

Wabash Says ‘Bah-Bye’ to Sheepskin Diplomas after 187 Years



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Wabash graduates receive a their diploma wrapped in a red ribbon and with a red rose as an emblem of appreciation for their mothers.



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Commencement will be slightly different next year without sheepskin diplomas.

JAKE VERMEULEN '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Over time at Wabash, traditions change, some fade away, and some new ones crop up. We all know that these traditions are not fixed, but that does not make it any less unfortunate when one of the College's longest standing traditions fades away. That will be the case when commencement rolls around for the Class of 2020, who will be the first class not to receive their diploma printed on sheepskin parchment.

The news that the College would be moving away from the diplomas first broke on October 2nd, when The Wabash Commentary posted the story on their Facebook page. The news was later confirmed when Wabash President Gregory Hess attended the Student Senate meeting on October

8th. During the meeting, Hess confirmed that diplomas would no longer be printed on sheepskin and took questions on the sheepskins and a number of other issues. Hess pointed primarily to “deteriorating quality” and “inconsistent production” on the sheepskin diplomas for the change, saying the quality recently was, “beneath the great tradition of this College.” However, Hess acknowledged that the communication of the decision was subpar. He said, “I will own that communication here could have been a heck of a lot better.”

When the forum was opened up for students speak, many expressed frustration with the decision, saying that they believed it was motivated by a desire to cut costs. Hess denied this allegation, though he acknowledged

that costs on the sheepskins were high and continued to rise. Many other students expressed their frustration with the way this decision was communicated and with similar breakdowns in communication in other decisions that the College has made recently. Some students cited housing changes a couple of years ago, which were made public in an article for The Bachelor, and a perceived lack of communication from the administration, as evidence that they were neglecting student opinions.

Hess repeatedly pledged during the meeting to work to improve communication with the student body, offering to come to Student Senate meetings more often and saying that he was open to ideas on how he can best hear student opinions in the

future on any number of issues.

The news about the College's move away from sheepskin diplomas attracted interest from many prominent publications. In addition to The IndyStar, the story was published in The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. The decision from Wabash leaves Virginia Military Institute as the only remaining college in the United States which still uses sheepskin for their diplomas.

The College is still considering exactly how to move forward with the diplomas, and a committee to determine what the next step will be has been formed, including student representatives. However, it appears clear that the sheepskin diplomas are now a thing of the past.

Architects Begin Planning Library Update with Student Input



BENJAMIN HIGH '22 / PHOTO

Plans to revamp the library will update the building's interior.

BENNY WANG '22 | STAFF WRITER • As any hardworking Wabash man would agree, the Lilly library is a place for solitude and study. At night, one of the brightest places on campus is always the Lilly library. Starting this semester, the renovation of the Lilly Library has officially started. What will the future Library be like?

According to the staff members in charge of the renovation, right now they are at the first phase of the renovation: conceptual design and

information gathering. After weeks of pre-planning, the crew came up with many models of what the new library might look like. At the moment, they are asking for feedback from students, faculty members, and anyone who has and will invest in the library.

The new Library might be completely different from the current one, or it may have some areas preserved while other areas being renovated. The decision will be made depending on the feedback from everyone. On the

nights where students were asked to provide feedback, many comments, suggestions, and even critiques were given by the student body. The crew said that at this point, they didn't know what the new library would turn out to be like at all. They have had engineers walked around the library to get a general idea of the space. But the final decision lies not in their hands but in the hands of everyone who is investing in the library. According to the crew, they will come up with

different scenarios to see what would work the best after the current phase of information gathering. Maybe certain features will be added. Maybe certain features will disappear. No matter what, the future library seems promising to many people.

The Lilly library will be renovated soon. And many changes will come. But what will never change are the lights in the library shining at night for every hardworking Wabash man chasing his dreams.

Owens '07 Enters 2020 Governor's Race



COURTESY OF JOSH OWENS FOR GOVERNOR

Josh Owens '07 was a member of the Sphinx Club and the President of Beta Theta Pi while on campus.

JAKE VERMEULEN '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Wabash men have made a tremendous impact on Indiana politics in the last few years. During the 2018 election cycle, the Republican Senate primary featured three Wabash men—Todd Rokita '92, Luke Messer '91, and Mike Braun '76—going head to head. Braun eventually prevailed in that race and went on to win election to the US Senate. Now, another Wabash man is throwing his hat into the ring. Josh Owens '07 announced his campaign for the Democratic nomination for Governor on September 6th.

Owens' campaign is historic for multiple reasons. Owens is the first openly gay candidate for Governor in Indiana's history. In 2018, Jared Polis of Colorado became the first openly gay governor in American history. If Owens is elected, he will also become the third youngest person to become Indiana's Governor after James Ray and Evan Bayh.

Part of what drew Owens to Wabash was the College's willingness to admit him even though he was graduating from high school early. "I came to Wabash because I was looking to leave high school after my Junior year...and

Wabash was ready and willing to take me as a graduating Junior," Owens said. Owens also came to Wabash because it felt like home from the first time he came to campus. "I felt like there was a community here that I could build on, and it certainly ended up being exactly that."

Since leaving Wabash, Owens has quickly built a career for himself. Right after graduation, he worked for Angie's List as one of the first Wabash alumni to receive the Orr Fellowship. Owens has done his part to expand that opportunity for students who came after him, as he serves on the Orr Fellowship's Board of Directors and was recently on campus to help recruit Wabash men to the program. After his Orr Fellowship ended, Owens went to graduate school, earning a MSc in Economic History from the London School of Economics.

After he returned to Indiana, Owens worked for technology startup One Click Ventures and served as a professor at Butler University, where he was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award for the Lacy School of Business. Owens then moved over to SupplyKick, where he is now CEO.



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In 2010, Owens won the R. Robert Mitchum Award for Outstanding Young Class Agents, along with his classmate Ross Dillard '07.

Under Owens' leadership, SupplyKick has grown rapidly. According to Inc.com, they have seen growth of 527% over the last three years.

Owens points to his company's decision to institute a \$50,000 minimum salary as a main driver for their success over the last few years. "It aligns with our values of building a business in a new economy that actually supports all workers and ensures that people are leaving there with at least a middle class living," Owens says. "As we did that, people were more connected to SupplyKick, they were more interested in the growth of the company, they were more connected and more secure in the job itself, and so it also had the ability of helping us grow even faster than we would have otherwise. I think you can get lost in trying to minimize costs and squeeze things here and there. In reality, at the end of the day, a business is an incredibly important part of the community."

Owens faces a stiff challenge to win this race, though. He faces two opponents in the primary who are more politically experienced—State Senator Eddie Melton and former

Indiana Health Commissioner Woody Myers. Even if he wins the primary race, that only guarantees a matchup with current Governor Eric Holcomb, who posted a net approval rating of +27 in a Morning Consult poll taken earlier this year.

