

THE BACHELOR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH SINCE 1908

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ISSUE



Butler Ends Historic Wabash Career

JACOB BURNETT '15
OPINION EDITOR

Only one professor can say that she was the first tenured faculty member at Wabash College. And only a few can say that they've taken students to the European Union where the police teargassed students. After years of dedication to Wabash College and its mission, Eugene N. and Marian C. Beesley Professor of Political Science Melissa Butler will retire at the end of this semester. Butler enjoyed many unique aspects of Wabash during her professorship and mentorship. "Well, I went to a small liberal arts college, and I like the small liberal arts college atmosphere. Wabash is academically strong. The strong faculty have a fair degree of ownership of the institution and had full participation in the institution. I was able to teach the things I wanted to teach and taught in areas that I wanted to teach in. I certainly enjoyed the student body and the close Wabash student relationships." Butler has seen Wabash expand over her years in many aspects, including immersion learning. One of her first immersion experiences

at Wabash involved an unfortunate run-in with the European police. "The first time professor Widows and I took an immersion trip abroad the students were teargassed when they went to see the European parliament," Butler said. "Awkwardly enough, when it came time to evaluate the course the students reported that the coolest part of the trip was being teargassed." Along with this experience, Butler has thoroughly enjoyed the travel opportunities at Wabash. "I came to Wabash never having really traveled much at all. Now, I end my career visiting 73 different countries, many of which on Wabash's ticket. I had the opportunity of seeing the world while being at Wabash." Butler went through a unique tenure process since she was the first tenured female professor. "When I came to Wabash, I came out expecting to stay for only two or three years; in fact, it wasn't even a tenure track job at that point... When I was initially appointed, my job wasn't necessarily tenurable," Butler said. At this time, only 70 percent of faculty could be tenured, and every department that had three professors or more had to have one

person who was untenured. The Political Science department had three professors who were tenured. But there was another rule under that and it said that exceptions can be made. When Butler arrived at Wabash, not many of these exceptions to the tenure process actually occurred. After three years of teaching at Wabash, Butler left to teach in England for a year. "Right before I left, Vic Powell, the Dean who hired me, said a curious double negative statement to me," Butler said. "He said, 'When you go off to England, don't assume that there is no place at Wabash in the long run for you.' So, basically he was making a decision at that point that they [the Wabash tenure board] were giving me tenure reviews. After I was in England, I was tenurable and in some ways I didn't give it a whole lot of thought. [...] For me it was off the table, and in a sense that I was free to do what I wanted to do because it wasn't part of the mix. So, when I came up and got tenure, the school had a process for tenure, but the review process that there is now wasn't in the same form then." But the possibility of the first female faculty member attaining tenure did not come without resistance.



CARTER ADAMS | WABASH '15

Butler has become one of Wabash's legendary professors in her career.

"When I first came here, there were alumni who thought that women shouldn't teach at Wabash," Butler said. "Some alumni were

somewhat vocal and told my department chair that women shouldn't be teaching at Wabash. When I first

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Bird '00 Plays Key Role in Obama Election

DEREK ANDRE '16
STAFF WRITER

Although Wabash is considered by many to have a conservative campus, the alumni base has a direct connection to the re-election campaign of President Obama. The connection comes by way of Jeremy Bird '00. The sixth floor of the Prudential Building in downtown Chicago was, for a moment, the center of the re-election effort for President Barack Obama. For a few months the simple office space was at the heart of the American political theater. At one point the simple floor employed 500 people, all of which were working with one single goal in mind, to re-elect the President. But that was before Nov. 6. Now, however, only a select few people remain. One of those who remains is Bird. Throughout the campaign, Bird served as the National Field



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This past election Bird served as the National Field Director for the Obama for America campaign. He has been part of both of President Obama's elections.

Director for the Obama for America campaign. Prior to holding that post, Bird worked as the Deputy Director of Organizing for America, which was formed after Mr. Obama's victory in 2008. He has also held positions

in Mr. Obama's 2008 campaign as well as Howard Dean's 2004 Presidential bid. For Bird, the majority of his work in this year's campaign came down to coordinating the campaign's efforts all across the nation.

"My job was to manage the regional pods," Bird said, "and make sure that the region's people were managing the state directors who were managing their field directors all the way down to the volunteers. [I had to] make sure we were professional, had a culture of excellence and were running in the right way and that we're were hitting our goals." As it sits now, the Obama for America Headquarters is a shell for its former self. Where 500 people once walked its halls, now there are at most 50, and that number shrinks by the day. Unused computer monitors, keyboards, and speakers line the rows of desks waiting to be transferred to their next destination. Posters lie strewn about the main room, serving as a reminder of the former purpose of the office. The few people who still remain are serving to clean up the

See BIRD, Page 2

Faculty Members Recognize Benefits of Exercise Routines

PATRICK BRYANT '16
STAFF WRITER

Many Americans will resolve to stay active this New Year's Day, but some faculty and staff members at Wabash already have their fitness priorities in place. For English Department Chair Marc Hudson, the discipline is swimming, and he's been doing it his entire life. The reason, according to Hudson, isn't weight loss or some sort of quantitative goal; rather it's the energy and renewed focus that comes from time spent in the pool. "Pure and simple, it's endorphins," Hudson said. "I'm hooked on them. I feel a lot better after I swim, and I think it's those endorphins that help me achieve that – that feeling of vivacity, energy, and focus, all of which help me in my teaching, and in my public and private career as a writer." A lack of focus and a loss of energy, especially near the end of a semester, is very prevalent among students. According to Hudson, it's "essential" that students achieve greater focus through exercise. "Bottom line, I feel every single

human being on this planet would profit from some sort of exercise regimen, especially someone engaged in studies and a lot of mental labor," Hudson said. "We need to achieve balance in this life." The average workout for Hudson is 38 lengths of the pool, or about 2/3 of a mile, and he does this about four times per week. Aside from that regimen, Hudson said he has also been a vegetarian since the mid-1990s. BKT Assistant Professor of Chemistry Laura Wysocki said she's like Hudson in the fact that her working out for the past three to four years comes not as a way to lose weight, but rather to gain a fresh sense of focus and to keep stress down. "I don't exercise for weight loss or training for any kind of event, but I do it to maintain my health," Wysocki said. Utilizing the Allen Center as a resource, Wysocki said she alternates her hour-long workouts each day between using the elliptical and participating in a Zumba class. "I spent years without working out, for various reasons, and once I started, I found it was diffi-



FRANCISCO HUERTA | WABASH '14

Hudson is one of the College's faculty who acknowledge the all-around benefits that can be attained from staying active. He swims about four times a week.

cult to carve out the time in my day at first, but when it became a routine, it was something that I now depend on and use as much as I can," Wysocki said. "I look forward to it." Encouraging physical fitness among the employees of a company is something that Marketing and Communications Specialist Kim Johnson did before she came to Wabash. Holding a master's degree in health education for public and community health,

Johnson said that she spent years doing things like speaking at employee meetings and doing outreach for companies in the Crawfordsville area to find ways for companies to promote good health, incentivize physical fitness, and set up corporate partnerships with local fitness agencies in town. Coming to a place like Wabash, one advantage for the employees, faculty, and staff of the College,

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Presidential Search Continues

TYLER HARDCASTLE '15
STAFF WRITER

The search for the 16th president of Wabash College will progress significantly as the Search Committee narrows the list of candidates. According to Kevin Clifford '77, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, the committee met last Wednesday, November 28th to select a list of candidates for further interview. Candidates will be confidentially interviewed throughout the month of December. In past years this larger group has been narrowed down to three or four candidates who have come to the school to meet with students and faculty, and interview further.

"We would expect to have the candidates on campus mid-January," Clifford said. "We are working on the details of these visits and will do our best to ensure all campus constituencies have the opportunity to meet with the candidates in a variety of forums."

Students can only speculate as to the candidates at this point. Yesterday, student members of the Parliamentary Union debated the question of if the next president should view Wabash as a school or a business. Details of the candidates are necessarily private at this point to protect the candidates.

Wabash can go a variety of different directions with this presidential selection. Historically, many colleges such as Wabash have chosen presidents who have an academic background. However recently, universities have gone a different direction. This year Purdue University hired Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels as its next president in a more business-oriented approach.

Clifford plans to release information to the students as it becomes available. Watch for coverage of the candidates in The Bachelor in the weeks after Christmas break.

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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.

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Announcements

Friday, December 7
Classes End

The Nutcracker Opens at the Vanity Theater 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 8
Basketball at Wooster 2 p.m.

The Nutcracker at the Vanity Theater 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 9
The Nutcracker at the Vanity Theater 2 p.m.

Monday, December 10
Final Exams

Midnight Run in Knowl- ing Fieldhouse 11:59 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11
Final Exams

Fraternity Presidents Meeting 11:45 a.m.

Midnight Munch Sparks Center 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12
Final Exams

APO Meeting 7 p.m. Baxter 101

Friday, December 14
Final Exams

The Nutcracker at the Vanity Theater 7:30 p.m.

Poets Bring Large Crowd to MXI's X-tacy

TYLER GRIFFIN '13
STAFF WRITER

"The poetry was captivating. I mean I'm used to Emily Dickinson's dashes, but to experience the genre almost as if it was a cathartic release was unbelievable. It was quite the emotional experience."

This is how one grandmother reacted after spending her Saturday evening rooting her granddaughter on at X-tacy, the Malcolm X Institute's slam poetry competition, which took place last weekend. Since 2002, X-tacy has



COREY EGLER | WABASH '16

X-tacy changed this year from what it has been in previous years. Before it included singers and professional poets, and this year the MXI wanted to maintain the spoken word of poetry through students.

been the MXI's premiere social event for the fall semester; however, this event was slightly different from the rest. Public relations chair Terrance Pigues '14 said, "We've done singing before, we've brought in professional poets, but we wanted something new and fresh this year. At the same time though, we didn't want to rid Wabash of the good ol' spoken word poetry their used to." The compromise was to make X-tacy a slam poetry competition with a grand prize of \$1,000. "Normally poets run us anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,500. By doing this competition we got quality poets and saved a ton of money." Instead of searching for one poet, the MXI scoured the surrounding area for authentic slam poets. "We spent several weeks sifting through school websites looking for poets and promoting our unique event," Rashaan Stephens '13 said. Still the MXI got a little more than what they bargained for: "I was pretty excited when I heard that Tasha Jones wanted to be a guest celebrity judge," he said. "I haven't heard her perform since my freshman year, and it was nice to see her share her talent with some of the younger guys." Tasha Jones, a big name in the world of spoken word, offered to be the "sacrificial poet", which means while she was not in the competition she offered to open and close the show, sacrificing her right to the grand prize. "I used to have to win 4 or 5 competitions like this one when I was a full time poet. I love Wabash and where they are going with this exciting art form. I heard about it and

had to be a part of my beloved MXI." There were 11 contestants, not just from Wabash, but from several places including Purdue, DePauw, DePaul, and Ball State, who competed in the competition. Niqolas "Sirius" Black from Indianapolis went on to win the grand prize with 5 perfect scores from the judges in the second round. "I've never even heard of this type of poetry, but he gave me shivers," Tyler Munjas '16 said. Black's first poem was semi-autobiographical. "It was his content that made him stand out for the rest. I can win competitions off performance, but I leaned over to my neighbor when he finished and said "welp, can't beat that life message" said one participant from Indianapolis. Jordan Giger, another judge and President of the DePauw African American Association of Students said, "He just had a delivery that I had never seen before." Amid the emotional words of the poets, X-tacy also proved to be a unique learning opportunity for the underclassmen who are members of the institute. Methesulah Gee '16, a Lilly Scholar and founder and president of the newly-approved club African Student Association, spent much of the night quelling the laughter of the crowd as the master of ceremonies. "I've always been told I had a big personality. It was great for me to use it and also help out the MXI," Gee said. "It was great working so closely with the leaders of the institute so that when it is my turn, I'll be able to do just as good or even better." Of course no event is without blem-



