

OCTOBER 9, 2020

Looking Forward: Wabash–JED Partnership



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Through partnerning with the JED Foundation, Wabash continues to stay ahead the curve in staying proactive on the mental health of its students.

REED MATHIS '22 AND COOPER SMITH '23| NEWS EDITOR AND ONLINE EDITOR • 2020 is truly a year of turmoil. From a global pandemic, to environmental catastrophe, to global civil rights movements, to a contentious presidential election, it is clear that this year heavily burdens mental health. The College continues to put their best foot forward in identifying and combating the day-to-day toll and effects of mental health facing the Wabash student body. In yet another initiative to enact change, the College is now two weeks into a four-year project in partnership with the JED Foundation (JED). The nationally-recognized non-profit organization works in a multitude of different sectors of society, however they do collaborate with high schools and colleges to address and strengthen mental health programs, systems, and future planning for these institutions. Jamie Douglas, Director of the Wabash Counseling Center, said that JED works “to help colleges address mental health issues, suicide prevention, and substance misuse.” Under normal circumstances, the JED Team would have visited the College in early-September. Instead, the JED had a virtual visit to the College last week, where they met with individuals from all walks of campus, in order to provide feedback on how Wabash is currently facing mental health, and how we

can continue to improve for the next generation of Wabash students. “Mental health is something the entire campus is aware of, not just down in the counseling office,” Douglas said. In recent years, whether it is the increased exposure of the Mental Health Concerns Committee, EQ for second semester Freshman, or athletics becoming an extended outlet in recent years, the entire Wabash community is integral to what comes next in our lives as students at Wabash. “Prevention is all proactive, and suicide, obviously, but there is a lot of things besides suicide that students deal with everyday. We are hoping students can be as effective as they can,” said Heather Thrush, Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Success. When it comes to mental health, we are still in a spot as a culture where we are far behind where we would like or need to be moving forward, but it is manageable. “And we went to a GLCA mental health summit last December, as the GLCA pushed for all of the colleges to get together. When we went to the summit we knew we were not perfect, but we were doing a lot of things that many of our peer institutions were not doing, so I think we are in a good position,” said Thrush. The Wabash Counseling Center is meeting this timely need. One upcoming mental health program is the “You Can

Help a Friend” series, which trains students as “gatekeepers” to promote campus mental health. Douglas explained, “Gatekeepers are just a little more tuned in to what’s going on.” Campus gatekeepers pay attention and are trained to recognize when other students may be struggling mentally. She said, “Gatekeeping is what you all do anyway... you guys are the boots on the ground, the ones interacting with each other every day.” Douglas is leading this events series. These gatekeeping strategies, according to Douglas, are expanding upon natural student communication. She said, “Listening, being compassionate -- this is what you all do naturally.” But above all, gatekeepers are listeners. They don’t seek to solve problems – they listen and spot when a friend is struggling, and they help them seek the professional help they need. It is about establishing credibility among our brothers. Douglas said, “There’s this pressure to know more about how to be a mental health professional. We aren’t asking for mental health professionals – we’re asking for listeners.” The counseling center will also lead a similar event series for faculty, who have a different role in identifying and protecting student mental health. Ryan Dobbs, Student Development and Wellness Coordinator, who works with Jamie Douglas on the student training,

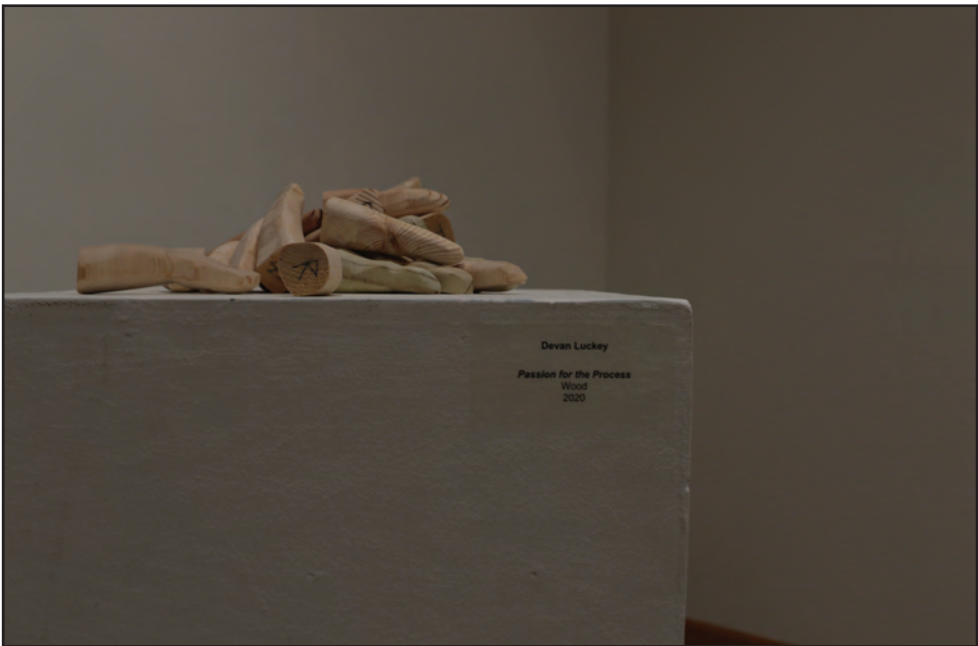
will lead the faculty programming. These programs are just part of Wabash’s increasing focus on mental health. Douglas explained that the Counseling Center has recently doubled the direct clinical hours available to students. She pointed to the staff increases as well, saying, “Having more staff means having more opportunities.” For updates on upcoming mental health programming students can follow @wabashcounseling on Instagram. There are fourteen students signed up for the first “You Can Help a Friend” training. There will be three more this month, from 7-8:15 on October 14, 21, and 27. Interested students should email Ms. Douglas. The trainings will be on Zoom, allowing students to participate from anywhere. Douglas said, “I think Zoom presents a good opportunity for us to do this. It allows you to study, study, study then log on for an hour or so.” Online training is less time-intrusive, so students can fit these training sessions into their schedules more easily. Wabash always fights. And now, more than ever, we fight together. As Douglas said, “we’re all in this together. I want as many people as possible to get this training and conversation.” We encourage all interested Wabash men to reach out and learn the tools needed to help brothers in need. Especially, when it is needed more than ever.

