me prepare for what was ahead,” Denari said. “Being busy teaches you time management skills, and you are going to need those going forward.”

Denari’s busy schedule at Wabash certainly served him well after graduation. During his senior year, he interned at WRTV Channel 6 in Indianapolis. His last basketball game as a Little Giant was on a Saturday at DePauw, and the very next weekend he was working for the station putting a piece together for high school basketball sectionals.

Years later, Denari found himself once again relying on his time management skills that he learned at Wabash. “At one point, I was the voice of the Fever and of Butler, and I was doing turn four at the Indianapolis 500 among other things,” Denari said. “That really set the table for what I love to do

right now [as a Pacers broadcaster].”

Not only did his experiences at Wabash help him during his career, but many skills he learned on campus helped get him into his career. He combined his work in the classroom with networking at a young age to help himself after graduation.

“I do think things were different 30 years ago than they are today, but I still believe the most important things you have to learn are the abilities to speak, write, and think, and I think the liberal arts really helped me do that,” Denari said.

However, the path Denari traveled to his current career was not necessarily easy. “I used my writing skills, people skills, and other things to go into marketing and sports information and later into broadcasting,” Denari said. “I think if I just went into broadcasting that I wouldn’t have had all those skills. Wabash gave me that ability to branch out and not just stick to what my passion was.”

Denari believes that Wabash played a huge part in getting him the opportunities that he shares with his family today. “Because of the travel, I am away a lot,” Denari said. “I miss some things, but I have great flexibility. I don’t have an office, so I come



COURTESY OF CATHOLICBUSINESSEXCHANGE.COM

and go as I please. A week ago Paul George said to my son ‘Hey Max how are you doing?’ and those are little things that my kids get to experience.”

Despite the clear benefits of the liberal arts, Denari really had to prove that he was just as capable as everyone who had a journalism or broadcasting degree out of college. “I knew that it would be a longer road for me and not necessarily a great financial opportunity right away, but I was going to stick to it,” Denari said. “That was my dream: to get into broadcasting, and I was going to do it. I think we are measured by adversity and how we deal with it. Life is easy when we have success, but I decided I wouldn’t let my adversity keep me down.”

Communications Relocates to Hovey Cottage

SCOTT MORRISON '14
STAFF WRITER

Over Spring Break, Public Affairs moved its offices to Hovey Cottage. The move is part of an initiative to refurbish recruitment materials and improve Wabash’s national image.

The Communications and Marketing staff has long been in Kane House with the Advancement Office, but now the two departments have been split so each can focus on its own goals. “Increasingly, the amount of work we [the Communications and Marketing staff] do is with Admissions, and we were with the fundraising and alumni office before, so it [the setup] just didn’t really make a lot of sense,” Senior Director of Communications and Marketing Jim Amidon said.

The switch makes sense in light of a strategic

plan calling for development of new comprehensive marketing materials. The goal of this plan is two-fold. The first aspect is to rebrand Wabash and update all of the recruiting and admission materials in time for next year’s fall recruiting.

The current material distributed to prospective students is about 12 years old. Wabash’s material is quite outdated compared to other colleges and universities. “Wabash has changed an awful lot in these past twelve years,” Amidon said. “Most colleges completely overhaul their marketing materials every three to five years. We recruited great students with those [old] materials, but we felt like we had changed enough to prompt a change in the marketing material.”

The new materials will highlight immersion learning, student research, and the engineering program. “The old materials were strong, powerful,

and effective, but in the last 12 years there has just been so much negative press about high school and college guys. So, the positive development here [at Wabash] needs to be loud and clear: we are doing something different [at Wabash],” Amidon said.

The second focus of the new marketing plan is to build the College’s national image. Currently, around 70 percent of Wabash students are in-state, and the problem is that outside of Indiana, people have less knowledge of what Wabash has to offer.

“We want to be put on the map,” Amidon said. “We want people in markets who have never heard of Wabash or have never considered Wabash. It’s a good place for motivated and serious students who want to be pushed to their limits. We want the country to know that there is a place that will take young men seriously if they take themselves seriously.”

Markey

From Page 2

competitiveness. In addition, Markey participated in Mock Trial and the LSAT study group.

When not studying, Markey works at the Writing Center as a tutor. There he uses his English skills to help the Wabash community to write better papers and essays. During the last three years though, Markey worked in the Wabash Archives filing away artifacts; consequently, he learned much about Wabash history. “The Archives was a fantastic experience,” said Markey. “I think it is an under-utilized thing in the College because it’s in the basement of the library, but what I got to do was some really cool stuff down there. We had gotten a

couple collections from some people, one was the Will H. Hays Senior and Junior collection. I looked at old letters and pictures of [Hays] and Calvin Coolidge, autographs, and pictures with celebrities.”

Markey enjoys the College’s history and tradition because of his own interests. “I am definitely a history fan, I consider myself a History major in disguise,” Markey said. “I do the English stuff because English is a fun way to get to history without doing the factual research and interpret things [instead].”

In his free time, Markey reads avidly. History is his favorite topic: primarily ancient Greek, Roman, and Medieval histories. In addition, Markey listens to music,

plays video games and Ping-Pong. Markey plays Call of Duty and Halo. Also, Markey enjoys listening to 80s music, despite being raised on classical music. “I play the piano,” said Markey. “I love to play poker and I’m pretty good if I do say so myself.” Furthermore, Markey is an enthusiastic Indianapolis Colts fan, Green Bay Packers fan, or a fan of “any team that beats the Patriots.”

From poker to argument in Moot Court, friendly competition is key for this aspiring student of the law. “Take your classes very seriously . . . if you make a mistake freshman year, it can hurt your chances of getting into law school,” Markey warned.

Simmons

From Page 1

studying the style of maybe 30 writers over the course of several months of school, my sixth graders who were holistically tested could write better than the high school seniors in the district.”

Simmons created a ‘Writing Well’ curriculum for his classroom that profoundly improved the students’ writing skills.

“I was having a great time [teaching], but in 1969 my wife surprised me with an electric typewriter and a little typewriter tray in a little room that could be used as a study, so I felt I had to start trying to write for publication,” Simmons said. “I spent two-and-a-half years submitting science fiction stories because I hadn’t written much science fiction since college, but that was where the short story market was and still is.”

“Three were accepted. I wasn’t paid anything, but all three magazines went under before they were published. . . . So, forget that, and we found out she was pregnant with our only child. As a final act, I went out to a writer’s workshop that I read about in *Writer’s Digest* in Colorado,” Simmons said.

During that writers’ workshop, Simmons met professional writer Harlan Ellison.

“I didn’t want anything of mine

critiqued, but you had to put in a manuscript to get into the workshop,” Simmons said. “It was like \$120, which was a huge amount of money for us for five days. That is where my story ended up being work-shopped. Harlan Ellison’s business is to excoriate and eviscerate would-be-writers—to tell them they aren’t writers when they’re not. He was totally brutal, but he was totally honest with mine and said ‘You hear the music.’ At that moment, when a writer tells you that you’re a writer, at least you should listen. That, in 1981, was the beginning.”

Simmons dabbles in an array of literary genres. According to his website, his genres include “fantasy, science fiction, horror, suspense, historical fiction, noir crime fiction, and mainstream literary fiction.” Despite the wide genre range, Simmons’ style remains relatively the same.

