

Wabash Gets Set for Adjusted Graduation Plan

RYAN SOWERS '23 | STAFF WRITER • On Friday, March 27, President Hess notified the Class of 2020 that Commencement will be officially moved to an online setting, making this the first of its kind, out of 181 past ceremonies. Along with some basic details about the ceremony, President Hess said in his community-wide announcement the following day, “I have accepted [the planning committee’s] recommendation to move forward with an abbreviated virtual, live-streamed Commencement on May 17, which will give us an opportunity to recognize the seniors and all they have contributed to our College. The committee is also working on plans for a future, on-campus Commencement Ceremony at a later time.” Since then, The Bachelor sat down with planning committee members Franklin Russel ‘20 and Clark Tinder ‘20, to learn more about what the virtual ceremony will look like.

“The live stream version is the barebones version of graduation,” Russel said, in consultation with Tinder. “It is something to recognize the seniors on that date, with the full pageantry coming at the in-person Commencement. The media team at the college has asked seniors to send in a headshot of their choice and a video of them singing Old Wabash. The pictures will be used during the reading of names. A collage of seniors singing old Wabash will be used at the end to emulate the singing on the Allen Center steps.” In effect, seniors will be recognized individually, and traditions, like the singing on the Allen Center steps, will continue to the fullest extent possible. The ceremony will be live streamed on Sunday, May 17, at 2:30 p.m., and will begin with an invocation by an undetermined speaker, followed by welcoming remarks by President Hess, student speaker Artie Equihua ‘20, various presentations including

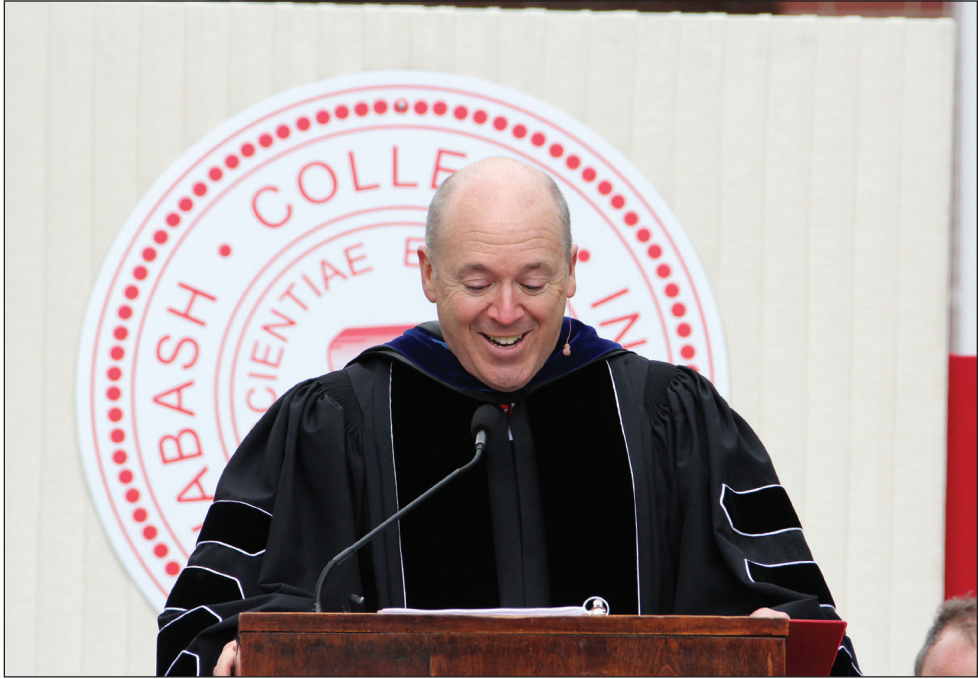
the Butler and Sparks awards along with senior class photos and names, and finally ringing out, a benediction, and the video collage of several seniors singing “Old Wabash.” “Some considerations we have examined are the logistics of the event such as setting up and what will be happening on campus at the time,” Russel said, consulting with Tinder. “We have also discussed how some seniors will not be able to make it back due to distance and/or career restraints. We have been meeting through Zoom and will continue to do so until the in-person Commencement happens.” As plans for the in-person event are finalized, seniors will have the opportunity to say goodbye to friends, faculty, staff, and coaches, and to enjoy the normal rites of passage as Wabash graduates before they carry on with the next phase of their lives. As Russel mentioned, however, this event may not be accessible to some international