COREY EGLER | WABASH '16

Poet Niqolas "Sirius" Black from Indianapolis won the grand prize at last weekend's X-tacy presented by the MXI. Poets from Wabash, Purdue, DePauw,, DePaul, and Ball State competed.

ish: "I don't think we anticipated having so many people there. Korb just wasn't big enough", said Stephens. Korb Classroom seats 92 people and every seat was full for both the first and second round. "I guess 30 additional people standing up in the back isn't all that bad. Especially when you have Wabash men who are willing to stand so that guests from other institutions won't have to stand," Stephens said. "It's weird that this is my last of X-tacy, but I'm confident the future will be promising."

Bird

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campaign and tie up the loose ends that come with employing thousands of individuals on a temporary basis. Like many alumni, Bird cites his experiences while he was a student as having a profound influence on who he is today and the career he finds himself in. From events as major studying abroad to as minor as the classes he took, Bird can still recall memories from his days at Wabash as factors that have contributed to his career. What stands out to Bird most, however, is not any one memory or instance. Instead, it is Wabash's emphasis on analytical thinking that Bird said is most important to him.

"Analytical thinking is really a Wabash thing," Bird said. "It's part of what Wabash is about and what I learned there was don't ever get comfortable and don't ever think you know everything and always be striving to learn."

On a tour of the office led by Bird, we walked past the ping pong table that was covered so heavily by the media, stood where President Obama gave his speech thanking his staff, and got to see where all the magic really happened, analytics. During the tour through the office, Bird

recounted stories of the campaign and of the people who made it a success. While it would have been easy for him to take some credit for himself, he was always quick to pass the laurels off to those who he feels deserve them more, and ended up inspiring him on a daily basis. "I wake up in the morning and am excited to come to work because of the people I work with and the person I work for," Bird said. "The mundane work that you might have to do to look at a spreadsheet and really figure out are you hitting your goals is about something that's way bigger than that."

The future brings some uncertainty for Jeremy Bird. With the Obama for America campaign winding down Bird will soon be losing the job that he has known well for the past months. Despite that, Bird said one thing still remains certain, his desire to keep changing the world. "I want to keep doing political work for causes and people I believe in," Bird said. "I want to work for people and causes who want to change the world in big ways. I'll figure out a way to do that in my own way. I don't exactly know what that is yet but I'll be figuring it out fairly soon."

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Tucker '98 Examines Literature From Past

CORY KOPITZKE '14
STAFF WRITER

This was the view of many German academics in the late 18th century, as Associate Professor of German Brian Tucker '98 explained in his Humanities Colloquium entitled "Caveat lector: Reading Dangerously in the Eighteenth Century" last Monday. These thinkers asserted that reading is dangerous: it rots the mind and makes people lazy. Most of society today views reading, for the most part, as a genuine benefit to humanity. Yet certain aspects of these cultures' views align.

"At that time, you had a number of German intellectuals who were denouncing reading," Tucker explained. "And I mean denouncing it in the most alarmist terms possible. 'Reading is a plague affecting our country' they said.'" After stirring the curiosity of the audience, which filled Deitchon 209, he went on to explain why reading was viewed so negatively.

Tucker provided three explanations for why intellectuals in Germany had such distaste for reading. "The first is that [reading] makes people inactive," Tucker said. "You have to

understand that every minute that you choose to sit around with a book, especially a book of narrative fiction... is a minute that you're choosing not to do something more productive."

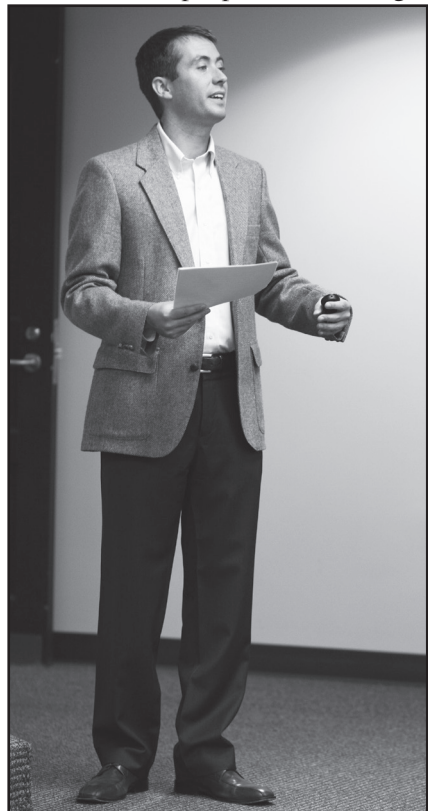
"The second reason is that reading leads to excessive sentimentality and unrealistic expectations," Tucker explained. This idea stemmed from the belief that when you spend your day reading romance novels and dramas, you will coil your emotions in a way that makes you unable to function as an adult. "On the other hand, if you spend your day reading adventure stories... you are eventually going to be desensitized to excitement," Tucker said.

He explained how these individuals thought that when you finish one of these stories, you will become depressed because the real world cannot meet your excitement expectations.

"The third reason, which might be the most surprising to us at a liberal arts college," Tucker said, "is that reading [dims] the mental faculties." He went on to explain that the readings these intellectuals were concerned with were not "sanctioned" readings, such as readings on philosophy or theology; they were readings solely fo-

cused on pleasure and entertainment.

"I think one of the big issues at this time was that there was no way to control what people were reading,"



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14
Tucker presented for this year's Humanities Colloquium.

Tucker said. "It was market driven, so it was driven by public interest and demand, and it turns out what people in the public were interested in reading was not always the same as what religious leaders and intellectuals believed they should be reading."

Tucker equated this denouncement of reading to contemporary denouncement of social media, video games, and television that are solely used for passive pleasure. "When we think about this as reading in particular this looks really strange to us," Tucker said. "But when you think about reading more abstractly instead, as a popular technology of passive entertainment...all of a sudden, these start to look like fairly common ways that society reacts to technology used for pleasure and entertainment."

Tucker related the idea of reading dangerously to a student's experience at Wabash. "Dangerous reading is passive reading, where you basically let a book do your thinking for you," Tucker said. "At Wabash, if we are serious about a mission to educate young men to think critically, then inherent in that idea is the idea of independently active reading."

He went on to note that this was the main argument of Johann Bergk, one of the key figures used in his research. "It could be that 'thinking critically' is just another way of saying what Bergk was saying. You really have to think for yourself when you read," Tucker said. "You want to use a book as a springboard for your own thoughts rather than let it fill you with information."

He explained that the exploration that went into his lecture, which was conducted over the summer, relates closely with his overall research. "It is connected to my larger scholarly interests which have to do with historical attitudes to reading, the way that people have understood reading at different times," Tucker said.

This interest in reading can be seen most notably in Tucker's recent book, Reading Riddles: Rhetorics of Obscurity from Romanticism to Freud. "The basic argument of that book is that certain attitudes about art, and literature, and reading that you find in German Romanticism basically pave the way for Sigmund Freud's approach to the psyche," Tucker said. "They make possible his method of analysis."

Film Heightens AIDs Awareness

GABE WATSON '13
EDITOR IN CHIEF

While much public attention has fallen away from AIDS in the past decade, last Saturday December 1 many recognized World AIDS Day.

To many young Americans today, HIV/AIDS is a foreign concept restricted to third-world countries, but over a million Americans still have HIV – roughly 0.7% of the population. At-risk groups of the population are African American and gay people, each of whom composes between 40% and 50% of the HIV positive population.

One possible reason AIDS seems distant to younger generations is medicinal treatment that lessens its lethality. While the worldwide rate at which people contract HIV continues a steady decrease since 1997, the number of people living with the virus continues to grow. The number of HIV-related deaths has been decreasing since 2006, and by 2008 33.4 million people were living with HIV.

World AIDS Day acts to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS in order to bring these numbers down. This

year's theme was "Getting to zero".

One event held to raise this awareness was a viewing of the 2012 documentary How to Survive a Plague held at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Students from Wabash's Sexualities, Textualities, and Queer Theory class attended the showing. The film follows the AIDS epidemic from its "epicenter" in New York City on the long path to political recognition and medical breakthrough.

The film shows footage from rallies and protests throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s when AIDS had a 100% fatality rate. Activists quite literally fought for their lives to get medicinal research prioritized and funded.

"We tend to think of it in the context of the United States, where we kind of have a handle on [AIDS]," said Assistant Professor of English Crystal Benedicks, who organized the trip. "It's not a death sentence anymore." America has a fairly consistent push toward safe sex through condom use, but religious and fiscal restraints still limit condom use across the world.

The stigma surrounding AIDS is

safety-related in other countries. "Yet in our culture it is directly related to homophobia," said Benedicks. Early protests centered on the gay community, which was so heavily afflicted.

How to Survive a Plague looked at the epidemic from an insider's perspective of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and Treatment Action Group (TAG) organizations. Many of names in the film's credits showed dates of death after them, driving home how personal and deadly the end of the 20th Century was for so many in the movement. "It was extremely moving," said Alex Totten '13. "I cried three times – twice in the theater and once in my car afterwards."

Especially in a time when homosexuality was not yet politicized, to be a part of this movement was to risk more than one's time. "It was so deeply heroic," said Benedicks. "So deeply brave to go in front of people who think you are morally corrupt and to convince them you are right."

While HIV/AIDS has fallen out of the spotlight for most Americans, there is still much progress to be made both locally and abroad.

Fit

From Page 1

is having access to the Allen Center.

"It is just an outstanding facility, and you'd have to go to [companies] like Subaru or Cummins [to find something of a similar scale], so for Wabash to be able to provide for its students and its employees the facility that it has is just outstanding," Johnson said. "I think there are a lot of people who take advantage of it, but there are some people who don't."

In addition to the short-term energy gain one experiences, the long-term benefits of working out can include lower cholesterol, lower blood pressure, and a lower risk of diabetes.

