

MARCH 19, 2021

Broken Window Sparks Campus Controversy

AUSTIN HOOD '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • The Wabash Community was rattled this week by the smashing of a residential window with a homemade Black Lives Matter poster at Rogge Hall. The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 13. “On Saturday night we had to deal with a serious incident of vandalism by a Wabash student who threw a wine bottle through the window of a residence hall,” wrote President Scott Feller in an email addressed to the Wabash Community. “The suite was occupied but thankfully the resident was in another room and avoided a potentially serious injury. I am grateful for the work of Director of Safety and Security Nick Gray and especially thankful for the Wabash men who aided in his investigation of this incident.”

The responsible party was identified as a student in his senior year at Wabash. Per the President’s Monday email, the student has been indefinitely suspended from the College. He is a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

“Right now we are doing an investigation within the fraternity,” said Isaac Temore ’22, President of the Beta Psi Chapter of Delta Tau Delta. “We are working with our honor board to see what the best outcome is for him and for us. At the moment, we haven’t really settled on anything... Intentional or unintentional, what happened is not right. It doesn’t align with the values of our fraternity. We’re doing everything possible to make this situation right.”

The response to the situation was swift, including strong reactions on social media from students, faculty, alumni, and voices beyond the Wabash Community on Saturday night. Many labeled the act as a hate crime, although the administration officials have reached a different conclusion.

“I think we were probably where a lot of students are right now, where it just didn’t seem possible that this was not a racially motivated event,” Dean of Students Greg Redding ’88 said while describing the beginning of the investigation. “But the facts didn’t support that. The facts supported that it was certainly reckless endangerment and a callous disregard for consequences and impact, but not racially motivated... At the end of the day, everyone at Wabash, especially people in leadership positions, have to be evidenced-based decision makers. At some point, we had to let the evidence tell us what it was telling us. This was a serious act, not racial in its intention, but certainly racial in its impact.”

Redding cited the several-dozen-yard distance between where the student allegedly threw the bottle, the back porch of the Delt house, and the window in question as a primary motivation for the College not treating the event as a hate crime. According to the dean, there were several witnesses to corroborate the account that the student threw the bottle from that location.

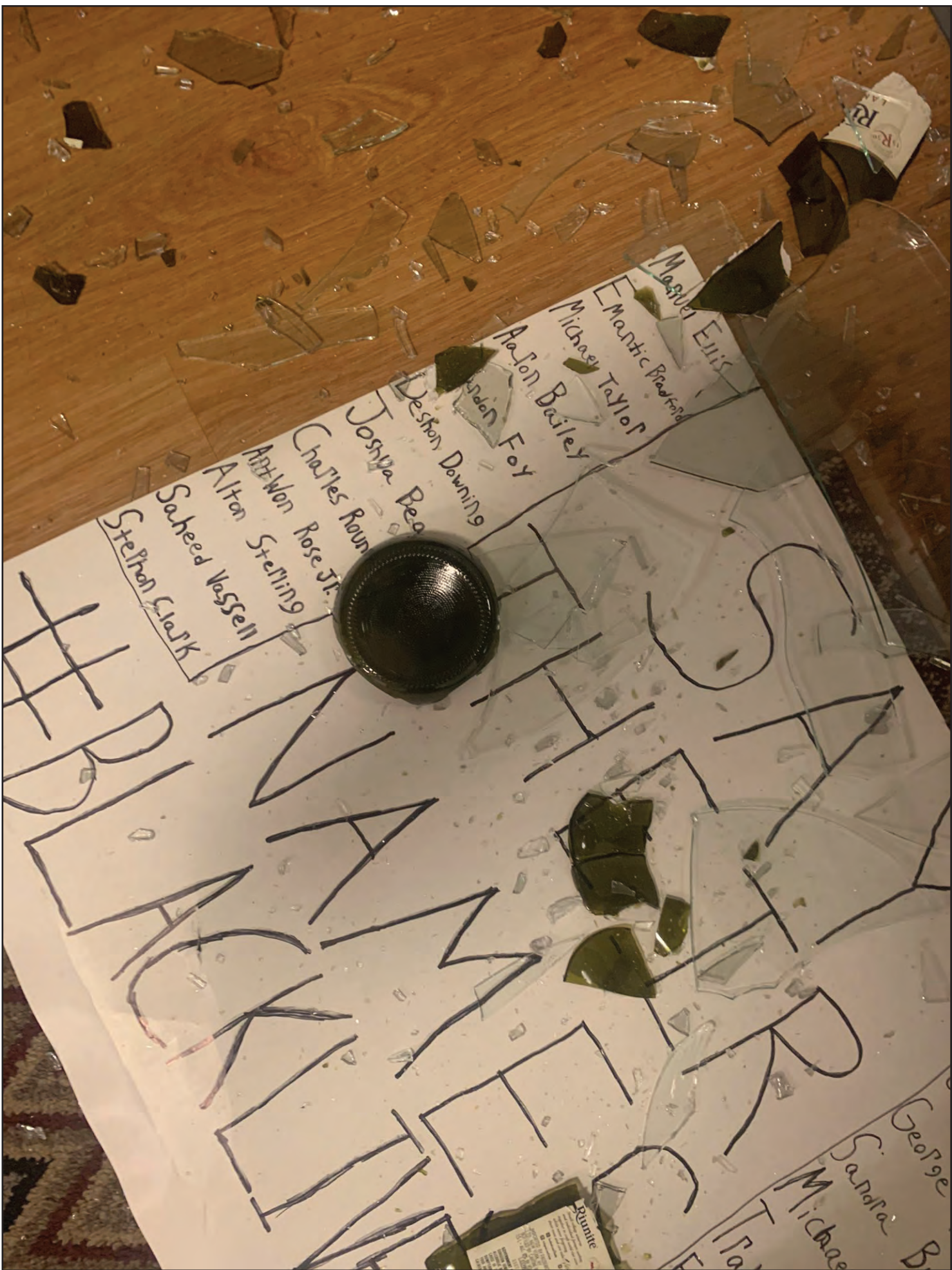
“The basic details were never in dispute,” Redding said. “[The student] said upfront ‘I chucked that bottle.’ What we had to work through was the sheer coincidence that that bottle happened to hit that window with that sign felt like a little too much for us to process. But then the more you think about it you have to think to yourself ‘give me as many bottles that I could throw, and let’s see if I could hit that window with intent.’ You have to think, it’s as coincidental that I could hit it intentionally as it would be that it was an accident.”