students, or students who otherwise live far away from campus, or whose classes or careers will prevent them from attending. Some potential dates for the ceremony include June 7, September 20 on Homecoming weekend, or even May 16 of next year on Commencement weekend. The ceremony will include walking under the arch, singing of Old Wabash on the Allen Center steps, and a class reception. All of this may sound bitter-sweet to graduating seniors. It only helps to underscore just how unfortunate the current situation is. It must be upsetting news for those who arrived at Wabash four years ago expecting something very different from what they are facing now. While it’s not ideal, campus is making efforts to uphold Wabash traditions and to ensure that the many important relationships seniors have cultivated during their time here will have the opportunity to come to a proper close.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash Swimming and Diving also had several athletes ready to compete before Nationals were called off.



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Faculty Extend Conversion to Credit Option for All Courses

COOPER SMITH '23 | STAFF WRITER • Due to the current crisis, the administration decided to expand CC/NC [Convert to Credit/No Credit] options for the Spring 2020 semester. Many restrictions have been lifted: students can CC/NC major and minor courses, pre-requisites, and distribution requirements. Furthermore, there is no limit on the number of CC/NC courses allowed. Many students are facing challenging circumstances this semester, and the expanded options reflect the difficulties. But there are a few things students interested in graduate school should know.

Medical schools are advising prospective students to avoid CC/NC options for science courses. “In general, health professional schools prefer to see a letter grade in prerequisite coursework, when that option is available,” Pre-Health Advisor Jill Rogers said. “A student’s science GPA is one of the most important metrics available to medical schools to evaluate a candidate. A ‘Pass’ or ‘CC’ does not provide evidence that medical schools may need to sufficiently evaluate the progress of a student’s academic performance.” Students should check with the schools they are interested in for specific policies. “Some medical schools like Harvard School of Medicine will NOT accept a Pass/Fail (or CC) if the undergraduate institution offers the option of a letter grade,” Rogers said. “Other schools, like Indiana University School of Medicine, will accept Pass/Fail without

prejudice.” Pre-health students with questions or concerns should contact Jill Rogers.

Similarly, law schools are seeming to provide some leniency, but they still advise students to try to avoid CC/NC courses if possible. One law school explains, “It would be a plus if a student elects to get traditional grades, and he receives very strong grades. (It may show, among other things, ability to perform under pressure, confidence, resiliency, etc.) A student should consider getting letter grades in courses where he is performing strongly and likely to get strong marks. Take the courses CC/NC in cases where he is unable to make a strong finish due to COVID-19 (and submit an addendum).” That addendum is quite important – other law schools have also recommended one if students choose to CC or NC a course. “Given the unusual circumstances, it will not hurt an applicant if he elects to take a full semester of CC/NC grades. But applicants should be sure to explain in an addendum to their law school application why they elected to take those courses CC/NC. Most could make a good, sincere claim that their coursework had been hampered by COVID-19 this spring.” Pre-law students with concerns should contact Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Himsel ‘85.

Ultimately, students who need to choose CC/NC options should do so – but students who are interested in graduate school should keep CC/NC courses to a minimum.

A Note from the Editorial Board

Over the last few weeks, we have receive some criticism regarding a Hi-Five we ran in our February 28th issue in which we attempted to make a joke at the expense of the Iranian Deputy Health Minister. While it was certainly not our intent to offend anyone, we acknowledge that was its effect in some cases. For any offense we may have caused, we sincerely apologize. We will seek to avoid these issues in the future.

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

W.

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Staving Off the Boredom during Quarantine

AUSTIN RUDICEL '20 | CAVELIFE EDITOR • Ever feel like you do not have enough time to do all the things you wish you could do? With all non-essential activities suspended, students are finding they have more free time than they know what to do with it. “Not having enough time” is no longer an excuse to keep you from completing the things you’ve always wanted to do. But if you don’t have a list or are just bored, we thought of some new hobbies for you to try.

