

THE BACHELOR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH SINCE 1908

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA | SEPTEMBER 28, 2012 | VOLUME 105, ISSUE 5

IN THIS
ISSUE

CHAPEL
SING
2012

MOVING
FORWARD

Challenge Met

Donors See, Raise
\$60 Million Goal

IAN ARTIS '16
STAFF WRITER

It's been said that an institution of higher learning is only as good as its alumni. When it comes to the Challenge of Excellence, it shows that the backbone of support comes from those Wabash men who went before us. The Challenge of Excellence is a "major gift initiative" started on Oct. 29, 2009 to support the four major strategic areas of the college. These are defined as "providing opportunity and access, maintain teaching excellence, encountering the global community, and enriching education for career success." In short, these are loosely defined as initiatives in scholarships, teacher recruitment, development, and retention, study abroad opportunities, and career services.

"We asked our alumni across the country about (what they thought were) the college's most pressing issues," Alison Kothe, senior director of development, said.

Kothe plays a crucial role in the process. "I managed the staff that wrote

grants and solicited our alumni for gifts," Kothe said.

The financial component to the life of the College became an area for improvement once the endowment took a hit with the economic recession four years ago. "The genesis of this was a [strategic] goal just before the 2008 economic downturn," she said.

The donors are mostly alumni, but the Office of Advancement actively seeks out grants. "The Mellon Foundation gave us \$700,000 to start the Asian studies program" Kothe said.

Wabash even receives donations from current students - \$25,000 given by student pledges and surplus from the student senate at last year's kickoff dinner. "It's a testament to how strongly students believe in our mission," Kothe said.

While many other colleges and universities in the United States have programs like this, what sets Wabash apart

See CHALLENGE, Page 3

Glee Club Alumni, Students Reunite

DEREK ANDRE '16
STAFF WRITER

In conjunction with the other Homecoming festivities around campus, the Wabash College Glee Club will host a reunion for alumni this weekend.

This will be the first reunion for the Glee Club in five years and is only the second reunion that current Glee Club Director Dr. Richard Bowen has been a part of since coming to Wabash in 2001.

The reunion will culminate Saturday evening with the annual Homecoming Concert. The concert will have separate selections sung by the current Glee Club, the alumni Glee Club, as well as pieces sung by the combined group. The alumni will perform at the Homecoming dinner on Friday night as well as the Homecoming Chapel on Saturday morning. However, Saturday's concert will be the only opportunity to hear

either group do a full program.

The alumni turnout for this year's reunion will be strong. He expects about 55 men to return

to campus to participate in the concert. The group of

alumni will have men from the Class of 1952 all the way up to the Class of 2012. Bowen says that part of the beauty of singing is that people of all ages can do it.

"There are very few activities that you can imagine taking someone who's 22 standing next to someone who's 82, and they're both able to participate in a performance of the same thing," Bowen said.

Bowen feels that the memories of Wabash and singing in the Glee Club are strong enough to draw men back.

"It's a measure of what Wabash College and singing in the Glee Club meant that they will come back from considerable distance and spend several days to participate in this," Bowen said.

While Dr. Bowen will direct the groups through the majority of the numbers, he will have some company on others. Eric Stark '88 will be returning to campus this weekend in order to assist with the concert. Stark is the Director of Choirs at Butler University in Indianapolis and is also the director of the Indianapolis Symphony Chorus.

The Homecoming Concert will be on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Salter Hall. The concert will be free to the public.

Homecoming Evolves Over Century

TYLER HARDCASTLE '15
STAFF WRITER

"Come back Saturday and encourage the team, see the old college and meet your friends. It will benefit you as well as the college. [...] you will enjoy dropping all business cares and spending a little time rooting for the Scarlet [...] out in Ingalls Field, helping 'Old Wabash' win a victory. COME."

The above was the conclusion to an invitation to the very first Wabash homecoming. Harry Eller, then Graduate Manager (Alumni Relations) sent this letter to alumni and also published a copy in The Bachelor. Despite Eller's quite convincing case to attend the first homecoming, attendance was not all the school had hoped for.

The following year The Bachelor only mentioned homecoming as a possibility. At the time, the Press Club, who collectively reported and

published on a biweekly basis. Articles were similar to those today, but went into more detail on day-to-day campus activities that are now often reserved for the e-mail system today.

"A Repetition of an agitation such as was started last year, for an annual Wabash Home-Comeing looms up at present only as a pleasant possibility," stated an October of 1913 issue of the Bachelor.

Later that month The Bachelor reported that homecoming would not be held that year. Nothing happened for a number of years and the idea of homecoming seemed to fade. However, in 1919 new life was injected into the idea when Ed Zeigner '10 coined the phrase "Wabash Always Fights!"

This event, which was actually a pep rally for local Crawfordsville Alumni, begins to show similarities to the homecoming we know today. Alumni told stories and history of Wa-

bash and yell leaders (the first Sphinx Club pledges were initiated in 1922) lead the group in cheers and chants. In the coming years homecoming grew significantly.

In 1921 the local Kiwanis offered prizes for the best-decorated house. This tradition continued until it broke at the start of the Second World War. When it resumed in the late 1950s Senior Council took over the judging process.

The early 1920s also brought in the requirement for Freshman to learn the school song. In October of 1923 the President of the Freshman class, DuBois, warned his class that, "failure to learn the song will result in exacting punishment at the next game."

"It used to be that every single Freshman participated in Chapel Sing and wore a pot, a lot of those things changed in the late 1960s," said Beth Swift, Library Archivist. "There was a lot of stress on the individual and they weren't going along with groups just because someone said you had to, the same thing was happening across the nation."

Along with this change, the Sphinx Club took over Chapel Sing. As participation was no longer completely required, Chapel Sing slowly evolved into the more competitive form between the fraternities we know today.

Interestingly enough the early sixties saw the transition from female homecoming queens (recruited from neighboring colleges) to freshman going in drag. Needless



PHOTO COURTESY OF WABASH ARCHIVES

Another unique tradition of Wabash Homecomings have been the annual queen contests.

to say, Wabash has not gone back to inviting real girls to fill the role.

"I'm always struck by the thought that you men are here now, and you'll know your four years, but you're standing on the shoulders of the men who came before, so any chance I can have to show you what these men did and thought while they were here, that's just the best part of my year," said Swift. "Something like the 100th anniversary is really huge and what it gives us is a chance to look back over the past at what we used to do and what we do now and how we've changed and grown."

The achieves have a display on the main floor of the Library called "100 Years of Homecoming" and Adam Boehm will be releasing a film by the same title. Take the time to view both this week.

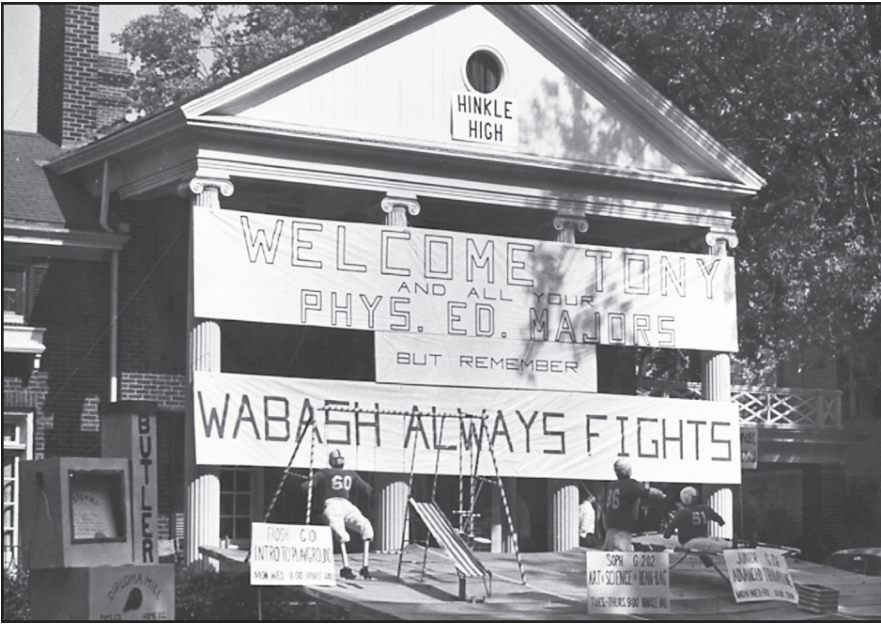


PHOTO COURTESY OF WABASH ARCHIVES

Fraternity "floats" have been a part of the Homecoming festivities for decades. This year, houses were encouraged to emulate Wallies from former decades.

BACHELOR

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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, September 28
Homecoming Celebration Reception 6 p.m.
Knowing Fieldhouse

Homecoming Dinner and Program 7 p.m.
Knowing Fieldhouse

Saturday, September 29
Homecoming

Celebrating leadership Luncheon 12:15 p.m.
Knowing Fieldhouse

Homecoming Concert 7:30 p.m. Salter Hall

Tuesday, October 2
IFC Meeting 11:10 a.m.

Student Senate Meeting 7 p.m.

Moot Court Call-out Meeting 7:30 p.m. Center 216

Wednesday, October 3
Theater: Picasso at the Lapin Agile opens 8 p.m. Ball Theater

APO Meeting 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 4
Chapel Talk 11:15 a.m.