In Pictures: Class of '20 Senior Art Gallery



BEN HIGH '22/PHOTO

“Various Prints” - Cameron Coates



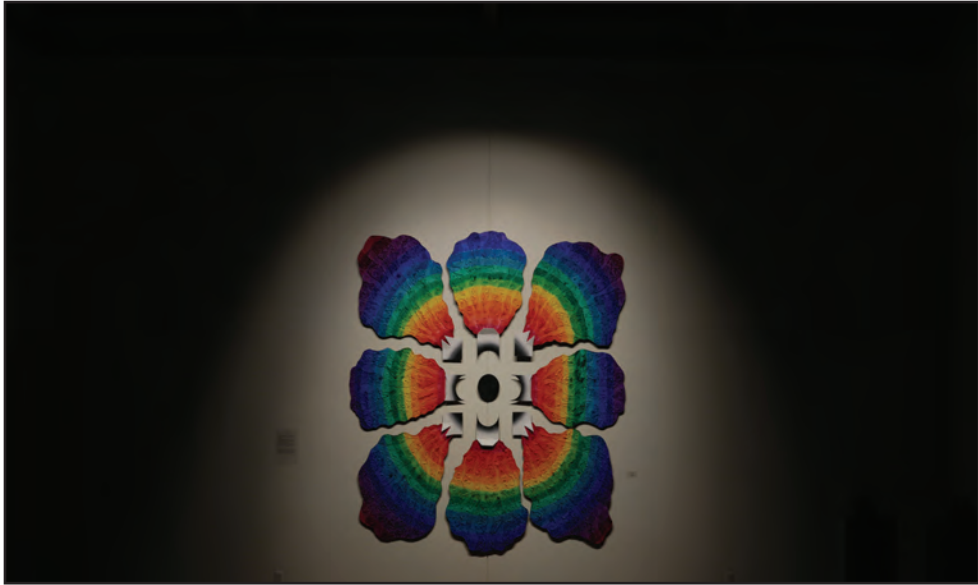
BEN HIGH '22/PHOTO

“Passion for the Process” - Devan Luckey



BEN HIGH '22/PHOTO

“Alien 1, Alien 2, Alien 3” - David Ortega



BEN HIGH '22/PHOTO

“Explosion” - Jonathon Stevens

WHERE TO MOVE ON NOVEMBER 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.CO.UK

Are you looking to get away from the United States after the November Election? Maybe you could trade the political headaches and heightened bickering if you move to this beach in Barbados.

DREW BLUETHMANN '22 | CAVE LIFE EDITOR • Remember four years ago when your Aunt Susie and Uncle Chuck wanted to move to Mexico if Trump won the election? Or what about your neighbors, The Johnston family, who threatened to move to Canada if Obama won a second time because he is a socialist, and we all know how they are less socialist up north! Well, it is that time of year, every fourth year, when knowledgeable Americans make very credible threats to leave the country if the candidate with the wrong tie color wins. Are you one of these Americans? Don't worry, we have you covered! Take our advice on where to skedaddle when your candidate loses and the evil dictators of the opposite party takes over. Maybe you go here for a week, or maybe forever. Here is our list in no particular order.

1. Canada
The great north seems to be a favorite of Midwesterners trying to get away quickly. It has many modern conveniences that Midwesterners love, like universal health care and strict gun laws. Also, the natural spaces of Canada and the Canadian Rockies are a sweat addition.
2. Mexico
Most Americans know some Spanish, right? Well, even if you only see a word or two, Mexico could be a viable option. There's better weather, lower cost of living, and no corruption in the government.
3. The Cayman Islands
Are you a FIJI? Well, your daddy probably already has dealings in the Cayman Islands. You might as well move the rest of your money there

- and live off your nest egg. Besides the obvious financial benefits, the Cayman Islands are famous for its Caribbean beaches and clear water.
4. Barbados
Maybe you don't have deep pockets or don't have a reason to move to a tax haven. Maybe you just want to be a beach bum who soaks up the sun all day. There is no problem with that. Check out Barbados. Another Caribbean island, Barbados, or any island might be an excellent way to escape the perils of political life. Just be careful, there will be tourists everywhere.
 5. Scandinavia
Maybe you decided that Bernie Sanders is right, and you want to live in a very socialist country. There's nothing wrong with Canada, but

6. Western Sahara
Are you an anarchist who wants to get away from all governments? Do you want to become a warlord and control your little mini-state in the desert, becoming the state yourself? Western Sahara is a disputed territory in North Africa without a legitimate government in place.

Did you find your dream destination for after the election? If not, maybe this brainstormed session will help you think of it. You could be anywhere, in the mountains or on the beach, away from all the political noise, drama, and next communist or fascist President of the United States of America.