Simmons visits colleges periodically to speak to creative writing students as he did here at Wabash. He aims to aid students in finding their writing style—just as he did in his classroom in Colorado.

“The distance between a good amateur writer and a professional writer is much, much greater than the distance between a really good amateur baseball player and a major league player.”

Deig

From Page 2

You have a lot of time in your third and fourth year during rotation to decide what to do.”

“I have learned about the importance of civil discourse and youthful dialogue,” Deig said. “I have taken advantage of it in and out of classroom. The College’s curriculum is so broad and people’s interests are so broad that I can get into a conversation with a philosophy major about chemistry or biology, and we can learn from one another to some degree.”

Deig has been involved with numerous campus clubs, sports, and activities. Like everything at Wabash, Deig learned valuable skills from his involvement.

“I think baseball has taught me some leadership—especially as a junior and senior,” Deig said. “The younger guys pay attention more than you think. It has taught me to pay attention to what I am doing and saying. I must present an example to the younger guys. It also has taught me to juggle multiple things at one time.”

“Work hard,” Deig advised students looking to attend medical school. “Medical school is a tough track. You should be consistent. Medical schools are looking for consistency. Everyday keep up on everything and try even if the material is boring. You should take an effort to be engaged in the material. Try to take a genuine interest in what you are learning. Even if it doesn’t make sense at a time it may come full circle.”

Charges

From Page 1

Nguyen is currently not enrolled as a student at Wabash.

Passengers Long Pham ’14 and Truong Nguyen ’15 both suffered injuries stemming from the automobile crash. Pham and Hoan Nguyen were trapped in the front seats of the car for 50 minutes after the accident and were airlifted to St. Vincent’s Hospital in Indianapolis.

Truong Nguyen, who was seated in the backseat of the car, received treatment at Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health-Crawfordsville.

Raters helped direct Pham and Truong Nguyen toward professional legal and insurance support but stated he has not provided any specific legal advice to the two international students.

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Time to Tidy Up Wabash's Writing

I recently read George Orwell's 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language." While his message was directed at writers and academics in the mid-twentieth century, it struck me that his admonition is particularly applicable to many of us here at Wabash, myself included. The crux of Orwell's argument is that English writing in his time had become so ostentatious and pretentious that it lost meaning. Instead of beginning with a meaning in mind and carefully selecting only the necessary words to convey that, writers, Orwell sensed, allowed the aesthetic flow of words and phrases to guide what they wrote, sacrificing clarity and message in favor of what they thought was sophisticated writing. Certain metaphors and phrases had become so canonized that writing became an almost automatic process that required very little thought and ul-

timately communicated very little despite saying, quantitatively, quite a lot.

As I read this essay I was immediately reminded of some of the articles I've read (and written) in campus publications (not to mention all-campus e-mails) over the past few years. And just to keep things fair and concrete-- I will specify: I have encountered such articles in places such as (but not limited to) *The Commentary*, *The Phoenix*, *The Bachelor* (I've written some of them), and in e-mails from both sides of the Rocha debate. There is a large, or at least highly visible, contingent of student writers here who possess not only a wide vocabulary and bank of conventional metaphors and figures of speech, but a keen sensitivity to the aesthetics of sentence-construction. Unfortunately, we all too often fall over the edge of style and into self-indulgence. Articles, essays, and e-

mails spend five-hundred words saying what could be said in fifty, filling sentences with buzzwords and loaded vocabulary, often in attempt to ascribe life-or-death, apocalyptic significance to academic or para-academic debates.

If you are skeptical of how broadly Orwell's critique applies to Wabash, consider this. One specific qualm that Orwell raises in his essay is the protracted approach writers take to making statements of opinion. Instead of saying simply "I think," Orwell observes, writers say things like "a not unjustifiable conclusion would seem to be [conclusion X]." I think that one would be hard-pressed to find more than two or three instances of "I think" in any given issue of any campus publication (aside from perhaps the quotation of extemporaneous speakers). Granted this may be a vestigial instinct from our training



REED HEPBURN '12
OPINION COLUMNIST

which tells us to avoid using first-person in academic writing. Regardless, the media of which I speak do not require adherence to academic conventions, and I believe that this campus could use a good deal more writing that is concise and honest. Typically at this point in a Wabash article one chooses from our deep well of college-patriotic mantras and throws in something about the Wabash mission statement, or the gentleman's rule, or the liberal arts. But in the interest of brevity and sincerity, I will refrain.

Commentary on *The Commentary*

If it isn't painfully obvious to the entire Wabash community, the staff of *The Commentary* isn't exactly satisfied with the way Dean Gary Phillips is doing his job. The publication devoted a majority of its 20 pages to explaining why they have a less than glowing opinion of the Dean.

The Commentary has a modus operandi, and quite frankly, it's becoming a tired act. It's been that way for the past four years, and something tells me it pre-dates even that time span. *The Commentary* doesn't make an argument with substance, facts, and first-hand accounts. Rather, it floods its pages with six-syllable thesaurus picks and references to Machiavelli and Nietzsche ad nauseum, and it's getting old.

Last week, *The Commentary* chose to devote five of its seven stories to one central argument: that Dean Gary Phillips is not doing his job adequately. And again, there was more style than substance, more flair than facts, and a general smokescreen that failed to make any kind of real statement. *The Commentary* argued that Phillips has been inconsistent in his handling of both disciplinary and hiring processes alike. Their evidence was nuanced anecdotes and cryptic references without any substantive facts. *The Commentary* pointed to "other examples in which these same concerns, the selective or retaliatory punishments of the Dean, have been raised. Unfortunately, for a couple of reasons, these cannot be spoken of." So, in not so many words, there are facts supporting *The Commentary*'s argument, but you can't have them, and you just have to take their word for it. These are the "truths" that *The Commentary* claims to provide our campus. More like half-truths; but at least they gave us an extended metaphor involving Dean Phillips and Hamlet



BRANDAN ALFORD '12
SPORTS EDITOR

earlier in the issue. (If that doesn't display superiority or rationale and intellect, I'm not sure what does.)

But even as *The Commentary* called into question Dean Phillips professional decisions, in several instances insinuating that personal vendettas may play a role, the most damning accusation can be found in "Lies, Damned Lies, and Gary Phillips." But before addressing the heart of that article, it's important to first address an important hypocrisy. At the opening of *The Commentary*, the "Cheers and Jeers" section included a sarcastic dig at this publication's use of staff editorials. *The Commentary* sarcastically references the editorials being used to "bravely criticize in anonymous editorials." Interestingly enough, *The Commentary* chose to use the byline "TWC staff" for two of its articles in this most recent issue, including "Lies, Damned Lies, and Gary Phillips." In that article, *The Commentary* addressed the issue of the teacher education program at Wabash and Dean Phillips' response to student inquiries regarding open faculty positions. At the close of the article, *The Commentary* calls into question not only the Dean's professional decision-making, but goes a step further, calling him a dishon-

est man, and in effect, calling into question his character. No matter that the Dean did not lie, not at any point in that process; that wasn't important. *The Commentary* had an agenda, and facts be damned, they were going to push that agenda. Ironic, that a publication which criticizes *The Bachelor*'s use of staff editorials out of one side of its mouth can spew such demeaning accusations out of the other behind the label of "staff editorial." When asked about this obvious hypocrisy, *The Commentary*'s editor Robert Dixon '13 assured me that he had written the article, and that the byline of "TWC staff" was merely an editorial error. At best, it's a convenient mistake; at worst, it's a blatant attempt by Dixon and *The Commentary* to call a man's character into question without having the intestinal fortitude to attach his name to his opinion.