The residents of the room with the broken window—Leo Warbington ’22, Willy Gupton ’23, and Allen “A.J.” Johnson, Jr. ’23—disagree with Redding’s assessment of the motivations behind the situation. All of the residents are Black men.

“I don’t care what the administration says,” Warbington said. “I don’t care what the dude who did it himself said. I don’t care what anyone else says. I just got a feeling that there was some type of racial bias behind this. There are so many windows on this campus you could have hit but it just so happened to be the one with the Black Lives Matter sign that everyone can see it. We have had that sign up since September.

“I made it myself. It was probably something [the student] didn’t agree with. I feel like drunk actions are just sober thoughts. We will remember it as a hate crime because that’s the kind of effect that it’s had on us.”

Many students echoed Warbington’s sentiment that the event was motivated by racial bias. On Thursday, a video titled “We, The Students of Wabash,” in which dozens of students



Shattered glass from the window and wine bottle on top of Leo Warbington’s homemade Black Lives Matter poster. Many our pointing to the poster as evidence that the event was motivated by racial bias.

condemned racial bias on campus, was played immediately following Chapel Talk.

“This weekend there was an act of pure hate committed on campus,” Student Body President Charlie Esterline ’24 said. “It is an utter disgrace. Many students I have spoken with are frustrated, angry, and just disappointed that this happened on our campus. What I have found even more frustrating is that this attack was perpetrated by another student. Our community, like we did in the video that was played at the end of Chapel, needs to come together and unequivocally condemn hate. Our community needs to hold each other and ourselves to the highest standard, period.”

The event comes in the midst of a heightened sensitivity to issues of race and racism in the Wabash Community and the United States following the wave of George Floyd protests that spread across the nation during the summer of 2020. Wabash took a number of steps to further that dialogue last semester, including by joining the Racial Equity Leadership Alliance and holding events like the Privilege Walk. Many see this event as an iteration of the subject of these initiatives.

“The impact of this event is real and fell on our Black students,” President Feller said. “As all of us who have been listening this year know all too well, that continues a pattern that extends far back in time throughout our society. Even unintended consequences, in this case the feelings of being targeted because of one’s race, are damaging.”

Dean Redding, reiterating that his view is that this event was free of racial bias, acknowledged that the

perception that racism was a factor was an issue.

“Even though we’re confident that this wasn’t a racially motivated event, the mere fact that it seems like it was is jarring enough,” Redding said. “That should tell us something. It just shows that not just at Wabash, but nationally, that African Americans have felt targeted. This isn’t what it appeared to be. But that it appeared to be that shows we’ve got work to do as a College and as a nation.”

The residents of the room, by contrast, expressed frustration at the administration for failing to fully acknowledge what they see the gravity of the situation is.

“All of us in [that] room are somebody’s son, or somebody’s nephew,” Johnson said. “I am going to tell those important people in my life that this is what happened, but there are a lot of other students that are not going to tell their brothers and sisters or not tell their parents that something happened here... We just hope that the administration can make a statement to the whole Wabash community and say, one, this happened, two, this should never happen again and these are the steps that we are going to take moving forward to make this situation better. In my opinion that is step one, because a lot of stuff has been swept under the rug.”

What has been swept under the rug, in the eyes of these students, is an environment where they feel unsafe because of the color of their skin.

“I’d be lying if I said I was 100 percent comfortable here, but it’s not like I feel like I need to leave Wabash,” Warbington said. “I will say, if there’s one thing I hate it’s walking around this campus at night time, by myself.

That is the last thing that I ever want to do. My freshman year I used to stay in Martindale. There was this one night I was at the MXI until like three in the morning. Then it hit me: I have to walk all the way across campus in the dark, by myself. That was probably like one of the scariest moments I have had here at Wabash.”

From all parties involved, both the affected students and the administration, there is an acknowledgment that this situation should be a turning point in how the Wabash Community talks about issues of race on campus. For Johnson, that starts with taking a step back from the demands of daily life at the College to reflect.