From The Ramsay Archives

SNARLING TIGERS TO ENLIVEN CELEBRATION IN TRADITIONAL GRAPPLE WITH LITTLE GIANTS

EXPECT RECORD CROWD OF GRADS BACK

Homecoming for 1927, announced as the largest Homecoming celebration to have been held on the Little Giant campus in recent years, will swing into its program tonight at 8:45 o'clock with the lighting of the annual bonfire across the tracks behind the athletic field, which will precede the snake dance and "peerade" down to the second show at the Strand theatre.

The celebration tonight, however, will only serve as a starter for the festivities planned for tomorrow, which will feature the DePauw-Wabash game in the afternoon and culminate with the Homecoming dance at night given in the chapel by the "W" men's club. The morning will be well taken up with the Little Giant freshmen game with the DePauw rhynies starting at 10 o'clock and the all-college luncheon and barbecue in the gymnasium.

Rhynies to Perform

The bonfire which was at first announced to be lighted at 7:30 has been postponed until 8:45 o'clock so that the "peerade" to the show offered at the Strand through the courtesy of the management will not interfere with the early show, and will also insure room for the Wabash delegation.

Several features for the benefit of the crowd at the game will be offered by the freshman class who will take the field between the halves and who will compete with the bands of the two institutions. Other plans of interest to the alumni and to the student body will be carried out during the afternoon game.

Special Decorations

The annual dance this year will not be held in the gymnasium, as the "W" men's club have procured the chapel for the use of the Homecoming committee. Such an innovation brought forth a new plan of decoration other than the old booths which fraternities prepared along the dance floor of the gymnasium. The fraternity houses on the campus, under the supervision of the Sphinx Club have a competitive house decoration plan. The Sphinx Club is offering a cup to the adjudged winner of the competition.

The dance will cost one dollar and a half and a report of the ticket sale indicates that a large crowd will be on hand when Lee Sinclair's orchestra strikes the opening notes at 8:00 o'clock Saturday evening.

According to the plans, there will be another big parade when the Little Giant hosts leave for the game from the down town section. With the Sea Goin' band leading the procession the "peerade" will wend its way toward the scene of the annual Wabash-DePauw tussle.

Noon Luncheon

Fraternities and other college organizations are having special dinners tomorrow evening and the greatest majority of the visitors will dine close to the campus. The noon barbeque, which is also being sponsored by the "W" men's club will be ready for consumption immediately following the freshman game, and will be served for the nominal amount of fifty cents. The fraternities are aiding the barbecue committee by not having lunches at the houses.

The meal will be composed of ham sandwiches, baked beans, salad, and coffee. According to reports made by those men in charge, preparations have been made to serve a large crowd.

The freshman game will cost only fifty cents and promises to be a fitting curtain-raiser to the big game in the afternoon. Students with books will be admitted as usual.

The annual bonfire, prepared and usually protected by the freshmen, has been held over this year until Homecoming and has not burned before any of the previous games. The rhynies have already assembled a huge stack of boxes, houses, and wood of other description across the Big Four tracks in the vacant lot behind Ingalls Field where the bonfire celebration will be held.

The Bachelor
11/18/1927
DePauw
for Homecoming

Black Lives Matter & "Rule Britannia!"

IO MAEDEA '24 | STAFF WRITER • This year, everything is in chaos because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Also, the Black Lives Matter movement has brought social change. It has been continuing since George Floyd was killed by police on May 25.

Although it was expressing anger toward those policemen at first, it gradually expanded to demanding a change of the social system. Some might feel anxiety when some more radical protesters robbed shops or tore down the bronze statues of Columbus.

The movement also spread into other countries and other focuses of cultures or studies. For example, there was a big debate about performing a patriot song "Rule Britannia!" during the BBC Proms event in England.

It is originally from Thomas Augustine Arne's (1710-1778) opera "Alfred," first performed in 1740. This chorus is performed at the end of the opera when people praise the king for defeating Danes. Nowadays, Sir Henry Wood's (1869-1944) arranged version is performed on the last night of BBC Proms. He was a conductor known as contributing to the improvement of classical music in England.

While the original version is a late Baroque piece by its smaller organization (chamber music) and having 18th century instruments like the harpsichord (the ancestor of the piano); Wood's version has gorgeous sound performed by a larger orchestra.

The Proms is an annual classical music festival running for 8 weeks in London. It has been held since 1845 for all people to casually enjoy listening to classical music. BBC has run most of the period after 1927.

There are four pieces that are always played at the last night of the concert; Hubert Perry's "Jerusalem (virtually England's national anthem)", Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance March No.1", "God save the Queen (King)", and "Rule Britannia!"

Even though it is loved and has been sung by many people for a long time, some believe the song is problematic. According to the protesters, some parts of the lyrics are offensive and, they alledge, provoke racism. The content of the song is about the goddess Britannia which is a personification of England ruling over the world.

"Rule, Britannia, Britaina rule the waves; Britons never will be slaves." is a refrain that livens up by singing in chorus. The protesters labeled this phrase as "Imperialism," glorifying the history of the British Empire's colonization.

Following the trend, the BBC once decided to perform the song without lyrics. However, about 58% of people were against its decision according to the survey company YouGov. Also, the prime minister, Boris Johnson, said, "People love our traditions and our history with all its imperfections," before referring to the "censor" as "crazy".

One of the protesters, Chi-chi Nwanoku, professor of Historical Double Bass Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, said "Rule, Britannia!" was "offensive." She added that any black person "aware of their history, the empire and colonialism" would "struggle to enjoy the patriotic jingoism of these songs."

However, there are several counterarguments for her statements.

First, James Thomson, who was a poet and wrote this poem, was born in and lived in Scotland until he was 25 years old. He wrote it to succeed in his career as a poet when he was in London.