BINGE THAT LONG SHOW YOU NEVER HAD TIME FOR.

Streaming is exploding in popularity with everyone at home, and now is the perfect opportunity to watch the show all your friends talk about, but seemed too long to get into. All 9 seasons of *The Office*? What about *Game of Thrones* or *The Walking Dead*? There are so many options for you to watch and nothing to kill but time (and dragons, zombies, etc.).

LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

Ever wanted to play an instrument but found that it takes a lot of practice? Armed with plenty of YouTube “How to play” videos and your Guitar Hero skill, there is nothing stopping you from picking up that guitar and shredding “Stairway to Heaven”. If guitar is not your jam, you can pick up a recorder from Amazon for three dollars and learn “Hot Cross Buns.”

CHANGE UP YOUR LOOKS

Now is the perfect time to rock a Joe Exotic-inspired mullet. Many people are shaving or dying their hair while at home for at least another month, and you can too. If you ever thought about experimenting with your look, this is the best time to go for something wild like shaving your eyebrows. The best part is, if it looks terrible, you can join your class on Zoom without your camera.

GARDEN

Ben Grubbs '20 is staying busy by building a garden and growing vegetables while he is away from Wabash. After building the bed out of wood, he planted various vegetables such as onions, carrots, and lettuce. Finding something that requires daily attention can help establish a routine. “It’s definitely helped me by giving me something to look forward to doing every day,” Grubbs said. “It’s also nice because I get to watch and see my veggies grow over time so it’s a long term investment.”

WORK OUT

With gyms closed, many people struggle to find good methods to exercise. A simple walk around the block is a good start to get you moving, as long as you remember to maintain distance from others outside. If you do not have exercise equipment at home, push-ups and sit-ups are easy and require nothing but your body.



COURTESY OF MONEYCRASHERS.COM

With spring around the corner, and some extra free time for some, now is a great time for Wallies to start developing a green thumb.

An Open Letter to the Wabash Community

Mohammad Adnan '20

Reply to this editorial
mdadnan20@wabash.edu



My fellow Wabash Men,

I write to you today in the hopes of updating you all on the current state of the campus, and to inspire us all to rise to the unprecedented challenges we face today.

Our current situation brings to mind the words of a former Student Body President, Jack Kellerman '17. During his State of the Campus address, he charted the course of our liberal arts education by stating: “Wabash is moving like a bright beam from a lighthouse, to an unclear and foggy future.” Today, as we navigate the murky waters of this global pandemic, that education is just being called into practice. So, let me begin with a grand statement: in times like these, the world needs Wabash more than ever.

Going off of that: if history is any guide, I have the utmost confidence that our Wabash family will step up, live according to our mission statement, and serve as role models for the rest of the world. You’d be hard-pressed to find an instance where the nation (or even the world) was entangled in a crisis, and Wabash men did not rise to the occasion. In fact, our founders started our College with the needs of this nation in mind. When they first kneeled in the snow 188 years ago, they envisioned Wabash as “a Classical and English high school, rising into a college as soon as the wants of the country demanded.” And ever since our foundation, we’ve been engaged with a larger mission and purpose—avoiding the trappings of the modern technocratic education system. The attitude embodied by our founding mission has led us to rise to the challenge every time we’ve been called upon to serve. All the while, we have stayed true to that ideal: striving to supply for the wants of an ever changing, ever-challenging world.

Consider these examples: During the second World War, when the draft was closing doors at small colleges all over America, Wabash adjusted to meet the needs of the desperate and endangered Free World. We built barracks on our

lawns; we turned campus buildings into armories and nurse stations; we converted Mud Hollow into living quarters, specially-made for the families of men preparing for or returning from theatres around the globe. Our partnership with the Navy’s V12 officer program guaranteed the preservation of Wabash College, while aiding in the preservation of freedom as we know it today (see *The Bachelor* from August 24, 2008). Earlier, when Depression-era families could not afford to send their sons to Wabash or keep them there, our faculty voted to subsidize the tuition out of their own pockets. When the film industry came under fire and was threatened by boycotts and skepticism from the public, a well-known alum wrote the Hays Code of the 1930’s that—while imposing restrictions onto filmmakers—ensured the medium would continue to develop uninterrupted and without any government regulation. In the realm of politics, we have alumni that have represented U.S. Presidents as their lawyers, run their election campaigns, and—in one particular case—served them as Vice President. History has been written by, and served by, generations of Wabash men.