The Commentary likes to prop itself up as a beacon of truth, shining through the muddled horrors of Wabash. But to be honest, it's nothing more than a group of Wabash students using the publication as a bully pulpit to take potshots at members of the Wabash community, hiding behind the framework of freedom of speech and press, and masking libel with "parody." And for those of us who actually take journalism seriously, it has gone too far.

When asked why the Dean hadn't been quoted more extensively in several of the articles in order to provide Phillips with an opportunity to defend his decisions, Dixon was honest.

"Maybe there should have been more quotes [from Dean Phillips]. I'm honestly inexperienced at interviewing and reporting," Dixon said.

In reading this past issue of *The Commentary*, that's one fact with which I won't argue.

Tale of a Hoosier Fan for Hummel

As an Indiana fan, I am not supposed to root for Purdue. And in complete honesty, I never have until this past weekend. But one player and his remarkable career made me, in between two wins for Hoosiers, cheer for the gold and black. I have spent most of the last four years waiting for Indiana basketball to return to glory. Beyond the blowouts coupled in with several heartbreaking losses, the things that has made this time period extremely difficult for Indiana fans is the relatively successful stretch Purdue has had. And anyone who knows anything about the game will tell you that Robbie Hummel was the catalyst behind that success. As much as I hate Purdue, I have had a very hard time finding reasons to wish

ALEX ROBBINS '13
OPINION EDITOR

failure upon Hummel. He has always done things, as far as I can tell, the right way. He has endured two torn ACLs, which ended two of his seasons, and forced him to spend six years getting four seasons completed. And any Indiana fan would appreciate his knack for playing his heart out and hitting a big shot when his team needs it the most. Still, through all of this, I wanted to be bitter and hate Hummel along with the rest of the Boilermakers. Then, Indiana got a dose of the Hummel medicine. Two seasons ago, a talented, emerging Freshman Hoosier, Maurice Creek, went down for the season

after only a few games with a broken kneecap. Then, just ahead of his much-anticipated comeback for the 2011-12 campaign, Creek was ruled out for the season with a torn Achilles, his third serious injury in 22 months. Instantly, thoughts of Hummel came to mind. All of a sudden, the thought for me, a Hoosier fan, was Hopefully the NCAA will grant Creek the same courtesies the have given Hummel. There it was, a connection to Purdue for this Boiler-loather. So this weekend Purdue found itself in a dogfight with one of basketball's blueblood programs, I found myself in the company of Brandan Alford and Brian Shelbourne, the two biggest Purdue fans I know, wishing good fortune for the Boilers.

When the final buzzer sounded, Kansas had won by three. Purdue fans around the country found their selves in shock at the way the game slipped away in the end. I found myself in a surprisingly awkward state. Throughout my entire life, I have basked in the glory of Purdue losses. But for the first time ever I was not so happy. Kudos to Hummel for making me cheer for Purdue for 40 minutes more than I ever had before. While I am undoubtedly glad that Hummel is done at Purdue, I simultaneously am sorry to see him go. He was great for college basketball, great for the Big Ten, and great for the Indiana-Purdue rivalry.

The Forgotten War Should Be Ended

During a presidential election year, one might think that the average American would be aware that we are currently engaged militarily in over ten countries and that we are still in a hot war in Afghanistan. One would also assume that the presidential candidates would address that fact and offer a proposal for how to reach an endgame strategy in the war that we have been in for over 11 years. However, until very recently, not very many Americans have been paying attention or have realized the number of conflicts we are in around the world or that Afghanistan continues. Americans may be excused however since even Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in a recent 60 Minutes interview could not count how many countries we are currently involved in militarily. But this is a not a commentary on the size of the American military it is about one topic and that is the War in Afghanistan and why it needs to end.

Unfortunately, the only time the War in Afghanistan is covered by the media or brought up in conversation is when a tragedy like last week happened with Sgt. Robert Bales and the murdering of 16 civilians, or when someone burns Qur’ans, or when American soldiers urinate on dead Afghanis. However, for the most part, these stories do not last very long in the press and Americans resume their lives without thinking about the war. For most Americans, the War in Afghanistan is a war that we would rather not hear about and if it is out of sight it is out of mind.

This mentality holds true for almost all Americans except for the brave men and women that serve their country in are all volunteer army and their families. Some of these soldiers now have been in for anywhere between six to eight tours of duties and have not seen their families for more than a couple months over the past ten years. These soldiers also have to see their friends and fellow soldiers die regularly and always worry about if they will be the next and then what will happen to their family.



STEVAN
STANKOVICH '12
OPINION COLUMNIST

The difference between the War in Afghanistan and past wars is that normally most Americans have to give up something when we go to war, whether it is paying higher taxes or serving in the military. However the burden for the War in Afghanistan has been fully beared by less than one-half of 1% of Americans. The rest of Americans do not pay attention to the war unless we have captured an Al Qaeda member or something terrible happens to our soldiers or to a village of Afghanis. At least in the Vietnam War, 12% of Americans served and the rest paid higher taxes to support the war. Now for the past two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan most Americans have paid less in taxes and only one-half of 1% of Americans serve. As a result, no Americans are really affected by the war so they do not care about it.

However, the average American should care deeply because the incident with Sergeant Bales helps to illustrate the point that our all volunteer military has been stretched too thin and they are tired of fighting. It is time to bring our troops home instead of signing them up for their 10th tour of duty. For soldiers that have served more than three tours of duties, one-third of them have PTSD, over 1,000 soldiers have committed suicide, and others have had various other injuries. Most of the soldiers are thankfully still whole when

they make it back home, but we need to bring them home now before more soldiers get injured or die.

Furthermore, Americans are spending \$2 billion a week in the War in Afghanistan. That is over \$100 billion a year and over \$1 trillion since the beginning of the war. Why are we spending this type of money in a foreign country when we have to cut teachers and police officers here at home because we have budget problems? If we are worried about the budget, one easy way to get cuts is to end the war. It just makes fiscal and financial sense to spend our money here at home instead of in a country we are not accomplishing anything in anymore abroad.

Finally, no one has ever won in Afghanistan. Alexander the Great, the British, and the Soviet Union have all failed at conquering Afghanistan. Our mandate and goal in the War in Afghanistan was to eradicate Al Qaeda. We have now accomplished this goal with less than 20 members of Al Qaeda in the whole country. We have also ensured that all the top leaders of Al Qaeda and the masterminds behind 9/11 are dead, including Osama Bin Laden. Now that our objective is complete it is time to get out. We are not going to change Afghanistan unless we want to nation build which will take a generation or more, and we have no vital interest in Afghanistan to nation build. As we continue to fight we are just hurting our own cause by creating enemies in Afghanistan with recent atrocities.

In short we should leave Afghanistan now. Nothing will change in Afghanistan if we stay another year or another ten years. If Al Qaeda resurfaces we can bomb them, but if we make friends with the Taliban that should eradicate that problem. Our country has spent way too much blood and treasure in this country. Instead of investing in Afghanistan we need to invest here at home. Also too many of our own citizens have been hurt by this now pointless war and it is time to come home.