Also, the song is just one of the music pieces from the opera "Alfred". The story is nothing related to imperialism, but glorifying Alfred the Great based on the legend story through the opera.

Furthermore, most people do not know about the story of the opera and the composer. Moreover, only 25 percent of people can sing without looking at the lyrics according to YouGov. It can be concluded that people enjoy the music itself rather than the content.

In the end, it was sung with lyrics by social-distancing performers on September 12. A reduced orchestra of 65 instead of the usual 300 performed live at the concert hall without an audience. The singers were placed in the stalls to ensure having physical distance. Even though facing difficulties, they have put ingenuity into the music.

The music starts with the orchestra's introduction. The first violin, the oboe, and the trumpet play the melody by taking over. Its contrast of different instrument tune has a Baroque flavor.

After that, they blend together to play the entire music to conclude the introduction. Its sudden increase of volume and rise of the music scale communicates to the audience that the main part will start soon, like a curtain gradually opening.

Throughout the music, the bass instruments like the contrabass and the bassoon keep the rhythm as if they are marching bravely. The singers and the orchestra repeat the same melody for each verse and the chorus part.

For the first verse, the female singers' high voices evoke that they are singing from heaven. When they sing the words "guardian angel", the trumpet comes in as if angels themselves play trumpets to announce the command.

For the second verse, the male singers' low voices evoke awe as they sing the word "dreadful" with a dignified voice and an ascending melody. Also, their powerful and solid voices reflect the lyrics about how the oak tree is strong against the blast.

In their respective sections, the female voices make references to the British Isles appearing in the ocean, and the male voices refer to the island's place on earth. For the last verse, when all voices sing together elegantly, they become heavenly voices that glorify how both ocean and earth merged to create the British Isles.

While the verses introduce narratives about the birth of the British Isle, the chorus represents angels celebrating it. In the accompaniment, the timpani play the same melody, not just providing rhythm but also helping to add emphasis. The singers repeat the word "never" three times showing the strong expression of the king's victory (in the original opera) and highlighting patriotism.

The events of 2020 have given (or strengthened) voices of those unhappy with the performance of this operatic chorus. However, this does not (or should not) discredit the artistic value in Arne's composition. "Rule Britannia" is a good example to reconsider how we should revisit (and question) the traditional and face new upcoming trends.

Letter to the Editor: A Financial Responsibility Conner Cochran '23 and AJ Miller '23

Over the past year of being a Wabash student, you start to pick up a sense of community within the student body, and this connection makes Wabash a special place. At the same time, there always seems to be a looming presence sitting over the heads of every student to come through Wabash: the significant financial debt. Although Wabash is one of the best private colleges to attend in Indiana, there is a glaring downside. In just one year, four friends that I would call brothers dropped because of this financial responsibility. Wabash wants to build better men, but, at the same time, it buries its students in long-lasting debt with hardly any mercy. Sure, at the end of your senior year of high school, they send you your financial aid package, and at the time, the financial aid provided is a significant drawing factor to come to this school. It had me, and many other Wabash students, thinking they got the deal of a lifetime just because they managed to get upwards of \$32,000 paid for because of their high school grades and ACT/SAT scores.

Although that is initially an excellent drawing factor to this college, the other \$28,000 remains unpaid, and every year that number grows to provide for the Chinese finger trap known as the Wabash Endowment Fund. According to Google, the average cost after financial aid is \$21,000, but of course, that includes many students who might have received a full-ride for being a Lilly Scholarship winner or for international students, bringing the average cost down and not creating a representative average.

Part of the mission of Wabash College is to educate men to think critically and act responsibly, but at the same time, they contradict themselves when they expect you to take loans out and dive into debt. When this appears year-after-year, it is hard to refute that “the institution is a business, and accumulating dollars is its main priority,” quoting an email chain started last fall. Below is another story of a Wabash student, AJ Miller '23, who is slowly being pushed away from this college for the sole reason of this financial burden that Wabash continues to make a priority:

Lately, I’ve been discerning value-based education and, in particular, my financial investment at Wabash. A recent article listed Wabash as one of the top schools based on academic quality and cost. The article was encouraging news, and I believe a Wabash education goes beyond just academics, making it hard to put a value on intangibles. Although not many students are in the same boat as I am, I am still concerned with my academic investment at Wabash College. Every class I attend is approximately \$400, which leaves me wondering after every lecture, was this worth \$400? My concern is the rapid debt I am accruing, and if my investment return is reasonable. I enrolled in Wabash with average grades and, therefore, minimal academic scholarship. With the little financial support coming in and being fully responsible for paying my dues, this will translate to hefty student loans over four years. I understand Wabash awards scholarships/grants to incoming students based on merit and academic excellence. I also acknowledge I was not within that criteria as an incoming freshman.

Through hard work, discipline, and following the example of others’ study habits, I excelled academically in my first year. Towards the start of my sophomore year, I had a brief meeting with the Dean to request financial assistance based on performance Freshman year, with the intent to continue that level of excellence. But he made it aware that there is no scholarship/grant program in place for existing students based on academic performance. I would love to see a program that provides scholarships/grants to students who excel during their four years at Wabash, rewarding their commitment, hard work, and leadership through the Gentleman’s Rule. With this all said, perhaps the college should revisit this college’s mission statement and ask themselves whether they are thinking critically, acting responsibly, leading effectively, and living humanely when they subject the students who come through this school to long-lasting debt.