Still, Owens was unphased as he talked about why he entered the race. He said, "As I looked at this, I'm younger, I come from building dynamic, growing companies, and I know I'm a little biased here but the pace of Indiana from a policy perspective is not fast enough. We're not talking about the issues that will really be defining the next 20, 30, 40 years of Indiana."

Owens has started off his campaign by focusing primarily on education and teacher pay in Indiana. He recently released an education plan modeled off of his experience at SupplyKick, including instituting a minimum salary of \$50,000 for all teachers in Indiana, and eliminating textbook fees around the state.

Owens' campaign is just getting started, but the Wabash grad is set to make a significant impact on the course of the race.

PBK Lecturer Brings Insights on Poverty to Camps

REED MATHIS '22 | STAFF WRITER • Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar, James X. Sullivan provided the Wabash community with insights on America's fight against poverty over the last half-century, and his own research in finding more extensive approaches in assisting impoverished individuals.

Sullivan is a Professor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame, and continues to get involved with organizations, such as the U.S. Commission on Social Impact Partnerships and the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO). His research highlights how our government persistently fails in attending to the needs of impoverished people, and instead introduces ways to bolster self-efficiency and improving one's economic well being.

Sullivan's first published work, in 2003, centered around behavioral habits of poor households; and government welfare and tax policy

effects on the well-being of the poor. Since then, he continues to approach a multitude of poverty-related issues, including: the government's failure to identify and address the causes of poverty at federal and state levels, inefficient policy choices that negatively affect the poor, and local communities that can and have tackled systematic poverty throughout modern history.

Through intricate research of modern-day poverty, starting with President Lyndon B. Johnson's initial legislation passed in 1964, which was deemed the United States' "War on Poverty", Sullivan elaborated on Tuesday night where we have failed in the past. Whether it be the fluctuation of inflation over time and sticking to rudimentary methods of approaching poverty on a federal level, we continue to fail ourselves in misconstruing data and offering quick fixes to problems that require long-term attention.



COURTESY OF JOSH OWENS FOR GOVERNOR

Owens is the first openly gay candidate for Governor in Indiana's history.



COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME

Sullivan addressed Wabash this week.



CAMPUS COOKS

Take a look at what fraternities we serve are saying about Campus Cooks!

★★★★★

"Campus Cooks is what college dining should be like."

Kevin M., Tau Kappa Epsilon

★★★★★

"Our ability to interact with a chef and take part in determining our menu allows for a more authentic experience of fraternal living. It further separates the Wabash experience from other colleges."

Nathan H., Tau Kappa Epsilon



5-Star ratings also from the chapters we serve at Wabash College! Join in on the deliciousness!

Better Food. Better Chefs. Better Greek Experience.






Staff Editorial

The *Daily Beast* published an article titled “Police Officer Told Victim That Men’s College Doesn’t ‘Generally’ Expel or Suspend Rapists, Lawsuit Claims” on October 8, 2019. The article details an allegation of rape at Wabash in April 2019, which has since sparked litigation and a Title IX Complaint against the College. We do not write here to discount the details of the occurrence. In fact, we have no reason to suspect anything but the truth in the woman’s report. To be clear, this article has absolutely nothing to do with whether the woman’s account is true or false. We commend her bravery for coming forward, especially at a time when the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network estimates that only 23% of sexual assaults are reported to the police. We take issue, however, with the erroneous representation of the Gentleman’s Rule and Wabash’s procedural rules in cases of sexual misconduct. We wish to clarify the

meaning of the Gentleman’s Rule, and the higher standard it embodies for Wabash men.

Historically, outside interpretations of the Gentleman’s Rule distort its meaning and significance. The administration takes great care to define the Rule as a standard higher than the law. Wabash freshmen go through numerous orientation sessions about the interpretation and application about the Gentleman’s Rule, including a session specifically about its application to sexual misconduct. Violation of the Rule obviously includes breaking any law, but it also includes any number of actions that, while technically legal, are unbecoming of a Wabash man. While we are governed according to a rule that is not designed to specifically enumerate how every situation should be dealt with, the *Wabash Health, Safety, and Security Handbook* - which *The Daily Beast* never mentioned in their article - explicitly states that, “Penalties for

violations of Wabash’s Gentleman’s Rule, including sexual assault, may range from probation to expulsion from College housing, or suspension or expulsion from Wabash.”

Further, the *Handbook* mandates specific policy procedures in the case of sexual assault. These include the aforementioned freshmen orientation education programs; encouragement to report the case to the administration, who will work with the victim to file proper reports to authorities; a long list of procedures for victims to take; separation of the victim and perpetrator in academic and living situations, allowing a person of choice to be present in disciplinary procedures; and, again, punishment for violation of the Gentleman’s Rule. Not to mention, the criminal charges of the case in question are still pending. This is only to point out that Wabash has a strict policy of refusing to comment on pending litigation, meaning no one but Wabash

and the parties involved will know exactly what the administration has done, at least until the matter will have been resolved.

By ignoring any of the publically available literature on the Gentleman’s Rule and Wabash’s specific procedures for sexual assault, *The Daily Beast* article misleads readers into believing the Gentleman’s Rule is ineffective and sexist, and that it protects and props up rapists. To the contrary, the Gentleman’s Rule is a higher standard that calls Wabash men to lead better lives not only for themselves, but for everyone around them. We sincerely hope that the victim’s allegations are being investigated thoroughly by both the College and the Crawfordsville Police Department, and that the alleged perpetrator will face appropriate punishment if they are found to be guilty. This is the only possible outcome which is consistent with the Gentleman’s Rule.



Erik Anderson '21

Reply to this editorial at edanders21@wabash.edu

Sheepskins are but a Symptom

from the regular look of a black beret. Anytime we wore ours around those who weren’t Airborne, there was a distinct feeling of pride. I still have mine, as a reminder of all we went through, and that the extra challenge of earning it was worth it.

Now fast-forward years later, when I first heard Wabash bestowed each graduate with a sheepskin diploma. The financial economics Senior who first explained its uniqueness to me, described it in detail, which reflected how honored he’d feel to one day receive one. In fact, if you Google “how to maintain a sheepskin diploma,” a result shows a stock image of a Wabash diploma, proudly framed and regularly maintained by its recipient. But this year, we disappointingly learned that that is to be no more. For all our extra struggles, from challenging courses to defining our identities within a small-town, all-male College, we’d earn no small token of pride – one we could one day display or regularly maintain – from this year’s administration.

For a college that regularly brags about how generous its Alumni base is, it seems unfathomable that the reason is due to rising costs alone. One suggestion I heard was that an alumni should step up and pay the \$30,000 the diplomas are expected to cost, with some estimates putting it as high as \$160 per diploma. But I say no. They’ve

already given so much back. The real reason for the cut is a re-allocation that Wabash has already been doing for quite some time.