Gay Marriage Could Save Sanctity

In today’s fast past world equipped with forever updating software and constant changing of technology, it isn’t irrational for people to question not only the sanctity of marriage, but also even the possibility for two souls to be indelibly bound to each other forever. With the national divorce rate hovering just under 50% even Ray Charles could see that marriage is a dying institution. Soon our blissfully wed grandparents will pass and posterity will reminisce on an archaic dream of what was instead of what is. America needs a drastic hurricane of, dare I say it, change, to come along with its gusty fists to box away the traditional and triumphantly raise a new rainbow banner of colored acceptance. The only way marriage can be salvaged from the depths of annulments and custodial battles, is through the installation of gay marriage.

“All aboard the gay expressway”- America is steam rolling through homophobic rants and tainted notions of sexuality and headed towards equality rather fiercely. The humanizing denouncement of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell and shows like glee, nabbing prime time slots illuminating gay love, help to decrease Westboro Baptist supporters and orientation discrimination. While in DC I was shocked to see my conservative friends support gay marriage so adamantly and without shame.

Ideologies are shifting and gay marriage is stepping out of Pandora’s Box, but like a flamingo in a pea coat is still hiding its true colors. However, no other time in history is better to not only make a statement on equality, but also save marriage.

How can we expect an institution to survive when it systematically kicks out desiring individuals? Marriage cannot be stable because it has become less about love and more about superficiality. What are we saying about marriage if two octogenarians have been with each other for 40 years and want a simple state approved piece of paper to draw them closer, but are denied. At the risk of sounding like a bad love poet, love knows no color, race or gender. It only speaks to the soul of the two that are struck by it and are tied together. If marriage is predicated on love and yet we deny this very love to two people then marriage is simply reduced to a document and this love is lost.

Women are powerful now, face it. The traditional, “I Love Lucy” marriages are pretty much extinct. Even a housewife’s attention is divided in several directions. America cannot afford to think of this antiquated structures as wife mend the kids and husbands do the real work. Gay marriage is far from traditional. There are no gender boundaries; therefore marriage has to be founded on some-



TYLER GRIFFIN '13
OPINION COLUMNIST

thing other than societal norms. As it stands now, marriage is highly commercialized as merely a vehicle for power, money or career upward mobility. Gay marriage destroys the traditional and consequently the recalcitrant minds of the modern men and women who resist these out-dated structures.

Why not try something that hasn’t been proven not to work rather than continue a failing trend? Gay marriage has been debated on for years and the handful states that do recognize it haven’t had any major problems. Yes, marriage is a complex topic and I can hardly do it justice within a word limit, but the simple answer is to put the love back in marriage. No, gay people do not have a monopoly on love, but they can help to make marriage believable again. Marriage is synonymous with compromise, “losing” an argument in order sustain happiness; this bargaining should be applied to same-sex marriage.

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Wabash Challenges Obesity

Biggest Loser Competition and Personal Desire Contribute to Students' Weight Loss

JOHN DYKSTRA '13
CAVELIFE EDITOR

The National Center for Health Services reported in January 2012 that 35.7 percent of America's population is obese. In 2010, every state in the US failed a nationwide goal of reducing obesity rates to 15 percent.

These statistics are overwhelming, but Wabash students and faculty have challenged them through the Biggest Loser competition and self-discipline.

Athletic Director Joseph Haklin has carried out his mission to improve wellness at Wabash. At the beginning of the semester, the College launched its Biggest Loser competition. Over a hundred students, staff, and faculty combined signed up for the competition, and, on average, about 70 of the participants have reported to weekly weigh-ins.

"The Wabash Wellness Biggest Loser Contest has increased awareness on campus of the need to monitor our diets if we are to establish a healthy lifestyle," Haklin said. "The contest itself is a framework for individuals to plug into as they monitor their caloric intake. The Wellness Committee tried to grow awareness on our campus of the importance of eating a healthy diet in addition to adhering to a consistent exercise program. The Biggest Loser Contest has generated a buzz on campus about establishing healthier habits. That has been its most important contribution.

"The 'winning' lies in changing personal habits which results in better health," Haklin continued. "Whether



Senior Terry Sullivan lost 120 pounds between January of his sophomore year and January of his junior year. He initially weighed 275 pounds.

one actually 'wins' an age bracket or not, is not the important point of the contest."

Wabash students have also successfully lost weight outside of the competition. Senior Terry Sullivan lost 120 pounds from January of his sophomore year to January of his junior year. Sullivan cited a heart condition as his inspiration to drop down from 275 pounds to 155 pounds.

"I have a heart problem," Sullivan said. "When I was born, I had heart defects and had to have surgery immediately. The doctor always told me when I went to check-ups that I needed to lose weight. Finally, I went at it after winter break my sophomore year. I had one last steak dinner

the night before I came back to school and went to the gym that Monday."

Sullivan altered his diet significantly. He gave up red meat for Lent during his sophomore year and formed a habit of eating fish.

For about eight months, the only meat I consumed was tuna," Sullivan said. "But I like tuna. Even now, a lot of the meat I eat is tuna. Every now and then I'll have chicken, but most of it's fish."

Sullivan said his weight loss resulted from monitoring his diet, reducing meal portions, and regular exercise.

"It wasn't any special diet or any crazy pills or anything," Sullivan said. "It was just going to the gym, being in the gym. I was probably in

the gym for two or three hours a day whether it was walking or lifting weights or whatever. I just made sure I put time in at the gym. And I monitored my portions and started eating right. It wasn't anything special; it was just being diligent.

"Once you get past that two-three week point, it becomes more of a lifestyle change than anything because you get used to it."

Junior Alejandro Maya, a former Wabash football player, also stated that eating healthy and exercising regularly is a lifestyle change. Maya, who currently weighs 350+ pounds, has begun his weight loss journey.

"I have lost a hundred pounds before, so that is my ideal goal," Maya said. "I re-

ally want to live a healthy life. I do not want to live in a wheelchair or be unable to walk when I get older.

"When I lost the weight, I was working out twice a day and eating healthy and that was for a sport," Maya said. "Right now, it's a different game. I need to make exercise and eating healthy a daily routine and make it something important. I have to discipline myself as if I were in a sport—getting in trouble if I do not perform well enough—because, if I get a trainer, I will eventually not have one anymore and will have to motivate myself. So, it's better for me to discipline and motivate myself now.

"I'm just starting now. I realized how important it is to discipline yourself consistently instead of losing weight temporarily through a program or for lent or for a New Year's resolution. I'm trying to get back on the horse and get used to working out more consistently."

Anyone can improve their health by making small, simple adjustments.

"People need to understand that most restaurants serve two times what they should eat," Head Athletic Trainer Mark Colston said. "They lose weight by reducing their portion sizes in that case.

"Any small factor can contribute to weight loss, whether it's consuming 1-percent milk instead of two-percent milk or eating less sugary cereal," Colston said. "The key to weight loss is diet modification—consuming fewer calories and exercising more. Small lifestyle adjustments produce big results over time."

War Game Projects Real Consequences

War Simulation Evaluates Solutions to Iran's Nuclear Threat

JACOB BURNETT '15
MIDDLE EAST COLUMNIST

Earlier this month, a classified war simulation took place. Its goal aimed to predict the result of an Israeli strike on Iran to end its nuclear program. The simulation revealed that a preemptive strike on Iran would lead to a wide scale war in the Middle East. Hundreds of thousands will be dead, and there would be not permanent resolution to Iran's nuclear program. Then what should be done to stop Iran's nuclear program? Or, should it be stopped at all?