Theater: Picasso at the Lapin Agile opens 8 p.m. Ball Theater

Phi-Psi Takes Chapel Sing



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14



Young Chases Communications Dream

BEN BRADSHAW '15
STAFF WRITER

Wabash doesn't have a Telecommunications Department, but that has not stopped Devan Young '13 from sharing his interest in that field. Young is a Theater major from Chino Hills, Calif., a city just outside of Los Angeles. After coming to Wabash for Honor Scholarship Weekend during the spring of his senior year of high school, Young fell in love with the campus. "The idea of leaving the West Coast was tough, but it was well worth it," Young said. Here on campus, Young is a brother of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He is also involved in the MXI and APO. He's been involved in several plays in the past few years, the last of which was *The Miser* last spring. Young enjoys the brotherhood here on campus, as well as the academic challenges Wabash presents. This past summer, the senior was given the opportunity to intern with Fox Sports Network in Los Angeles, Calif. While

interning with the entertainment company, Young worked in the Engineering and Operations Division. "I was given the opportunity to observe what company employees did everyday and performed some computer work," Young said. His internship related directly with his plans for the future. "I loved my time at Fox because I was able to work close to home and the experience was unforgettable and invaluable," Young said. Currently, he is researching graduate programs in journalism and film to enroll in after he graduates from Wabash. Here on campus, Young is furthering his interest in film journalism by beginning a new video series titled "Senior Seminar." After returning from his internship, Young and Media Coordinator Adam Bowen decided that the senior should have his own show here at Wabash. "I wanted a show that would focus on Wabash seniors with interesting stories. I plan on interviewing a senior from each fraternity and three independent seniors," Young said.



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

Senior Devan Young began a ten-part series on talented seniors last week as part of a project to further his young career in the field of journalism and telecommunications. Young's first interview aired last Friday and featured Garret Riley, a brother at Kappa Sigma. The video interview delved into Riley's life before Wabash, as well as his success since coming to campus three years ago. "So far the process is challenging, but I am having a great time, and we are making progress with each episode we work on," Young said. The episodes will be a ten-part series, with an episode airing every week. Currently, the videos may be viewed on the Wabash YouTube channel, but soon they may have their own link on the Wabash website. Make sure to watch the episodes to learn more about the stories and talent held by members of the class of 2013 and host Devan Young.

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New Programs Aim to Retain Minorities

Wabash Improves Low Minority Retention Through Mentoring, Programs

PATRICK BRYANT '16
STAFF WRITER

For senior Joey Fogel, making the move to Crawfordsville was a culture shock. A minority student coming from a family of 10 in Philadelphia, Pa., he was one of the first in his family to attend college, and he said it was the transition to Wabash itself that was most difficult.

According to Heather Hines, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Retention, the college's three-year-old Generation to Generation

Alumni Student Mentoring Program (G2G) is meant to solve that very issue.

"Basically, students are matched with an alumni mentor," Hines said. "The mentoring relationship is dealing with adjustment to college issues, not so much career-focused (issues.) It's about being able to have an alum that the student can contact, who's been in the student's shoes, maybe that had some struggles early on, someone they can have a real conversation with."

Hines's position was cre-

ated in 2010, the same year in which three new initiatives were started, with the goal being to retain those African-American and Latino students who traditionally had lower retention numbers than majority students. In addition to the G2G, an Early Alert System, a way in which faculty and staff can report students that may be in need of help, as well as a student-to-student peer mentoring program for Latino and African-American students funded by a grant through the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, are also in their infancy as programs here at Wabash.

The most recent census numbers showed retention among African-Americans and Latinos to be lower than similar numbers of majority students. For members of the class of 2015, only seven of the 14 students who identified themselves as Hispanic are returning for their sophomore year, likewise only four of the original 11 Hispanic identifiers of the class of 2012 graduated after four years this past May. Hines said it will take time for these programs to be established before numbers begin to rise.

"These programs need time to develop," Hines said. "And when you're dealing with retention, if you can

increase it by a couple of percentage points per year, you're doing good work."

For Fogel, what retained him as a student at Wabash was the relationship he formed with Dr. Tracey Salisbury, his freshman advisor. According to Fogel, she generally took an interest in him, which caused him to do even more and work harder to impress his mentor.

"There's a connection we have, and there are times during the semester (when) we don't even catch up, she always put that effort out there of 'you need to come see me,'" Fogel said. "And it's that aspect of having somebody watching my back, and even instances that people aren't even aware about, it's funny how she comes to me when she doesn't even know about the situation."

Fogel said that without out a doubt, if it wasn't for having Salisbury, he wouldn't be at Wabash right now.

In terms of the college's initiatives, Fogel said it was in his work with the peer mentoring program that he realized how much time and effort it takes to be a good mentor. Fogel said it depends mainly on the person and how well they can make the connection, something that works

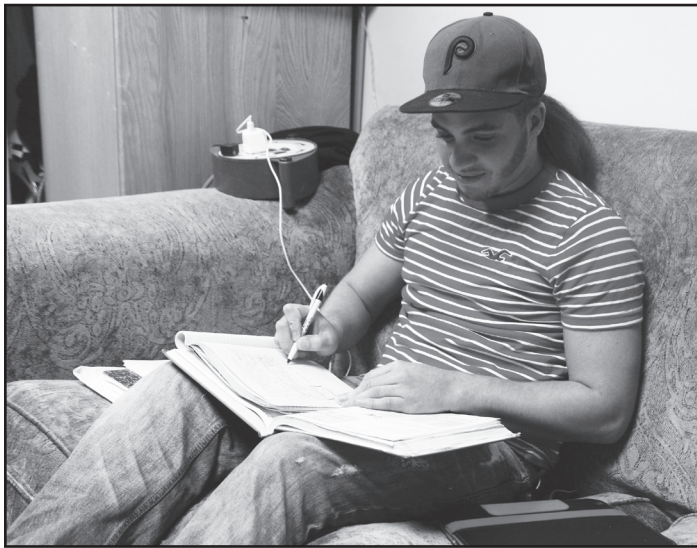
more for Fogel with the student he mentors now, than when he was a mentee himself.

There, he said, it points more towards how well the two can get along and how much both are willing to put into it. With that, Fogel said without effort on behalf of the student, as well as the upperclassmen, faculty, staff member, alumnus, etc, the programs will be meaningless.

"People who are willing to stand by me and help me out, and understand me as a person, means a lot to me," Fogel said.

As the programs have expanded since being mere pilot programs when Fogel was an underclassman, Hines said more students will continue to be reached, and with that, she expects numbers to rise when it comes to retention among minority students. She said the college is working on helping those students, but again, it's a matter of time as the programs develop.

"I think the college has figured out that there was a gap in retention and graduation rates between Latino and African-American students and majority students, and they've tried to put programs in place to support those students and make changes to that – which will take time to do," Hines said.



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

Joey Fogel came from a vastly different home and community than what he found here in Crawfordsville as a freshman, but thanks to Dr. Tracey Salisbury, he has remained at Wabash all four years.

ISA Hosts Exhibition

JOHN DYKSTRA '13
MANAGING EDITOR

Wabash's campus is normally eventful in October with Oktoberfest, National Act, and the parties that follow National Act. The International Students Association (ISA) will open October's festivities on Oct. 3 with the College's third Cultural Exhibition.

The Exhibition centered on China and Vietnam's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival in previous years. This year, however, it will celebrate a wider array of cultures.

"We are expanding the Exhibition this year," ISA president Hoan Nguyen '13 said. "The Cultural Exhibition is a great opportunity to gather people from different cultural backgrounds at Wabash, and it offers the Wabash community a broad view of our diverse traditions with regard to our cultural practices and cuisine offered by our members from all over the world."

Students from Chinese Club, German Club, ISA, and Wamidan will perform, and Visiting Associate Professor of Rhetoric Na Chen will give a presentation on the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Chinese Club members will teach how to write in Chinese calligraphy. In addition, Mandarin students will sing Chinese songs and recite Chinese poems. Huy Ahn Le '13 and H. Nguyen will also sing songs in Chinese.

Charles Wu '15 will educate members of the Wabash community about certain types of tea through a tea tasting booth, and Bruce Nguyen will teach people about the art of origami making.

Members of German Club will sing songs in German.

In addition, Joseph He '16 will have a beatbox, Kid Sun will perform a magic trick, and Tuan Le '16 will give a martial arts performance.

Two dance performances will also take place. Vietnamese freshmen will perform a bamboo dance, and Wamidan will perform a traditional African dance.

Members from DePauw's International Student Association were invited to the Exhibition and intend to have a joint performance with Wabash's ISA.

A buffet featuring Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese cuisine from restaurants located in Indianapolis and Lafayette will be available throughout the Exhibition.

The Cultural Exhibition will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Mall in front of the Chapel. The event is free for anyone to attend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students teach Chinese calligraphy at last year's Cultural Exhibition.

Challenge

From Page 1

isn't just the all-male atmosphere, or even the rarity of the exclusive "all-alumni" Board of Trustees. "The unbelievable generosity of our trustees (sets us apart)," Kothe said. "The trustees not only give their sweat and tears to this place but extensively give with open wallets. It's the 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality. Everyone was hunkered down and pitched in—nobody sat on the sidelines."

Even when leadership changed hands, the Office of Advancement stayed strong. Dean of Advancement Joe Emmick announced his resigna-

tion in the fall of 2011, allowing Tom Runge to step in as interim dean, until Jon Stern ultimately took the position over in July. Credit is also due to the brilliancy of the Board.

"In terms of a completely alumni based board, there may be a less diverse opinion, but the people we have on our board are not only the smartest men I've ever met, but they're also (so) creative," Kothe said.

The goal of the Challenge of Excellence was to raise \$60 million, which was not only met, but exceeded this year. By how much will be announced at tonight's dinner.

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Take Yourself Seriously

This weekend is the anniversary of so many great Wabash traditions. It also marks an anniversary many would rather forget: four years ago, freshman Johnny Smith died as a result of alcohol use. As we celebrate our traditions, let us also examine our mindsets.

A “work hard; play hard” mentality has been engrained in the minds of generations of Wabash men. Some may even say that this simple phrase is a Wabash tradition. We are unique because we work so hard during the week and then let loose on the weekends in our own testosterone-laden world.

This mantra should not be taken away from the Wabash experience.

STAFF EDITORIAL

No one is suggesting that Wabash men should not have fun on the weekends, but perhaps on this historic weekend we should reevaluate just how hard we play on the weekends.

The 2008 Princeton Review claimed that Wabash men “smell bad, drink too much, fight a lot, and are probably ten times smarter and better prepared for the post-graduate study than students at other schools.”