For one, there used to be an era when colleges owned and operated their own food services. Wabash has long since whored that out to Bon Appetit – a for-profit company that routinely under-delivers compared to what students pay. Don’t believe me? Try doing the All-Sparks diet without enough left over in your annual budget for quality toilet paper. There’s also the Wabash trust fund, one that’s supposed to – by definition – cover any inflationary costs, such as grounds keeping or building maintenance, into PERPETUITY. Yet Wabash decides new entryways, “W” logos, and a new 13 million-dollar football stadium are worthy of its capital expenditures, whereas the regular cost of a long-standing tradition is not. Tuition costs also rise, yet the classes taught are the same classes and textbooks as three years before. I can only hope our rising costs go towards some cost-of-living increases for professors, as they are evidently among the last pillars left that make this place unique. But I doubt that is the case. I’m only reminded of cost increases whenever members of the Business Office hit me up mafia-style in the cafeteria, reminding me that despite charging the VA’s GI-Bill

to the max, that I’m still indebted to a difference every year. And for what?

So I write this to say that, in my opinion, Wabash is changing, gents. It’s been changing. The recent decision regarding sheepskins diplomas only signals a shift that’s been seismically-buckling for some time, and that’s that Wabash is now all about the bottom-line. Small colleges surely face uncertain futures, but for a college that prides itself on being different, routinely declaring itself “Ivy-league”, it’s certainly questionable why one of its hard-earned differentiators would be scrapped due to supposed budget concerns. It’s not what the diploma was made out of, but what it stood for.

Just as I didn’t necessarily care for the color maroon, I still recognized what it meant. After this coming May, once we’ve all tucked our now-paper diplomas – our black berets – away in a drawer instead of consulting professional framing companies, I’m sure the college will start asking us to give back. They might ask for say \$160, and I’d consider it. My fellow students, the professors, and the staff have all been nothing short of inspiring. But I’d also ask, since when did the College show an extra \$160-worth that they cared? Would my donation go towards preserving the few elements that make the Wabash I love truly unique? Forget the hide, save our pride.



Malik Barnes '23

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Brotherhood has No Mask

after hearing many give their two cents about what the term means, I have heard a few trends within the definitions: Care, Accountability, and Respect. Before I expound on what I believe these trends mean I think it’s necessary to define them: Care is defined by Google as the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something. Respect is defined by Google as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. Accountability is defined by Google as (of a person, organization, or institution) required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible. Keeping those definitions in mind, I am going to introduce another hot topic on campus currently and that is mental health. I firmly believe that these two terms are closely related especially in a small community such as the one here at Wabash. How well we truly promote and embrace the components of brotherhood, I argue will have a direct effect on the

mental health issues we are facing today. I have observed when organizations such as WDPD try to promote discourse on campus about these issues and it is absolutely silent. I think the problem stems back to a flaw in our brotherhood, if we as the men of this campus feel as if we cannot be vulnerable and truly express ourselves in front of each other, then something is not right. Life brings challenges to all of us, and when things truly get rough there is no reason one should feel alone in their battle. However, I believe that this is all too often the case. We feel as if we have to keep this persona up of a big scary tough guy to not seem weak. We walk around with straight faces and only speak to our brothers once they have first taken the courage to speak to us. I described speaking up as courageous because in reality I believe it is fair to say we all fear judgment of the people around us to some degree. However, it is only when we realize that the person next to us is just as nervous to speak up and get to know you as you are, that we can

really start building the brotherhood we as Wabash Men have the potential to create. I use the word “We” and not “some” or “a few” because we are a unit, if there is a flaw in a few then there is a flaw in us all. We all wear masks, we all show people what we feel comfortable allowing them to see, but in a brotherhood, this should not be the case. You should not have to already know someone, to smile and say good morning to them, or ask them how their day is going. We are in this together; let’s put the silly concepts such as hypermasculinity behind us. We are a community of scholars, athletes, brothers all in one. I challenge each and every one of you to reflect and think on how you can promote the true campus wide brotherhood, and step outside of your comfort zone, whether it is getting to know someone you don’t know or simply asking someone how’s it going. There is no such thing as a stranger in a community of brothers. We have work to be gentleman however, we are the men of Wabash and truly nothing breaks US.

“Welcome to the Brotherhood!” Those were the first words I saw when I decided I was going to the beautiful Wabash College. Brotherhood is a term with great depth, and I am inclined to believe many of us struggle to truly understand just that. While my stay here has been relatively short, Wabash is indubitably my home, and I genuinely care about the community that I have decided to live in. With that said, brotherhood has many definitions, but

Bring Back the Journeyman

That includes both the hard skills – the raw knowledge and procedures –, as well as the soft skills, which help the apprentice become a functional member of society.

The last step in the process is becoming a master. That person has learned as much as they could about their trade, and are now ready to innovate and keep the trade in line with its times and trends. This is no small feat, as there is always more to learn about the trade. In fact, we never learn everything about the field; we are perpetual students of whatever it is that we may do, because we can always combine two ideas into a third. But, when we are ready to innovate and bring something to the table in the field, then, and only then, can we call ourselves masters.

Between the two stages, however, is an intermediate stage that few know about: the journeyman. Once the apprentice learned everything he could from his master, he would set out on a journey for a few years, going to different other masters in different parts of the known and accessible world, and learning their tricks of the trade. At the end of this journey, with the freshly acquired knowledge, the journeyman would become a master.

In this day and age, we have lost the journeyman stage. We expect our apprentices to become masters immediately, armed with only the knowledge we gave them, in the form we gave them, without any chance for them to question it, to challenge it, or to see it from a different point of view. This is why most colleges and universities have become outdated in their teaching, and why GPA does not matter as much as it was designed to: the purpose of education is to train us for our jobs – which means that students are apprentices, that, in an academic setting, have little to no chance of actually being journeymen.

This is where extracurriculars and internships come into play. These leadership roles and opportunities for real-world experience are the equivalent of the journeyman today. Yet, even at Wabash, with its amazing opportunities for these kinds of experiences, not many get the chance to explore themselves and their field outside the classroom – as Mr. Daniel Cuevas mentions in his opinion piece, “Making the Most of These Fleeting Years,” in the September 20, 2019 issue.

And this system goes beyond the classroom. As Mr. Justin Kopp mentions

in his opinion piece, “Venture into the Dangerous Playground,” in the September 13, 2019 issue, having an unsafe playground helps children test the limits of their body and strengthen themselves for the future. And, in fact, that is exactly what the journeyman stage stands for: pushing oneself beyond the limit, getting uncomfortable, experiencing that culture shock, and, all in all, getting ready for life as a master. This is why having a helicopter parent is so harmful for a person; this is why having everything, and not being responsabilized is so detrimental for anyone: they never get to be journeymen.