"It helps you sleep better when you are consistent with work outs," Johnson said. "And when you sleep better, you feel better, and it's one of those catch 22's that people get overweight, and they're tired, and they don't feel like going and work-

ing out, so that adds on to the sedentary lifestyle, and they continue to put on weight, but if you can help reverse that, then you'll certainly see benefits quickly from that."

Many faculty and staff members agree that the excuse that one cannot afford to sacrifice an hour or half-hour from work to work out is not valid. Some even find ways to multi-task while they are on the treadmill or on a stationary bike.

"I have webinars and videos that I put on my phone while I'm on the treadmill," Johnson said. "There are ways that you can multiply that time, listening to a book, or not viewing it as wasted time, but as time that if a student is going to work out, and then because they have done that, have the energy and the mental strength to get through three or four more hours of studying, is that wasted time?"

Johnson said she would recommend those at Wabash look-

ing to start a workout routine to not allow mere intimidation to prevent them from doing so.

"It can be kind of scary to walk into the Allen Center for the first time," Johnson said. "It's intimidating [for anyone] to walk into the Allen Center with all these guys who know what they're doing. It can be kind of scary to take that first step, and that can be a factor that keeps people from even getting started."

Johnson noted that help is always available for newcomers. "They now have people in place to show you, what do I with this equipment, and how do I adjust it, and where do I put the seat, and how do I do that, and there are people in place to help with that now," Johnson said. "Taking that first step is sometimes the hardest, but [it's important] just encouraging people to not let that be a factor."

45th Christmas Festival



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

This Wednesday, the 45th Annual Christmas Festival was held in the Chapel. The event included various musical ensembles, soloists, and readings.

Butler

From Page 1

came to Wabash, it was at least a little odd to be here and be a woman. But now the number of women in the faculty has increased, and it has become somewhat of the norm to have women faculty. Plus, students have been really accepting of it."

Even though Butler has taught for 37 years at Wabash, the students have also taught her. "I went to an all-girl grade school and an all-girl high school," she said. "So, when I went to college I joked and said I wanted to see if boys had any brains or not. And in a sense, I came to Wabash wondering about that, and, after 37 years, I guess they do. They have also taught me infinite patience."

After Wabash, Butler plans to pursue warm weather and some new academic venues.

"I am going to be keeping my house in Crawfordsville until at least May of 2014," Butler said. "Until then, I am going to spend winters in Florida, where it is warm, sailing my boat, and going to spring training games."

She will be serving as the Dean of the International Summer School in China. She will be working on faculty recruitment and planning for those campuses, which she can work on from home.

Butler also earned the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1994 and Lambda Chi Alpha inducted her into their hall of fame this year.

"Work hard," she said. "Wabash has a lot of good things to offer to its students. Freshmen would be advised to take advantage of as many of the opportunities as they see fit."

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A Response to "The DePauw"

Wabash's Education Is Relevant

Two weeks ago, I wrote an article asking our campus community to spend some time questioning our widely known disdain for DePauw University. While I still think it's important to consider our motivations for hating DePauw, I will be writing somewhat of a response to an article that was published in The DePauw last week. In an article titled "Get with the coeducational times, Wabash," (Eloquent, no?) two current DePauw men took it upon themselves to speak for the female gender in order to criticize Wabash for not admitting women. Interestingly, while this article could have been a constructive criticism of single-sex education in America, the article turned into a criticism focused on one single-sex institution. So, in developing a response, I will attempt to speak to the legitimacy of single-sex education, and then I will discuss some of the roles that Wabash has in contributing to higher education in the United States.

To begin, let's talk about single-sex education. The authors from DePauw may be interested to know, just for the sake of looking at an issue from many perspectives, that Wabash actually is not the only single-sex institution in the United States. In fact, there are hundreds. However, out of the numerous single-sex institutions in the United States, only three admit men (Wabash, Hampden-Sydney, and Morehouse). Thus, I found it odd that the authors chose to criticize Wabash alone for our lack of progressivism in deciding who is admitted. Nonetheless, I will, in fairness, try to aid the authors' "argument" and say that a women's college is a more convincing display of progress than a men's college. After all, women's colleges were established out of a demand that was created when women wanted to attend college but could not because most colleges and universities would only admit men. This shift in American higher education led to important and meaningful changes that



SETON
GODDARD '15
OPINION
COLUMNIST

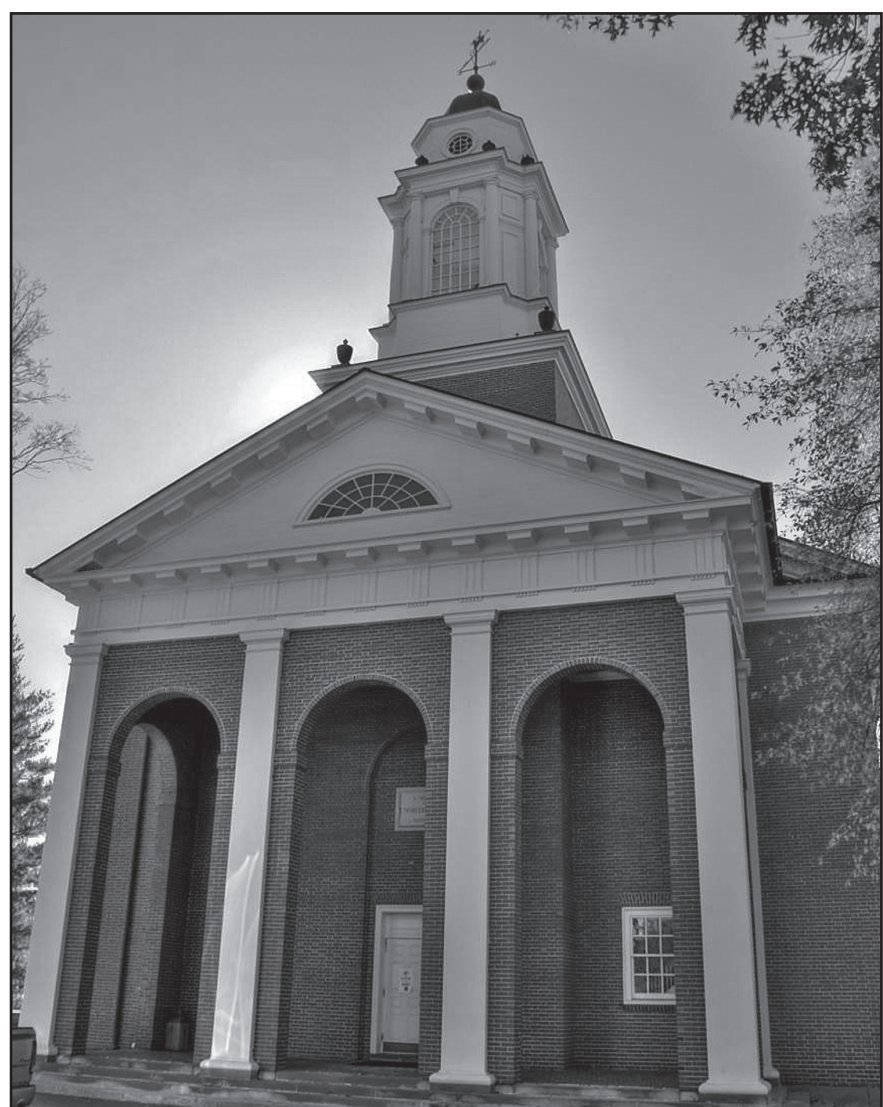
ultimately resulted in previously single-sex institutions becoming coeducational. For many of these schools, this was a change that was necessary to ensure that they could provide the best education possible to as many individuals as possible.

However, as years passed and education in America evolved, trends that were both compelling and concerning came to the surface. It became (and continues to become) increasingly clear that student engagement in coeducational environments suffers considerably compared to single-sex environments. In terms of males in a coeducational setting, the data are even more concerning. Many in the higher education community have spent valuable time and resources discussing the issues surrounding "underperforming males," a term that is now commonly used in education. Speaking from experience, however, I know that Wabash College is frequently cited at other institutions as being a place where faculty, staff, and administrators have "figured out" how to effectively educate men. Similarly, data would indicate that women's colleges are more effective in engaging, empowering, and preparing women than coeducational institutions. Significant amounts of research have been done to further investigate the role of single-sex institutions in American higher education, and it is widely published in journals like the Chronicle of Higher Education and the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice. Additionally, articles praising single-sex education consistently make it into college rankings guides. So, while

the authors of the article in question can spend time trivializing single-sex education through a Wabash College lens, the reality is that they've effectively ignored important considerations. Really, their lack of compelling evidence would indicate that they should spend some time getting "with the times" on the issue of single-sex versus coeducational learning.

Finally, let's consider Wabash more specifically since it's the school in question. We're a college for men. We don't admit women. You caught us, DePauw! In all seriousness, though, it was not all that absurd for the authors of the article to question our motivations for remaining all-male. Nonetheless, I want to make sure that I address an assertion implying that we view ourselves as being superior to colleges that education women not because we have figured out how to effectively educate men, but because we provide an education that doesn't include women, thus making it better. This simply isn't true. Wabash isn't better because we don't admit women. Wabash isn't better because we're one of three remaining colleges for men. From an institutional standpoint, Wabash is better because we have come closer to solving the issue of "underperforming males" than anyone else.

Additionally, the notion that I, as a direct result of my single-sex college education, will be ill prepared for "reality" is asinine. First of all, the authors have made the assumption that their alma mater (because of its coeducational nature, no less) is somehow closer to reality than Wabash. Just because they attend classes with females, they have a better understanding of "reality" than I do? They, like me, are students attending a private college in the middle of Indiana with exorbitant tuition and a staggering lack of diversity. Nonetheless, if we're going to operate on the assumption that DePauw, as a coeducational institution, offers a greater



COURTESY OF BLOGSPOT.COM

The Wabash Chapel shines as a Wabash icon.

representation of reality than Wabash, let's take time to consider our relationships with the women on our campus.

Speaking personally, I can attest that some of my greatest mentors at Wabash are female faculty and staff whose intelligence far exceeds my own. They have forced me to think about things in different ways, challenged me in ways I've never been challenged, and provided guidance when I've needed it. I would expect nothing less from the members of the Wabash community, and I certainly wouldn't expect less because of someone's gender. I am an intensely strong advocate for equality, and that

is driven largely by the beliefs that have been fostered at Wabash. Would I gain more from having a wider range of perspectives that would be provided by the presence of female students in the classroom? Absolutely. (On a side note: I am not implying that, by any means, every woman would provide the same perspective.)

We're faced with answering the question that the authors of the article from DePauw implicitly posed: Is single-sex education, and more specifically, the type of education offered at Wabash, still relevant? I think it's clear where I stand. I'll let you answer that question for yourself, though.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for the great article on our recent immersion trip to England over the Thanksgiving break. As I peruse my students' journals and begin critiquing their final papers, I am reminded how life-changing these kinds of experiences can be for Wabash men. This opportunity was made possible through the generosity of John C. and Diane Schroeder, generous and long-time benefactors of the College. I want to sincerely thank them for their continued support and their devotion to the all-around education of Wabash students. They are some Little Giants.