Over the past few years, it seems as though Wabash students have done a lot to promote the former without paying attention to the latter. When thinking about how Wabash men act

on the weekends, it may be helpful to look at some of our counterparts in the state of Indiana.

Some chapters of fraternities from larger schools like Indiana and Purdue Universities will go entire semesters without sending one student to the hospital. That statistic is not necessarily the result of negligence of the risk managers or brothers of those houses. Perhaps those guys simply do not party to the extreme that Wabash men go to. A result of drinking more days per week causes many at state schools to not drink so hard. If those houses can manage the thousands of students who have access to them, we should be able to manage our own 850 students.

The difference between our men-

talities and theirs is that we tend to separate more concretely our working and playing: Wabash saves all its drinking for the weekend and thus tends to overdo it.

We work hard and play hard, and we should do both of these. But we have managed to do so for decades without drawing the attention of local police, Excise, and even national news stations. Letting loose on the weekend is one thing, but this weekend and for the rest of the year, do things right. Follow campus guidelines, national laws, and have one another’s back.

Play hard, but play smart.

NFL Loses Integrity

“So how about that game last night?” Normally when that question comes up its referring to an amazing game ending catch, a close game, or some stellar performance by a player; well you could say there was an amazing catch, at least if you’re a replacement referee. For those of you not into sports, what I’m referring to is the blown call by referees during the Seahawks-Packers game Monday night. The call that was blown was huge, as it was the first blown call that blatantly changed the outcome of a game. And I can already hear some of you saying, “Well it’s, just a game. What’s the difference in who wins?” Well experts are already predicting that \$300 million dollars was exchanged hands in a way that it should not have been. Not to mention that this could have cost the Packers a playoff berth at the end of the season. If the team misses the playoffs, that is millions of dollars in revenue lost for that team, its players, and fans.

However, last night simply underscores a larger point; the strike of the normal NFL referees is destroying the integrity of the game. As Drew Brees tweeted Monday night after the game, “I love this



**ANDREW
DETTMER '15**
OPINION COLUMNIST

league and love the game of football, but tonight’s debacle hurts me greatly. This is NOT the league we’re supposed to represent.” Brees is one of the most upstanding individuals in the game today, not someone to falsely accuse others of failure. When he is frustrated by the apparent lack of accountability and reliability of the current referees, we know that something needs to change. The referee who made the call last night had experience refereeing high school and middle school football games. How is that acceptable experience to be brought in to referee games at the professional level? The average attendance of an NFL game is 65,000 people.

How can the NFL justify ruining the experience of those fans by having refs that are far above their pay grade? The games are taking on average 45 minutes longer than normal due to the lack of experience by the referees. Then we have such gaffes as a ref almost injuring a player by allowing him to slip on his hat, or nearly allowing a referee with a clearly displayed team affiliation to ref a game of his favorite team. The NFL is walking a dangerous tight rope and is close to falling off.

The NFL needs to act now in order to bring the integrity of the game back. We watched as the NFL struggled to put players on the field last year with the players locking out. What is the point of bringing those players back if the game’s integrity is thrown away by replacement refs who are simply un-equipped for the situation. Commissioner Goodell needs to overturn the ruling on the field last night, and settle the strike now. Otherwise he risks losing loyal fans, and players who become fed up with his, and his goon squad of replacement referee’s ineptitude.

Monon Mullets Rock Wabash

Think About Who You Are

We’ve reached the end of homecoming week, tomorrow pig skins will be tossed, and Wabash will return to its victorious ways. For the average sports follower, our next pressing concern will be the Monon Bell game. Most league games will be a blur, with the exception of Wittenberg, short discussions with our footballing athletes, “Did Wabash win?” Now is when we turn our ears to a clean and clear “ding-dong” cutting through the crisp November air.

For those familiar and those new to Wabash tradition, the month of November is a month for hair. There are many favorites the Monon Mustache, Monon Mohawk, and yes the Monon Mullet. For those of us men not blessed with the ability to grow luscious flowing hair, planning for the Monon (insert your hair-doo here), can often be quite an undertaking. Thinking about your hairstyle a few days into the month of November will not give you sufficient enough time to attain the desired doo. With this in mind, I want to encourage Wallies this year to undertake a new tradition.



**STEPHEN
BATCHELDER '15**
OPINION
COLUMNIST

Maybe the “Monon Mutton Chops” or the “Monon Mole Hair?” Whatever it is be brave gentlemen, be daring; do not settle for conformity, but embrace the opportunity to be creative with your hair before it is lost in the near future.

I have been working on my own Mullet since early April. On March 25, 2012, a very close friend of mine, Zach Moloney, died in a tragic accident while living in Hawaii. Zach who was 22, at the time of his death, had been working voluntarily on a co-op in Hana, Hawaii. Zach did not eat foods he could not pick out of his own garden, refused to wear shoes, and lived his life by the three Rs, Rights,

Respect, and Responsibility. Zach was also a rocker of the Mullet, which in many ways represents what I admired most about my friend.

Zach’s Mullet was a bit untraditional so far as he did not subscribe to the “business in the front, party in the back” criteria. The Mullet was long from front to back; combed over in the front, chopped on the sides making room for his business casual comb over to fall comfortably above his ears. While a well-trimmed Mullet is certainly not the recommended doo for your upcoming job interview, I think there is something to be said about how embracing your individual quirks and idiosyncrasies makes you your own person. We attend an academic institution, which places a great deal of pressure on its students, in that it demands a high quality of scholarship, a good bit of labor, and expects students to never be content. These expectations are brought upon us all with the best of intentions, but at the same time, we can never hope to aspire to our full potential if we were only taught to do what is expected of

us. This is not a means for rebellion, but a way of coming into our own as Wabash Men.

C.S. Lewis writes, “We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful” (from ‘The Abolition of Man’). If we see our education merely as means of becoming what is expected of us, then we have become Men without chests. What I admired most about Zach and what I admire most about the Mullet, is that in many ways they demonstrate that the self is important. Too often as college students we define ourselves by what we will become: Political Science Majors, Doctors, Engineers etc. Wabash, could we this fall think about who we are? Not who we will become, or who we were in high school, but who we are now. Are we merely following expectations? Or have we found our own way of valuing the diversity we contribute to this student body, to Wabash College, and to ourselves?

Food For Thought:
Should Wabash have yearly diversity workshops?

Explore Travel Opportunities

Earlier this week, some friends and I had a conversation that included an overview of all of our interests. This was a pretty long conversation. Anyway, at one point, I summed up interests by saying, “I just love to travel, eat, cook, read, learn, and run.” I know my life must sound terribly interesting to you by now, but recounting these interests of mine led me to think about the value of travel in my life. As a kid in the first grade, I can remember being given two massive maps as gifts. As these maps hung on the walls in my bedroom for most of my youth, I would spend extensive amounts of time looking at the maps, the countries, the cities, the states, and the landscapes. I always wondered what it would be like to visit all of these interesting-looking places, especially the ones I’d heard about.

Later on, as a curious elementary school student, I decided that since I couldn’t possibly go to all of these places in a suitable amount of time, I would do my best to bring these places to me. The best way I could think of to make this happen involved contacting every state to learn more about their history, culture, and politics. So, I decided to bypass all bureaucracy, and I sent a letter to every Governor in the United States. Soon, letters began pouring in from all over the country. I received big envelopes filled with kind letters from the Governor of each state, brochures, worksheets, picture books, and countless other things. I even received letters from



**SETON
GODDARD '15**
OPINION COLUMNIST

people who have recently risen to political fame; people like Mitt Romney from Massachusetts, Rick Perry from Texas, Rod Blagojevich from Illinois, Howard Dean from Vermont, and many others. While I enjoyed the political nature of this project I had taken on, I just loved learning about all of the different places where I could visit, live, or attend school in the future.

As I got older, my family and I started taking trips. Our first big vacation was a trip to Washington, DC, and it was at that point that I decided I wanted to see the world. Washington was filled with so many different people doing different things who would be in Washington for two days and then hop on a plane and head somewhere across the world the next day. I began to read books about all of the travel opportunities the world had to offer, I opened my first frequent flier account, and I made plans to pursue a career that would allow me to be jet-setting maniac. I had visions of spending Monday in

Toronto, Tuesday in Paris, Wednesday in Sydney, Thursday in Cairo, and Friday in Beijing. I was feeling ambitious (and unrealistic).

However, I think that this speaks to a larger point: the value of travel. I could very easily spend my days reading books and watching the Travel Channel. I would gain a lot of knowledge about the world’s cultures and offerings by doing that, and I know that I would likely be a very worldly person. Nevertheless, nothing compares to the emotions, the culture, the music, the food, and the history of a place when you have been immersed in it. It’s often stressful, and in some cases, it has left me longing for home. But, if ever presented the opportunity to take a trip, I would not take a pass on it.

As students at Wabash, we have the unique and incredible opportunity to travel. And not only do we have the opportunity to travel, but we have the opportunity to travel extensively, and occasionally, we can do it for free. So, don’t be afraid to explore immersion trip opportunities, study abroad options, and internships across the country and around the world. As Wabash students, we have an obligation to support the notion that traveling affords a learning experience that cannot be provided through books or documentaries. If we take advantage of our opportunities to travel and to learn, we can make our world an even better place.

Understanding Parental Discipline

It’s tough to admit, but I was far from the ideal son when I was very young. I was rambunctious, hyperactive, overbearing and curious about everything. These things combined with my high energy level definitely created a combination that caused trouble more than it caused a peaceful home environment. In fact, my favorite activity when I was young was fighting with my older brother of three years, and when I say fighting I sure don’t mean arguing. The two of us used each other’s bodies to beat enough holes in the walls of our room to make it look like Swiss cheese. This sort of behavior, along with other generally mischievous actions, prompted disciplinary action from my parents.