In a world where information is one click away, skillsets are the new currency. Therefore, now more than ever, we need to gain that experience somehow. And to get that experience, we, the new generations, need those opportunities to be journeymen in our fields. That is the purpose of getting involved, both on and off campus, and that is the purpose of the liberal arts. Thus, I encourage you, all of you, to explore your interests beyond the bare minimum, and revive your inner journeyman, so that, one day, you can become masters of what you do.



Alex Rotaru '22

Reply to this editorial at arotaru22@wabash.edu

Back in the days of old, when factories were still a wild dream, and traveling the distance between Crawfordsville and Lafayette took a whole day, the different trades had a system in place for ranks and how to advance from complete novice to master. Today, I will be talking about why this system has become relevant again in this day and age, and why it is important to bring it back as soon as possible.

A person starts in a trade under a master, as an apprentice. That master teaches the young apprentice everything they now about the trade. This is similar to what we are doing in schools and universities across the world: teaching our children about the field, or “trade,” they want to go into.

Joker Succeeds Amidst Controversy

CHRISTIAN REDMOND '20 | OPINION EDITOR • *Joker*, directed by Todd Phillips, debuted in American theatres Friday, October 4. The AMC Theatre in Crawfordsville, however, ran the film one day before the official release date. My friend and I took two and a half hours out of our Thursday night (two hours for the movie, thirty minutes to debrief afterwards) to watch the anticipated film. As a casual filmgoer, I do not carry the intellectual capacity to critique films based on anything more than an education in THE 104 [Introduction to Film] with Professor James Cherry and my personal experiences. Therefore, I will present here what I consider a layman's take on the film.

Interestingly enough, I was in THE 104 two years ago when I read an article claiming that Leonardo DiCaprio would play the Joker in a new origin story. A few months later, I was ecstatic to learn that Joaquin Phoenix was cast instead of DiCaprio as I am a humongous fan of Phoenix's. Phoenix has been my all-time favorite actor even before *Joker*; I loved *Walk the Line*, *Signs*, *The Village*, *Her*, *The Master*, *You Were Never Really Here*, *Inherent Vice*, and *Gladiator*. And *Joker* just solidified Phoenix in that position.

Joker is set in a 1981 Gotham City. Arthur Fleck, played by Joaquin Phoenix, lives with his mother in a rundown apartment. Many social forces are in play when we meet Fleck: Gotham garbage truck workers have been on strike, causing trash to pile up on every street corner; citizens are becoming resentful towards the rich because of their increasingly-apparent and worsening impoverished lives; and crime is on the rise. While much of the movie revolves around Fleck, it also is a story of socioeconomic-centered realities, struggles, and protest in an underprivileged section of a large city which shape and are shaped by the

actions of Fleck.

Fleck starts as a man in his thirties that works for a rent-a-clown business. Scenes progress and Fleck's state of mental health becomes obviously apparent to the viewer. Fleck is struggling with some mental illness(es). He sees a state-provided therapist every week. A series of unfortunate events takes a toll on Arthur which result in a vital scene I will not spoil.

Turning-point scenes are scenes in which The Joker starts to peep out through Arthur. A true concern my friends and I had in preparation for this movie was that we believed no actor could rival the violence, charm, charisma, and just the "Joker personality" that Mark Hamill and Heath Ledger succeeded in creating. It wasn't that Phoenix didn't have the talent to do so, rather we were weary that the mentally-ill, frail, depressed, scared, and broken Fleck we saw in trailers could not transform into the confident and strong character Joker has come to represent. I started to cast doubts into my suspicions however when I saw the trailer where Arthur asks talk-show host Murray Franklin, played by Robert De Niro, to call him Joker when he comes on stage. If you have not seen the movie, watch the scene in the *Joker* trailer in which Fleck said, "When you bring me out, can you introduce me as Joker?" That is a turning-point scene. It contrasts the sick and fragile Fleck with the outgoing and purposed Joker. This is what makes Phoenix's Joker different than the others.

Joker's Joker story, as compared to *The Dark Knight* and *Batman: The Animated Series*, is a story of a mentally-ill man, very slowly transforming into the traditional character we know. For any one doubting that Phoenix's take on the character could not come close to Ledger or Hamill's, I challenge you to genuinely

compare the three side-by-side. They are all the outrageous, tactful, morally reprehensible, and violent Joker identity that has been ingrained into our perceptions of the character.

Phoenix embodied the violent nature of the Clown Prince of Crime, which was the center of controversy surrounding the film. Many critics have scored *Joker* poorly because of the possible consequences of showing the film in theatres. The families of the victims in the 2012 Aurora, Colorado shooting, in which a man dyed his hair and killed families watching *The Dark Knight Rises*, spoke out against the film. Many people believe that *Joker* could be a catalyst for a deranged person to commit an atrocity because of its sympathetic depiction of a character associated with violence, certain communities, and certain social movements. Others are criticizing *Joker* for being, as they perceive, a rip-off of what *Black Panther* represented: a protest and call to rise against injustices targeted at a certain community.

I do not agree with these critics in the slightest. Fans wanted a *Joker* movie for a long time. The character is older than most people living today and is beloved by the comic book community: not because he is a murderous villain, but because he represents social movement while also being the antithesis of a hero. This is the same reason people relate heavily to antiheroes such as Deadpool, Wolverine, Rorschach, and Punisher. These critics tend to forget other relatable villains that are symbols for social movement such as Killmonger (who wants to use Wakanda to spread wealth and power to marginalized communities around the world), Magneto (who is tired of watching non-mutants institutionally discriminate against his people and is taking a stand), and Ozymandias (who succeeds in preventing



a nuclear disaster by bringing an end to the Cold War between the United States and Russia). These characters are meant to be relatable. That is the whole point. Viewers are supposed to be torn between the villain and the hero. It's what makes an interesting story. Are we supposed to remove *Watchmen*, one of the best superhero movies of all time, from the ether because we are afraid a disgusting and immoral person will take diplomacy into their own hands?

All things considered, *Joker* is a beautifully made movie. It aesthetically pleases the viewer while also captivating him/her with a riveting tale. The beauty is that everyone already knows, or has a good idea of what exactly is going to happen in the movie. And everyone is right. But the director takes an overtold tale and somehow keeps every watcher on the edge of the seat. This has quickly risen to one of my favorite films and I highly suggest it.