“I think, when guys come here they can unknowingly... develop an almost selfishness. They start to think, okay, what am I doing to make sure my grades are good? What am I doing to make sure my resume is good? What am I doing to make sure I get a job when I leave here? What am I doing to make sure I don’t I don’t break the Gentleman’s Rule? It’s just a lot a lot of me, me, me. That’s not Wabash’s fault... there is a personal responsibility that we have to ourselves. But I don’t think we reciprocate that same responsibility that we have to ourselves to each other. I don’t think that respect is really cultivated here, and it’s not on many college campuses... I don’t even know the answer, but that it’s this kind of individualism that’s woven into Wabash and even into America. The whole idea of pulling yourself up by the bootstraps can be problematic. That leads to the mindset that most students probably have of, ‘Oh he broke that window, that’s terrible, but I gotta get some homework done.’”

TIRED



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A hate crime occurred on Saturday, March 13, 2021, when a Wabash student decided to throw a bottle of wine at a window of a residence hall, putting the victims at risk of sustaining serious and potentially fatal injuries. This was not just any window. Out of all the windows on campus, it was a window that proudly expressed a homemade #BlackLivesMatter poster, channeling only love and awareness. Anyone who walks past Rogge, or lives nearby, sees this poster every day. The students who hung this poster in their dorm are Black Wabash men, promoting their humanity and standing up for a movement that furthers it.

Since the events that unfolded Saturday, I have heard people justify the

student's hate crime as a drunken episode, where he was oblivious to the weight of his actions. Here's the thing: No matter how drunk someone is, their actions represent their subconscious thoughts. Thoughts they are afraid to express under sobriety. Whether he had malicious intentions or not, he defaced the Black Lives Matter movement. He transgressed against the Black students, and made students of color feel unwelcome and unsafe. However "innocent" the motives are, he must know actions have consequences. Everyone—especially Wabash men—needs to understand this if they are going to "live humanely."

Incidents like this are all too familiar to Wabash. In 2008, as students were preparing for spring break, the Wabash College basketball team walked back to their living unit after practice. Upon their arrival, they found an engraving on the front door with the words, "Die, N---! Die!" With great haste, the college promptly replaced the front door within hours, disposing of the physical evidence of hatred that has plagued this country for far too long. There were no expulsions, no disciplinary actions, no statements released by the college, just a new front door. Additionally, another incident still within the 21st Century, a physical altercation broke out between two students after one student was called the N-word directly to his face. As one would think, this incident was brought to the

Dean's Office, where it was deemed as "a valuable educational experience" for both students. Basically, the endless might of white privilege prevailed again. Lastly, for us seniors, let's not forget the night of December 10, 2017. The same evening the MXI hosted its Red Velvet event, students who lived in the Williams Hall Lodge draped a Confederate flag from the outside of their window, facing the MXI. One commonality connecting all these events is the administration DID NOTHING.

In 2017, during my freshman year, an international student was verbally and physically harassed at a Beta Theta Pi party by intoxicated, white males who also spent the whole night chanting the N-word from the top of their lungs. The victim was pushed around and was called a 'chink' and all sorts of names before leaving. When this matter fell into the hands of the administration, what happened? NOTHING. It was swept under the rug again. To "apologize" for the incident, the Beta house plainly invited the International Students' Association (ISA) to a cookout for a football game they were going to do anyway. None of the ISA members went because this was a severely lazy way to apologize. You can see the pattern: White students are never reprimanded or condemned for their blatant racist behaviors.

Fast forward to 2021, the pattern persists! A campus-wide email and a suspension, rather than expulsion, is not

going to address the pervasive racism in our student body and our administration's inaction. WE NEED CHANGE NOW.

Wabash College markets itself as an institution that educates young men to live T.A.L.L (Think Critically, Act Responsibly, Lead Effectively, and Live Humanely). Did the student abide by these values? No. Will our administration sweep things under the rug, or will they make a statement that publicly condemns acts of racism such as hate crimes against students of color? We'll see. In the meantime, let me express how I feel as a person of color who has witnessed and experienced several incidents of racism throughout my time in this country: I am tired of seeing people of color fearing for their safety, I am tired of racism being tolerated (especially at Wabash), and I am tired of people of color being treated like we don't matter.

I challenge our administration to take action this time. STOP SWEEPING THINGS UNDER THE RUG, make a public statement that wholeheartedly condemns racism and punish the student for his hate crime through expulsion. Moreover, I challenge our student body to reflect on this moment and I encourage our allies to speak out against racism whenever and wherever they see it. Silence is complacency and complacency in racism is, in fact, racist.

#BlackLivesMatter #StopAsianHate #LGBTQ+

Stop Putting Your Shoes on Other People's Feet



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After the events of this weekend which I need not name, and which adhered to the minds of many, we find ourselves using that word again: racism. I am not here to argue whether racism is an overused word, nor am I here to argue whether racism was prevalent this past weekend. Many of us believe that it most certainly was and even went as far as to proclaim it as a hate crime while some are skeptical as to whether it really was a racially motivated crime. Despite all of these arguments, you must put yourselves into the shoes of those men who were inside of the room. A bottle came flying through the window and hit the 'Say Their Names' poster filled with black men and women who have been

disproportionately killed by the police. If I am a black man who cares deeply about the social issues surrounding my race, I will not take this event lightly, and I will immediately associate this act with racism. This is rational. I expect anyone to be angry at the sight of their window having been broken by someone. I expect people to be even more angry when it is a vulgar attempt at undermining a progressive, social movement. In other words, the response of calling the act racist and a hate crime is justified by the sequence of events, however the true motivation is unknown and may remain unknown to many. I mention this to transition into a point that I hope will be met with optimism: that no matter what your political or social views are, you have the ability to learn and understand what others are going through.