That’s right gentlemen, I’ll come right out and say it; I was spanked as a child. My mother would do her best to rein us in, and she herself would spank us if needed, but the main dealer of the corporal punishment in my mind was my father. My siblings and I were foolish enough to push my admittedly



**JOSH
SAMPSON '14**
OPINION
COLUMNIST

patient parents to the breaking point, and when that bridge was crossed there was only one punishment that set us right again. Make no mistake, every spanking I ever got I deserved, and I probably got away with my share of wrongdoing without consequence. I hold no grudge or anger against my parents for spanking me; in fact I’m very grateful. I’m glad that they loved me enough to show me right from wrong and correct me when I erred. Sure, they could have grounded me. They could have even given me time-out, and there were times when they did those things. However, they knew

that when a big line was crossed and a very important lesson needed to be learned there was only one method that would ingrain it in my stubborn mind.

Now my girlfriend has a son, and I love that little boy like he is my own blood. He is still very young, but already he has lived up to the curse placed upon me by my mother all those years ago; he is just as stubborn as I was. As I have said, I love little Rylan. I don’t want to spank him or to punish him at all for that matter. I want him to be good and not get into trouble and mind his mother and not throw his Tonka trucks at her head when I’m away at school. However, he’s human, and he’s a young boy, and the trucks sometimes do fly across the room. He’s going to make mistakes and he’s going to need correcting. Before I came along, Krista tried to put him in time-out. She tried everything she knew, and together we have grudgingly learned that the only thing that makes a lasting impression with

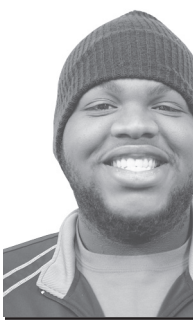
him is a good swat on the bottom.

I’m not claiming to be a perfect parent that has it all figured out. In fact, I’m not claiming to be a parent at all yet. However, if this is what it takes to teach my boy right from wrong, so be it. If other parents can find a way to teach these important lessons to their children without spanking them, all I have to say is Godspeed. I believe that there is a bold line between a spanking and a beating, and that’s a line I won’t cross. In spite of that, the naysayers will probably always say it’s inhumane or unethical to spank our children, but I have a right to raise my children in the best way I know how as does any other parent. Finally, in times when I am seeking guidance concerning whether or not what I do as a parent is right, I am reminded of the wisdom from the book of Proverbs, in the 13th chapter and the 24th verse, which reads “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” This is enough of an answer for me.

Diversity Needs New Meaning

What is Diversity? Last week we spent ample time trying to pin down the 21st century phenomenon. If we were all honest readers, a pamphlet showcasing a little White girl, Black boy with kinky hair, an Asian wearing glasses and a Latina with a mariachi dress, holding hands frolicking in the park is the image that comes to mind. Diversity has a very “we are the world”-esque connotation to it. However, diversity expands beyond skin pigmentation and reaches into sexual orientation, socio-economic status, gender and even geographical location. However, at an informative workshop held by Rob Schulke our working definition of Diversity was that it “includes everyone and excludes no one.” Wait what? How dare we, even the most hopeless idealists (me), expect to accomplish such a feat?

“Seriously competitive” is now a slogan that is plastered on everything at Wabash this year. It was the clear favorite amongst the freshmen at orientation (I mean why wear a “seriously confident” shirt, lest you want to look arrogant or a “seriously creative” which automatically equates to weakness in our masculine cave of a home). Wabash by nature is exclusive, that is why we take much time hiring impeccable admissions staffs who act as our very own Ellis Island, quarantining those who are hazardous to our ecosystem. Most of us and the ones before us, chose Wabash because of its rigor and reputation. How can we even hope to be this diverse body that “includes everyone” if we are predicated on exclu-



TYLER GRIFFIN '13
OPINION COLUMNIST

sion of the vagina?

I mean look at the Sphinx Club, celebrating its umpteenth year an existence this Saturday. Surely tumbling whilst shouting three “booms” isn’t making you a better leader, but why are the lines so long with students trying to infiltrate the club and be a lowly Rhyne. It is because the Sphinx Club is exclusive. It only functions so well, because it excludes even better. Kudos!

While I applaud the efforts of the College for allowing such an extensive workshop, I learned more about diversity and who it affects in a 45 minute conversation on my fraternity porch than in a 6 hour long seminar. I learned that diversity can only escape its contrived methods by organic-ness, a coming together of cultures by its own free will. There doesn’t need to be a “thou shalt be diverse”, but much more of an individual willingness to exchange in cultural dialogue. For as long we coerce the no-

tion of diversity down the throats of students, we risk distaste, spitting up, a bulimia of sorts, a desire to spew the inclusion out and hold fast to what we/they are comfortable with, which is no diversity or ignorance of its concept. The real question is how can we take this “organic diversity” harvest it and plop it on every fraternity porch and living unit. How do we create a place or a tool to achieve true, authentic diversity?

It seems to me at least, diversity needs a new meaning. For at this rate diversity is following down the same destructive path of Affirmative Action. By placing emphasis on the minority, be it racially, economically, sexually or geographically, we exclude the rest. The heterosexual white male, much like in literary theory, becomes the culprit for cultural unawareness and ignorance. Adding a few extra colored people on a website or recruiting more international students only fixes diversity outwardly, but does not address the intrinsic foibles of an institution. Why do all the Internationals migrate to the armory as if American culture was represented by a few shoddy couches and an outdated vending machine? Why are there over 170 incoming freshmen from Indiana? Can we broaden our faculty color spectrum? These are the question we need to be addressing not trying to spread diversity as the fifth gospel. For diversity in its basic form is a hoax, a term derived only through the guilt of the generations that have gone before us.

FUN FACT:

Playing cards were issued to British pilots in WWII. If captured, they could be soaked in water and unfolded to reveal a map for escape.

Drug Free America

ALEX TOTTEN '13
CAVELIFE EDITOR

In the 80s, drugs stopped being cool, which was truly a hard task to accomplish, indeed. Drugs are, simply put, the pinnacle of cool. Not only are you a young dissident giving the man the finger while you get high on explicitly illegal substances, but you're touching the line of death, which is the coolest thing one can do. Think of all the coolest people in history, Evel Kinevel, Jackie Chan, Martin Luther King Jr., they all actively told death off, and thus were venerated for being cool, amongst other things.

Drugs give the layman access to these pools of cool, but, after Nancy Reagan told America to "Just Say No!", drugs totally stopped being cool. The only people that did drugs were loser burnouts and your uncle that never stopped living at home with

your grandparents. Drugs were now for losers, man, but society wasn't willing to give up. There are only a few driving forces in life, only a few reasons for living. Procreation, getting paid, raising a family, all of these are perfect reasons why people do things, but there is simply no other factor that is as powerful as being cool.

So, in place of now socially stigmatized drugs, which, in the 80's, meant cocaine, people started grasping at straws. Drinking excessively, smoking cigarettes (the only reason I smoke is to look cool in front of my peers and attractive to the opposite sex), and, more recently, mostly-legal alternatives to those cool drugs our parents used to do.

For a while, salvia was really cool, but it was hard to smoke and the high was like ten minutes long, so it was deemed uncool. Spice, or K-2, was



COURTESY OF ORANGROOM.DEVIANTART.COM

Heroin, in its natural habitat, sitting in the dirt, waiting for a junkie to save it.

seen as a better alternative to salvia, but it started killing people from ODs, so it was deemed uncool. But, there was one "mostly-legal" alternative that is easily the coolest of them all, thus why it's killing so many people, and that's prescription drug abuse.

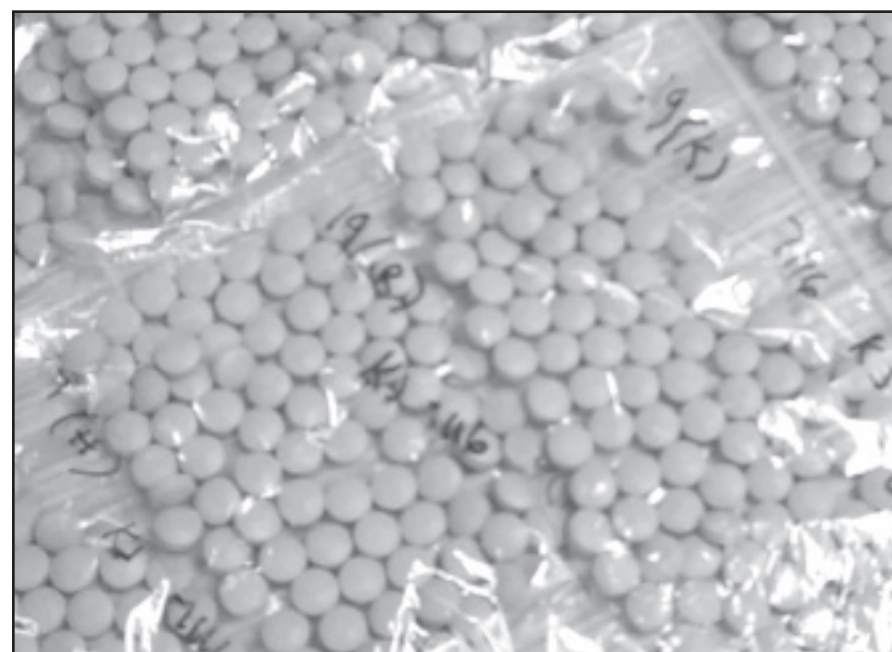
Pills, scripts, what have you, are legally (although sometimes unethically) prescribed medicinal drugs that recreational users abuse with the side effect of getting the user high out of their mind. Many scripts are abused. Adderall and Ritalin, two drugs used to treat ADD and ADHD, are commonly used at colleges to give students that focus and edge that they so require. Special K, ketamine, is a horse tranquilizer that's commonly taken to make the user "freak out man", K-pins (coladapins) and Bars(Xanax) are anti-anxiety meds that make the user slow down, but the most commonly used drug are the opioids, or painkillers.

Drugs like Vicodin (hydrocodone) and Oxy(oxycodone) have become more and more prevalent to the point where overdoses on these kinds of drugs have become more common than overdoses on the drugs heroin

and cocaine combined. To put this into context, heroin is much more powerful than these two drugs, it achieves the same effect and it is cheaper, so prescription painkillers really have no business killing more people than heroin does. So why is this the case?