You can reply to this column at cmcochra23@wabash.edu and ajmiller23@wabash.edu

Wabash: Get Serious about Mental Health



Austin Hood '21

Reply to this editorial at aghood21@wabash.edu

There’s a silent tragedy that plays out in fraternity houses, dorm rooms, and townhouses all across Wabash’s campus. The scenes vary widely --sleepless nights, nails bitten to the nub, relentless weekend drinking binges-- but they all share the same shadowy antagonist. The climax, I’m afraid, is yet to be reached, as our workload from classes is only on the rise. A welcome change to campus culture in my time at this College has been the increased focus on mental health issues. This, to be frank, I do not attribute this to some enlightenment sparked by the Liberal Arts discussions we all pay cruel amounts of money to have. Rather, this is a position we have been forced into

by a series of truly devastating events in the near past.

I trust that I do not need to go into great detail to justify this claim. Moreover, the point of this piece is not to dwell on these tragedies. Rather, what I wish to do is challenge the way we as a community have responded to these events.

I’ll lay all my cards right out on the table: it’s not enough. Establishing committees among the faculty and in the Student Senate is not enough. Having events a couple of times a semester related to the topic is not enough. Paying lip service to the topic is not enough. Gradually pouring more funding into the Counseling Center is not enough.

These are all band-aids to a gaping wound. What we need is a serious conversation about how life at Wabash poses serious mental health challenges. It doesn’t take much imagination to see how. As a freshman, I was greeted very early with the “work hard play hard” mentality that dominates so many social scenes across campus. I became all too familiar with a toxic habit this college does all too little to combat: working all day, everyday during the week only

to squeeze in time here and there for social interaction and sleep. I can’t tell you the number of days I’ve had in my time here where I’ve spent more time staring at a word document than talking to another person. I can’t tell you the disappointment I’ve felt when I find a few spare moments to escape the tiring world of deadlines and syllabi to spend with my friends only to find they are too caught up with their work to spend much time enjoying my company.

What grows out of this is a drive for relaxation on the weekends that very abruptly and very dangerously collides with a drive for substance abuse. On those lonely nights in the library, the Friday night party grows almost mythic in our minds, and then we feel obligated to soak up the good times to help cope with the exhausting week. It doesn’t take a neuroscientist to see what’s wrong with this picture.

Let me make myself clear here: I’m not saying this is a problem unique to Wabash. Colleges and universities across this country (and probably the world) are having to grapple with an unprecedented wave of mental health concerns. Unfortunately, very few of

them are winning in this struggle. That is because, like our beloved Wabash, they have failed to fully reckon with the role educational institutions themselves play in this crisis.

More work is not better. Working at the expense of your fundamental needs is not some brave act. It does not make you smarter. It does not make you a better person. The science is clear: too much work can hinder a person’s ability to learn important information. We need to have a serious conversation that reflects on the effects that the average workload at this college has on the mental health of all of us. Until then, we will all have to live with this burden.

It’s easy to deflect. It’s easy to sit back and blame social media and the culture at large, or personal battles, for the challenges we face in this arena. It’s easy to put money into things like Hot Dogs and Hugs and motion to create committees which promise to look into the issue. It’s much harder to acknowledge that something is fundamentally broken about the way we live life here. It’s much harder to see the role that the College we all love so dear plays in the darker realms of our mind.

Dismembering the Titans



John Vermeulen '21

Reply to this editorial at jkvermeu21@wabash.edu

It’s time for the NFL to throw the book at the Tennessee Titans. Whatever the maximum penalties are that the NFL can levy against the organization and its leadership, it’s time for them to be levied. For those unaware, the Titans had their practice facility shut down last week after it came out that three players had tested positive for COVID-19, as well as a number of staff members. Positive

cases continued to roll in during the course of last week and the Titans game against the Pittsburgh Steelers had to be postponed until later in the season.

This isn’t to say that a few cases in a team, or even a minor outbreak wasn’t expected during this season. In fact, it felt almost inevitable that some team would get hit with a handful of cases at some point. There are too many players on too many teams that are traveling too much for that not to happen. But in the week since, information has come about the Titans being lax in enforcement of protocols and other, frankly, dumb behavior from the team and its players. In the last week and change, the Titans have seen a grand total of 23 positive cases. For a little bit of context, Taiwan (with a population of more than 23 million) has had just 14 cases in the last two full weeks. According to reporting from Mike Sando of The Athletic, “[Executives] from multiple teams said

it’s been an open secret that the Titans have not strictly enforced guidelines regarding masks within their facility.” This is in addition to a recent revelation – confirmed by veteran Titans Guard Rodger Saffold – that a significant number of Titans players held a practice together off-site while the team facility was shut down. As if the problem was that the facility was infected and not the players.

You could try to say that it was just some players making a mistake, but Head Coach Mike Vrabel and General Manager Jon Robinson have to be held accountable for creating a culture that thought this was a good idea.

The NFL really isn’t blameless in all of this, either. After New England Patriots starting QB Cam Newton tested positive last Friday, the NFL decided it was a good idea to just postpone their game against the Chiefs until Monday night. This was after Newton practiced with

the team all week, and the Titans were still seeing cases continue to pop up, despite being well outside the timeframe that they had built in for the Patriots-Chiefs game. How did that work out, you ask? Well, Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore tested positive on Tuesday after playing every single defensive snap in the team’s 26-10 loss. The league is phenomenally lucky that no other cases have popped up.

It’s time for the NFL to take this seriously. That starts by reiterating and strengthening their COVID protocols and by punishing the Tennessee Titans as harshly as possible – up to and including the loss of draft picks and forfeiture of their game against the Bills this week if the game has to be postponed. If they don’t get serious about this now, then odds are that games will have to continue to be postponed or cancelled, and, most importantly, people’s lives will be at risk.