All these examples are to say: we do not require any magazine, ranking, or the rest of the academic world to validate our significance and place in this world. The *Stanford Review* is great, but our historical record in rising to the occasion whenever our communities have needed us should also serve as our inspiration. For almost two centuries, we have proudly maintained our tradition of being an outstanding educational institution that teaches men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely. And that is why I am sure we will persevere through the set of challenges that we are faced with today.

Just as in past crises, our staff and faculty have risen to the occasion. Much like the Depression-era faculty displayed their commitment to Wabash’s egalitarian and student-centered values some hundred years ago, our current faculty have voted to extend CC options for all students for this semester, so as to provide relief to affected individuals. Similarly, the college did not impose blanket policies in a money-saving bid to expel all students from campus. Instead, it has taken measured steps to ensure that students with particular needs are accommodated. The Deans’ Office has been instrumental in providing help to students who could not afford to travel home by helping to arrange for travel

plans, and our student body has risen to the challenge by quickly cleaning and closing out fraternity houses and residence halls. Our entire Wabash community: from the library staff, to The Bachelor, to Student Life Specialist Beth Warner, to Educational Technology head Aaron Elam (truly a legend), have all been working to make the college experience accessible to all of us even during these trying times.

Similarly, as a student government, we’ve been monitoring the actions of other colleges to learn how to best assist you. We’ve been in constant communication with the aforementioned members of our esteemed institution, working to provide relief to students wherever we can. We’ve also started designing collaborative student life events with other colleges across the U.S. that we hope to bring to you very soon! And some days ago I reached out to Mayor Todd Barton on behalf of our student body, expressing our gratitude to the Crawfordsville community for being such great hosts and inquiring if there is anything we can do to help local businesses or affected communities in the city.

I sincerely believe that it will require thoughtful leadership from each and every one of us to come together as One Wabash as we chart our next steps. We must care for our Wabash family, affected students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college. This means that, even if some of us do not agree with new policy because this situation doesn’t affect us, we must keep in mind that everyone has different needs; some of us are far more affected than others. This also means that we need to actively think beyond ourselves and our short term goals, so we may invest in long-term hard assets for future generations of Wabash Men to benefit from—particularly as we look towards our remaining semester budget for Student Government.

The reason some societies are better off than others is because they invested in human development, focusing on their future generations. While some rulers were busy making monuments for their spouses, other civilizations were busy creating universities such as Oxford. This is the issue that now faces us: will we create a Taj Mahal, that would be remembered as a superficial piece of success/beauty, or will we invest in measures that will create an even stronger Wabash nation for years to come? Thinking of that, while CFO Kendra Cooks has allowed us to carry over our budget

into next semester, we need to think of more than just social events that we can use that money for. Keep in mind, our finances are affected by the College’s; no doubt they will be taking some financial hits in the coming months as the world prepares for a global recession. This doesn’t even account for their ongoing efforts to assess how to best refund room & board for the time we’re off campus, which will draw further money from their resources. But my faith in Wabash reminds me of what we proudly proclaim in our fight song: “What e’er befall, revered by all, May she unequaled stand.” Well, it’s time for us to do our part to make sure we mean that.

To that end, I’ve gotten in touch with the Senior Staff to assess how we can best utilize our finances and make a gift on behalf of the student body to the college, so that it may continue to provide this high quality education to future generations. Our gift may not even form a dent in their debt—but it will be a start, and serve as a signal of our resolve and loyalty to Dear Old Wabash. Rest assured: as a student representative who has sat in on college’s budget committee meetings, and extensively interacted with the senior staff and trustees, I can tell you that our college makes no profit off of its students. Our education is very heavily subsidized by the generosity of the Wabash community, and giving back like this is a small gesture that will show our generosity. We’ll also be looking to invest in long-term hard assets for things such as camera equipment for the Film and Digital Media department so we can continue to add value to generations of Wabash students’ education.