I do identify as a person of color (Indonesian to be exact), but I am not your typical person of color. I am an adopted person of color who grew up in a white suburban neighborhood with a white, conservative family. Growing up with a conservative family is by no means a bad thing. I learned where hard work can get you, I learned to be independent, and I learned that bureaucrats suck (I still believe that to this day). While these are not bad values to have, they restricted my

perceptions, in a way. Before Wabash, and even in my first year here, I truly believed that poor and marginalized people simply had no desire to better themselves and their communities, and this was their downfall. This is why they could never move up in the world. In other words, I was not a structuralist, I was a culturalist. What I mean by this is that I believed the culture surrounding poor and marginalized people led them to their empty or unhappy lives. I did not believe that structural factors played a serious role in their emptiness and unhappiness. How could I believe such a thing? Because I never had to experience those structural factors.

This is arguably the biggest problem facing Black people today, that people do not understand, nor do they attempt to understand the experiences of Black people in America. People fail to understand a Black person's perspective on life and our modern society. This is something that I have struggled with for a long time, and that we see many people struggle with to this day. Because I and many others see our own perspective and expect others to see their lives how we do, we fail to acknowledge the struggles, hardships, and experiences that those people face in their daily lives. We must not put our shoes on their feet, we must put our feet in their shoes. In order to

support our Black brothers across the country, it is imperative that we engage in conversations and learn to understand the perspective and experiences of Black people and other marginalized minorities. To do this on campus, I encourage all students to attend talks and events related to learning and understanding others' perspectives, especially those of our Black Wabash brothers. It is important to note that the point of having the conversation is not for you to feel comfortable; it is for you to get out of your comfort zone to wrestle with social issues that deeply affect our society. You can start by looking on the Wabash College event calendar for any events where you can learn about others and their experiences. You can reach out to me and attend some Wabash Think Tank discussions, too! We have talks like these and more every other week, and we are passionate about these conversations. Ultimately, it is up to you, the student, to attend events and learn to understand others and their perspectives while encouraging others to do the same. Another important note: everything we see is not an absolute truth, it is a perspective. Learn to understand more perspectives than just your own, and you will accomplish much in life while also helping to combat racism.

Cancel the Doctor



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This is a response to Cooper Terry's opinion, "Save the Doctor." American society teaches children that Christopher Columbus discovered America, George Washington never told a lie, and Dr. Seuss is beyond reproach. In reality, Christopher Columbus initiated the American Indian genocide, George Washington owned slaves, and Dr. Seuss was a racist. Today, 'Cancel Culture,' which could be more appropriately labeled 'Consequence Culture,' is putting an end to the indoctrination of young America. These men were not simply flawed, they were monstrous. Racism is by nature monstrous. It is time that society stopped celebrating and idolizing those who spent their entire lives dehumanizing others.

The controversy surrounding Dr. Seuss is particularly important because it

demonstrates many Americans' willingness to continue the longstanding tradition of downplaying the role that art has played in enabling racism to flourish. To be clear, no one has canceled Dr. Seuss entirely, though there is definitely an argument to be made in favor of it. Instead, Dr. Seuss Enterprises decided to no longer publish six specific books due to racist and insensitive imagery. Meaning that every other Dr. Seuss book is still readily available to anyone who desires to read it. So, despite people's charges, society has not canceled Dr. Seuss. His enterprises decided to remove only a few of his works, the ones demonstrated to be racist. That being said, attacks on this decision are not only a defense of a racist author but the racist works themselves. That is abhorrent.

Recently, Cooper Terry '23 wrote an opinion piece in this very newspaper defending Dr. Seuss's six racist works as simply showing children the 'world of imagination.' Of course, countless other children's books show America's children the world of imagination without reinforcing racist depictions of minorities. But teaching children with books that include unapologetic racism teaches them that it is acceptable. It promotes racist behavior and perceptions of minorities. Racism is never acceptable and ridding shelves of racist works such as Dr. Seuss' is just one way to get that point across.

Terry even offered a full-fledged defense

of Dr. Seuss, the author, as well. He cited Seuss's various awards, including a Pulitzer Prize, Academy Awards, Emmy Awards, and more. Yes, America has continuously celebrated racism and racist works. There is no doubt about that. But if America continues to stand for things that it accepted and celebrated in the past, progress is impossible. America once accepted chattel slavery, eugenic programs that inspired the Nazis, Japanese internment camps, just to name a few of its sins. America did not only tolerate these things, but it also celebrated them. But because America has failed to do the right thing in the past does not mean it should continue to do wrong. Now is the time to condemn racism in all forms, including heinous racist books intended to force racist imagery and ideology into the minds of American children.

On the issue of 'Cancel Culture' in general, the opposition's real problem with it is that it means bigoted language and behavior will no longer go without consequences. That is why they long to 'Make America Great Again' in the image of an America where it celebrated violence towards minorities, a time when racism had no negative consequences. By keeping up their statues of defenders of slavery, continuing to glorify documented racists, and continuing to promote racist depictions of minorities, many White Americans hope to maintain their false sense of superiority

while simultaneously perpetuating the myth of others' inferiority.

America needs accountability and honesty. This is what 'Cancel Culture' is all about. When people use their platforms to spread bigotry and hatred, society must hold them accountable. And private companies who give them platforms are well within their rights to hold them accountable in ways they see fit. But when private companies fail to prioritize doing what is right over what is most profitable, it is society's duty to deprive people of their standing and platform to assure that they are unable to continue spreading their hatred and bigotry. Society must hold people accountable. Without accountability, there is no progress.