Polarized America



Michael Zubeck '21

Reply to this editorial at mfzubeck21@wabash.edu

In this election year, with a global pandemic, systemic racism, lack of athletics, poor mental health, and many more problems, the environment has become extremely polarized. I am thankful that, even with this, we have come together as a student body

to address and handle these issues with sensitivity, understanding the gravity of the situation. That being said, I challenge you, the student body, to keep up the hard work and continue to do your best, engage in the tough conversations, and check in on your brothers. The brotherhood on this campus extends well beyond your roommates, housemates, teammates, and fellow club members. A simple check in to see how your brothers are doing can make the difference, and is sometimes exactly what they need.

Something that we are struggling with as a campus is planning and executing events that get people out of their living units in a safe and COVID-compliant manner. I am encouraging everyone, if they have an idea for a club or a

committee to plan or create, or anything else that they think is a good idea, to reach out. Reach out to any member of the Student Senate, club presidents, or even through your fraternity. Your idea may be the very one that the brotherhood of Wabash is needing!

I encourage students to also reach out in this unprecedented time. Again, talk to your brothers, your professors, the Counseling Center, and our administration. Personally, this transition to socially distanced learning was difficult for me and I was noticing myself and my mental health going in a direction I did not want to see them go. Utilizing the Counseling Center, as well as my brothers’, and professors’ help that was all around me really made a difference for me, especially as they

were willing to contribute in any way they could. Beyond being thankful, spreading awareness that those around you care is the least that I can do. We are all in this difficult time together and in order to come out stronger and better than before we will need to rely on the Wabash community as a whole. We cannot let this polarizing time affect the brotherhood.

To increase your empathy and gratefulness, I encourage you to thank Campus Services when you see them, thank your professors, and even your brothers. They are the ones that make this place so special. If you need anything, my personal number is (219) 730-4322. I am only a phone call or text away and would be happy to talk to anyone about anything. WAF.

V.P. Debate: Takeaways and Reactions



COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

Not as much “theater” as our first Presidential Debate, but the Vice Presidential Debate offered two contrasting visions and evaluations on where the United States has been, where we stand, and what comes next.

SIMON DECAPUA '23 | STAFF WRITER • On Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence and California Senator Kamala Harris faced off in the first and only Vice-Presidential debate of the 2020 election cycle. The debate came in the midst of President Trump’s recovery from COVID-19 and followed the first presidential debate that left many Americans unsatisfied. As a result, The Nonpartisan Commission for Presidential Debates changed the debate format to allow for more ‘civil’ discussion, and had the candidates sit twelve feet apart at the request of the Biden Campaign.

Dr. Drury hosted a debate livestream on Twitch so that Wabash Students could watch together virtually. Discussion began in the Twitch chat a few minutes before the debate, where students predicted whether the candidates would be able to stay civil during the debates. Students were quick to point out that the candidates were doing a better job than their running mates at withholding from

personal attacks. Dr. Drury voiced his appreciation for the candidates sharing some of their sources, to establish the credibility of the points they were trying to make.

Although the debate turned out to be more civil than the shouting match it succeeded, it was not without its own new set of issues. For one, students were less than satisfied with the new debate structure, possibly overcorrecting the issues from the last debate. Candidates were generally able to talk uninterrupted, but moderator Susan Page continually cut candidates short, and only allowed them 15 seconds to respond to 2-minute-long attacks. One student suggested that the candidates should be given a longer response time, and that Susan Page should have not been as strict about the time.

Another piece of criticism that students awarded to both candidates was their tendency to avoid questions. At the surface, it appears that candidates avoided questions so that

they did not have to give an unpopular answer. It is also possible, however, that the candidates simply did not want to waste their limited time answering a question that they thought was not pertinent to the election. Additionally, Mike Pence avoided answering a question regarding abortion, but clarified his stance during an unrelated question that followed. Although both candidates avoided questions during the debate, the limited amount of time they were both given could have pressured them to do so.

Even though students were primarily focused on what the candidates were saying, there was one exception during the most memorable part of the debate, when a fly flew on top of Mike Pence’s head. It was only a matter of seconds before students began to notice, and soon the chat was completely focused on the fly, and for good reason. Whether the fly chose to land on its favorite candidate, or the candidate it wanted to dominate, is still up in the air for

discussion. However, what is clear is that the fly leveled the high tension of the debate and served as a great relief for those growing tired of the intensity of this particular election cycle.

The debate closed with much more civility than the first debate, and the audience was able to hold all applause until the debate was over. Overall, it appeared to go much better than the first debate but continued to further the dialogue on the issues about structuring and moderating dialogues between people in such strong disagreement. There was no discussion in the Twitch chat about who won the debate overall, but some students were vocal about how they thought Senator Harris was giving a good performance throughout the debate. Although I am sure that voters will declare each candidate the winner in numbers similar to the current polls, neither of them actually deserve the title of debate winner. That, of course, belongs to the fly.

Diversity & Inclusion Put on Privilege Walk

LIAM GRENNON '24 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash Diversity and Inclusion Committee is hosting a school-wide privilege walk next Tuesday, October 13 on the mall. The Bachelor spoke to the Vice Chairman of the D&I committee, Joseph Julian '22, about what a privilege walk is.

“A privilege walk is an exercise in which you get a chance to see how your life has been affected by factors outside your control and how that’s positioned you relative to others,” explains Julian. “I think it’s helpful to get a visual of some of these frankly difficult concepts. It’s sometimes very challenging to see our story from a different perspective, especially when we’ve enjoyed some advantages that many people can’t or don’t take for granted.”