The problem with our approach with drug culture is that we simply condemn it to the point of complete denial, where users are locked up with murders and sent to facilities that won't treat their problems. There are so many other substances that we are addicted to that the government doesn't have a problem with, but these drugs have been ethereally deem as immoral. Once they are on the fringe, they aren't treated with proper care, making it so that users are uneducated and dying.

This leads them to seek out drugs that aren't as risky as the commonly abused hard substances, without knowledge of their real risk. One can know the lethal dose of taking a pill, but when it gets shot, snorted or free based, three common techniques with Oxy, it brings it's lethality way up. It's time we have a serious talk about drug usage instead of brushing it aside.



COURTESY OF THEGIANTPILLS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Oxycodone, or Oxy, comes in a family-freindly pill form.

Chton Gains New Notoriety

ADAM SOSHNIK '13
METAL ENTHUSIAST

After an incredibly explosive split with a sister Norwegian band, death metallers Chton are back at it with the release of their second full-length, *The Devil Builds*. Indeed, this is the act's first major album in a drought-ridden eight years, certainly a welcome leap back into the metal scene, but they seem to be aiming for something higher with the record: recognition and success. No longer will a band of such caliber sit back in the shadows. After all, they have a newly reinstated line up, the chops, and the fiery spirit of something just short of the bludgeoning death metal movement of the late '80s. Really, a quintet like this isn't easily forgotten.

Since the split, the band's sound has barely changed. Much of the drive and charisma remains the same, chugging riffs and mid-paced buffoonery familiar, but since the taste bud-wetter "Death Awaits," the band has uped the ante. Opening up the record, "Faustian Resolve" chimes in with a spooky advisory that disobeying the law leads to an unfortunate death. The framework this particular track lays holds true for the rest of the *The Devil Builds*, remarkable consistency obviously Chton's strong point and a clear indicator of the dedication they've glued to their music this time around. "Scavenger of a Dead World," "Gods of the Flesh," and "Rise Black God" form a triple entente, pummeling listeners with sheer force through an abundance of heavily palm-muted guitar riffs and the occasional blast beat courtesy of stout drumming. As expected and untouched from the Screaming for Death split, "Death Awaits" makes a second appearance, reminding metallers of the reason it was stuck to the collaboration in the first place--pure brutality.

Refusing to let the torch burn out, "Contagion (The Disease)" sounds eerily like its predecessor until it



COURTESY OF BLACKENEDHORDE.COM

Chton, a frontrunner of stereotypical Scandinavian death metal.

hits the sweet spot at about 1:07, the track spiraling into a decaying chord shuffle and a tremolo-picked, double bass-backed sledgehammer. "Lord and Master" jumps into the fray for a short 2:40, flying by in a blink of an eye, only to be followed up by the melancholy intro of "Nithon Undertow." Comparative to the other songs on the album, the track emits a dark attitude, anticipating the somber feeling the rest of the album lacked in its journey to achieve savagery. Surprisingly, a cover makes the track listing, Abscess' "Ratbag" melding perfectly to Chton's overall sound despite the vocals placed in the higher register. The closer, "Babalon and the Beast Conjured," proves to be the most experimental of the bunch, letting the guitar riffs breathe for half a second before the song falls into a headband-inducing groove.

The Devil Builds puts an interesting spin on the Chton legacy, making the impossible to find debut, demos, and splits wholly irrelevant to all but the hardcore fan and collector. Pushing Chton as a band with a fresh take on life and a fresh perspective in the world of metal, the album marches toward what the act has worked so hard to relish in a 12 year existence. These Norwegians have turned a page, rewritten their personal playbook, and started over anew. Success achieved.

Visiting Poets Bring Culture to Wabash

FRITZ COUTCHIE '13
POETRY COLUMNIST

Last Thursday and Friday Wabash College had the opportunity to welcome two nationally renowned spoken word poets. Thursday, the featured poet was Bobby LeFebre and Friday brought Carlos Andrés Gómez.

LeFebre, a social worker, actor, and award-winning performance poet from Denver, brought his experiences from his workplaces and as a Latino-American, in his poetry, to Wabash. The majority of his presentation dealt with the struggle of maintaining cultural heritage in a land that is not accepting of foreign culture. His poem "Recognize" asserts that Mexicans, specifically, are America's "public enemy number one". He combated the stereotypes that Mexican-Americans, whether they came legally or illegally, are here only to steal the jobs of generationally established Americans.

His message was well-received by co-sponsors for the event Unidos Par Sangre, whose goals and mantras of "Brotherhood, Pride and Unity" where echoed through the poem "My Roots Run Deep". In the poem, LeFebre discusses the need for unity and acceptance in those with Latin roots, "...I am also Frida Kahlo's unibrow, attempting to unite people of the same root across the bridge as one," said LeFebre. His personal anecdotes included stories of the current violence in the border towns of Mexico; his wife was raised in Ciudad Juárez, the most violent Mexico-United States border town.

He maintained that, even in dangerous border towns there is an element of humanity, the majority of the population is trying to live humanely in an area, in which it is becoming exceedingly hard to do so. He proposed to his wife in Ciudad Juárez and frequently returns to stay

with her family, despite the danger. More information about Bobby LeFebre can be found on his website, <http://www.bobbylefebvre.com>.

Carlos Andrés Gómez, who performed Friday night, prepared a set of poetry based on his personal anecdotes. He drew on his experiences as a former social worker and inner-city school teacher. His poetry dealt with the themes of masculinity, identity, and socioeconomic disparity. This was Gómez's third time performing at Wabash College and the crowd was much more comfortable reacting to what he said.

The reactions of the crowd were largely because of his jokes, or points in a poem that connected with the audience's feelings. Though an introduction of a poem, Gómez elected laughs from the audience by describing how he spilled a red drink on a very large man in Rwanda while dancing. There were tears in the audience during Gómez's last poem "What's Genocide" which deals with the harms of censorship on inner city youth. Gómez's poetry is thoroughly emotional, he often pointed to the dehumanization of men. In his poem, "How To Fight" Carlos pondered the source of the nicknames that people are given, such as, chicken, dog, cat, and little, in urban communities. He pointed out in another poem "Never Again" that we allow for horrible mistakes such as domestic abuse because it is only human, and that it is easy to harm others when they are viewed as subhuman. More information about Carlos Andrés Gómez can be found online at his website www.carloslive.com.

The Spectacle of Cinema

JAMES MOREY '13
FILM CRITIC

Last Friday, I saw *Samsara* in Indy. I shan't be reviewing it here, in large part because it had a short one-day engagement in all of two theaters. Thankfully, for my editor, the exclusive nature of the run got me thinking about films that one makes a point to see. "Event films," as the term goes, are movies that break into the zeitgeist as something more than a simple bit of cinema. They are perhaps the farthest- and deepest-reaching pieces of culture in the Western world.

Let's start on a smaller scale. *Samsara* is a non-narrative, wordless documentary by Ron Fricke, and a spiritual successor to *Baraka*, released in 1992. Among a certain crowd, *Samsara* is the epitome of must-see big screen. Folk who have gone, and have yet to go, to see it have something of an expectation. They've known they wanted to see it for ages, and many or most had or have had the screening time for their city marked in their calendar as long as the date has been public. The distributors aren't counting on local word-of-mouth to bring in ticket sales: they have their base, and they know it. *Samsara* is the smallest kind of event film, more akin to a traveling museum exhibition than a blockbuster, appealing to a small but devoted crowd. You all know what it's like to be part of the fan base for something that's not on everyone's radar. What happens when something is on everyone's radar, though?

That's where we get the full-on Event Film, an exhibit of an art form that crosses demographic boundaries and runs in theaters for months. That kind of crossover potential, coupled with an enduring cultural appeal that's nearly impossible to predict, is something that many a filmmaker and studio dream of. Clearly, not all movies have that ambition, and those that do rarely live up to the hopes of their creators. That being said, lighting, if you'll pardon the cliché, can strike with little to no warning: consider *Deep Throat*, the 1972 flick that kicked off the "porno chic" movement, a string of "adult movies" that did a great deal to break the taboo associated with the viewing of porn



COURTESY OF WALLPAPERSTOCK.NET

Movies like *Jaws* have found their way into the social consciousness, not only as great films, but as an event themselves, transcending its previous status.

in theaters. Non-porn movie palaces showed it; celebrities freely admitted to attending screenings; folk took friends and dates to see it, and all without a sense of crippling shame.

We can look back to *Gone With The Wind* and its touring roadshow-style screenings starting in 1939 as an event film of a more deliberate kind. *Jaws*, in 1975, managed to capture massive box-office revenue while changing public perception of sharks in a rather negative way (and we can, I propose, thank *Jaws* in large part for the existence of "Shark Week"). The latter flick, too, helps to answer in part the question of what raises a blockbuster to the level of an event film.

Event films are absorbed into the public consciousness. Let's take recent examples: *Avatar* was relentlessly promoted in the months—nay, years—leading up to its 2009 release, and it managed to break the bank while reigniting the popularity of 3D cinema with a vigor that is still being felt. It changed the industry, and it changed the popular perception of what's worth paying for an extra layer of immersion. Parents took their children. College students took their parents. Retirees came in droves. The mass appeal of the film is undeniable, and the changes it brought

to the industry are evident in every newly installed 3D digital projector in the theaters across the country.

The previous year had its own significant event film in *The Dark Knight*, which was widely viewed as vindication for the artistic potential of comic book adaptations. It, too, saw wide support and tremendous ticket sales crossing every major demographic line: one needn't have been a DC die-hard to watch the movie. Too, the pre-release death of Heath Ledger, coupled with his lynch pin role as the Joker, turned *The Dark Knight* into something of a memorial for the actor, a way of paying respects to a promising young man with an outstanding list of credits to his name.