Wally's Guide to Identifying Mold



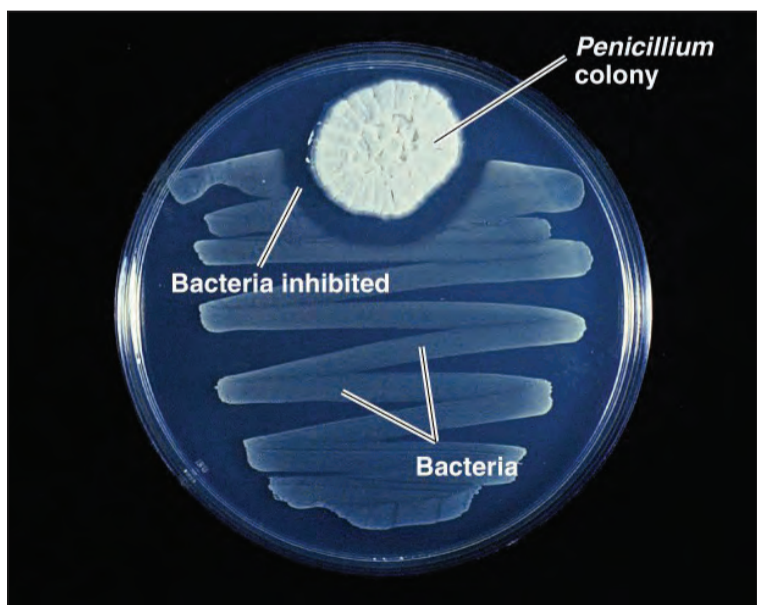
COURTESY OF GOOGLE

GOOD: Some forms of mold, like cheese, are safe to eat.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

BAD: Leaving food out can lead to the food growing moldy and unsafe.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

GOOD: Penicillin, an antibiotic drug, is created from penicillium mold.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

BAD: Black mold produces toxic spores that are dangerous to breathe.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

GOOD: Although it looks gross, slime mold is good for the environment.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

VERY BAD: Other times if something looks moldy, it is best to avoid it.

Comic Relief by Sam Hansen '22



Oktoberfest Comes to Wabash

CRISTIAN ALEMAN-GONZALEZ '22 | STAFF WRITER • Indiana is surrounded by diverse cultures that made a large impact on the culture we have today. At Wabash, students celebrate cultural diversity through events that foster campus unity and cultural understanding, such as Oktoberfest, this Saturday.

Traditionally, Oktoberfest is the world's largest beer festival and traveling fun fair, dating back to the 19th century. It takes place in Munich every year, during the last couple of weeks of September and the first few of October, in celebration of Bavarian

culture and their identity with German food and beer. The German Club has taken the opportunity to bring this tradition to the Wabash community. The club will be looking to host as many people as possible in a family-friendly environment, offering free German food such as authentic German sausages, a cash bar with beer provided by Bon Appetit, and German games. And with Family Day this weekend at Wabash, it would be opportune for the families of Wabash students to enjoy the event.

"On a greater scale, Oktoberfest is kind of like everything an American

would envision the German stereotype to be, but it's really not really that representative of Germany itself," Drew Bluethmann '22, President of the German Club, said. The main goal for this event is to "expose Wabash to the German culture," Bluethmann said.

German Club members practice and keep the German language and culture alive in the Wabash community. The club holds regular informal coffee meetings at The 1832 Brew, that give members a chance to practice their German. They also hold cooking meetings, where members can learn more about the

traditional German dishes, and take trips to German restaurants in the Indianapolis area throughout the semester.

Oktoberfest is more than beer and games; rather, it is a celebration of people with a profound history. An event like this is a great opportunity for not only those with German heritage to enjoy, but for those who want to learn more about the culture through food, fun, and games. The German Club is hosting the event this Saturday, October 19, at 4 p.m., behind the Frank Hugh Sparks Center, between Wolcott and Morris Halls.

Way Back Wabash: Yandes' Big Move

ALEX ROTARU '22 | ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR • The Lilly Library is a landmark for any Wabash student: it is a place to study, drink coffee, socialize, read good books, and get last-minute help with cramming before that big exam. The Library is preparing for its second round of improvements, with planners from Shepley Bulfinch having visited campus this past week, looking for feedback from students on how to make the library better suited for the Student Body's needs and wants.

In the future, we may see outdoor study spaces, more accessibility for disabled students, more study rooms, more energy efficient lights and energy saving systems, and, most importantly, more restrooms. Until that point, there is still a way to go. So, before the Library takes another dive into the future and its possibilities, it is best to take a quick step back, and look at how far we have come in terms of the library as a focal point of college culture.

The first library building was Yandes Hall, dedicated in the 1880s. It was expanded and re-dedicated in the 1990s. Most people on campus know this building as the Detchon Center, home of the Classics and Modern Languages Departments. The bookshelves in Yandes reached all the way to the skylights in what is today the Detchon International Hall.

In the 1950s, architect Eric Gugler, who designed the Campus Center (now Sparks Center) and Wolcott and Morris Halls, was tasked with creating a new library for a better Wabash, following a rebirth after World War II.

In April 1959, the new Lilly Library was dedicated. However, between completion and dedication, the 100,000+ books from Yandes had to be moved somehow to the new library. Many students had to brave negative-



COURTESY OF DEAR OLD WABASH

Students moved books to the new Lilly Library in empty beer boxes.

11-degree-Fahrenheit weather and snow to carry all those precious books across the mall using nothing more than their arms and their Wabash Always Fights Spirit.

In 1990 the library underwent an expansion, with the addition of the

present-day entryway, the second-floor study alcoves by the present-day Writing Center, and the West wing. With that expansion, the seal in the Library got moved to the entryway, and the old entrance doors to the library became the doors to the Ramsay

Archival Center.

Now, as we await the second upgrade of the library, let us remember the Giants that have brought us thus far, and on whose shoulders we are standing today, looking forward to a bright future.



COURTESY OF BACHELOR ARCHIVES

Yandes Library was the first Wabash library.

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

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

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

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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Touching Base(line) with Professor Natalie Aikens



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

In her spare time, Professor Aikens is also a professional tennis umpire.

DREW BLUETHMANN '22 | STAFF WRITER • It is not only the students at Wabash who are well-rounded, but also the faculty. Natalie Aikens is the perfect example of a well-rounded faculty member because she is an English professor and a professional tennis umpire.

“Reading, in general, has always been a passion. But what I think is interesting about English is when it comes through people’s identities and seeing what the stories really mean and make us think about ourselves,” Aikens said.

Last summer, Professor Aikens worked on a research project at the University of Florida. She read and analyzed nineteenth-century Cuban newspapers. She observed how Cubans thought about themselves, what they thought about their identity, and what they wanted to become. “It was looking at connections between the U.S. and Cuba and thinking about how Cuban identity fits into that,” she said.