The walk provides students an opportunity to see the complexities of privilege, as well as examining the ways members of social identity

groups experience different things in our country. Students lineup and take steps forwards and backward in response to questions about their own experiences. For example, a question like “take a step forward if you grew up knowing both of your parents.” Students then can see how others’ experiences might be different than their own.

As a part of freshman orientation earlier this year, students participated in another, smaller privilege walk.

“I enjoyed the privilege walk,” freshman Jake Tarnow said. “It made me even more aware of how different someone’s experiences can be no matter where you live.”

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee aims to bring students together through the walk. Despite differentiating between students’ past experiences, the walk tries to give students a better idea of their peers’ past experiences.

“I really hope students take away some sense of solidarity, of togetherness,” says Julian. “No one walks alone here. Despite the obstacles we face, especially those sometimes deliberately put in our path, you don’t have to feel hopeless or alone.”

Julian, as well as the rest of the D&I Committee, trust the brotherhood Wabash students share to create a supportive environment.

“Privilege is not about shame or blame. It’s about acknowledging that we don’t all start at the same starting line, so to speak,” clarifies Julian. “But the good news is that life’s a marathon, not a sprint. And as Wabash men, our priority ought to be looking out for one another and finding ways to help keep our brothers from being left behind.”

The D&I Committee wants students to be able to better relate to one another. They hope Wabash as a

community will further think and talk about why students have different experiences.

“I’d like to see people thinking about why these disparities and gaps in privilege exist. And then, I hope participants find ways to turn those thoughts into actionable steps. What can you do to check in on your friends, neighbors, and family?” says Julian, “What can you do to get engaged with your community? And most importantly, keep this conversation going: continue to listen to and engage with different perspectives with an open mind and an open heart. Meet people where they are and don’t be afraid to question your own beliefs, as well!”

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee hopes to see everyone out on the mall next Tuesday. Even if you’re not comfortable participating, watching the event can still provide perspective.

Update on the College’s Reponse to COVID-19

JAKE VERMEULEN '21 | MANAGING EDITOR • Wabash is on a little bit of a roll. The College has now put three straight weeks without a positive case of COVID-19 on the books. Last week, The Bachelor sat down with College Nurse Christine Amidon to talk about the College’s response so far this year.

Amidon pointed out that there were moments where the response wasn’t going perfectly. She said, “The first month was kind of a nightmare. We were working until midnight every night and back at 6 am. Part of the problem was that the CVS system got overwhelmed. So, people got here who didn’t have their results and then they found out their test was positive. And then, unfortunately, most of those were freshmen who had close contact with like 20 people. Tracking down all of those people, it was just a nightmare.”

Wabash is not completely out of the woods, however. Amidon noted that with the similarities between COVID and several other respiratory infections which are common this time of year, the importance of the current protocols is just as high as it was before. She said, “I think this year, everything is COVID until proven otherwise, you know? You have to presume that’s probably what’s

going on.” Part of the way the College is looking to mitigate this difficulty by having all students get a flu shot before the end of the semester (hopefully you’ve seen Nurse Amidon’s emails).

She also discussed some of the difficulties associated with opening the college up for visitors. She said, “Even if 25% of the living unit had a guest, that really increases your density, especially with the weather changing and people not doing things outside. I don’t see how we can really do that and feel good about it and feel like it’s safe and you’re not going to send more people home [because they’re getting sick].”

Overall, Nurse Amidon was positive about how well the College has done. When asked to give it a grade, she gave Wabash an A-. She said, “Isn’t not easy. You know, it’s not fun. It’s not as much fun as college is supposed to be. But we’re trying to keep from having somebody die in our community. We’re trying to keep people from being hospitalized, and we were super overwhelmed that first three or four week... I just kept saying that this is not sustainable. We can’t keep working 16-18 hours a day and having guys have 20 close contact. You can’t manage that, and that has improved a whole lot.”

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

We salute our dedicated faculty teaching life-enduring lessons during COVID-19.

IndyWabash.org @IndyWabash

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Profile: Anthony Mendez '20



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Anthony relies on his Wabash education and experiences over the last five years in being ready for taking on the role as Senior Fellow for the CIBE.

THOMAS JOVEN '24 | STAFF WRITER
• “Part of the motivation for this job is to give back to Wabash,” said Anthony Mendez '20. The new CIBE (Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship) fellow is a '20 Wabash alumnus who majored in English Literature and minored in religion. Mendez is also a proud brother of Delta Tau Delta and was on the swim team at Wabash for all four years.

It is interesting to note that Mendez was never in the CIBE himself. When Roland Morin, director of the CIBE, and Steven Jones, Dean of Professional Development asked Mendez why he would be a good fit for the position despite having no background with the CIBE, Mendez said, “Not being a part of it (CIBE) was probably my biggest regret here at Wabash.” He had friends in the program and saw the ways CIBE benefitted them.

“We do real work,” said Mendez. The CIBE partners with 30 startup businesses and established companies to provide a mutually beneficial relationship for both parties. The Wabash CIBE members work for the companies, usually in a marketing, financing, or communicating fashion. Thus, the companies are improved in those respective aspects while Wabash students gain real-world business experience.

As the CIBE fellow, Mendez said, “I am basically Roland’s right hand man.” He manages all of the program’s engagements with businesses. Mendez is the bridge between employees of these companies and the Wabash students.

Mendez organizes meetings for the

engagements and ensures that they all stay on track. If there are problems, senior consultants go straight to him. Also, he thinks of potential issues, so he can help solve them before they arise.

While CIBE affairs do not escape the influence of Coronavirus, the program has been affected to a lesser extent than most other activities. Many CIBE meetings were already conducted virtually, so they are almost strictly in that fashion now.