Event films are more than just spectacles: they help to define popular culture and the direction of mainstream artistic expression. They appeal to a wide range of people due in part both to their universality and their idiosyncrasies. They are not, as the dismissive critics' phrase goes, simple "popcorn fare." I've only mentioned a few, but I'd invite you to reflect on the movies that have come and prompted sea-changes in this or that element of the national discourse. Goodness, is it ever fun to see these things emerge.

The Language of the Protagonist

SAM BENNETT '14
MISCELLANEA COLUMNIST

Each and every one of us is the protagonist in the terrible short story we've justified for ourselves. All short stories are different; yes, yes. Don't accuse me of generalizing. However, I don't see how you expect a writer to escape generalizations. Language extends to generalizations. If it were otherwise, we couldn't have conversations. Look at words like "Coke" and "Kleenex." Although the actual objects that these words reference have definite descriptions (bubbly, caramel cola and soft, tissue paper), countless consumers write "Coke" and "Kleenex" on their grocery lists weekly. This is but one-way in which language confines us to generalization. Alas, I've trailed from the purpose of this discussion.

As protagonists, we have great responsibilities in our own short stories. We're constantly fluctuating between belief in control and belief in its absence. I've heard recollections of depression, I've seen the tears; I've even felt its presence myself. But just this week, I heard a very dear loved one say, "Depression doesn't exist. It's just a trick of the mind." And so our innumerable short stories are each unique. Please don't read the previous sentiment in correlation with the shallow notion that "we're all different." That's not what I mean. And if it is what you thought I meant or what you might mean when you say something like that, perhaps one of us is wrong. What is more likely, though, is that language again has consolidated the individual and forced him into accepting things as they are described in the dictionary or conversations at the local grocery store.

What do we notice in our favorite stories, though? Do we notice the protagonist losing himself for the sake of something else? Or do we notice the protagonist re-inventing himself for the sake of something else and something self? I believe that the latter must be the case. And if the latter is the case, the protagonist ought to not recognize a similarity or a dissimilarity in the something else and the something self. Instead, the protagonist should rid himself of any such distinctions. Language has led us to these distinctions. Sure, humans created language or naturally developed it—at first. But afterwards, generations were subjected to this either developed or created and formalized entity. Given the opportunity to brainwash our societies, language has become deterministic. It negates true experience; language refutes the importance of internalization. In the action of confirming ourselves as the protagonists of our own violently impassioned short stories, we've actually confirmed ourselves as the antagonists of our own shinelessly constructed newspaper articles.

Only after we have made this shift of recognition, after the protagonist has been re-referred to as the antagonist, only then could we begin to understand that any such distinction will only lead to further fruitless distinctions. Endlessly we paint over the same armchair with different colors that appeal to the eager anticipatory nature of the eyes. But though the colors change, the paint stays the same. The methodology remains unchallenged. We've trapped ourselves by such distinctions. We've ingrained them into the very language we use to describe them. And we wonder why phrases like "the only constant (thing) is change" persists as confusingly today as it did thousands of years ago.

Linguistic revolution is all I ask for. I hope you're ready to drop your weightless colons and semi-colons for the purpose of lifting something heavier.

The Killers' *Battle Born* Disappoints

ALEX TOTTEN '13
CAVELIFE EDITOR

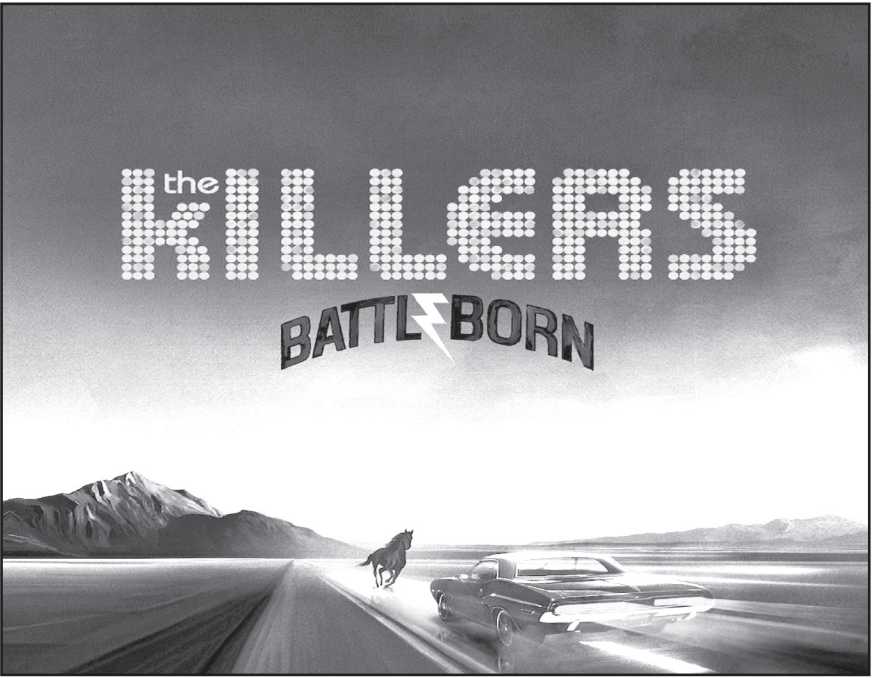
I've been a fan of The Killers for a number of years now. I saw them live in 2007. I listened to *Hot Fuss* and *Sam's Town* on release, over and over again. Those years have sadly all but passed.

The Killers have always had a blistering pace when it's come to releasing albums and content. For most fans, this idea would be a god-send, considering that most bands would take years in between albums and EPs to release content. Waiting ravenously, most would have to sit and listen to the same old CD's until something new would come out. Sadly, for The Killers, this was their ultimate downfall.

They were releasing content way too quickly, and the quality was suffering as a result. *Sam's Town*, *Saw Dust*, and *Day and Age* were all released within a year of one another, but they simply weren't as good as their debut, and their most recent album, *Battle Born*, is no exception to the trend, even after 4 years of waiting for a new release.

The Killers' fun 80's-styled sound of their first release has waned pretty significantly since their first album. *Hot Fuss* was a fun mix of driven Indie-Rock with 80's sensibilities and synths, channeling new wave rocksters long forgotten. This sound was still prevalent in their sophomore slump, but it's basically faded in *Day and Age* and *Battle Born*, leaving in its wake some sort of mix of cacophony that is truly not killer.

Battle Born has turned back to their 80's roots, but, instead of fun synth pop, it sounds like horrible sta-



COURTESY OF THEJEWELWICKERSHOW.COM

Battle Born is disappointing, but The Killers have disappointed me in the past. Hopefully, they'll be able to return to their awesome roots before it's too late.

dium rock mixed with modern electronica and overall blandness. It's not bringing anything impressive to the table. It truly sounds like something anachronistic in the worst way; it sounds like I'm listening to a U2 cover band that decided to do some originals in the middle of the set.

Further, the lead single, "Runaway", which is the pre-eminent mix of this sound, is so incredibly sentimental and cliché that the lyrics are hard to listen to. There lyrics were never innovative, Brandon Flowers is no Colin Meloy, but at the very least they had some depth to it. It's phoned in, there's a sense that they're starting to cater to the new indie sound that's playing at indie conventions while trying to appeal to the mainstream.

I would want to attribute this to growing pains, but their sound has pretty consistently changed for the worst. A changing sound is always something to admire, especially when bands do it right (Belle and Sebastian and The Decemberists being great examples of this), but they've drifted so far from what's made them great that they're merely a shadow of themselves, it's lacking quintessential Killers sound.

But I just might be wrong. Check out *Battle Born* on Spotify for free and make your own judgment. It's just been such a long time since I've been impressed with The Killers that I might just be expecting them to fall short.

Laird Becomes Wabash Man

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '13
STAFF WRITER

The football team’s passing attack has undergone some notable personnel changes from last season. Gone are the seniors88 who accounted for 84 percent of the total catches last season. Filling in the void are juniors Sean Hildebrand, Andrew Gibson, and Jon Laird. Laird, however, has stepped up as the team’s go-to receiver. He leads the team in catches and receiving yards and is tied for the lead in receiving touchdowns through the first three games. “If those are my stats, those are my stats,” Laird said. “I just wanted to come in here and contribute in any way I could. As long as we’re winning and I’m doing my job to help the team achieve its goals I’ll be satisfied.”

The team’s goal, another deep playoff run and ultimately a national title, veered off course last Saturday after a 20-17 overtime loss at home to Allegheny College. “It wasn’t a particular side of the ball or person that cost us to lose,” Laird said. “We just didn’t come out and execute. Practices haven’t been very well. The intensity is low and that showed on Saturday.”

Laird is able to find the silver lining, despite the uphill battle the team faces. “Unfortunately, you learn more from a loss than a win,” he said. “The whole season, we haven’t been playing to our potential. Maybe losing to Allegheny will turn it around.”

Laird is in his first semester at Wabash College. He is a majoring in Rhetoric while obtaining a minor in Economics. Laird has been in a whirlwind ever since he started planning his life after Diablo Valley Junior College. “Last semester was the worst semester in my life,” he said. “In talking with different schools, it was call after call and a scholarship not being this and financial aid not being that. All the jargon and misleading rhetoric was very frustrating.”

Laird played football at Diablo Valley and knew he wanted to continue his collegiate career. He had two more requirements: a school with an excellent academic reputation and a football program that believed in family, team, and community, similar to his high school. He attended De Le Salle High School in Antioch, CA. The bay-area school happens to be an all-male school, even though there is a sister school across the street. Wabash is what he was looking for. “I wanted my college experience to be like my high school experience,” Laird said. “It was tight-knit community in high school and I wanted to recapture that.”

Even though the team had a need at wide receiver, Laird was the one who contacted Wabash from 2,000 miles away. “I sent film to every division three school with a football team listed on the Forbes Top 50 Colleges list,” he said. “Wabash was ranked 42nd and it was actually out of the



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

Laird hails from California and is currently leading the team in receptions and yards receiving through the first three games.

picture until Coach Morel called.” Don Morel is the new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach this season. He is also from the Golden State and had an important effect on Laird’s decision to come here. “I developed a real good relationship with him,” Laird said. “He sold everything Wabash stands for: the academics, the alumni, and then of course the football program too. Coach Morel was also great at serving as a middle man between my family and the school. My mom and dad trusted him and I trusted him enough to commit here even though I never visited.”