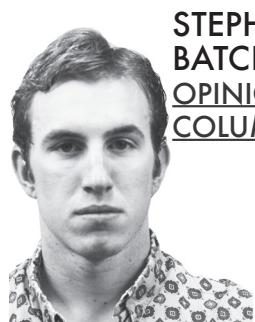
Sincerely,

Kealoha Widdows

Teaching True Education

As we approach one of the more stressful periods of the semester, it's often much too easy to lose our perspective on the value and pleasure we should be taking in our college education. This past week I helped my youngest brother, Tyler, with an assignment for his AP English Composition class. Tyler, a junior in high school, never really pursued academics. For Tyler, it isn't a lack of ability that makes the classroom a place of disinterest, but rather the classroom simply does not provide enough opportunity for him to physically resolve problems. As an aspiring farmer, Tyler finds his calling wrangling sheep, driving tractors, and laboring over the earth until it yields its fruits. For Tyler, the physical fruits of his labor are much more accessible and realized than the often unquantifiable products of deep critical thinking. However, this particular English assignment inspired Tyler, and I was excited when he called me for help.

Tyler's teacher asked him to come up with a slogan and visual representation of what it means to live "the good life." His teacher asked him to consider the literature that they have read, including Thoreau and Emerson, and then to engage the texts by writing a short essay considering



STEPHEN
BATCHELDER '15
OPINION
COLUMNIST

their own ideas about life. When Tyler asked for help with this particular assignment I was immediately thrown back into my senior year of high school, when that teacher asked me the same question. At the time, I responded with a ten page paper, analyzing the various texts we had read and determining in sum that the good life had little to do with what the literature suggested and a lot to do with love.

Tyler found his own expression of the good life in three words more carrying the brevity that my thoughts on this assignment lacked. His slogan was "Life is People." Tyler spoke against Thoreau's motivation for seeking a deliberate life of isolation in the woods of New York and offered instead that the "good life" is a result of intimate, compassionate relationships shared amongst family, friends, and humanity. For as many instances

as I have listened to my brother attempt to compare himself to my intellectual rigor and passion for "smarty-pants" things like poetry, ethics, and theology, I found myself warmed by seeing the lure of intellectual curiosity take hold of him. Finally, after years of wrestling to meet our mother's high expectations of academic achievement, Tyler found a capacity in which learning not only happened, but challenged him to answer some of life's most enduring questions.

Helping Tyler with this assignment allowed me to put the stress of approaching finals and papers in perspective. My choice to attend college and fill my schedule with classes in our humanities division was motivated not by seeing education as a means to an end, but as a way of taking time to wrestle with questions that in my life I have endeavored to answer. I would like to say this assignment that Tyler and I now share was when this quest became realized.

In the end, these conversations helped me realize that what I am discovering here at Wabash cannot be demonstrated by a mark on a transcript or a grade on a final exam. Rather, Wabash is teaching me that the true purpose of higher education, or this college in particular, is not to

equip individuals with a skill set to be sought by employers, nor prepping us to pass challenging courses and graduate, but instead the true beauty of education comes when we realize that our lives are somehow delicately part of a larger community of ideas. Our voices are being heard in conversations that really matter, whether they are happening in the classroom or on a fraternity house porch. Stephen Durrant said, "Life is not about status, it's not about money, it's not about power. It's about people. Life is about loving people. Everyone is connected. What you do matters."

Regardless of the results of finals week, what we have done at Wabash this semester is good on some meaningful level. The end of semester offers time to reflect on our labor and at times it is easy to ask, "What exactly am I doing here?" The answer to this question I think is not about transformation or preparation, but in participating in the endearment that comes with sharing something of mutual importance with others. Today it might only be an exam, but perhaps sometime in the future it will be a purpose and we can be thankful then for all we have shared in this time. Thank you, Wabash.

Who Will Reign Supreme?

Te'o or Manziel For Heisman

"For the 78th time since its inception in 1935, the Heisman Memorial Trophy will be awarded to an individual designated as the outstanding college football player in the United States." Straight from Heisman Trophy's own website. "...[The Heisman Trophy is] awarded to an individual designated as the outstanding college football player in the United States..." No college football player deserves this award more than Manti Te'o, Middle Linebacker for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

All the finalists have worked for the award. Collin Klein, QB for Kansas State, is the defining member of his team. He arguably has single-handedly taken his team to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Unfortunately, the loss to Baylor will keep this Kansas State QB from winning the Heisman. Much of the argument for Collin Klein has been that he is the foundation of the team, and you cannot beat Kansas State without beating Collin Klein. Kansas State dominated all year, and when Collin Klein had the chance to shine and "put the team on his back", he didn't come through, plain and simple.

Now we come to good ole' Johnny Football. Johnny Manziel is the red-shirt freshman QB of Texas A&M, a team expected to have a poor performance in the SEC but exceeded all



SCOTT CAMPBELL '13
OPINION
COLUMNIST

expectations. Generally speaking, I hate anything the media takes a hold of and spins it out of control, but the buzz about this guy is real. He leads an offense that averages 44 points a game, 3rd in all of College Football FBS. He is the team's leading passer (breaking the previous two Heisman Trophy winners records) with over 3,000 yards and 24 touchdowns. He is also the team's leading rusher, with over 1,000 yards and 19 touchdowns. As a QB, these numbers are not only record-breaking but also outstanding. Not to mention, they beat #1 Alabama in their house (it is necessary to mention though that they did lose to LSU and Florida, as well as ended up 3rd in the SEC West). Were it not for Manti Te'o, this guy would be a walk-away award winner, maybe even more convincing than when Cam Newton won it in 2010. I will compare Manziel and Te'o after I introduce Te'o in my next paragraph, as I believe these are the two real finalists.



COURTESY OF SPORTINGNEWS.COM

Manti Te'o has a great chance to win the coveted Heisman Trophy due to successes both on and off the field.

Manti Te'o is the leader on defense of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, who finished the season a perfect 12-0 and #1 in every national poll (BCS, Computer Rankings, Coaches, etc.). Notre Dame will play Alabama in the National Championship on January 7th, 2013 in Miami. He finished the season with 103 tackles (42 more than the next leading tackler), 9 total turnovers (averaging a turnover every 5 quarters), and anchors the statistically #1 Notre Dame Defense which allows less than two touchdowns a game (allows 10.3ppg). He has made huge plays in the Oklahoma, USC, and Michigan games, and was instrumental in the goal line stand against #8 and Pac-12 champions Stanford.

If the award were purely about statistics, Manziel would run away with this award based on the finalists., but it's not. If it were just about statistics, we would still be hearing about Geno Smith who threw for 40 touchdowns this season, or Rakeem Cato of Marshall who had over 4,200 yards passing yards this season, or Anthony Barr of UCLA who had 13.5 sacks this season. This award goes to the "...outstanding college football player in the United States..." which is more than just yards or tackles. Manti Te'o has already won the Butkus and Nagurski awards, given to the

best linebacker in college football and defensive player of the year, respectively. Manti Te'o is the epitome of a student-athlete, a man who embraces struggle and overcomes adversity (for those who do not know, his grandmother and girlfriend succumbed to the same cancer in one week), and he is an ambassador for the game. I purposefully left out the next sentence on the Heisman website, because once presented with all of these admirable qualities, "...Winners epitomize great ability combined with diligence, perseverance, and hard work...", how can you deny his exceptional qualifications over Manziel?

If Manziel wins the Heisman, as many are predicting, I understand. I will never admit he does not deserve it. But do not rule out Te'o because he plays defense, do not rule out Te'o because he does not have some outstanding statistic, and consider all of the intangibles that Te'o has that Manziel has not proven. Once you do that, you see how much Te'o means to the Notre Dame nation and college football as a whole, and hopefully you will have the "come to Jesus moment" that you should when considering whom to award the Heisman Trophy.



COURTESY OF JOHNNY-MANZIEL.COM

Johnny Manziel's awesome statistics could help him earn the Heisman Trophy.

Top Hits Reach Griffin's List

No matter what year you had, we can all depend on music for getting us through some tough times. So, I have assembled the top songs of 2012 in no particular order in my not-all-that humble opinion.

Wow American Idol is actually producing talent again? The supermarket, Fiji Basement, MXI, even the Amtrak on the way to Detroit was home, thanks to Phillips' raspy vocals producing such nostalgic awe in my ears when listening to his infectious Home. You know you have a pop hit, when Glee is bringing their original cast, to mash-up your song. I'm sure record execs are not sure whether to keep him in his home genre Country, or crossover to the glitz of pop and get this cat some much deserved money.

While, I must ask Rihanna to do a little more with the lyrical content, her late in the year hit Diamonds is undeniably powerful. I mean we all want to "shine bright like" one of the most sought after jewels in both the free and third world. We can also praise Rihanna for not giving Maroon 5 One More Night atop their 8 week reign on the Billboard Charts. Diamonds is currently the number one song in America, and I saw many Wabash men nodding their head to her unique vocals while watching the Victoria's Secret Fashion show.

Well first off, congrats to Miss Taylor for swiftly nabbing the best opening week album sales this year. While Adele was trying to hold up the sky from falling with James Bond, she snuck in with a the monstrous We Are Never Getting Back Together, making it her first US number one hit. While her vocal abilities are still just two octaves short of greatness, her ability to successfully cross over into



TYLER GRIFFIN '13
OPINION
COLUMNIST

pop purchasers and country consumers with over a million sales in the one week is quite a feat.

Alright, I guess you can stop asking me ,and I will finally give you a call Jepsen. Carly's Call Me Maybe started very slow on the charts, but during the stickiness of summer, she clung to the top of the Billboard charts for a couple of weeks. The Bieber protégé, managed to free Owl City from their firefly problem and follow up with an equally impressive, Good Time. So hopefully she will be tapping our phone lines for a lot longer than just this stupendous breakout year.

Every tween white girl in America, along with J.T. Miller '14, is obsessed with the five dapper men from the Queen's land. I must admit when, I am having one of those days when I'm insecure and "don't know what for" there is only One Direction that will make me feel better. What Makes You Beautiful was definitely the most played song at my summer camp, but apparently adult America needed to know what made it beautiful. However, the hipster in me must admit this song was widely

popular in England when I was abroad before it reached this land for pop-ortunity.

I had a difficult time picking one for this artist, but I'm going to give Some Nights the victory over We Are Young. Yes the latter "set the world on fire" for 6 weeks atop the charts, but something about the "aw COME ON" in Some Nights is legendary. A song about the dangers, lies and regrets of War even transcended radio and found its way to the official theme song for Disney's Wreck It Ralph. Fun had an amazing year, and I welcome their deep message to shatter the stereotype of popular music. What a shame Wabash didn't vote for them to come perform when they were a meager \$20,000. These nights Fun is upwards of \$80,000.