To answer the latter question, the majority of people have come to the consensus that Iran should not possess a nuclear weapon. The country has fostered anti-Western values, and has publically called for the eradication of Israel. Iran pulls the strings in many terrorist organizations which they support with money and weapons. In short, Iran has fostered an atmosphere where they could very well use a nuclear weapon regardless of the drastic consequences. However, many people believe that Iran's leaders are not ignorant. Iranian officials are aware of cost-benefit analysis. But given Iran's history of violence and suppression, officials believe that they cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons.

Many attempts to stop Iran's nuclear program are in place. The European Union will put an oil embargo on Iranian oil starting on July 1. Even though this is an option, it might not reap the best results. By July 1, Iran can stop its nuclear program and still work with it behind the scenes. Since we don't know how far the Iranian scientists have gotten, Iran could have a fully developed nuclear missile before then. Also, Iran has other oil consumers like China and Japan.

Government officials discussed diplomatically isolating Iran. However, Iran has other allies outside of the UN. It plays a major role in the Middle East and has ties with Saudi Arabia. It works hand in hand with terrorist groups in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. Diplomatically isolating Iran may not create any results.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication announced that it would ex-



While Israel is prepared for a possible attack against Iran for having a nuclear program, the United States has tried to discourage the idea. The political cartoon above suggests otherwise.

pel thirty Iranian fiscal institutions including the Central Bank. This sanction cripples Iran's ability to conduct international business. The sanction isolates the Iranian economy further away from the world economy as well. Iran has referred to these actions as bullying from the West, and its response portrays that the sanctions may be working.

The most serious option remains taking military action in Iran. Israel quivers at the idea of Iran having a nuclear weapon and demands that Iran stop their nuclear program, or it will strike. The U.S. supports Israel, but it wants to avoid military force at this time. The U.S. wants Israel to wait some time to let the sanctions take full effect. The United States' track record in the Middle East is subpar at best. As the simulation predicted, the results could be disastrous.

However, Israel sees Iran as its biggest threat to national security. Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu has exclaimed that the U.S. doesn't have to deal with Iran as a next door neighbor eager to attack. He sees the U.S. as big and distant whereas Israel is small and closer.

The simulation predicted that an attack would only setback Iran's nuclear program at most two years. If Iranian leaders want an atomic bomb, they will find a way to develop an atomic bomb. Intervention of any sort may just further fuel Iran's hunger for a nuclear weapon. Some people have argued that there needs to be strict and brutal sanctions put on Iran to address the Iran nuclear program. With many options and little answers, the future of the Iranian nuclear program and its result remain uncertain. Needless to say, the position international leaders take spearhead the direction in which the Iranian nuclear program will head.

Blood Label Wreaks Havoc

New EP Existence Expires Yields Mosh Pit Hits

ADAM SOSHINICK '13
MUSIC COLUMNIST

As per personal taste, metal intermixed with hardcore isn't something that normally makes its way across day-to-day playlists, but Blood Label is more metallic than hardcore if the vocals are subtracted from the equation. That's not to say the vocals aren't listenable because they're fairly decent in comparison to what listeners could have gotten with Blood Label's music, which is typically overly screamy and aimed straight at the hardcore crowd, hence the metalcore tag. Kenneth Klitte Jensen's pipes divide between a quotidian death metal growl and hardcore screaming/shouting shenanigans with most emphasis placed on the latter, but as a general rule, Blood Label's *Existence Expires* is still fun and, most importantly, metal.

Many metalcore bands are severely lacking the metallicness to actually be worthy of the classification and often have too much -core to be called anything remotely metal, but the thing is, Blood Label isn't metalcore in the new-fangled sense with poppy modernity and other hallmarks characteristic of the recent style of the subgenre. These Danes retain a huge chunk of old world hardcore in their sound, incorporating groove metal and very small amounts of death and thrash metal, though for the most part, they lean toward the hardcore/groove side of the spectrum and progress with their ideas from there. Because there isn't much advancement to be made in either hardcore or groove metal, the majority of the tracks sound alike, chugged and heavily palm-muted riffs and groovy skin bashing dominating nearly all of *Existence Expires*' 32 minute run time. However, it isn't exactly a downfall because most of the songs are relatively well composed and offer a nice respite from the normal wave of music that makes its way through the daily music rotation. In a sense, Blood Label's EP is fairly fresh because it's not often that hardcore meshed with metal turns out to be any good unless it avoids being metalcore or deathcore.

Though a portion of the tracks sound



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Blood Label's newest album *Existence Expires* has several mosh-quality moments.

similar, there are some highlights to be had like the mosh-worthy and music video material "Traitors Beware," as well as the almost thrashy "Mutiny," which ushers a jammin' feelin' like the guys were rocking out just for the hell of it. Listeners will be chanting "THERE WILL BE BLOOD!!" right along with "Traitors Beware" with fists pumping high in the air. Guaranteed. Particularly appealing is the title track, which is nothing more than a creepy, organ-composed intro to "Into Perpetual Fire," but it really sets the mood and shows the band has composed side, instead of the frenzied, destructive one normally associated with metal and hardcore. The rest of the songs, while entertaining, remain borderline pedes-

trian and don't stick in quite the same way the previously mentioned four do.

Blood Label sets out to defy the commonplace metalcore trends and largely succeed while still being recognizable as part of the subgenre. *Existence Expires* is a revitalizing take on the stale brand of music, but it isn't without weaknesses, namely the lack of distinction between tracks; nonetheless, as a general rule of thumb, the band has a start to something interesting here, especially if they can flesh out a little bit more of their death and thrash metal influences. When Blood Label hits their stride, they rock hard. An album chock full of memorable moshy goodness would just be preferable.

Of Montreal Stays Strange

Band Returns to Its Old Form in New EP

ALEX TOTTEN '13
MUSIC COLUMNIST

The Athens, Georgia based band Of Montreal has always been a touch strange, even amongst their peers. A member of the psychedelic revival group, The Elephant 6 Collective, Of Montreal has been a weird mix of psychedelic sensibilities, heart-felt love jams, folk tendencies, and overall surrealness since its conception in 1996. Their most recent album, *Paralytic Stalks*, brings the band back to its winning formula of the mid 2000's.

For Of Montreal, they

struck indie gold with two albums. 2005's *Sunlandic Twins* brought Of Montreal from softer garage psychedelica mixed with folk tunes and a grand narrative to electronic-based tragedies written in Major but sung with sadness. Then, the pinnacle of creation was born with 2007's *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*. Any musical journalist worth his weight would be fast to conclude the same thing. *Fauna* was upbeat but tragic, mixing the story of a broken hearted Kevin Barnes with his twice transsexual alter ego George Fruit, all spun on a grand

tapestry of chamber pop electric movements. *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?* was Of Montreal's masterpiece, and it hasn't quite been the same since.

The last two albums, *Skeletal Lamping* and *False Priest*, were both lacking a touch. Kevin Barnes, the mastermind of Of Montreal, got rid of the grand narrative in favor of more accessible songs. Although this seems to be like a quality choice and a better move in terms of acquiring a larger fan base, the last two albums weren't up to the standard of *Fauna*. *Paralytic Stalks*, in a sense, is a return to form.