Of course, it is difficult to hold people accountable for their actions today when America still fails to be honest about its history that is deeply rooted in racism. George Washington was a slave owner, Christopher Columbus was a genocidal murderer, and Dr. Seuss wrote racist books targeted at an audience of children. None of these men are beyond reproach. Society should not celebrate them; it should condemn them. Today is the time for progress. And if society refuses to own up to its past and commit to condemning bigotry in all forms, that progress is not possible. 'Cancel Culture' is essential in holding people, and American society as a whole, accountable.

The Burden of Heritage



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Tradition and heritage are two components that make Wabash what it is today. Around the nation and the world, many people maintain said heritage alive in order to honor and celebrate the past, and reconnect with their ancestors. However, nothing in life is free of drawbacks, and traditions are no different. With every element of heritage comes a burden that it must carry, and there is no way around dealing with it in one way or another. This may sound abstract, so, allow me to give some concrete examples I found in my learning of local history. First, the very land the college was built originally belonged to the Miami tribe. Crawfordsville was a land office town, where the territory of what is now Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland was sold. The very ground we walk on

towards our classes bears the scars of Native Americans losing their land to settlers. Yet, there is nothing in the city as of this writing that acknowledges this fact. Another issue comes from racism and its legacy, and there is one particular project that left a deep scar on African-American communities across the United States, including Indiana, to this day: the interstate system. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower passed the Federal Aid Highway Act, which allowed multiple states to build what we know as the interstate system. However, it wasn't until 1970, under President Richard Nixon, that the National Environmental Policy Act was passed, which required various projects - including the interstates - to assess and minimize their social, economic, and environmental impact. Interstates that were built during the 1956-1970 time frame - including the Indiana sections of I-65, I-70, and I-74 - did not have to do said assessment, which meant they would be built in the cheapest manner possible, and on the cheapest land possible. This is why I-74 bypasses Crawfordsville, while I-65 and I-70 cut right through Indianapolis: if you look at the demographics, you would see that I-65 and I-70 cut mostly through Black neighborhoods, simply because land was cheaper, while I-74 bypasses what was and still is a predominantly-white town. This is but one example of how racism and its legacy impact our very own backyard.

So, how do we deal with the burden that comes with our history and heritage? The first step is always to acknowledge the full extent of heritage - particularly the uncomfortable parts that people tend to sweep under the rug. We cannot address what we don't know exists, and it takes plenty of courage to acknowledge the imperfections in our societies, particularly in an age where social media presents highlight reels and facades as the new reality. We need to overcome the fear of looking bad if we ever aspire to make any change and overcome the burden of heritage. However, acknowledgements - as important, difficult, and commendable as they are - still do not suffice. We, as a society, need to also make amends for the issues we have acknowledged. And the process of making amends starts with listening to the oppressed community, and coming up with a plan that will result in consensus and reconciliation. Traditions and heritage grow and adapt with the times, but human relationships and humanity are fragile, particularly when said tradition and heritage is based on oppression, our own humanity is at risk. Perhaps the most important part of making amends is the follow-through; the oppressed group distrust their former oppressors, and for good reason - and not keeping promises would cause even more distrust. I fear the day when there will be no path to reconciliation, for that is the day the division between neighbors,

between the brothers of humanity, becomes permanent. The biggest peril to addressing the burden of heritage is having the substance of heritage turn into form. The substance of heritage is its purpose: why are we keeping it alive? Whom or what are we celebrating through it? When that is lost, so, too, is the possibility to identify and overcome the burden that said tradition stands upon. This is why it's so important to keep the entirety of history documented - not just the glitzy, appealing, picturesque sides of it. My point is that, with every tradition and element of heritage comes some form of burden that stems from its substance. Said heritage plays into the culture of a place. Discrimination doesn't happen in a vacuum - rather, there are plenty of cultural influences for it, and traditions and heritage do sometimes play into it. In light of the recent events, I encourage Wabash to take a critical look at its traditions and heritage - in particular, their substance. Only once we have the entire substance of our whole heritage out in the open - only then can we say for sure that we truly want to embrace it. Every place has its skeletons, and I fear that, by keeping them in the closet, we will keep being haunted by the ghosts of burdens past. Only when they come to light and we have honest conversations about them will we overcome being blinded by our pride of being mired in the past.

Barriers to Critical Thought



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To be clear, this article is in direct response to Matthias Einterz's piece, "Does Wabash Still Defend Critical Thinking?" published by The Bachelor on March 12, 2021. The justification for mentioning Mr. Einterz by name will become apparent by the end of my argument. In his article, Einterz discusses his concerns with our "generation" and our shifting "political climate" as they relate to Wabash. Specifically, he feels as though our College has lost its honored status as a "bastion of free thought" because it's removal of "barriers" to education can no longer account for the issue of "today's world" becoming "less forgiving to the 'no claim unquestioned' requirement of critical thinking". In this article, I hope to unpack Mr. Einterz's argument to uncover exactly what the "barriers" to education he mentions look like in practice at Wabash, describe some actual barriers to education, and provide some direction going forward as to how we should perceive free speech and critical thought as well as implement them in our daily lives. According to the U.S. Department