Every list must consist of a raunchy rap song and I think Juicy J, former National Act performer, has done it with his Bandz a Make Her Dance. I can't imagine we are going to get much more from him, but anytime you have 2 Chainz and Weezy begging for verse, you have something special. Not sure where the rest of the 3 Six Mafia is, but this devilishly catchy and sordidly objectifying song, will make its way to every fraternity party for quite some time.

Oh how I have missed glitter, puke and brushing my teeth with Jack Daniels. Ke\$ha's mysterious disappearance in the world of music was a really depressing time for me. However, she did not Die Young, but instead watched the tik and tok of the clock and waited for her chance for a new club banger.

Now go forth, my children and assemble your own end of the year playlist.

Reading Books Opens Eyes



RYAN HORNER '15
OPINION
COLUMNIST

Last December I did a bit of intense soul searching over the beginning of Christmas break. I decided on a few New Years resolutions, but one in particular has made much bigger splashes than I had foreseen in the puddle that is my life.

I decided to attempt reading 100 books in a year. At the time, it seemed brilliant to strive for a specific number of books completed. However, that turned out to be slightly problematic. In one of life's greatest ironies, at about that time I decided to undertake a self-imposed personal literature education and began reading classics on top of the books I already preferred.

Of course, such books are often difficult to read, especially if they are to be read closely. Well, December has arrived and, sparing a comic book reading spree, I'll only end up with around 85 books finished.

While I'm slightly disappointed that I won't be reaching triple digits, how could I possibly regret taking on this challenge? I've learned much from the past year's reading, and while I know that many men and women don't find any enjoyment in the activity, I cringe because I see the depth of experience and expression they are missing.

From the simple act of chasing down this goal I've discovered many of the wonders and pitfalls of the average New Year's resolution. Much like your stereotypical soccer mom's weight loss resolution, I hit the ground running. In January alone, I finished twelve books before slowing drastically in April. Then the lure of summer nights led to a slow July, but I righted the ship once school began again.

Somewhere in the struggle through October I also realized just how foolish I'd been to put a number on my goal. I found myself rushing through a book without taking the time to digest it and let the contents work on me, just for the sake of checking another book off the list. Falling victim to a hearty ambition, I'd lost sight of the reading experience.

Despite these setbacks, the process was "life-altering" in all of the dramatic, over-used senses of the word. I read books along the way that have impacted my daily outlook, my life goals, and my opinions of others and the past. On The Road by Kerouac is honestly the center of several daily arguments that play out across my mind, while Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand brought me to new territory on the matter of personal limits. A book of Melville short stories triggered a change in my major, and books like Dune and Ender's Game opened my world to meaningful science fiction.

Yet as I fed on the words of strangers and feasted on places unknown and people unmet, a very curious thing occurred. I ate my fill, completed books I'd been dying to read, and yet as my list of finished books climbed steadily, the list of books still to be read grew exponentially. I was eating some hybrid fruit of Eden that grew my appetite instead of satiating it.

I expected to be burnt out on reading after a year filled with it, but I'm more excited than ever to tackle the books stacked on my to-do list. In fact, I plan on doing it again in 2013, and I've come to the conclusion that the best New Year's resolutions are the types that leave you more excited at the end than you were at the start.

Attention:
The Bachelor would like to wish the Wabash community happy holidays and a safe break! Good luck to seniors taking comprehensive exams.

Gaming Can Save Your Life

KEVIN KENNEDY '16
GAMING COLUMNIST

We all know gamers. Those dedicated individuals who are the kings of the controller. They make us mere mortals run in fear when we attempt to challenge them. We also know the stigmas associated with gaming. Gamers are anti-social, lazy, and have no life. Not only is this not true, but it has been proven completely false. In fact, gamers are sometimes better than surgeons at performing operations, especially in virtual simulators. According to Popular Science, researchers from the University of Texas Medical Branch have been performing research under the pretense of proving that college-age people are in fact more capable of performing virtual surgery than medical students, especially when the college-age test subjects have a steady “diet” of video games, which equates to about two hours a day.

This particular result has a very important outcome. First of all, it shows that a new style of teaching will be needed in the future for our generation, lovingly called the “Xbox Generation”. Perhaps we would learn important skills better if we were to use virtual simulators. A videogame, if looked at technically, is not much more than a complex virtual simulator involving multiple senses. This same logic could be applied to training simulators in fields.

For years, since the introduction of video games and virtual reality technology, various institutions have created simulators involving more visual components. Some instances of this include flight simulators used by commercial pilot schools, as well as the United States Air Force, and the military. In fact, a simulator currently in use by the military involves a vir-

tual testing ground using a surface-to-air rocket launcher replica within a room-size virtual environment.

Another important point is that, not only do simulators work more efficiently in some ways, but they are also much more cost efficient. A single virtual reality simulator, whilst costly to build initially, will last longer than a regular simulator, or training exercises using real resources. In the example of the surface-to-air missile system, a single missile costs many thousands of dollars, whereas the simulator does not use missiles, and through not using them, saves millions in spent ammunition a year.

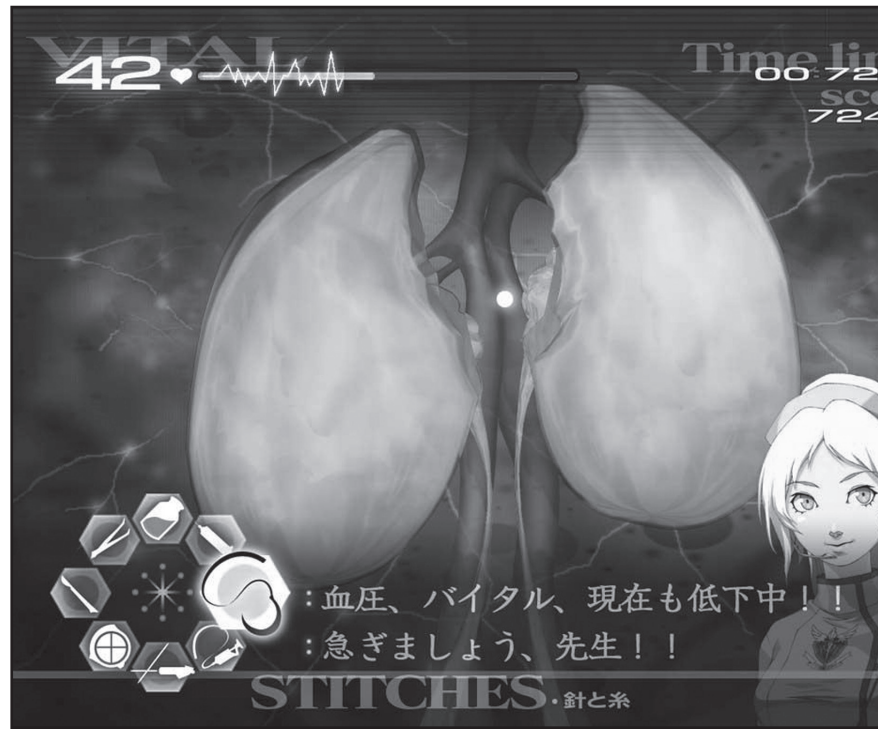
Therefore, an idea should be proposed. Should simulators be more proliferated in graduate programs for manual skills, such as surgeons and engineers, as well as in the armed forces? I believe that they should be. Numerous studies have shown that simulators stimulate areas of the brain not otherwise stimulated under conventional means. Also, it allows those involved to get as close as possible to reality without the unfortunate consequences of accidentally having a patient die, or have a fatal misfire of weaponry. On the other hand, there is an inherent danger of desensitizing these individuals through the over-usage of simulators that must be accounted for. It is a very sticky situation, but one that we must contemplate and come to terms with in the future. After all, gaming may very well be a crucial skill to have in the future, be it as a fighter pilot, a soldier, or a surgeon performing surgery using a robot. Gaming may save lives.



COURTESY OF ATTHEANIMALHOSPITAL.COM AND GAMINGNEXUS.COM

Top: An actual surgeon doing Surgeon things.

Bottom: The Wii Game, Trauma Center: Second Opinion



Killing Them Softly Challenges Norms

DAVID MYLES '14
FILM CRITIC

Killing Them Softly is not your ordinary gangster film. Long gone are the days of criminal empires and over-the-top luxury displayed in classic films such as *Goodfellas*, *Casino* and *The Godfather*. Instead, *Killing Them Softly* examines what happens when even the criminals begin to lose money.

Written and directed by Andrew Dominik, and based on George V. Higgins' novel Cogan's Trade, *Killing Them Softly* opens on a lone man walking through a barren neighborhood, with trash fluttering in the wind around him. This desolate scene, juxtaposed with a voice over of President Obama advocating for hope, sets the film on a cynical course of no return.

Set during the economic recession of 2008, *Killing Them Softly* grabs you by the throat and forces you to watch the violence and desperation exuded from its characters. Brad Pitt plays Jackie, a brutal and arguably sociopathic Mob hit man. When a Mob run poker game is robbed, Jackie is sent to pick up the pieces and kill whoever needs to be killed. Far from the clichéd hit men of blockbuster films, Jackie can discuss politics, economics, and murder in a single breath, without ever taking the cigarette out of his mouth. One example is a conversation with Richard Jenkins, who is subtly fantastic in the role of a nervous Mob lawyer. With a clip of President Obama's 2008 victory speech as the only background noise, Jackie responds to it and says, "America is not a country. America is a business. Now pay me my f***** money." Andrew Dominik clearly criticizes American capitalism throughout the film, yet with this line, he simultaneously shows desperation, greed, and the acceptance of one's circumstances. While *Killing Them Softly* does at times feel rather preachy, especially in specific scenes where the only objective is to showcase a remark made by Presidents Bush or Obama, Dominik is able to maintain a balance between art and an economics lesson.



COURTESY OF OVERDOSE.AM

Brad Pitt, looking as sexy as ever on a movie poster for *Killing Them Softly*.

Art is exactly how I would classify *Killing Them Softly*, and it has little to do with the clever script or its statements on American society. Instead, it has everything to do with the visual feast that Andrew Dominik produces for his audience. I have rarely seen a film, let alone a gangster movie, with such beautifully violent scenes. From the slow motion shot of a golden bullet penetrating glass and entering a skull, to Ray Liotta's Markie getting beaten to a pulp, with his blood turning the rainwater around him to a crimson glaze on the sidewalk, Dominik finds the innate beauty that exists even in savage events.

Dominik also constantly change perspectives within the film, with the camera only showing what one character sees at a time. Perhaps the best instance of this is after a character has just used heroine. As he fades in and out of consciousness, the camera blurs and the sound becomes muffled. Each time the man is awoken the screen clears, and then begins to blur as he struggles to stay awake. This type of realism is rarely seen, as most films choose to focus on a first person

or third person omniscient narrator. By switching perspectives and using the third person limited, Dominik is able to display the thoughts and motives of characters, then quickly resolve tension where needed.