In their most recent album, Of Montreal returns to the storyteller fashion that once dominated their lyrics. In most of their albums pre *Hissing Fauna*, but especially in the aforementioned and *The Bedside Drama, a Petit Tragedy*, Barnes and Of Montreal take the listener on a musical journey. Barnes shares intimate details about his love life, the loss of his daughter and the like, but that was abandoned until it returned in *Paralytic Stalks*. The idea of telling a story in each song is back, and it's back with the basic structure that they used in the pasted. The verse is free and the meter breaks from rhythm, as if he was just talking to the

listener. It's a nice return to what made their songs so much fun in the past.

The problem is that the album is just so incredibly strange. The only song I could really get into was "Dour Percentage" because it had a more accessible arrangement. It's very understood that Of Montreal isn't terribly accessible, but *Paralytic Stalks* is really jumbled at points, and it makes it hard to sit down and listen all the way through. It's one of those albums that grows on the listener instead of infatuating the listener from the beginning. I never thought it was possible, but it's just hard to follow the movement of the songs. There's constant interchanging that hasn't been seen from them since *Aldhils Arboretum*.

I shouldn't complain though, it's just nice that Of Montreal is willing to put out so much music. Some of my most nostalgia ridden bands have started to call it quits, and it's admirable that Of Montreal has been able to change so frequently and always come back with a sound that's recognizable and essentially Of Montreal. *Paralytic Stalks* may have been a little disappointing, but it's a good sign; a sign that Of Montreal is going back to *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*.

Portlandia: Best Show You're Not Watching

ALEX TOTTEN '13
MUSIC COLUMNIST

It's been a long established fact that Portland is the pinnacle of culture and coolness in the United States. Lying on the lush coast of the Willamette and straddling the border of Oregon and Washington, Portland has been an alternative hot spot for many years. Spawning cool bands like The Decemberists and the Shins, and hosting swarms of apathetic hipsters, eco freaks and cool kids, Portland is truly the place to be in the States. So it's hard to believe that a show that features Portland is unknown to the frothing masses.

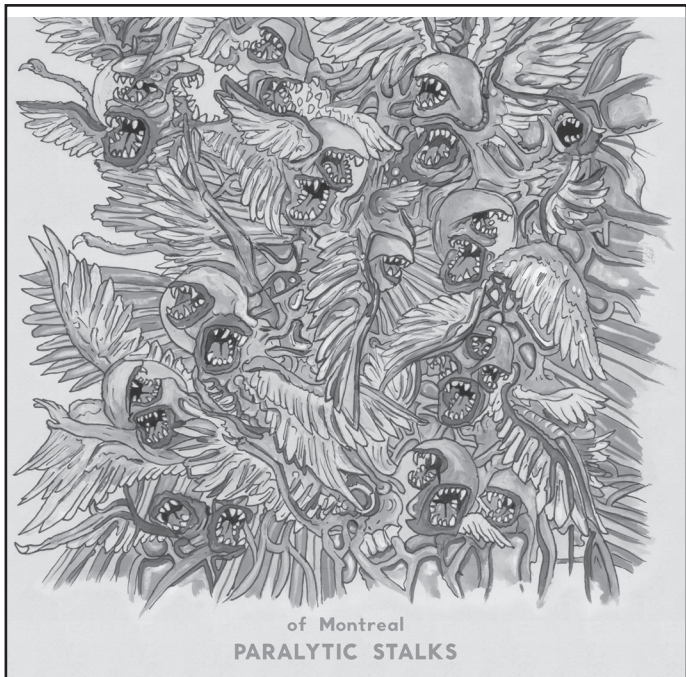
Portlandia is such a show. Based in Portland and sharing a name with an iconic statue of Downtown Portland, *Portlandia* is an alternative sketch show airing on the Indie Film Channel. The brain child of Saturday Night Live veteran Fred Armisen and Riot Grrrl icon Sleater Kinney's lead guitarist Carrie Brownstein, *Portlandia* is a fun mix of satire and surrealism. The show is set in Portland, and it follows the adventures of Fred and Carrie, who primarily play themselves, but also a slew of other characters including Toni and Candice, two owners of a failing not-for-profit bookstore, Women 4 Women First, and Peter and Nance, an aging hipster couple trying to keep up with the latest trends and being more adventurous.

The average episode breaks in with various different short sketches following the people of Portland. For the most part, these things are meant to poke fun or satirize the denizens of the hip city. For instance, in the opening sketch of the series, Carrie's character at the time, "In Portland, you can put a bird on something and call it art". In the following episode, the duo introduces their new company that will put a bird on your things and make it artistic.

Portlandia, and Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein by extension, aren't afraid to make fun of themselves and the city they call home. But as equal as there is satire, there also exists the truly surreal that breaks in on occasion. For example, in the season two episode, One Moore Episode, Fred and Carrie spend weeks watching the entirety of Battlestar Galactica, then, convinced that Ronald Moore, the producer of the series, must live in Portland, they seek him out in hopes of him creating just one more episode for the two of them. Finding a Ronald Moore, who is actually an aging black man, they attempt to get the cast back together to make the last episode.

Portlandia isn't just a one trick pony in this instance; it deals with all walks of life in Portland, and with greater themes found outside of the city. But that makes it sound far too serious, it is, in nature, a comedy that's meant to make people laugh, not think. It will cut from humorous satire of hipster culture to the outright silliness of an adult hide and seek league.

For the discouraged, yes it had already had two seasons, but there isn't a story arc to follow. One that's so interested could easily jump into the middle of the second season as one who started at the beginning, with the only nuance needed to be known is that, when playing themselves, Fred and Carrie are friends with the fictitious mayor of Portland played by Kyle McLachlan. It's out of season, but it has been renewed for a new season and it airs on the Indie Film Channel on Fridays at 10.



of Montreal
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Of Montreal reverted back to well-known music stature in its newest piece *Paralytic Stalks*.

Groninger, Ambrosio Set Record

RYAN LUTZ '13
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend the Track and Field team hit the ground running in its outdoor season. On that warm spring day two javelin throwers made a statement in their first outdoor meet of the year. Not throwing competitively since last May, Evan Groninger and Daniel Ambrosio made some noise on the National level.

Groninger and Ambrosio both threw over the 60-meter mark, a huge milestone in a javelin throwers career. Coming off of their indoor season, it was the first time Groninger or Ambrosio threw competitively since last year. Both however, surpassed their personal records and the previously held school record of 59.64 meters. Groninger's final throw was 61.22 meters while Ambrosio finished at 62.08 meters.

"We have never hit 60 meters before," Groninger said. "That's a big milestone and I basically tackled him after he broke that. I was so pumped for him."

Ambrosio, who's throw of 62 meters is currently number-one in the nation for Division III was excited about his mark but focused more on the overall team performance.

"As a team, our first outdoor meet was quite successful," Ambrosio said. "We had a lot of guys make conference marks and that is what we aim for every week. Our goal is just to continue to improve as a team and to do everything we can to prepare for the Outdoor Conference Championship."

Coming from the indoor track season both Groninger and Ambrosio had been unable to train for javelin until a week ago. They actually hadn't thrown the javelin competitively since last May. Both were more focused on general track conditioning and preparing their bodies for the rigors of the

outdoor season.