Cubans argued about the future of their island in the nineteenth century. Some Cubans wanted to become an independent state. Some wanted to remain with the Spanish. And others wanted to join the United States. Several U.S. presidents attempted to buy Cuba. A class struggle also emerged

in nineteenth-century Cuba. Many wealthy landowners in Cuba portrayed themselves as slaves to Spain while they were slave owners themselves. Aikens also observed newspaper items like classified ads for slaves. She observed these conflicts, and many more, in the Cuban newspapers.

Professor Aikens grew up in the San Francisco Area. She studied at Whitman College, a small liberal arts college in Walla Walla, Washington. “I say it is like the hippy [...] coed version of Wabash [...] there are a lot more people running around barefoot and much more concern about the environment,” she said. She did her masters at San Diego State and her Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi. Wabash College is her first job out of graduate school, and this year marks her third year.

Professor Aikens is also a professional tennis umpire and a recreational player. She missed her first day at Wabash to be an umpire in the 2017 U.S. Open. She points to Wabash as valuing well-rounded people because they allowed her umpire at the U.S. Open. She also works at other professional and collegiate events. “In the spring, almost every Friday and Saturday, I am somewhere in Division I tennis, usually at Illinois or Purdue,” she said.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

PHI PSI HOTBOXES BENCH

Lo-Five to Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, who enjoys indulging in evergreen leaves so much that they decided to spray-paint the Senior Bench, to waste as little of their precious time as possible on traditions. Just know that the grass is greener on the other side of the Putnam County line: they don't call their biggest city GREENcastle for nothing.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Hi-Five to an impressive display of “L’etat, c’est moi!” spirit from Sergeant-at-Arms Pro-Tempore Austin Chivington '21 at the Student Senate meeting in Pioneer Chapel on October 8. All he had to say is that the students are making too much of a racket. We hope he will be satisfied with the friendships and amazing experiences he will have had at the college once he becomes the sole proprietor of a Wabash diploma in Slavonic.

PARKS AND WRECK (GET IT?)

President Hess announced a new Parking Committee with student representatives to help identify current issues with parking on campus and create solutions. Rumors state a camera crew will follow the committee and create a documentary from their shenanigans that ends up lasting seven seasons.

SOCCER SENIOR DAY

Hi-Five to Wabash Soccer for planning everything with amazing precision. Student attendance at soccer games has been so lackluster that it probably didn't matter that Senior Day was over break.

ARMORY STENCH

*Lo-Five to whomever let the neighborhood skunk into the Armory. We, at *The Bachelor*, suspect foul play. We ask that *The Commentary* retrieve their pet soon.*

SPORTS



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Isaac Avant '20 led the Little Giants with 61 yards on 16 carries during the game, as the Little Giants offense was only able to score 10 points on the road.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Artie Equihua '20 brings down a Wittenberg receiver.

Football Gears up for Witt' After Tough Loss

LOGAN SMITH '23 | STAFF WRITER • Wabash football fell short of earning a conference win against Wooster last Saturday. Wabash, now 3-2 with a 3-1 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) record, recorded their first conference loss of the year at the hands of Wooster. Coach Don Morel attributed the 24-10 loss to a slow first half that included multiple mistakes. “I think we struggled in all areas of the game early, and we got off to a really slow start,” Morel said. “We started the game with a penalty on kickoff return, threw an interception, fell behind 14 to nothing. Everything you can’t do to win. Wooster is a good football team, they were very physical. We just can’t make those mistakes and expect to win games. We played well against Allegheny for a half, Denison for a game, OWU for a game, and we just needed to concentrate. We did not play well, defense played well in the 2nd half, but we did not play well. Offensively, we had some critical mistakes.”

Despite a losing final score, Wabash was able to outgain their opponent by over 130 yards. But costly turnovers cost the Little Giants several times, as they had 3 thrown interceptions and went 1 for 5 on 4th down attempts. Coach Morel noted this by saying, “We just could not gain any traction at all. Offensively we gained a bunch of yards in between the 20s, but we needed to score a touchdown and we couldn’t.”

Morel knew Wooster would be a problem offensively, saying, “They’re stout, they are a big, physical team. They held Wittenberg to 15 points and I thought we would have more success running and throwing the ball. They played very well, and I believe we get

everybody’s A-game. We just can’t expect to show up and just win because we are Wabash.” Despite the heavy pressure and forced turnovers for Quarterback Liam Thompson, Morel still had great enthusiasm when speaking of the freshman, “I think he did a great job, he was getting a lot of pressure and a lot of different looks in the secondary. From a coaching standpoint we could have helped him more, but he continues to make progress. And you don’t feel like he is the freshman quarterback anymore, he is just the quarterback.” Coach was equally as happy when speaking of his defense, which allowed just over 80 yards in the 2nd half, while still recognizing the mistakes made throughout the game, saying, “I think everyone took a turn making a mistake or dropping a ball, it was rough. Nobody really did everything perfect. Although, the defense did play really well in the second half, limiting Wooster to 85 yards.”

The tough loss is further proof of a conference that grows stronger each year. Wabash’s last three opponents are a combined 11-4, and the upcoming opponent, Wittenberg, is 4-1. “Our conference has gotten better, but we have a tough opponent this week,” Morel said. “The winner of this game has been conference champion 15 out of the last 16 years or so. So, we started Sunday preparing to beat these guys. It is the middle of the season and you just have to put your head down and go back to work.” Morel was blunt when talking about the importance of this upcoming matchup, stating simply, “If we are going to be conference champions we are going to have to win.” Morel knows this is a game they can win, which

was proven last year when Wabash took the 28-21 victory over Wittenberg in Ohio. He went on to say, “Wittenberg is always a good football team. We did a great job last year preparing to beat them, and we need the same kind of preparation this week to get those guys.”

Morel is also happy to be at home, as the Little Giants remain undefeated at Hollett Little Giant Stadium in the 2019 season. He commented on his relief of playing at home, saying, “It is definitely great to play at home, we were on the road for 3 of our 5 first games and that’s a lot of travel. But we are home this week, and you just take it one week at a time.” He even joked of his week-to-week focus, letting out a good laugh after saying, “I don’t even know who we play next week.” Morel let it be known that he and his guys were going to work to get ready for Wittenberg, saying, “Our guys take football pretty serious and they hold themselves accountable and they know we need a great week of preparation. You have to put the time in, you have to look at film, you have to lift weights. You have to do all those things to compete with a team like Wittenberg.”

Wabash will take on Wittenberg this Saturday at Hollett Little Giant Stadium at 1 in the afternoon. It is sure to be a chilly and busy weekend as the families of Wabash visit for Family Day before the game. However, Coach Morel made clear his focus for this week when he said, “Beat Wittenberg, that’s the only thing there is this week.” With a warming home crowd, and an undying focus from the team, this is sure to be another heated NCAC showdown.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash Soccer split their recent games, beating Allegheny at home before falling to Denison. Against Allegheny, Goalkeeper Chad Wunderlich allowed zero goals as Allegheny only took one shot on goal



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The team honored its Seniors during the win over Allegheny on Senior Day.