In the same vein as Quentin Tarantino and last year's indie success *Drive*, *Killing Them Softly* depicts violence and crime in such a realistic way that the only way to step it up would have been to actually steal and kill people. Andrew Dominik's genius though is that he has all the material to make a traditional, and arguably better received, mafia film, but instead heads in the other direction. The criminal underworld of this anonymous town is merely a canvas with which Dominik paints a picture of a society that is decaying. Through clever writing, raw acting, and visually stunning cinematography, *Killing Them Softly* depicts a world that is more fact, than fiction.



COURTESY OF IMPAWARDS.COM

Killing them Softly challenges norms, all the while seething style.

The Power of Satire

FRITZ COUTCHIE '15
NORTH KOREA COLUMNIST

Recently, the country of North Korea has been trending in the news. Politically, because of a planned long-range rocket launch that may represent a greater potential for North Korean Military aggression. Scientifically, North Korea has proven the past existence of unicorns through the discovery of an ancient unicorn lair found near the capitol city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Culturally, the young leader of North Korea has gained international focus since taking power nearly one year ago.

An article published by The Onion, a satirical news source, named Kim Jong Un, the Supreme Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the "Sexiest Man Alive in 2012". The Onion satirically praised the Supreme Leader's physical features and perceivable warmth in the article that gave him the accolade, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true." Kim Jong Un, already an American cultural icon that has been featured in television shows such as NBC's 30 Rock, and online through memes, was catapulted into the center of national attention along with Justin Beiber and Selena Gomez.

The article reached international attention when China's communist news source The People's Daily reprinted the article and praised The Onion for their selection of the "Sexiest Man Alive." The People's Daily posted a 55-picture slideshow of Kim Jong Un, that focused on his attributes that were praised by The Onion. The BBC, Reuters, and CNN published articles, through their international subsidies to all of their news outlets, that a Chinese news source failed to recognize The Onions article as satire. The news was not overlooked by satirical television programs either, Kim Jong Un appeared on entertainment programs globally.

Currently 4chan.com, a website which allows users to anonymously post images and comments, is spearheading an attempt to make Kim Jong Un TIME Magazine's "Person of the Year." On time.com, the website of TIME Magazine, the public is encouraged to vote for the person that they believe is the most influential on the news of the year. As of Dec. 4, Kim Jong Un was leading in the voting. Kim Jong Un had 3,377,238 votes compared to 394,887 for Mohammed Morsi, who was in second place. Although the final decision for "Person of the Year" is made by TIME Magazine's editorial board, if voting is any indication of who wins, Kim Jong Un has a good chance.

The focus on Kim Jong Un may be good for a North Korea that has been facing struggles economically and politically. After twenty-years of construction the 105-story Ryugyong Hotel is poised to open, but many are concerned about its structural integrity. The hotel was meant to help catapult the city of Pyongyang, the capitol of North Korea, into international business, but it never gained much outside investment and will not bring much Western business to North Korea. The Rocket launch set to take place in December, which promises to cause international controversy, is a second attempt after failing to successfully launch a similar rocket last April. North Korea also failed in a spy-novel styled attempt to kill a South Korean activist, who spoke out against the North Korean regime. The weapons used, a poisonous pen-gun and three-barreled flashlight-gun, were confiscated by South Korean authorities.

Of Montreal's Quest for Perfection

The Athens, GA-based band comes back with a new album

ALEX TOTTEN '13
CAVELIFE EDITOR

For about seven years now, I've been a huge fan of Of Montreal. They came into my life when I needed something undefined and whimsical, right at the apex of their work, *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*. For those of you who have been paying attention to me over the last two years, I've talked about Of Montreal a number of times and I've written about two of their albums, *False Priest* and *Paralytic Stalks*, two albums coming out in rapid succession and meeting with a generous response, in a way.

The problem that Of Montreal is facing is that they've already had their great album, and it was 2006's *Hissing Fauna, Are you the Destroyer?*. *Hissing Fauna* pulled emotion out of electric music, pushing the boundaries of Indie pop and House electronica, all the while strumming on the listener's heartstrings as they fell into Kevin Barnes' depression with him. *Hissing Fauna* was fantastic because of this, because of the pure, raw emotion that it portrayed, and the song's arrangements were dynamic and interesting.

With *Daughter of Cloud*, which is a compilation of unreleased songs and rarities from little known-EPs, Of Montreal shows the past and the present in a two-pronged attack. The song's best tracks are from *Deflated Chime*, *Foals Slightly Flower Sibylline Responses*, and EP from 2006 which I totally had and loved, but there's a reason why these songs are the best. "Psychotic Feeling" and "Noir Blues to Tinnitus", the two songs in question are from a completely different era of their music making, a time when the concepts didn't take complete control of the songs.

Set between their two best albums of *The Sunlandic Twins* and *Hissing Fauna*, the EP was a jumping gap to their pronounced greatness

and it shows. They stand out on the as great points in Of Montreal history and I was confused to see them on this CD. Most of the unreleased were from *Skeletal Lamping* on, and most of them suffer from Of Montreal's new campy condition, while style takes precedent to content.

Outside of those two songs, the lead track, "Our Love is Senile" and the acid-house jam "Micro University" stand out as songs that last the test. "Our Love is Senile" sounds like it could have been on The Sunlandic Twins, and "Micro University" is inventive and different for the band, which made it interesting. "Feminine Effects", which was previously released on a Sony Connect session, was re-recorded with Rebecca Cash as the lead singer, is also quite good, but the version seems to be lacking enough Of Montreal sensibility to really fit in, and "Tender Fax" was a nice find on the album, having in it a great and dreamy psychedelic solo. Other than these six songs, the album is beyond strange, and it seems that Of Montreal and Kevin Barnes are more than willing to continue to be strange.

Which is fine. They've been strange since their conception, and, for a while, it worked really well. But, it's starting to get to the point where only hardcore fans will enjoy their work, while new listeners will lament that they weren't around five years ago when things were really good. But, for those songs alone, *Daughter of Cloud* is a good pick up; most of these songs are hard or impossible to find. So go to your Spotify account, because everyone should have one by now, and check it out.

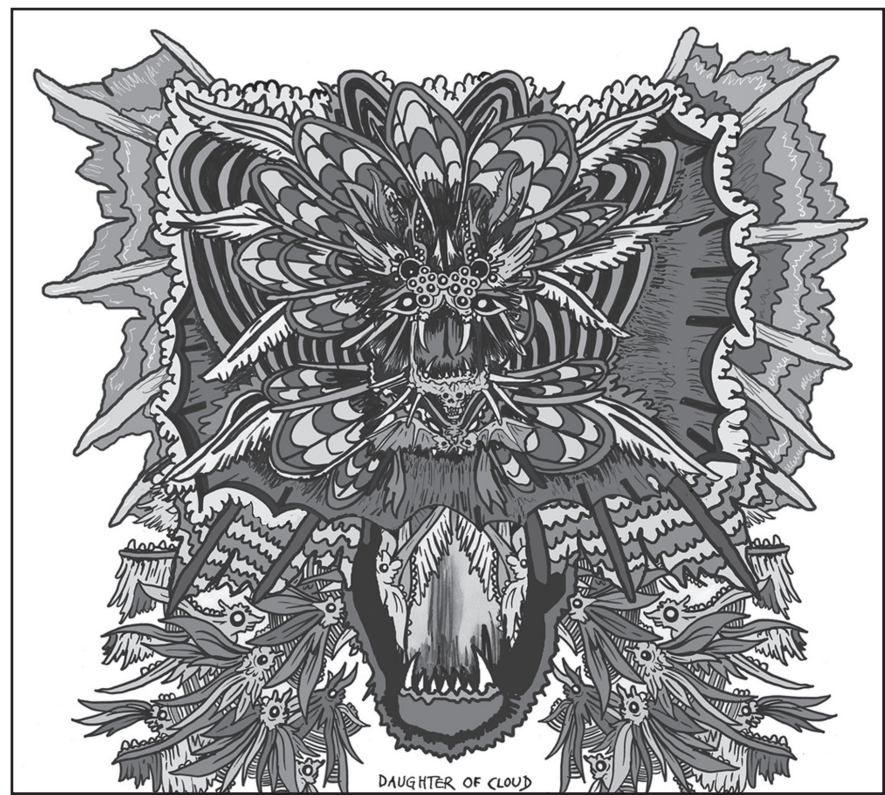
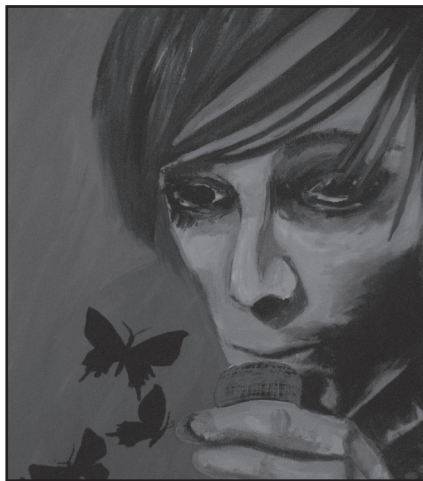


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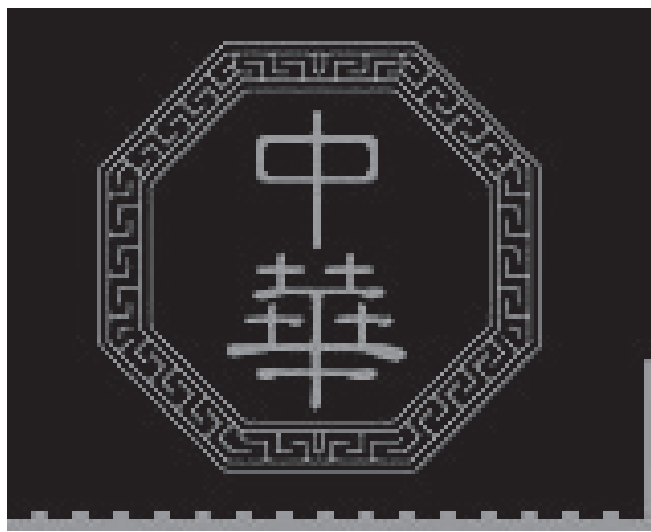
Top: Of Montreal's lineup, seen being generally silly

Right: The cover of *Daughter of Cloud*,

Bottom: An accurate depiction of Kevin Barnes, the Brain man and wunderkind of Of Montreal



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Basketball Continues Inconsistent Play

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '15
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giant basketball team held on for a 75-72 victory against Denison Saturday. The Big Red erased a ten-point half-time deficit before Little Giant players made plays down the stretch to secure the win. “We go into every game knowing it’s going to be a hard-fought battle,” Coach

Antoine Carpenter said. “We just have to keep our intensity and play Wabash basketball.”

The North Coast Athletic Conference battle was inches away from being tied with one remaining. Denison started its final possession in need of a three-point shot to tie the game. Wabash defenders crowded the three-point line but Denison guard Robby Weingart found a clean shot after

a pump fake. He rose up and knocked down the game-tying jumper, except his toe was on the three-point line. Video replay was inconclusive and unable to overturn the call.