"It was weird," Groninger said. "I didn't really prepare for javelin. I did a lot of weight training running and just general track conditioning. It was probably because we didn't train for it. We hadn't developed a rut yet and our bodies weren't run down."

Groninger broke the 60-meter mark after Ambrosio did, curbing the excitement of breaking his old record. Passing that milestone was still a thrilling moment for Groninger though. "Ambrosio pretty much tackled me after I threw that one," he said.

"I was not surprised one bit," Ambrosio said. "I knew Evan had it in him and he worked very hard to get where he is at. Simply put, Evan is a stud. He has been a great supporter and teammate since day one and I am truly blessed to have him as a teammate and most importantly a friend."

Ambrosio hails from Arizona while Groninger is a native Hoosier. Their pairing is somewhat unlikely with their different majors, living units and hometowns. Through javelin they developed their throwing ability as well as their friendship.

"It's nice to have someone to push you," Groninger said. "We definitely have a lot of competition between the two of us."

Both Groninger and Ambrosio prepared for the outdoor season with an intensity that has become common among Coach Clyde Morgan's athletes.

"Not only did we focus on conditioning and speed work, but we also continued to get after it in the weight room," Ambrosio said. "The success you have during the season starts with how hard you are willing to work in the offseason. As a team, we definitely improved during the offseason."

The relationship between Groninger and Ambrosio developed when they both played on the football team. After they left from football



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Groninger and Ambrosio both broke the school record in the javelin in the first outdoor meet of the season. Ambrosio is ranked first in the nation while Groninger is three spots behind him.

Groninger convinced Ambrosio to go out for track. The two have pushed each other ever since.

"It really cool to have a teammate with the same mind set as you," Groninger said. "It's awesome that we both hit that milestone on the same day. One thing we have talked about is sitting next to each other on the plane ride to nationals."

The current standings for javelin have Ambrosio with the number-one spot while Groninger is three marks behind him, making the duo's trip to Nationals very realistic. The season is barely underway, and the bar has

been set high. Where can they go from here?

"We want to become more consistent," Groninger said. "Prior to this our best throws have been 59 and 56 meters. Maybe if we can consistently throw 60 we will be blessed enough to go to Nationals."

The two have been constantly pushing each other and setting the same goal of reaching nationals. The way they started the season both might end up in Los Angeles this year competing against the best in the nation.

Baseball Gears Up For Conference

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '15
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College baseball team won two out of three games against Blackburn College last weekend. The Little Giants then won a double-header on St. Patrick's Day, before losing to Blackburn Sunday afternoon.

The loss occurred after the Beavers chopped down a seven run deficit with two innings remaining.

"They were a scrappy team," senior Jeff Soller said. "They gained a little bit of momentum and it kind of got out of our hands."

The senior left-handed middle reliever still made something positive from the letdown.

"It's a good learning experience for us," said

Soller. "It's good for our guys to recognize that no matter how big of a lead we have, it's never safe. We have to play nine solid innings of baseball every game."

The Blackburn offense erupted for 12 runs on Sunday, after being held to just a total of two runs in two games on Saturday. It was the third time this season a team scored at least 10 runs against Wabash. New pitching coach Will Vazquez tried to make sure that statistic remains unchanged for the remainder of the season.

"He's really great and positive," Soller said. "He focuses on the 'Process of Getting Better,' which has been good for a lot of our guys. It forces them to think about what needs to be done to get to the end result, rather than just getting there."

Coach Vazquez brings ample amount of experi-

ence and knowledge to his players. He had a professional career as a Catcher in the Red Sox's Farm system.

"Obviously, playing minor league ball with some of the best players in the world is not a bad thing to have in a coach," Soller said. "He's seen it all and knows a lot about the game. We really appreciate him having that knowledge and are fortunate we can learn from him."

Soller also praised Coach Vazquez's dedication to his players.

"He's very understanding and willing to help us," Soller said. Coach spends the extra time outside of a practice to make us better."

Soller's role as a senior can help the team as well.

"There's a lot of work that has been put into the program in my four years," Soller said. "Not just by my class, but the guys above and below us too. It's important for the senior class to show that we need to continue to get better and get to the next level."

The next level for the team is the World Series for Division III baseball. Wabash made it to a regional last year, continuing a steady turn around since Soller and the other six seniors arrived on campus.

"We've found a way to get better each year and last year we made it to a regional. That next step is a World Series," Soller said. "To have that kind of confidence and resolve is probably our biggest role as seniors."

The team's ultimate goal of a World Series will be a season long challenge and Soller feels it need to be more consistent.

"It seems like we can't all click at the same time, but once that happens, we can definitely go on a run," Soller said. "It's one of those things where we can't get our hitting, pitching, and defense to all come together for one game."

Wabash fell to 8-7 after Sunday's loss to Blackburn. The Little Giants will face their first conference opponent of the season Saturday as they host Ohio Wesleyan University. The Little Giants will square off against the Bishops for a four game weekend series that will consist of a double header on Saturday and Sunday. First pitch for both double headers will be at noon.



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

Baseball had a solid showing against non-conference foe Blackburn College. They start conference play this weekend against Ohio Wesleyan with a double header this weekend. First pitch is at noon for both games.



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Manning Eyes New Challenge

BRANDAN ALFORD '12
SPORTS EDITOR

This has been a busy week for the NFL. The league has had a scandal result in severe sanctions and one of its most popular players was traded. But the story that stole the headlines was possibly one of the highest profile free agent signings of all time.

Colts fans have known for two weeks now that Peyton Manning was no longer going to be wearing No. 18 for Indianapolis. The question now became where would Manning be taking his talents? As last week unfolded, it became clear that there were two front-runners for Manning's services: the Denver Broncos and the San Francisco 49ers.

Conventional wisdom should have pointed Manning to San Francisco. It was all there for the taking: a team with a championship-level defense, a top-tier running attack, and a freak athlete in the passing game. So it should have been a no-brainer for Peyton Manning to sign with the 49ers. Problem is, Manning went with Denver. Why?

Peyton Manning has something to prove.

Denver provides Manning with exactly what he wants. He is walking into an unproven locker room full of offensive skill players with less-than-stellar resumes. The Broncos will be his show to run, and their success, or failure, will largely ride on Manning's surgically repaired neck. Just as he did 14 years ago in Indianapolis, Manning isn't joining a championship-caliber roster. And I think that's exactly how he wants it.

Manning practically built the Indianapolis franchise, shaped what it was, and brought it to new heights. He was what made Reggie Wayne a special receiver and Marvin Harrison before him. He is going to have that same chance in Denver.

San Francisco was a game away from the Super Bowl this past season,

and would have been frontrunners to make this year's game with the addition of Manning. But what would Manning have proved? That he could take an already-championship caliber team one more game than the previous year? I don't think that's the sort of challenge that drives Manning. And I don't think going to San Francisco would have helped him prove anything to his doubters, specifically those in the Indianapolis front office.

Manning is taking a risk by going to Denver; one that I'm sure is well-calculated. He's unseating one of the league's most popular players. He's returning with a level of uncertainty due to his medical history in the past year. He's facing questions about whether his prime is in the past. And I think those are the things that drive him.

There are plenty of question marks surrounding this Denver team, but there are also necessary assets. The Broncos have a strong defense and a serviceable run game, two things that Indianapolis fans haven't seen in Nap Town for quite a while. That is what Manning needs to win a second title, and he knows it.