In conclusion, this campus unity campaign—which asks us to come together and strive not only for Wabash, but the world—is a monumental task. It will require support from each and every one of you in the months ahead. But I know that, when we join together as One Wabash, we are up to the task. So, during these difficult times, I hope you all will join me in being advocates for the Admissions Department, keep differences that might cause major divisions aside, and come together as one community so that we may face the challenges that lie ahead. For when college days are past, as long as life shall last, our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus: Dear Old Wabash!

P.S just for the annals of history, I want to record that Kevin is a life saver when it comes to any communication piece I have produced.

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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.

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

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COURTESY OF NEW STATESMAN

Dr. Strangelove is a classic Stanley Kubrick film that riffs on the Cold War tensions between the US and the Soviet Union.

Essential Watching for Quarantine

REED MATHIS '22 | ONLINE EDITOR • Amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, we are all adjusting and exposed to new opportunities in our day-to-day lives. The time away from Wabash presents an avenue to explore new hobbies - while social distancing and staying healthy, of course. It also caters to the individuals who enjoy their screen time. As I scroll through Twitter and the plethora of memes of Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin (do not plan to watch the documentary), I am in favor of something more. With new releases across all platforms every single day, this time allows us the chance to catch up on shows and movies we previously did not have an opportunity to get to during our time at Wabash.

There is enticement in just laying around all day and twiddling our thumbs. However, for all film lovers and people looking to kill time, having streaming services answers our collective pleas for sanity. In the ensuing article, I will present four movies, and two television shows that, in general, are fantastic in their own right, but applicable to the emotions pervading our respective lives during the quarantine. I will preface by mentioning that I am actively straying away from “mainstream” or widely watched movies or television shows, as well as from options that are common for and probably viewed by college students. So, sorry to Borat, Step Brothers, The Office, Parks and Rec (having Leslie Knope around now would be helpful), and those types of options.

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Stanley Kubrick, one of the more celebrated and defining directors in film history, hit gold when he released, “Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb.” The movie, darkly comedic and satirical throughout, paints a picture of the growing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. In hindsight, thankfully, we did not entangle ourselves in what could have easily become an apocalyptic event. At the time, however, it highlighted the irony in these types of situations. The movie focuses on the will they/will they not deploy nuclear weapons, but the true message of the film relies on the fact that the fate of billions of people relied on the intuition of one man. In a situation where nuclear war could signal the end of civilized humanity, the fact that one man had ultimate autonomy challenged common sense. After watching, it would be easy and correct to come away, thinking much of the “satire” in the film is too reflective of our government today. Did we really learn from mistakes? A masterpiece film, which also serves a cautionary role, highlighting the inconsistencies and inherited flaws of our morality and egocentrism. The film is available on Amazon Prime, YouTube TV, and Crackle.

Magnolia (1999)

In 1999, Paul Thomas Anderson decided to release a movie that was three hours long with the promise of eight different plot lines. At times, it proved to be reckless, overbearing, and hard to watch. However, that is the whole point of the movie. The ensemble for the film is nothing less than extraordinary, starring, among others, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Tom Cruise. The movie will allow you to think about your actions and your portrayal to those around you - more specifically, the ones you care about the most. In times of crisis, we tend to blame others and fall into a systematic spiral consisting of the worst humanity has to offer. In *Magnolia*, we are offered an introspective look into the commonalities in all of our lives, which illustrates that humankind is genuinely one unit, one family when push comes to shove. Sounds like a place I know. *Magnolia* can be found on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Youtube TV.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)

Directed by the infamous Sergio Leone and headlined by one of Hollywood's biggest names, Clint Eastwood, “The

Good, the Bad and the Ugly,” offers a glimpse into what the Spaghetti Western offered at its peak. The three-hour adventure also explores what drives each and every one of us: desire. The story centers around three men in search of \$20,000. Sounds simple enough. In reality, it is not. Instead, you are moved by the symphonic score and electric screen editing. Each scene paints a picture of what internal factors are present in every decision, portraying that, even when in the most unusual circumstances, we rely on what drives and consumes us: desire. The film can be found on Netflix, Starz, and Amazon Prime Video.