Soccer Splits Games Over Last Week

BLAKE LARGENT '22 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash College soccer team moved to 8-4-1 (3-1-0 North Coast Athletic Conference) this season after defeating Allegheny College 2-0 on Senior Day last Sunday and falling 2-0 against Denison University on Wednesday.

In Sunday's matchup against Allegheny, both teams had offensive pressure early. The Little Giants and the Gators combined for five shots in the first 28 minutes of play. Wabash continued to pressure the Allegheny defense, and with 11 minutes left in the half, Kyle Holmer '21 scored off an assist from Abdoulie Waggeh '20. The Little Giants kept the score 1-0 at halftime.

"We kept the ball and attacked well," Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller said. "We also stayed focused on set pieces and long throw-ins."

Wabash opened the second half quickly and pushed the score to 2-0 after a goal from Cristian Aleman '22 just eight minutes into the half. The Little Giants used a defensive second half to keep the score at 2-0 for the remainder of the half. Wabash held Allegheny to just one shot in the second half and outshot the Gators 8-5 throughout the match.

"We played well and took our three points," Keller said. "They were physical and athletic, but we matched the intensity and put away our chances. We have had a good start and took care of the teams that can be trap games. We still have yet to play the best teams so we need to focus and keep playing well."

Wabash welcomed Denison University to Fischer Field on Wednesday for another

NCAC matchup. "Denison is very good at what they do," Keller said. "They also have played one of the strongest strength of schedules in the country. We will [have to] attack through the wings and counter-attack their over commitments."

Both teams played physically in the first half, but neither team managed to grab a lead. Despite not scoring, Wabash had a great offensive presence in the first half. The Little Giants outshot the Big Red 11-4 in the half and had multiple shots come close to scoring.

In the second half, Denison quickly came down the field and scored in just two minutes on a shot from the Big Red's Tucker Nuzum-Clark. Just one minute later, Denison brought the score to 2-0 on a goal from Ethan Miracle. Wabash created offensive pressure at times throughout the half but could not recover, losing 2-0.

The loss to Denison is Wabash's first conference loss of the season. The Little Giants are currently third in the NCAC standings with five conference matches remaining this season. Despite the loss, Keller echoed positive comments about his team's performance this season. "Training and work rate have been very good," he said. "We have focused for all 90 minutes of every game. We are proud of the way the team has played through some adversity, such as a rash of season-ending injuries."

Wabash will look to bounce back tomorrow in an away matchup against Kenyon College at 3:30 p.m. The Little Giants will be looking to avenge last season's opening-round loss in the NCAC Tournament to the Lords, in which Kenyon scored a last-second goal for the win.

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COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash was unable to top Denison despite out-shooting the Big Red 13 to 9.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash will look to bounce back on the road against Kenyon this weekend. The Lords are currently ranked #7 in the nation.

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Player Profile: Zach Ostrowski '20

LOGAN SMITH '23 | STAFF WRITER • Zach Ostrowski '20 is a physics major entering his fourth and final year of Wabash football. Zach, a member of Phi Gamma Delta and one of the few senior defensive linemen, takes it upon himself to make sure his guys are ready each Saturday. Zach's main role with the team is on the Red Squad, which gives the best possible look for the starters and prepares them for the next game. He talks highly of the Red Squad and how he has had to learn every defense out there to give his guys a good look. He noted how it had obviously been successful saying, "My freshman and sophomore year we did well, only losing about 2 games. Last year we only lost to Denison, and again this year we are doing well. So, it is definitely important that we always give our guys good looks."

Zach also talked about how much more detailed college practices are compared to those in high school. "There is a difference between doing a play and doing it perfectly. In high school it's just, here is a play run it. They don't tell you when this guy motions this way you have to react. And that tends to overwhelm kids in the beginning." He spoke of practice as "another layer of depth" and talked about how he helps his younger teammates get used to it. He went on to say, "It is that extra layer of depth that helps you win football games," further showing how seriously he takes his role, and how much he works to make the team better. He also went on to describe his role in helping out the young guys, emphasizing "being light hearted" because he knows his teammates usually get yelled at or they are told what to do. He went on, saying, "This year the Red Squad is a little smaller. We didn't have a whole lot of recruits and some people dropped out. So I tell them that it's fine and that it's going to be hard, but that there is always fun to have. It's just guys here so we can just play around. I remind them it is still a game at the end of the day. Even though it is important to us, it is still just for fun. Which sometimes it is hard, especially for some guys who are in the entire time for about 20 to 30 minutes with just some water every so often. It definitely gets to you every once in a while, and I just try to keep the guys' spirits up."

Outside of football, Zach has a heavy focus on academics, with physics taking a large chunk of his free time. Zach talked about how he spends his free time, saying, "This semester I have been working on my physics research. It definitely takes a lot of time. After football I usually go straight to the QSC for about 4 hours working on my presentation for my colloquium in physics research. Other than that, it's just normal stuff: reading comic books, playing video games, reading the news, just whatever I can do in my little free time." So aside from helping people during his time on the field, Zach also helps out younger students in the Quantitative Skills Center (QSC). He does this from 7-11 PM every Sunday and Tuesday, while also finding time to somehow finish all of the homework he has in all of his classes. This is just another way Zach is guiding and improving the lives of the fellow Wabash men around him.

As far as Zach's research goes, he works closely with Dr. Tompkins, who is an Assistant Professor of physics for Wabash. He said he has no problem finding help when he needs it, because someone in the physics department is always willing to lend a hand. Zach is also minoring in math, which he finds much easier than physics. When asked about his biggest challenges as a student athlete, Zach said, "What is always the biggest challenge for any student athlete is, depending on which major you do, you might have more time or less time to do stuff. I know people who are rhetoric majors who go and tutor other rhetoric majors. So, they have to go immediately after practice straight over there. I do

the same with the QSC, helping people and trying to do my homework at the same time, which doesn't usually work. But I have been doing that for a couple years, so it isn't as bad now."

Zach went on to talk very highly of his younger football brothers, saying, "I am very impressed with the way Liam Thompson '23 and Cooper Sullivan '23 have started out. I didn't really know what to expect from the incoming class, but they are some of the best guys I've seen in the past four years. Liam definitely looks like he can be a good quarterback for years to come, we are just ready to see how he does the next few games ... And on top of that we have efficient wide receivers to make [the offense] better. Isaac Avant '20 and Ike James '20 also help in the run game, but now we have actual receivers who can catch. So, our offense is looking good for years to come. We just go into every game knowing that the only opponent on the field that can stop us is us. It is never our opponent no matter who we are playing, I just feel like we can beat anyone."