of Education's survey data for Wabash College, our student body is entirely comprised of men. Shocking, right? However, a less circulated statistic from the same survey indicates that our student population is 74% white with Black and Hispanic people making up 4% and 9% respectively. All other racial minorities comprise less than 1% of the population. We are similarly homogenous in our geographic distribution. 73% of us come from the state of Indiana, 22% come from a different state, and 4% from a foreign country. While I admit I did not conduct an in-depth analysis of Wabash's enrollment data from the last 50 years, I do assume that we have become more diverse over time in these categories. Therefore, historically, the "barriers to education" Wabash has removed (intentionally or unintentionally) include women, ethnic/racial minorities, and people from outside the state of Indiana. The view that this removal benefits our education is misguided and antithetical to the concepts of free speech and critical thought. The educational benefits of diversity in the classroom are widely accepted by the legal and academic communities. In the landmark Supreme Court case Grutter v. Bollinger, the majority ruled that the University of Michigan had a compelling interest in the "educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body". Research indicates that experiences with diversity "educate and prepare citizens for a multicultural democracy" and that "students who interact with diverse students in classrooms and the broad campus environment will be more motivated and able to participate in a heterogeneous and complex society". To put it in simpler terms, diversity in the classroom leads students to act responsibly, to lead effectively, and to

live humanely. An integral component of a diverse classroom is the exchanging of vastly different life experiences and understanding how those life experiences impact understanding of the material. According to the Washington Post, the U.S. is expected to become a "majority-minority" nation within the next 25 years, but the number of Americans living in diverse neighborhoods is increasing at a rate slower than expected. Essentially, we are becoming more diverse than society can keep up with. Instead of facing this challenge head on, our College's current demographic make-up fails to replicate the world in which we will graduate. This misrepresentation perpetuates a toxic ideology that the viewpoint of the majority of our students (white males) is academically neutral. Under this line of thought, one may consider a statement to be "controversial or embarrassing" while someone who has not shared a similar experience finds it to be deeply hurtful or insulting. Mr. Einterz is in agreement concerning the academic benefits of a student expressing such a viewpoint (specifically for the student who made the comment). However, we disagree about the method of education. He advocates for "safeguards" to ease the "social scorn" of students who make such comments and criticizes "one side or the other" for "attacking" students personally. While safe spaces and censorship are popular concepts for some, I argue we should follow a different path. If student A makes a statement that deeply offends student B, and student B expresses their displeasure to student A, it is student A's job to explain his position to a point of consensus. David Zarefsky identifies this process as argumentation. He explains that "argumentation is an analogue to

the scientific method for knowledge claims that do not lend themselves to verification" and that we scrutinize claims to "determine which are more deserving of acceptance as true". In the context of an academic setting, it is reasonable to believe that our classmates and faculty are speaking in good faith. Therefore, it is safe to assume that any comment that generates a viscerally negative response genuinely offended the person issuing the response. That outrage is a form of scrutiny that challenges a claim's validity. Instead of expecting others to "consider all ideas without resentment for the individual who spoke them", Wabash men must take accountability for their words and consider the message they convey about what type of men we are. If student A were to make a harmful claim in a classroom without student B, or in a classroom where student B were not allowed to express themselves freely, then student A would not face the real consequences of his actions or learn from his mistake thus rendering him unprepared for life outside the Wabash bubble. Going forward, I suggest that students who have invoked the rage of their peers due to a "controversial" statement lean into that criticism head on. Digest the scrutiny, formulate a response, repeat. If you find yourself in a situation where you can no longer explain your position, it is time to change your position. Generally speaking, the College must continue and further its trend towards encouraging diversity on campus. I have faith that Wabash will one day overcome the mistakes of its past and become a more inclusive environment for all students. However, it is only by practicing these two central ideas that we might work together to generate "a culture that hears all ideas whether it's comfortable or not".

Looking to join the conversation?
Want to make your voice heard?

If so, contact Alex Rotaru (arotaru22@wabash.edu) and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.



The Bachelor
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

Remembering the Life & Legacy of David Phillips



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

With his near-photographic memory and readiness to learn, it comes to the surprise to no one David Phillips focused on “How (Edmund) Hovey Shaped Wabash,” in a 2010 Chapel Talk.

REED MATHIS '22 | NEWS EDITOR

On March 4th, the Wabash community suffered a significant loss, as esteemed Professor David Phillips H'83 passed away from complications due to cancer. Although Phillips retired in 2004, he remained an integral, influential figure in the Wabash College Chemistry department up until his death. Along the way, he provided a constant, reliable presence at Wabash since his hiring in 1968 as the College's first inorganic chemist.

Whether in the classroom, with fellow faculty, recalling previous Monon Bell games with a photographic memory, or traveling, Phillips left an impact on people in all facets of his life. One reason for this lasting impact is illustrated through his ability to recall moments and interactions better than anyone.

“David had a prodigious memory. He remembered everything. So, you know, if you were his student, he would remember the grades, or the comments he wrote, which is typically really bad for a faculty member. People would come back after 25 years and say, how did you remember,” said retired Professor of Political Sciences, Melissa Butler H'85, who taught at the College for 37 years. As someone who is a living legend in her own right - the first tenured female faculty member at the College, it is interesting to see how their paths started and how they ultimately forged a lifelong friendship together. It comes as no surprise that Phillips had an innate ability to connect with those around him, especially newer faculty members of the Wabash community.

“David was very keen on the new faculty who came to campus and reintegrating faculty, after they came back from sabbatical. And he was always very interested in the new faculty so he organized the new faculty lunches, as he helped with planning these potluck lunches to allow them to reintegrate at Wabash,” said Professor Walter Novak, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Div I Chair of Chemistry, and a dear friend of

Phillips. Even though Phillips retired in 2004 and Novak started at Wabash in 2009, they swiftly became close friends.