Laird’s first visit to campus was a few days before camp started in August. His father, Tom, drove him all the way out here and stayed a couple of nights before driving back alone. Laird choked up when he shared details about the experience with his father. “It was an experience I never really had with my dad before,” Laird said. “He opened up to me and talked

about how proud he was of me. I’ve never really seen that side of him.”

Laird’s voice continued to crack when he expressed his appreciation for both of his parents. “I’m just real grateful for how much my mom and dad have done for me throughout my whole life,” he said. “They’ve made sacrifices to send me to De La Salle and Wabash. They could have told me I’m going to a state school, but they sacrificed for me to go hear and to make an investment in my future. It’s something I greatly appreciate.”

When Laird and his dad arrived in Crawfordsville, he started learning about Indiana and the Midwest. “I just thought Indiana was ‘honkey-tonk’ and Nascar,” he said with a chuckle. “I learned Midwesterners are salt-to-the-Earth kind of people and very patriotic. They take life at a slower pace and appreciate the little things. You

See LAIRD, Page 9

Red Pack Makes Serious Strides

DEREK ANDRE '16
STAFF WRITER

Wabash’s Cross Country Team is no stranger to success, the current season is no exception. With a first place finish in the annual Wabash Hokum Karem and a third place finish in the Indiana Intercollegiate race, the red pack is off to a hot start in the for the 2012 season. On Friday the 18th ranked Little Giants will compete in the Notre Dame Invitational and the Earlham Invitational on Saturday. Head Coach Roger Busch said that this weekend’s events will provide good opportunities to gauge his team’s against the best competition. “We have the opportunity to see some of Division III’s best cross country teams,” Coach Busch said. “This will

be an opportunity for us to see how we match up in the middle of the season. We will learn and grow from Notre Dame and start prepping for the rest of the season.”

The Wabash runners have enjoyed success throughout the season. Two weeks ago the Little Giant runners claimed five of the top twenty-five individual finishes en route to finishing as the top Division III team at the meet. While this result is good, Junior Dalton Boyer feels that the finish could have been higher. “As a team, the disappointing results from the Intercollegiates...has made the team very unsatisfied,” Boyer said. “Most of us, including myself, ran bad races that day when compared to how much mileage

all of us put into our summers leading up to this season.”

Although the fast start by the Little Giants has been solid, the team is dissatisfied with their results. Lately however, team members say that workouts have been improving and this is providing the team with confidence going in to this weekend’s races. “Lately, we have had consistently good workouts,” Sophomore Billy McManus said, “so we will see how that translates on the race course at Notre Dame and Earlham this weekend and in our other upcoming meets.”

This sentiment is echoed by Boyer. “Watching how successful our workouts have been since Intercollegiates, I strongly feel that our team will have the best race at Notre Dame compared to

my last two years running for the team,” Boyer said.

The mood around the team is not completely negative though. Many on the team feel that the disappointments felt by the team will be turned around as the season progresses. “We have to learn how to work as a team, use one another, trust that each guy is giving his maximum effort and be accountable to one another,” Busch said.

Boyer feels that the team simply needs to compete better on race day. “We have the talent,” Boyer said. “We just need to embrace the pain and actually compete during races.”

For the Little Giant Cross Country team, this year’s sophomore class has served as the backbone. At the Indiana Intercollegiate meet, five of the eight runners representing Wabash were sophomores. So far this year, many of the top individual finishes for the Red Pack have gone to sophomores as well. In the Intercollegiate meet both of Wabash’s top two finishers were sophomores and the Hokum Karem, which is run in two-man teams, had three sophomores in Wabash’s top two finishing teams. Coach Busch mentioned that the group of sophomores has the ability, but is still young for collegiate runners. “Our sophomore class is the most talented class we have had in years,” Busch said. “They are sophomores, they are working hard, but the jury is still out.”

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News On the Go...

This Weekend in Wabash Sports

Saturday

Cross Country	@ Earlham Invite	11a.m.
Soccer	vs Wooster	12 p.m.
Rugby	@ DePauw	1 p.m.
Football	vs Carnegie Mellon	2 p.m.

Soccer's Struggles Continue

CORY KOPITZKE '14
STAFF WRITER

If you were to ask any Wabash soccer player about their record this season, they would surely tell you that it does not reflect the talent and work ethic of the team. Currently the team has a 2-7 record and is 0-1 in North Coast Athletic Conference play. However, with only one conference game played out of nine, there is still much to look for down the road out of this young team.

"The positives have been many," Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller said. "Laying the foundation for a successful program is the main one. We need to gain experience since we are such a young team, and remaining disciplined through the ups and downs of a season."

Wabash support has also been to the team's liking.

"Our fan base has been excellent as well. The guys have gotten many positive comments about their work rate and play on the field. Wabash Always Fights is alive and present in the Soccer program," Keller said.

Senior leadership is playing a large role in the team's optimistic and confident morale as well.

"The Seniors have done an outstanding job keeping the team going," Keller said "In the preseason our main goal was to outwork every team in every game, stay disciplined, and play unselfishly so we can play together as one, and that's what we have done."

It is also quite interesting that every one of the team's losses have come by only one goal, showing how competitive this team may really be. "It is



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

The soccer team is struggling with their lack of experience, but they are staying focused on their goals. Time will tell how they fair against the top teams in the conference

never easy to lose, but at least being close we know that a couple of breaks just need to go our way for it to be different," Senior Captain and goalie, Matt Paul said. "If we keep working hard and together, things will come."

Paul is uneasy about the losses, but is more concerned with the big picture. "Truthfully, the conference season is what matters, and we have only played one of our nine conference games," he said. "We have improved a lot and if things can start to fall in place for us at

this point in the season then hopefully we can leave our record behind and win a lot of the games that matter."

Look for some explosive things out of this team in the near future, as guys come off the injured list and players start peaking.

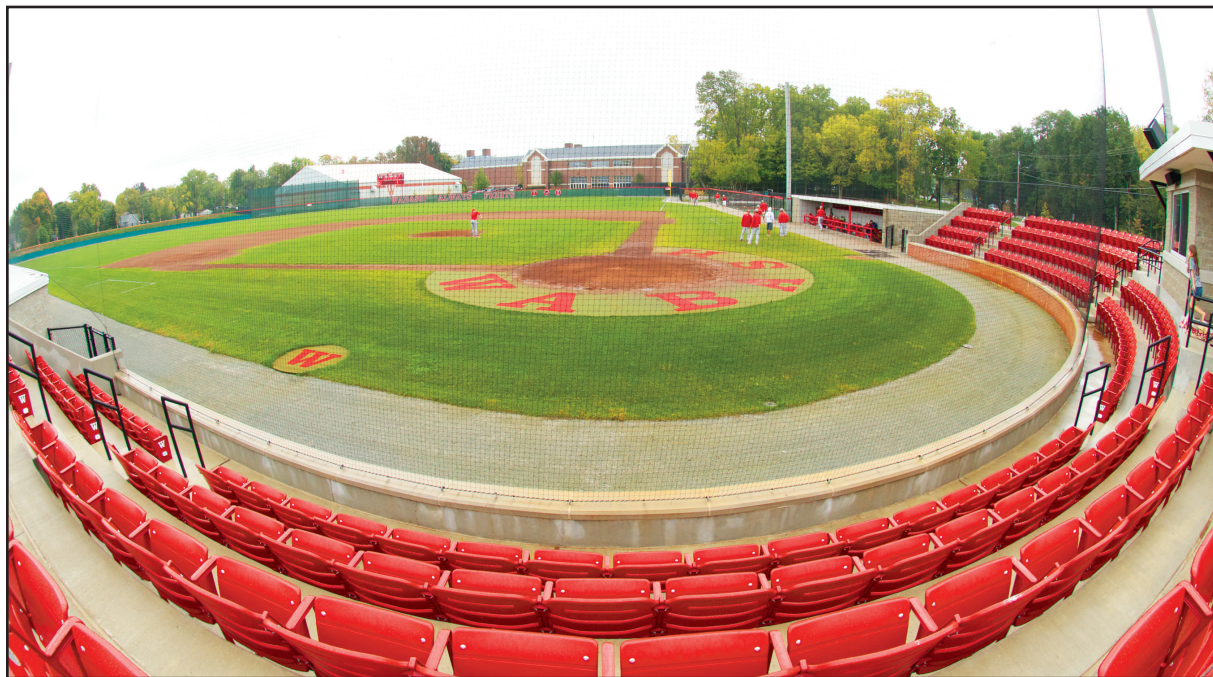
"I would say we are looking the sharpest right now, and with the young guys having half a season under their belts, I am confident we will play to our potential," Keller said.

As we see the team advance

their play on the season, it seems it is also answering well to its new coach. "I provide them with a consistent challenge to improve, work hard, while still enjoying the game they grew up playing," Keller said. "I respect them as student athletes and young men, and in turn they have responded extremely well."

We will see how well the team's efforts pay off as they travel to Wooster on Saturday for their second conference game.

Baseball Renames Park



KELLY SULLIVAN | WABASH '15

The baseball stadium will be named Goodrich Ballpark after a generous alumnus

TAYLOR KENYON '15
STAFF WRITER

Alumni offer internships, jobs, and study abroad finances to students every year. Wabash knows its worth from these alumni who give back. Similarly, the Wabash Ballpark takes a different name. The baseball field is now known as Goodrich Ballpark, named

after the generous alumnus.

"We are extremely thankful for the generosity of Mr. Goodrich and his family," baseball Head Coach Cory Stevens said. "I continue to be amazed by the loyalty of our alumni and their love for Wabash. Many generations of Wabash student athletes, parents, community members, and fans will be able to enjoy Goodrich

Ballpark. Goodrich Ballpark will continue to attract top student-athletes to Wabash. Goodrich Ballpark is a shining example of the commitment our alumni have to providing the complete educational experience to current and future Wabash Men."