The Good Place (2016-2020)

At the beginning of the piece, I said I would stray away from anything too mainstream in our streaming world today. Still, I sense that “The Good Place” is somehow not appreciated enough and deserves more recognition. The creator and writer of “The Good Place,” Michael Schur, is probably more recognized for his work with *The Office*, *Parks and Recreation*, and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, but you can easily place this show among them (maybe even above them). Given, this is a time where we probably do not want to reflect too much on the ethical and philosophical aspects of our lives and other humans in general. Nonetheless, through witty comedy and a cerebral storyline, each episode focus on specific themes and questions we contemplate throughout our existence. The presence of *The Good Place* can brighten our days through an honest introspective into the humanity of each individual. Improvement is not signaled through one's individual efforts, but instead, the collective effort and love we have for those closest to us. *The Good Place* offers insight and premises that do not exist in 99% of television today, and we need a little forking help in our lives today. You can stream the show on Netflix, NBC, and Hulu.

The Peanut Butter Falcon (2019)

I promised myself I would include one indie film on this list, and I think this is the right choice. In what ended as the highest-grossing independent film of 2019, the film is headlined by Shia LaBeouf. The film's premise is simple, but the journey the two main characters takes the viewer on a ride where two individuals are living life in the now. LaBeouf plays Tyler, a crab fisherman who befriends Zac, played by Zack Gottsagen in his actorial debut. Zac suffers from down syndrome, but that does not diminish his dream to become a professional wrestler. The film also has Eleanor, played by Dakota Johnson, who works at the facility where Zac escaped from before finding Tyler. Out of any movie I watched last year, this is one of the two movies I recommend anyone to take the time to watch (the other being *Parasite*), especially during a time like this. The film pulls at all of our changing emotions, and rewards being able to walk away feeling good not only about yourself but the beauty of life around us.

Community (2009-2015)

I wanted to close the list with a comedy, which did not fall in line with the norm during its initial television run. I would say *Freaks and Geeks*, but that only gives the viewer one season (no, I am still not over it). With *Community*, one of the more underappreciated shows by audiences, offers a glimpse into the possibilities and realizations one can make with a group of friends. Other than the terrific ensemble, the show takes a chance on what comedy can achieve in a twenty-two-minute time restraint. Six characters find themselves initially forming a Spanish class study group, where each member is more diverse and unique than the next. However, it brings you back to your own humanity, and how we want to better our lives, to be with the right group, and to improve the lives of the ones around us. There is a lot of paintball and “creative” subplots, but the show does not limit the capabilities of comedy in a broken world (except season four and season six, but we do not talk about those seasons). The show can be found on Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube TV.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

COOKING MAMA

Hi-Five to Cooking Mama: Cookstar for being mysteriously removed from all stores within hours of the game's release. Absent any official explanation, rumors began circulating from data miners that the game was removed for using blockchain to mine cryptocurrency on user's devices and ruining the system. It is unknown whether this is true or not, but we hope Cooking Mama sticks to frying sandwiches, not Switches.

MLB & NBA

Hi-Five to Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association for coming up with creative plans to play the rest of their seasons in Arizona and Las Vegas. While we don't really see this being viable, hats off to them for doing what they can to get us some sports back.

FIGHT ISLAND

Hi-Five to the UFC for trying to buy an island to hold fights on during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is, uh, a weird plan. But I guess Dana White is going for it. Good for him?

CATS GETS EVEN WEIRDER

Hi-Five to the rumored "Butthole Cut" of Cats (2019). The rumor stems from a digital effects worker who claimed to edit out the CGI bungholes from the film for the theatrical release. The rumor was debunked by a worker from the studio, but it is a shame this version doesn't exist because it might've improved the movie.

CAMPSEV KILLS ALL THE GERMS

Hi-Five to Campus Services for working diligently to clean the entire (filthy) campus, and for helping students who had to stay on campus move quickly into new living units to combat COVID-19.



COURTESY OF NBC

The Good Place just finished a four season run as one of the top comedies on TV today.

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