“I thought he hit a three then Coach McClung told me the referee didn’t signal three so it was a two,” Carpenter said. “I tried to call a timeout because I thought it was tied, but they were able to look at

the replay and lucky for us it was a two-point shot. It was a good shot but I’m just glad he had his foot on the line.”

The start of the game did not suggest there would be any drama in the final minute. Wabash jumped out to an early 20-7 lead and entered the locker room in front, 38-28. The 38 half-time points outscored the team’s game total in Monday’s defeat to Rose-Hulman.

“We knew there would be peaks and valleys with this team,” Carpenter said. “We just wanted to bring more intensity and effort to the game today. Adversity brought us together and we brought more passion and excitement.”

The most adverse situation occurred half way through the second half. The Big Red connected on a three and while the shot was in the air, Wabash committed a foul. Denison sunk both of the ensuing free throws for the five-point possession. The adversity continued immediately when Wabash committed a defensive foul on the opposite end of the court. Denison knocked down two more free throws and Wabash’s 11-point lead suddenly vanquished to four.

“It was a momentum shift but we had to keep our composure,” Carpenter

said. “It’s good for the team to experience those types of moments. We keep on playing no matter what.”

Junior Andy Walsh answered with a jumper and a back-and-forth struggle then followed all the way to the waning seconds. Each team made shots to keep the other close, but it was freshman Ross Sponsler who stepped up in the clutch. He calmly hit two free throws to extend the Wabash lead to 73-70 with 17 seconds remaining.

“I just stepped up with confidence and acted like it was practice,” he said. “Knock them down in practice, knock them down in games.”

Sponsler has been hampered by a knee injury early in the season and missed the last three games. However, he showed no ill effects in the second half; he scored 13 of his 15 points after halftime.

“There was a lot of adrenaline today; it hurts right now,” Sponsler confessed after the game. “We lost our last three and the team need a win today so I just tried to step up.”

Sponsler wasn’t the only freshman to step up. Crawfordsville native Austin Burton made his first start of the season and scored 8 points and starting forward

Daniel Purvlicis scored 8 and grabbed 5 rebounds.

“We try to play up tempo on offense and get after people and force turnovers on defense so it’s important we have good depth,” Carpenter said.

Kasey Oetting had 15 points on 6 of 14 shooting, Walsh and Jordan Surenkamp added 12 and 8 points off the bench, respectively.

Denison (3-3, 1,1 NCAC) was led by forward Dimonde Hale, who had a quiet 29 points inside. Weingart and Bret Woolard each scored 10.

“Coach preached the importance of conference games all week,” Sponsler said. “We came out here and had a lot of energy and got the win. It was definitely a fun game to be a part of.”

Wabash avenged two home losses at the hands of the Big Red last season. Denison won 72-62 in the 2011-2012 regular season meeting between the two schools at Chadwick Court, then returned in the first round of the NCAC tournament to eliminate the Little Giants in a 74-60 contest.

The Little Giants (2-3, 1-0 NCAC) will take the court again Saturday at The College of Wooster. Tip off will be at 2:00 p.m.



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

The basketball team has struggled, but the young and talented team will prepare to rebound their season over the winter break.

Purvlicis Leads Talented Freshman Class

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '15
STAFF WRITER

“When the shot went up, I knew I needed to crash the boards,” Daniel Purvlicis said. This was his last thought before he scored a game-winning tip in for Wabash against Albion College on November, 18.

“Ross [Sponsler] and I had a pick roll going,” Purvlicis said. “He drove it in and took the floater and I was going in for the rebound as the ball came off the left side of the rim. I was able to tip it in from there.”

The freshman forward made the play in the final seconds to give his team its first win of the season. Purvlicis has continued to shine on the court; he’s averaged 8.3 points per game while shooting over 50 percent and has started every game.

“Right now, he’s doing a great job scoring the low post,” Coach Antoine Carpenter said. “He’s very active on the boards and has done a tremendous job of getting put backs. He brings a lot of excitement and has a lot of skill to step out and hit the mid-range jumper.”

Purvlicis is only part of the youth infusion to the basketball team this season. Four of the five starters are sophomores or younger, including two freshmen (Purvlicis and guard Ross Sponsler). Purvlicis has noticed two main differences from high school basketball.

“Speed and physicality are definitely the biggest changes,” he said. “The physical play is put into plain view playing against Pete (Nick-sic) who’s always in there bang-

ing on everybody. There are bigger guys but everybody seems to have mean streak and their movements are a lot more demonstrative.”

At 6-7 and 235 pounds, junior center Pete Nicksic bangs on everyone in his way, including Purvlicis. He checks in as a wiry 6-7, 198-pounder but hasn’t shied away from taking Nicksic on in the post. Purvlicis and fellow freshman big man, center Marcus Kammrath, practiced one on one moves versus Nicksic before training camp practices.

“The three of us started off the year going in before practice,” Purvlicis explained. “Marcus and I were just learning how to get around and how to stop bigger guys. I would try to stop Pete or try to score on him. We were giving each other our best moves on offense trying to get the bucket and it has been really beneficial.”

Purvlicis didn’t wait for school to start before he built a relationship with his new teammates. Purvlicis, Sponsler, Nicksic, and a handful of other Wabash basketball players attended a summer tournament in Indianapolis against other teams that consisted of men and other collegiate athletes. The tournament’s benefits transcended the playbook for Purvlicis.

“We didn’t work on sets or anything; we just got used to each other’s strengths and weaknesses against good competition,” Purvlicis said. “It was odd at the start because not everyone knew everybody. But there was one day where we had two games which allowed us to hang out between games and get to know each other.”

The extra time spent with his teammates has paid off for Purvlicis. He has become more of a vocal leader on the court despite only playing in six games.

“You can see him starting to speak up more and showing people where he wants the ball,” Carpenter said. “He knows the game of basketball and does a good job working with his teammates.”

Much of Purvlicis’s high basketball IQ can be attributed to his high school coach, Dave McCollough.

“He put us through one of the closest things I’ve seen to a college program in high school ball,” Purvlicis said. “Coach McCollough had us focusing on fundamentals and defensive principles. Those two things are the biggest help coming into Wabash. The learning curve was a lot smaller for me because I knew the defensive principals Coach Carpenter wants like help side defense.”

Purvlicis started as a sophomore for the Noblesville Millers. His team made regionals that year and Purvlicis was exposed to top-level competition. His most notable high school opponent is Gary Harris from Hamilton Southeastern, who is now a starting guard for Michigan State University. Purvlicis had some success against the former McDonald’s All-American.

“I played him every year of high school,” Purvlicis recalled. “I didn’t technically dunk on him, but he tried to block my dunk in the sectional game last year. It didn’t work because I was still able to finish it.”

The top-level competition Purv-



IAN BAUMGARDNER | WABASH '14

The way Purvlicis trained in high school prepared him for the rigors of the college season. At this point in the season he is averaging eight points per game.

licis faced in high school also included players who are playing basketball for Indiana University and Kansas State University.

“We played against much higher level of competition in high school,” he said. “Facing all the Division 1 athletes really helped prepare me to play college basketball.”

Purvlicis faces just as big of challenges off the court as well. As a freshman in the Beta house, he’s enduring the challenges of pledge ship.

“Being a pledge is always fun,” he sarcastically said. “It’s difficult but it helps a lot. Study tables keep us on a rigorous schedule and help us make grades. Coaches are also big on grades. They refer to us as scholar athletes, not student athletes.”

He currently aspires to be a Rhetoric major and Economics minor.

“He’s going to continue to get better. It’s just a matter of knowing the game and getting used to the physicality of the game.”

This Weekend in Wabash Sports

Friday:

Track

@ Indiana Univ

12:00p.m.

Saturday:

Wrestling
Basketball
Track

@ North Central
@ Wooster
@ Univ of Indianapolis

9:00a.m.
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Tankers Make Annual Trip To Florida

FABIAN HOUSE '16
STAFF WRITER

Wabash Swimming and Diving will compete in their annual trip to Florida over winter break. This year, the team will be undergoing a major change from past years in their starting lineup. Almost half of the swim program will be made up of the eight incoming freshmen. The two upperclassmen are both juniors, as the team does not include any senior members on the roster.

This is not only a very young team, but a team with a lot of room for growth. The swim team has seen a consistent drop in times this year, with their most recent meet at Calvin College last weekend. Wabash finished fifth out of the eight teams represented.

Swim Intern Craig Fleming, assistant to Head Coach Steven Barnes, looks at the trip to Florida as an opportunity to train in preparation for the season. "The meet down there we just basically use as a training tool," Fleming said.

Junior leader Adam Barnes feels the same way. "Florida just really helps the team unity. Everyone is there for eight days, you get out of the cold weather, you are in the sun, everyone is feeling better, and everyone is energized while we are there," he said.

Barnes will be moving away from distance events to compete in the 200 and 400 individual medley relays. With such a young team, Barnes be-

lieves this will be a great opportunity to get to know his younger teammates better. "It helps with bonding," Barnes said. "As a freshman, I really got to know the juniors and seniors and as of this year I am one of two juniors, so I am really looking forward to getting to really know the freshmen. You get to know them over the first few months of the season, but it is a completely different experience when you are just living with them, have doubles every day, and you are lying out on the beach in between sessions. You are just having a good time, just really getting to know everyone."

Josh Bleisch '16, one of the eight freshmen competing in Florida, will be swimming in the 50 free and 100 and 200 breast. Bleisch never considered swimming at Wabash. He said, "I chose to come to Wabash before I chose to join the swim team. But Coach Barnes just kept calling me and kept talking to me and he convinced me it would be cool to swim here."

Elliot Johns '16 competes in the 200 free and back. Unlike Bleisch, Johns has always looked forward to swimming in college. "I swam since fourth grade, so I have known I wanted to swim in college since middle school." Johns has a simple outlook on the trip. "Swim, beach, sleep," he said.

Freshman Jack Belford looks at the trip as an opportunity to continue improving. His events include the 1000 and 500 free and the 200 fly. Belford said, "Since we are on winter



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Over the break the swim team will travel to Florida for their annual training trip. They will be competing with teams from all over the nation for several weeks of double day training sessions. Freshman Elliot Johns summed up the experience with a few simple words, "Its just going to be swim, beach, sleep."

break, instead of training at school, it gives us a chance to train in a different environment." The freshman class is rounded out by Chris McGue, Clayton Highum, Arturo Granados, Dylan Miller, and Joel Paquin.

The goals for the swimmers this

year include qualifying individual competitors to the national meet in February. After traveling to Florida, the team will then swim at 6 p.m. on January 9 at Washington University. The conference tournament is always difficult to win, and will be even more

so with such a young team. But Wabash Swimming and Diving is a team made up of members who are confident that with more time and training, they can put on a good performance at each meet they compete in.

Track Prepares For Hoosier Indoor Open

BEN BRADSHAW '15
STAFF WRITER

After winning the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championship last March in the Knowling Fieldhouse, the Track team looks to continue its

dominance in the upcoming season.