The Goodrich Ballpark will offer current students a great facility for practice.

Laird

From Page 8

don't see that often in California where everything is fast-paced."

Laird has faced many challenges here, both on and off the field.

"Classes are obviously more difficult here coming from a Junior College," he said. "I have done a great job managing time though. I've learned to seek out advice early in the semester. I know if I do it too late, I won't be able to catch up with my grades. Professor (Jennifer) Abbot has been especially helpful with my rhetoric papers."

The mental challenge has presented itself on the field too. Laird had to learn an offense that involves all kind of concepts, hand signals, and different terminology.

"I worked with the freshmen early in camp to learn the playbook and complete orienta-

tion tasks," he said. "It's a very complex offense and I'm playing different receiver positions. This actually helps because it allows me to absorb the whole offense and have a better understanding of the passing concepts."

Other offensive players have helped Laird pick up the plays. He's leaned on them for advice about opponents. When the team travels, Laird shares a room with quarterback Chase Belton.

"Chase has helped me a lot with the offense," Laird said. "We're always trying to dissect what plays we can run to expose the defense. It's great sharing our ideas back and forth. The entire team really has been special. I go into the cafeteria and it doesn't matter what guys are in Sparks; I'll sit down and eat dinner with whoever is

there. It makes me feel at home."

Of course, much is different from his home. Laird misses his family the most.

"The biggest thing for me since I've been gone is not seeing my mom, dad, and sister after games. I would hug my mom after games and talk to my dad about what happened. It's tough when I see other families taking pictures with their sons. Even though I've developed a close enough relationship with some of these guys and their families that they've taken me in like their own, it's never the same. But I know my family is watching."

Laird will have a different post-game experience soon. His mom, Diana, and sister, Jacqueline, will make the trip over here and be waiting for him with open arms after the contest.

Tennis Waits For Spring

DAN SANDBERG '13
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College won a bid to be the host school for the 2012 USTA/ITA Division III Men's Central Region Tournament. The tennis team competed in the event last weekend. The four-day, 29-team tournament was scheduled to take place on the northeast side of Indianapolis—split between the tennis facilities at North Central High School and Park Tutor High School. Due to weather problems, some matches were moved West Indy Racquet Club, Five Seasons Family Sports Club, and Indianapolis Racquet Club.

The tournament was the team's only outing this fall. The experience of playing together provided a taste for what the spring season will bring.

"The tournament was a good way for us to see where our focus needs to be for the off-season," Senior Ian Leonard said. "It was also helpful to see how our doubles combinations performed, and we'll continue to see which pairs mesh well leading up to the season."

The squad returns a veteran team after last years 17-10 spring season. "We have a great group of guys. They have great work ethic and they want to get better," Coach Jason Hutchison said.

"I think we'll be a stronger team from top to bottom than in previous years," Leonard said. "We have a really deep lineup, and that should be to our benefit during the season. We have a solid group of guys returning to the team and a dependable cast of newcomers who are eager to get better."

"The tournament went well," Hutchison said. "The guys performed at their best. They did what was asked and scraped for every point. I was impressed with their effort."

The team will look to continue that effort during off-season so they can play well and compete with some of the top schools in the NCAC this spring, a task that has eluded the Little Giants I the past few seasons.

"Our primary goal is to compete with teams in the upper tier of our conference," Leonard said. "We typically perform well against our early non-conference foes but have difficulty competing against the likes of Kenyon and Denison, traditionally ranked teams. I think that can change this year as long as we work hard in practice and stay mindful of our goals for the season."

Wabash Looks To Avoid Letdown

RYAN LUTZ '13
SPORTS EDITOR

Frustration and inconsistency plagued the Little Giants last week against Allegheny College. A defense that had been dominant in the past struggled to contain the run. The offense was forced to kick four field goals in five trips to the red zone, making only one of them. Every missed point mattered in their 17-20 loss last weekend.

The Little Giants were unable to secure the win in overtime, which snapped a 14 home game winning streak, stunning their home crowd. "I was pretty disappointed in how we played," Coach Raeburn said. "Our defense averaged six take-aways a game and we had zero. They also have averaged 5 or 6 sacks a game and got zero."

Next week, the Little Giants play Carnegie Mellon. "It will be a very tough game," Raeburn said. "They have a challenging run game and a good quarterback. They are by far the best team we have played offensively."



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

The Wabash defense looks to rebound off of a subpar performance against Carnegie Mellon

The Little Giants will have their hands full; Carnegie Mellon also boasts one of the best pass defenses in the league. "It'll be a real challenge," Raeburn said. "They have an explosive offense to get ahead early. So that way late in a game when you have to pass to score some points, their great pass defense comes into play."

The little things will need to be in place for the football team on Saturday, which means that it will need to regain its form from the first two games of the season.

"It felt like it was going well," Raeburn said. "And then they turn around and perform poorly. I can find clips of guys doing it perfectly. So I know they know how to do it right. The inconsistency is frustrating to see."

During their game against Allegheny the football team committed numerous pre-snap penalties,

which included four false starts. With a nationally ranked team and over a month of practice under their belt, penalties like that are difficult to explain. "It's time for those things to go," Raeburn said.

The Little Giants also have to consider the loss of starting safety Jonathan Koop. Koop received a knee to the lower back, near his kidneys. After coming out for a few plays, Koop returned to the game and finished out till the last play. The injury seemed minor at first, he thought the wind got knocked out of him, but after the game they realized the severity of it.

"We had to take him to the ER right after the game," Raeburn said. "He had a laceration of the kidney, which put pressure on his lungs causing 10 to 15 percent of them to deflate. He thought that he got the wind knocked

out of him and went back in for a few plays."

Whether it is his plays on special teams or his solid play on defense, the Little Giants will miss Koop's presence against a superb Carnegie Mellon air attack.

"We know stuff like this is going to happen," Raeburn said. "Obviously, we don't want to lose them, but it's impossible to go four quarters without an injury. The other guys just got to be ready to go at a moment's notice."

With the amount of nagging injuries piling up for the Little Giants, they will soon see the true depth of their roster. Their toughest game yet is Saturday, and there are a few details that still need to be refined.

In what many consider to be a make or break game for the team, all eyes will be focused on the Little Giants as they take the field Saturday.

Disgust With Replacement Refs Grows

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '15
STAFF WRITER

The National Football League can no longer defend its replacement officials. The regulars have been locked out due to a labor dispute. Networks and their analysts have over reacted to every little call or no call the replacement referees have made through the first three weeks of the NFL season. This call wasn't little; it cost a team a game.

In case you've been utterly oblivious to every screen, social network, and general conversation this week, the replacement officials employed by the National Football League cost the Green Bay Packers a win in a Monday Night Football game at the Seattle Seahawks.

On the game's final play (not counting the most drawn out extra-point attempt ever), Seahawk quarterback Russell Wilson scrambled around midfield before he heaved a Hail Mary to wide receiver

Golden Tate. Chaos then ensued. Tate and Packers safety M.D. Jennings went up for the ball with a host of other players (after Tate chucked a defender out of the way without getting penalized). One referee ruled a touchback meaning Jennings intercepted the pass and the Packers won. The other instantly blew up Twitter when he lifted two hands straight up in the air to signal a touchdown.

Jennings clearly had the ball first and was clearly the one with the most possession of it as he and Tate battled to the ground for the ball. The first referee had the best angle of the two but for some reason the second referee's call was the one on the field.

Here is what former NFL referee of 27 years Gerry Austin had to say on the post-game broadcast. "Jennings has the ball, comes to the ground, and brings it to his chest," he said. "He established control, then possession. He's on the ground with the ball. All Tate has is his arm in there on the ball."

The integrity of the NFL can no

longer be defended. Commissioner Roger Goodell preaches protecting the "integrity of the game" but it's a clear hypocrisy as long as the replacement officials referee games. Just about every fan, media outlet, player, and coach will call him a liar until he gets the regular officials on the field.

However, the all-mighty dollar rules. No one will boycott games or stop watching them on television. The league will continue to reap in the profits amidst the tremendous scrutiny. So why bother blinking? Goodell and his negotiating team have already endured this much criticism, why not withstand another week? Month? Season?


This is a league and a commissioner that has desperately worked to improve its image. A summer-long player lockout last season couldn't even dent the NFL's image and prevent record profits. One of the sides has to budge first and it doesn't appear that side will be the NFL.

Goodell has no reason to give in

as long as the money keeps flowing, which it no doubt will. This is what we're stuck with. Fans are not okay with that, but all they can do is to keep cheering for their team. Every team is stuck with the replacement officials; their only focus has to be improvement.

Lost in the media circus will be the Packers allowing eight first-half sacks and Head Coach Mike McCarthy's restraint in the post-game press conference (he didn't run after and grab any officials). Green Bay's first half performance and inability to execute in the red zone put them in the situation at the end of the game. The late hits and roughing the passer are bone headed and just plain dumb. The Packers should not have loss the game at the end, but they failed to win it in the prior 59 minutes.

There is no time self-pity; there is only time for moving on. As Coach Vince Lombardi said, "Football is not about getting knocked down. It's about getting back up."



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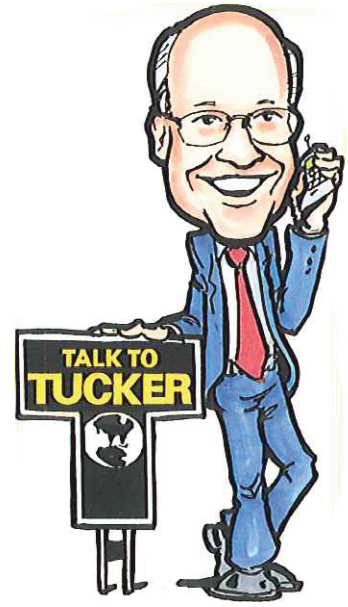
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