However, this does have some impact. Mendez said, “About 95 percent of our meetings are actually virtual. That kind of takes away with the personal stuff that makes Wabash so great.” In addition to losing some of that great Wabash personability, the absence of in-person business meetings takes away from CIBE members gaining face-to-face experience with their fellow consultants and client.

Mendez is gaining lots of knowledge from his role with the CIBE. He said, “I’m learning so many skills that can translate to so many careers.” Mendez now plans on attending law school after his fellowship, but he said, “Before I took this job, I honestly did not know what I wanted to do with my life.”

When asked about his top piece of advice for students, Mendez said, “It is okay to not know exactly what they want to do post-Wabash.” He knows that many guys struggle with this, but he himself is testament to the fact that they will eventually figure things out. For now, Mendez said, “Work hard, be organized, ask for help when needed, and be as open minded as possible because you never know what the future holds.”

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

PEAK LDE

Hi-Five to The Commentary for finally publishing. We’re looking forward to you guys getting your training wheels off!

PREMIER PLEDGE TASK OF 2020

Lo-Five to the Administartion for thinking that literally anyone would care about that Strike it, Throw it, Boot it competition. Who would've thought that an athletic competetion proposed by Roland Morin would fall flat on its face?

INSECT OMEN

Hi-Five to the fly that landed on Mike Pence's head during the Vice Presidential Debate. It's no secret that flies are attracted to hot excrement.

TOWNIE TURMOIL

Lo-Five to the absence of fall break this semester. We know that this is COVID-related, but being in Crawfordsville for too long is itself a (mental) health hazard.

FLU FOLLY

Hi-Five to the Administartion for their scare tactics in getting literally half the campus to show up for a flu shot clinic in the Allen Center on Monday. Nothing says “we care about community health” like forcing 200 guys to gather under one roof in the middle of a pandemic.

SPORTS

Strike It! Throw It! Boot It! Preview

BLAKE LARGENT '22 | SPORTS EDITOR • The absence of Wabash athletics amid the COVID pandemic has left a void in the competitive spirit Wabash is known for. While some new student activities have arisen to provide action during the pandemic, there has yet to be a campus-wide athletic event outside of intramurals. This is coming to a change with the Strike It! Throw It! Boot It! football skills competition.

“We are all looking for ways to keep students, as well as faculty and staff, involved with activities on campus, and to find ways to generate excitement and provide an outlet for the students in the form of competition,” Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director Brent Harris H'03 said.

The competition will pin up to five participants from each living unit against each other in an initial qualifying round, from which the top-16 competitors will advance to the championship. Each participant will have two passes, two punts, and two place kicks in the competition. The participants will be scored cumulatively, with the top score from their two attempts in the passing, punt, and kicking being added together for a total score. The winner of the competition will win Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW) for the entirety of his living unit, with second place winning a \$150 BWW gift certificate and third place winning a \$75 BWW gift certificate for their respective living units.

Harris spoke on how the idea first came to fruition: “The idea was first proposed by Roland Morin,” he said. “He thought this would be a fun activity to engage not only participants but all students to come and support the competitors from their living units for a weekend activity, particularly given the absence of varsity sports this fall.”

Harris also spoke on the obstacles of having an athletic event during the pandemic: “The challenges in planning the event with the expected safety protocols in place may have been easier due to the successes we’ve seen with other events this fall such as the freshmen ringing-in ceremony and chapel sing competition,” he said. “Plans that were developed over the early summer months for stadium occupancy at Mud Hollow Field, if there had been fall athletics, have also proved helpful in the planning process to provide a safe environment for fans to attend the event. Safety protocols from some



BLAKE LARGENT '22 / PHOTO

Wabash students can imagine themselves in a similar pose after achieving eternal glory in the Strike It! Throw It! Boot It! competition. The qualifying round will take place on October 16 or 17, with the championship taking place on October 31.

professional sporting events will also be in place for individuals handling the footballs during the competition.”

The biggest challenge currently, however, may be generating student interest. “We were hopeful to get 3-5 competitors from each living unit, but entries have been lower than expected,” Harris said. “Because of that, we will change the format to a single round of qualifying that will take place either Friday, October 16 or Saturday, October 17. That date will be selected based upon conversations with the RAs and fraternity presidents. We will still have the top-16 competitors from that qualifying round advance to the finals on October 31.”

Students have plenty to be interested in beyond free wings. “I think it will provide a fun day of watching Wabash

students compete and will allow living units to cheer on their competitors all the way to the finals,” Harris said. “Think of it as gladiator competitions without a violent outcome. Plans also include bringing in food trucks for the finals to provide additional interest for students to attend and cheer for their favorite competitors. The finals will also be broadcast live on the Wabash video streaming channel so parents and friends outside of campus can watch the competition, as well.”

The newly created Little Giant Stadium may potentially serve as the site for the championship on October 31. “We continue to hold out hope for that to happen,” Harris said. “That was a secondary thought behind this event; that it would provide an opportunity to show off the new Little Giant Stadium

with its first official event. Final touches continue on the stadium. If we are granted occupancy prior to October 31, hopefully we can provide everyone a first glimpse of the stadium with students, faculty, and staff all cheering the action on the field for the first time.”

With free wings, the potential for Little Giant Stadium’s first event, the return of an athletic live stream, and living unit glory on the line, students have much to look forward to for the Strike It! Throw It! Boot It! football skills competition. The (hopeful) success of this event may also serve as the foundation for future events this semester. “The College continues to look for new ideas or ways to modify existing events to provide activities for all students to participate in,” Harris said. “All ideas are welcome.”