It's no coincidence that Manning is going to play for a man who also had to fight off doubters late in his career, John Elway. Elway, now the general manager of the team, is no stranger to Manning's situation. There's a reason Manning found enough comfort in Denver to sign on for five years (not that \$96 million isn't incentive enough).

Peyton Manning is traveling to the Mile High city with plenty of questions; questions only time will answer. Denver wasn't the logical choice, it may not have even been the right choice, but Peyton Manning has something to prove. The proof will be next February in New Orleans. And if Manning has it his way, he and Elway will once again be proving the doubters wrong, this time together.

Tennis Sweeps

MATT STEWART '15
STAFF WRITER

The tennis team conquered both Hanover College and Cornerstone University this past Saturday in dominant fashion. Winning every match of the competition, the Little Giants never gave their opponents a chance.

The team first battled the Panthers of Hanover College Saturday morning. The 9-0 win over Hanover at Collet Tennis Center was the team's first home outdoor meet of the season.

The Little Giant's singles competition was lead by Senior Peter Gunderman, who defeated his Hanover opponent 6-0, 6-4. Following his lead, Sophomores Wade Miller, Daniel Delgado, Nate Koepler, Phil Kubisz and Junior Ian Leonard also shut out their respective Hanover opponents.

The team's dominance did not end with the singles competition, as the Little Giants' doubles blanked Hanover as well. Doubles team of Senior Evan Bayless and Junior Ian Leonard continued their success by shutting out their Hanover counterparts. Doubles team Delgado and Koelper, along with Miller and Gunderman, also won their matches.

Later in the day after beating the Panthers, the Little Giants began their second outdoor home meet against the Golden Eagles of Cornerstone University.

The meet against Cornerstone University seemed to be a mirror image of the meet against Hanover earlier that day, as the Little Giants never let up. Carrying on the dominance of the morning meet, the Little Giants also shut out the Golden Eagles.

Once again, Seniors Peter Gunderman and Evan Bayless lead by example as they conquered their respective competition. Gunderman won his singles match 6-0, 6-0, and

both Bayless, and Leonard, trumped the opposition 8-1 in doubles play.

The rest of the team followed suit, as they beat Cornerstone 9-0 overall.

Coach Jason Hutchison stressed the hard work and efforts that took place in the team's superb shutout performances.

"The guys came out of the gates hot and played well in both matches," Coach Hutchison said. "We felt confident that we could implement some new strategies that we had been working on in practice and they worked well."

The team also won its two matches the weekend after spring break, in which the team traveled to Southern California to compete against challenging teams and get some experience playing outdoors.

Gunderman emphasized that the skills and experience spring break gave the team, which lead to their dominance last weekend.

"We played three really good teams (over spring break) including two nationally ranked teams," Gunderman said. "Playing against really good teams is a good way to improve, but we also became more mentally tough."

Coach Hutchison noted that the team also must learn from the meets last weekend and continue to work hard every day.

"We need to get better each match," Coach Hutchison said. "We need to really focus on not giving away free points and dictating every aspect of the match."

The team hopes to gain much from spring break and the past weekend's matches in order to perform well at the upcoming meets in the next few weeks. Conference play ends soon and the conference tournament is only a few weeks away, so the team continues to work hard every day.

See Tennis, Page 10

Watson Quick To Contribute

TYLER WADE '12
STAFF WRITER

Following the baseball team's first appearance in the NCAA Division III postseason last year, Head Coach Cory Stevens knew that he needed to fill some holes in the roster the get the Little Giants back to title contention. Stevens was able to do just that through recruitment and the 2012 Wabash Baseball team certainly provides a mix of young and old.

In their home opener last Tuesday the Little Giants started four freshmen. Tanner Watson, Tyler Hampton, and Andrew Rodgers have been fixed starters while they have been joined by some of their other freshmen classmates like Tyler Owensby, Clint Scarborough, and Matt Bowman on occasion.

One of those youngsters propelling the Little Giants to success is second basemen Tanner Watson. Watson comes to Wabash from Noblesville (IN) High School and has already provided a strong hand where the Little Giants need to be the toughest, up the middle.

Watson did not always know he was coming to Wabash. The freshman had to decide between going to Indiana University and the Kelley School of Business or continuing his baseball career at Wabash.

Since his mother in a Kelley School graduate, he thought that would complicate things. In fact, it was his mother that propelled him to come to Wabash.

"I talked to my mother and she thought that the opportunities I would have at Wabash would be a lot better for me," Watson said.

Even though Watson did not go to IU he is a Hoosier fan through and through and still gets good-natured ribbing from his teammates.

Watson reports that while at



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

Tanner Watson '15 is one of the many freshman contributing to the baseball team this year.

first it was weird not to don the black and gold of the Noblesville Millers, he feels much more comfortable in scarlet and white.

Playing for the Little Giants would also add another benefit for Watson, as he is joined on the roster by his high school teammate Andrew Rodgers. The two are also fraternity brothers and roommates at Lambda Chi Alpha.

"Andrew and I have played with each other since the third grade," Watson said. "And now living with him and three other guys we played high school ball against has been an awesome experience."

The Brownsburg Trio of Tyler Hampton, Tyler Owensby, and Matt Bowman join the Noblesville Duo on both the baseball team and in the Lambda Chi house.

Overall, Watson has been happy with his Wabash experience. "I like the camaraderie of everyone on campus regardless of where you live," Watson said. "Even though we don't live with each other we hang out and care about one another and I really like that."

The transition to Wabash has had its challenges though. "School has definitely been a lot harder than I thought it would be," Watson said. "I have struggled in some classes and excelled in others but I know it's all going to be worth it in the end."

According to Tanner, the mix between young and old in the starting rotation has been an effective teaching tool for Coach Stevens.

"It has been a blessing for the freshmen that we have such great up-

perclassmen," Watson said. "They are incredible athletes and great students. They have been great examples of what it takes to put in the hard work both in the classroom and on the field."

Tanner has become a very important contributor to the Little Giant lineup. At the present time he is batting .325 on the season with seven runs batted in and seven runs to his own credit.

"The team is really starting to come together," Watson said. "Now that we have won a conference championship we want to open the floodgates and be a contender year in and year out."

Wabash opens conference play this weekend against the Battling Bishops of Ohio Wesleyan. Start time on Saturday is 1pm.



KELLEY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15

The tennis team earned sweeps over Hanover and Cornerstone this past weekend.

Tennis

From Page 9

"We are hoping to continue to improve, win a few more matches, and then have a good showing at the conference tournament," Gunderman said.

The team will have that opportunity this weekend as they face Lake Forrest College at home this Saturday at 1:00 P.M. The Kerry Seward Tournament, the last home meet of the season, will follow this

meet against Lake Forrest College next weekend. From there the tennis team will look to continue its success in Conference play. The way the Little Giant tennis team started they could be a contender when the Conference tournament rolls around. Seniors Bayless and Gunderman hope to continue the win streak as they progress into the season.

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This Weekend in Wabash Sports

Saturday

Tennis	vs. Lake Forest College	1:00 p.m.
Track & Field	Rhoades College Invite	3:00 p.m.
Baseball	vs. Ohio Wesleyan*	12:00 p.m.

Sunday

Baseball	vs. Ohio Wesleyan*	12:00 p.m.
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