When asked about what got Zach into playing football, he had several different reasons, "First, my father went to Wabash and graduated in '92. He also played football here for a couple years, so he knew that Wabash football is very physical and intelligent. He knew they put a large emphasis on our academics, so coming here I have a chance to play with a really good football team that has a chance to make the playoffs and win the conference every year." Zach knows he is another example of community and connection through Wabash, and he enjoys embracing that.

He also talked about his playing days in high school, where he seemed to be a jack of all trades. He talked about his involvement in high school sports, saying, "I played a lot of sports in high school. I did wrestling in the winter, track in the spring, some lacrosse on the side, football obviously in the fall, and over the summer I even tried to do some hockey. I enjoyed hockey a lot, but there were no hockey teams in my high school because we weren't that far north." He talked about when he debated on whether he should do any of those sports at Wabash. "I thought about track a little bit, just do some shot put and throwing stuff. But never wrestling. I was not that good in wrestling, and here most of these guys are champions coming in, and that was just not me."

Zach also discussed his future plans after he graduates in the Spring. "Right now, I am trying to get into graduate school. I really want to get into Purdue, that's a very good physics and engineering school. I'll focus more on getting a physics degree, which would be way harder, or focus on becoming a mechanical engineer or electrical engineer. I'm mainly leaning towards engineering right now, I am just not sure what type of engineer. I'm just trying to go one step at a time"

Zach also talked about classes he originally thought he wanted to be involved with before deciding to go a different direction. He explained how he felt this way about computer science, saying, "The hardest class for me for some reason was computer science. It was the only class I got less than a B in. I'm actually retaking it this semester because I feel I can do better. But I'm not good with languages, and it basically is just structure and grammar and I don't remember any of the words." Zach also talked about football in relation to his future plans, along with his education. "I probably won't do anything with football after Wabash. I just don't feel like I'd be the best as a coach. The most I would probably do there is teaching my kids and maybe coaching them a little bit. I just feel there are others who want that more than me, but I just [want to] focus more on my education and where I

am going. I'm not where I wish I was in football, but I have to make sacrifices somewhere and it happens to be with football."

Zach also looked fondly back on what he called his "favorite moment in football" which occurred during his sophomore year at Wabash, "The bell game when we won it by a 2-point conversion at the end, that was just the most nail-biting game I've been in. It's just literally on the wire, 1 or 2 points decide it, and that was a big game because that's the year after we lost the bell. So, we needed to answer and stomp on them, and that was just the best feeling ever."

Zach also felt very strongly about people who can't decide if they want to continue playing football after they start. He was very blunt saying, "People who are on the fence are usually people who want to be in the game and they want to be the superstar. That's not our mentality here. We don't care about making big plays. We want to make big plays, but the main focus is just to win. So, if you want to be a starter and you want to be number one, you have to work for it. If you're not starting that means you have problems so you have to talk to your coach and figure out what areas you are lacking in. Whether you spend more time after practice going through drills, running, lifting weights, and all that stuff. Really the only thing I accept for people leaving football is they want to do double or triple majors, because doing a double major is really hard, and a triple major means you can't do anything else besides study." Zach went on to describe how he has sacrificed for football saying, "I haven't really been able to be involved in any clubs. I tried a couple times freshman and sophomore year to get involved in different clubs, but I just don't have any time to be in anything besides football. Even in the spring we have workouts and spring football that last up to finals week and then you're done."

To finish up, Zach talked about how football has made him a better person, and how he feels about this being his last season as a Little Giant. He stated, "It hasn't really set in that this is the last year of football, it just feels like going through the motions. I definitely feel old and I definitely feel like I probably couldn't go another season even if I wanted to. But it has taught me that you have to work well with others to achieve anything in life. Whether you like them or not, you have to work with them. Another thing is that you have to earn everything in life, you can't just show up and expect to be number one. You have to work for it off and on the field, all the time. And if you just come in thinking that everything you have done is going to make you number one then you're wrong. You have to keep proving it every single day, just because you put in the work at practice doesn't mean it will show on the field. You just have to keep improving every single day."

He also finished by talking about what he would do if he could start again in his freshman year, saying, "I would definitely reach out to my coaches a little more. I focused a little too much on academics early on, even though I could have spared time for to ask for help from my coach, or just have done some extra workouts and stuff like that. I just spend my time on academic stuff now, but back then I believe I could have made more of my time for football." Even though Zach has countless presentations and papers to do for his major, he still believes it is his duty to help his fellow Wabash man anytime he gets the chance. Even with being a physics major and math minor, he still gives time to others, and believes he can still give more. He definitely idealizes your perfect Wabash man with his passion for helping others, his desire to strive for greatness, his leadership on and off the field, and his willingness to learn in the classroom and from others.

XC Readies for Inter-Regional Rumble

BLAKE LARGENT '22 | SPORTS EDITOR • After posting its best finish in the NCAA Pre-Nationals meet since 2016, the Wabash cross country team will look to continue its momentum on Saturday at the Oberlin College Inter-Regional Rumble.

The Little Giants finished 24th out of 40 teams at the Pre-Nationals meet. Sam Henthorn '20 posted the best overall time for Wabash, completing the race in 25:43.4. Ethan Pine '22 grabbed the second-best time for the Little Giants, finishing in 26:44.0.

"I was pleased with our results at Pre-

Nats considering our situation," Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary said. "We had to rest several of our guys due to a lingering illness. The guys that competed all ran career-best times and handled it well."

Pre-Nationals was the first race of the season to have strictly Division III teams competing. After its first glimpse of regional competition, the team will be able to see more Division III and regional programs on Saturday.

"This weekend's race is a great meet that gives us a look at programs within our region as well as others that we

don't typically see," McCreary said. "The course is generally fast, and the competition adds to it. We hope to be at full strength to race together before conference."

Saturday's race will also be the last meet before the team competes at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships on November 2. McCreary acknowledged the importance of Saturday's race.

"This Saturday is a critical stepping stone for us," he said. "There have been several things, mainly illness, that have impacted our chances to work together

and compete as a team. We need this one to build confidence and unity while racing before entering conference."

The team looks to be at full health on Saturday after dealing with illnesses and injuries. McCreary expressed his excitement, and also spoke on his expectations for the team.

"I'm looking for more career bests, but I'm most excited about the guys finally being healthy and competing together," he said.

The Little Giants will race at the Oberlin College Inter-Regional Rumble at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow in Oberlin, Ohio.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Sam Henthorn '20 (right) posted the best time for Wabash at the Pre-Nationals meet, finishing in 25:43.4, leading Wabash to a 24th place finish.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The Little Giants will look to improve this weekend at the Inter-Regional Rumble in Oberlin, Ohio.