The team looks to reload after losing key senior athletes from last year's team. That senior group included distance guru and All-American Kevin McCarthy, who was a

national champion in the indoor mile and followed up with a 3rd place finish in the 1500 last May at Outdoor Nationals in Claremont, California.

"The team will reload and our goal of winning the NCAC Indoor Cham-

pionship remains the same," Head Track and Field Coach Morgan said. "Runners such as Kevin McCarthy, among others we lost last year, are hard to replace but can be replenished by a committee of this year's athletes."

The NCAC remains one of the strongest conferences in the country coming into the 2012-13 season. Coach Morgan noted the strength of Allegheny and Denison in the distance events, and Whittenburg in the sprint events. However, he acknowledged that earning a conference championship requires a well-rounded team. Morgan expects at least three teams in the conference, including Wabash, to be ranked in the Top 25 teams in the nation.

The team returns an impressive group of athletes to help anchor it's effort for another Indoor title. The group includes senior Jake Waterman, who placed 2nd in the 800 meter run in last year's Indoor Championship and 1st in the nation last May in Claremont. Talented athletes return, but this is a new season. "There are no top returners," Morgan said. "Everybody has to stay motivated and prove themselves as they have in the past."

A promising freshmen class joins the corps this year, with talent spread across many events. In the hurdles and long jump, Matt Dickerson has a chance of making an impact early on in his career as a Little Giant. Both Anthony Stella and Matt Gibson have potential to do well in the short sprints. The middle and long-distance crew should benefit from Adam Wadlington and Fabian House in the 800, and Matt Avenatti in the distance events.

The team competes in the Hoosier Indoor Open on Saturday, but the team will also be sending ath-

letes to the University of Indianapolis to compete. "The Hoosier Indoor Open is essentially for a few guys to see where they are and to attempt to qualify for Conference early. We trained hard this past offseason and Coach Morgan wants to get this upcoming season started early and on the right foot," said John Haley, a senior middle distance runner.

Competition will be tough, with athletes hailing from all three divisions. Hurdlers and middle distance runners will be testing the waters in Indianapolis on Saturday. "This weekend will consist of our first outings of the year, it's more to gauge where we're at as a team. We'll see what kind of shape we're in and the areas we need to work on," Morgan said. Senior middle distance runner John Haley

After the weekend's events the athletes will return to Wabash to face finals week. Morgan notes that they'll be expected to continue their training at home, wherever that may be. Some athletes will return to campus a week early and join the seniors taking comprehensives to continue practicing and using the Wabash athletic facilities.

Look for the Little Giant track team to continue it's dominance in the NCAC this year in Indoor Track, even with the loss of several prominent athletes from last year's team.



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tomorrow the Track team will compete in the Hoosier Open, which is a good barometer for the success to come throughout the season



Coach Morgan



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Crossfit: Is The Pain Worth The Gain?

The Nation's Latest Fitness Trend Has a Dark Side

RYAN LUTZ '13
SPORTS EDITOR

Crossfit has quickly become one of the nation's top fitness fads. The new workout trend usually lasts no more than a half-hour and is praised for its intense nature. Crossfit is effective, intense and popular, but it is also extremely dangerous. Coaches and athletes alike have become huge fans of Crossfit at Wabash College. The mix of Olympic lifts, power lifts, calisthenics, gymnastics and sprints always keeps the body guessing. Football, wrestling, and track and field have implemented Crossfit workouts into their training programs. Most of Wabash's head coaches said they believe it has made a difference for their teams on game day. The rewards of Crossfit are great, but the risks outweigh them. The



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

A majority of coaches believe that if proper form is used, Crossfit is completely safe

high volume Olympic lifts leave most participants with bad form at the end of a workout, which has made injuries fairly common among Crossfit athletes. Shoulder impingements, strains, and tears along with spinal disk problems are the injuries that strike the Crossfit athlete often. "Its definitely very dangerous," track and field Coach Clyde Morgan said. "Which is why I substitute a lot of the complicated lifts for my guys. People don't realize that the people doing the workouts online are professionals. I've seen amateurs try to do handstand pushups, and when they stand up all the blood rushes to their head and they pass out."

One of the biggest reasons that Crossfit workouts are dangerous is the fact that workouts often require multiple sets of a complicated lift at a challenging weight. The further

along in a workout one is, the greater the likelihood of an injury. Pair that with the competitive group mentality in a standard Crossfit gym, and you could have a recipe for disaster.

The group setting breeds competition that most former, and current, athletes are looking for. The competitive atmosphere does lead to somewhat masochistic tendencies that outsiders have come to associate with Crossfit as a whole.

At Wabash College the coaches have found a happy medium for Crossfit workouts.

"A lot of people haven't done Olympic lifts before," Morgan said. "That's why I tell our guys to leave the macho stuff at the door. I have all of them start with the bar, because if you are not careful the shoulders and back will be the first things to get injured."

Football Head Coach Erik Raeburn said he agrees with Morgan's slower approach to Crossfit.

"We do spend a lot of time teaching proper technique," Raeburn said. "Regardless of the type of workout you are doing, without proper technique you cannot maximize your results and you increase your chances for injury."

Austin O'Neal '13, a certified Crossfit trainer, said he thinks that the likelihood of injuries isn't very high if proper form is used. "When it comes to possible injuries, if the Crossfit methodology is followed correctly there should be very little to worry about," O'Neal said. "One thing that is stressed in the Crossfit community is the idea of avoiding rhabdomyolysis or 'rhabdo'. However, it's pretty rare and one of the more extreme things that could occur while doing Crossfit."

Rhabdomyolysis occurs when the muscle fibers break down and are released into the bloodstream, essentially clogging the kidneys and poisoning them. Rhabdomyolysis is a cautionary



COREY EGLER | WABASH '15

High repetitions on Olympic lifts such as the snatch (pictured above) is the main cause for a number of shoulder and back injuries in the Crossfit world. Wabash coaches combat this by cutting back on the amount of weight and reps.

sign in the Crossfit community about the inappropriate use of intensity. Cases of rhabdomyolysis, while rare, still occur because trainers, or Crossfit athletes, don't know when to pull the plug, which is what Wabash coaches have taken precautions against.

"The key is to start with the body weight workouts," Morgan said. "Some people just go on the website and try to do some pretty advanced workouts. The most important part is to start off slow."

The track and field team is still an advocate of Crossfit, only they said they preach proper technique and not pushing your body to the point of injury. Morgan even made the experienced throwers start off with the bar in the beginning of the season, walking them through the workouts to make everything clear.

Football takes a similar approach to teaching their athletes the finer points of Crossfit workouts. The football coaches don't see any added danger to doing Crossfit workouts as opposed to more traditional workouts.

"If not done properly, all workouts can be dangerous," Raeburn said. "I don't believe a Crossfit exercise to be any more or less dangerous than any of our other workouts."

Even with its drawbacks, coaches at Wabash College said they are still in favor of the Crossfit methodology.

"Crossfit is a great thing," Morgan said. "You just have to be careful. Remember that you can create your own workout if you are not comfortable with the ones online."

Wrestling Prepares For A Busy Break

DEREK ANDRE '16
STAFF WRITER

As the grind of the first semester winds down, many students here at Wabash are starting to see the finish line and the relief that comes with winter break. After next week most students here at Wabash will head home for some much needed rest and relaxation after finals week. This rest, however, won't find its way so quickly to the members of the Little Giant Wrestling Team.

For the Little Giant wrestlers, much of this year's winter break will be marked by two-a-day practices as well as a few meets in the early part of January. The wrestlers will get to spend time over the Christmas holiday with friends and family at home, but will ring in the New Year with a practice on Jan. 2. The wrestling team will then compete in their first meet of 2013 at the Knox College Duals on Jan. 5 in Galesburg, IL. While this schedule may seem odd to those who are non-wrestlers, but Head Coach Brian Anderson said it is just all part of the sport. "It's part of our season," Head Coach Brian Anderson said. "We're used to wrestling in January and February. That's part of our sport

and that's what happens in it. It's just something that we have to do."

For the Wabash wrestlers there are mixed emotions about having to return early from the holidays for practices and meets. Some view it as an opportunity to improve without the outside rigors of Wabash. Others see it as somewhat of a letdown because their time at home is cut short. But nearly all see it as a necessity because of the nature of their sport.

"It sucks in the way that we have to come back away from our family and relaxing and have to miss New Year's Eve," Ethan Farmer '16 said, "but it's also good because we can get back to campus and just focus on wrestling without worrying about academics. It also gives the team a chance to bond doing different things other than just two-a-days in the wrestling room. It brings diversity to our workouts. We can use the pool, the weight room, the track, and just do all kinds of different things."

"I think having the wrestling team back on campus and working out together during winter break is a good thing because it lets us focus just on wrestling, since we will not have any school work," Reece Lefever '16 said. "This will allow us to add to our technique and conditioning, so I

definitely think it is important that we come back earlier then everyone else to focus on wrestling and workout."

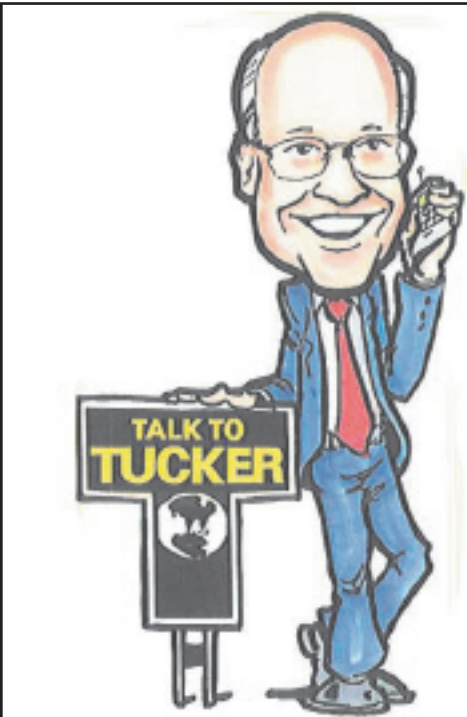
One of the other challenges that presents itself to the wrestlers this time of year is the challenge of trying to maintain a specific weight during finals week. Throughout the season, wrestlers for all teams try and hold within the weight class that they can be the most competitive. This is both a mental and physical challenge throughout the year but especially becomes difficult during the stresses of finals week. According to Anderson, the challenge is just one that comes with the territory of being a collegiate wrestler.

"The guys have to get used to being uncomfortable and that's how we put it to them," Anderson said. "We're mid-season and these guys are used to it. It's kind of a crazy thing to view as a non-wrestler and a lot of people view what we're doing in a negative way, but our guys are probably some of the healthiest on this campus. It's tough during that stretch of finals but our guys handle it well."



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The wrestling team will be competing over winter break with double day practices and multiple tournaments. "It's just something we have to do," Coach Anderson said.



Good luck
this Saturday,
Basketball Team

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