“David took it upon himself to, to really help me get acclimated, and so we went on hikes to Shades (State Park) for example, he took me to dinner over at other faculty members' homes, and we found that we liked a lot of the same things,” said Novak. Adventure and enjoying nature's elements were aspects of life Phillips enjoyed immensely, even after his retirement.

Looking back on their relationship, Butler recalls their traveling experiences together as what crystalized their bond. Butler has traveled to 103 countries and all seven continents, so one would, naturally, think traveling was always central to Butler's life. However, some of her first traveling experiences with Phillips reinforced the beauty and adventure involved with traveling.

“We went three times together to Turkey, and once with David Bruford and John Fisher. In fact Joe Day (Emeritus Professor of Classics) and Phillips and I rented a sailboat and sailed around Turkey, having these amazing travel experiences, and he certainly opened my eyes up to Turkey and traveling in many other ways,” said Butler.

Another hallmark of Phillips's footprint on the Wabash community was how he connected his travels back into his life at Wabash. Where he displayed this passion most clearly was his fascination with Turkey and its cuisine.

“So, I helped with these gatherings called a Mezah, where he invited fellow faculty members and he would do this every summer. He loved that kind of food, and he and his wife Pru would host this, and then he, you know, after she passed it and did not do it for a few years. They then started it up again and Dan Rogers, Steven Morello, and myself were part of that event,” said Novak. Not only would he put on these dinners, but it genuinely became an annual celebration.

He would do a Turkish Mezah every year, and he enlisted Nelson (Professor Derek R. Nelson' 99) as one of his sous chefs after his wife had died. He would prepare 10 or 15, sometimes even 20 dishes, and he would have them do certain parts of the dishes and put them in charge of running another dish, as it was way too much for him to handle all by himself,” said Butler.

While it was easy to see why Phillips is so revered and remembered by the community around him, it was his marriage and timeless devotion to his wife, Prudence Phillips, that those closest to him loved the most about him.

“He missed his wife every day. You have never seen somebody hardly so devoted to another individual. And it was touching,” said Novak. For the 45 years they were married and after her death in 2009, “Pru” always was the love of his life, and for those around them, it was evident.

“When they were together they had found a way of dividing things up. They complemented each other very much, and each seemed to have his or her own niche in the relationship. Things work very smoothly. But they really, they really did love each other and it was clear to recognize that between them,” said Butler. Dating back to when they first met each other at the University of Washington, it seemed their bond was inevitable.

“He could never believe that she agreed to marry him. And he would tell the story frequently about getting up the nerve to ask her out. He always would tell the story in this exact way. He would say he was really amazed when she accepted with alacrity and enthusiasm, He would always say with alacrity and enthusiasm,” said Butler.

His impact on students throughout his teaching career remained clear, and some former students are more than appreciative of how much Phillips meant to their lives.

“There are four professors that made my Wabash experience what it was... you provided the inspiration to become a scientist - not just of chemistry, but of all sciences - something that I cherish every day when I wake up in the morning and am awed by the natural world and what each new day teaches me. I also appreciate your photographic recall of all my athletic endeavors. I don't know if I will ever quite live up to some of what you recall, but I always tried to do my best and to be a great teammate,” said David Broecker '83.

Over the last fifty years, it is clear Phillips's impact and energy affected those around him, but it was that same feeling that sparked his forward-thinking outlook on life.

“I had never camped. And he introduced me to the joys of camping. He would love to climb, and I would say your favorite direction is not north, east, south, or west. It only seems you are happy when you are going up!” said Butler.

His standards were second to none, and as anyone would remind you, he suffered no fools.

“There is hardly an individual with higher standards, really, than what David had, but he also had great times. And I think that balance is hard to strike, and sometimes it rubs people the wrong way. But, you know, I really do think he did a really nice job of holding everybody, even when he was not a teacher anymore to high standards, But, but he showed great kindness and I think that is kind of the epitome of a Wabash man in a lot of ways,” said Novak.

Although, it is always difficult to lose a cherished member of the Wabash community. The term “legend” is often thrown around in Wabash lore, but it goes without any hesitation that Wabash has truly lost a pillar of the Wabash community in the death of Philips. Over the last half-century, David Philips embodied what it truly meant to be a Wabash man.

Plans for Vaccination Site at Wabash

THOMAS JOVEN '24 | STAFF WRITER

There is a very real possibility that Wabash may become a vaccine center this spring. Paperwork was filled out and submitted to have this opportunity in December, but as Nurse Chris Amidon said, “At that point we really were not very optimistic that we would be able to do this on campus.” With the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine being very efficient in the state of Indiana, the odds are ever increasing.

“And if we don't end up being able to do it this spring we'll probably have some need to vaccinate in the fall, so we'll have the plans in place,” said Amidon. In order to avoid ambiguity, students realize this: this potential vaccine center is for the students, faculty, and staff of Wabash College. There is a chance that campus could be fully vaccinated before the end of the semester.

The process would only take one to two days and look pretty similar to the flu shot system last fall. Amidon said, “If it happens, it'll be in a big, big area like the fieldhouse.” The main difference is that while people were able to simply leave after getting their flu shots, they will have to remain in the center for 15 minutes after getting vaccinated to ensure that they do not have an allergic reaction.


When it comes to the specific vaccine, Amidon said, “We don't have any control over that...we'll get whatever the state has enough of to give us.” The college is not going to be picky about a one or two

shot vaccination. Wabash just wants the opportunity.

Currently, the CDC guidelines state that it takes about two weeks after the second vaccination to fully build up immunity, according to Amidon. The protocols of social distancing post vaccination are sure to evolve as more data are collected, but right now being vaccinated does not grant an individual full freedom. “I think that we won't be able to stop the physical distancing and masking until EVERYONE in the community is immunized—and that is a big goal that we have to attain in order to get campus and the community back to normal, or something close to it,” said Amidon.


This brings to light the big question, will Wabash students, faculty, and staff be required to receive the Covid-19 vaccine? “I'm not certain of that; I really hope that our population is educated enough to see the benefits far outweigh the risks,” said Amidon. Administrators surely will be coming up with some sort of policy on the matter.

Whenever Wabash does become a vaccine center, whether it be very soon or next fall, Amidon noted that lots of help will be needed. People can help fill out documentation, guide other logistics of the process, and even give shots if they have the proper credentials. The intricacies of this entire process will continue to be updated and refined in order to ensure maximum safety for Wabash College for the remainder of this semester and moving forward.



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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Spring Glee Club Concert Preview



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Although the Glee Club is not traveling and performing in their usual concert space, the upcoming show is looking to be closer to normal, as parents and guests are allowed on the 25th.

IO MAEDA '24 | STAFF WRITER • The Glee Club Concert is going to be held on March 25th (Thu) at 7:30 p.m. in Chadwick Court. Anyone from the Wabash Community is invited to attend. The concert will be limited to 30 minutes due to the CDC's up-to-date recommendations on public events.

They can purchase tickets through the box office for free and the Wabash Community folks will be seated on the east side bleachers of Chadwick Court. Also, parents of each Glee Club member are invited to attend. They have to register for tickets through the box office as well. They will be seated on the West Side bleachers. The proper social distancing will be observed in both the choir and the audience members.

There are some challenges holding the concert during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, singing spaced six feet apart makes it difficult for each other to hear. Additionally, masks make it difficult for them to hear one another, because it is hard to express diction correctly.

Leading up to the concert, the most difficult challenge comes at the last minute. The original concert was supposed to be on March 11th (Thu). However, about five days before the concert, the college changed their mind. The college did not want them to hold the concert in Salter Hall, which had previously been the approved plan and space.

They asked Dr. Williams to hold the concert in the Knowing Fieldhouse or Chadwick court.

"We had to find a new date because both of those venues are taken up by athletic teams. So we moved the concert to the 25th," she said.

Unlike the previous concert, parents of the Glee Club members are allowed

to attend the concert. "That was not something that was allowed last semester. I think everybody's excited that families will be able to come and see the concert in person even though it's limited to two and parents only," she said.

The concert will follow the safety guidelines. All performers and the audience are required to be masked. Therefore, "There should be no sort of risk of contamination," she said.

The concert will also be live-streamed. Those who are unable to make it to the concert in person, or who just prefer to watch the concert online for safety, can still enjoy the music. The live stream site is not going to be recorded, so it will only be up from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. (ET).

Dr. Williams is not only excited about this upcoming concert, but also that all the Glee Club members are well-prepared for it. Here are some comments from two Glee Club members.

Hayden Kammer, who is a freshman and Tenor II, said, "I am very excited for the upcoming Glee Club concert, everyone in the club has worked so hard on ensuring it will be a great one! In the upcoming days, I will make sure to get enough sleep, relax my voice, and practice all my music!"

I know not to stress as I've worked very hard, and we will all do great! Please come out and support us as we share a fun, musical night with you all!"

Daniel Cuevas, who is a senior and Tenor II, said, "This concert is one of my last chances to participate in a beautiful tradition before graduation. Glee Club has been a mainstay on campus for countless years. Through artistry and performance, the group has continually promoted cheerfulness and hope to the Wabash community. I'm so grateful that I was able to be a part of the Glee Club."

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

WE'LL PUBLISH Q DROPS

Hi-Five to Joe Biden for validating Q-Anon conspiracy theorists by accidentally refering to Kamala Harris as "President Harris." We are absolutely convinced that a world-view that hinges on a 77-year-old making an occasional mistake is totally sane.

CRAWFORDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL IS HIRING

Hi-Five to Archie Miller for having one of the least successful coaching tenures in IU Basketball history. Don't feel too bad for the recently fired coach. He has about 10 million reasons to be okay. Then again, if one guy is willing to pay \$10 million to fire you, that isn't exactly a compliment.

THOSE WORDS TOTALLY MEAN THINGS!

Hi-Five to the administration for trusting the student body so much that they created the intermediate light blue status. The more adjectives you have to describe something means the more thought you've put into it, right? We're looking forward to making it to ultra-hyper fusia pink 9000 status by the fall.

GIVE IT A REST, STEVE

Lo-Five to March Madness. Who needs another reason for their dad to text them?

YOU TRY DOING THIS SOBER

Lo-Five to the Wabash Community for not donating their stimulus checks to The Bachelor's beer fund.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL:

Trine 3-1, 3-0

W. Wabash 1-3, 3-0

Mar. 14

TENNIS:

Trine 5

W. Wabash 4

Mar. 13

SOCCER:

DePauw 1

W. Wabash 0

Mar. 13

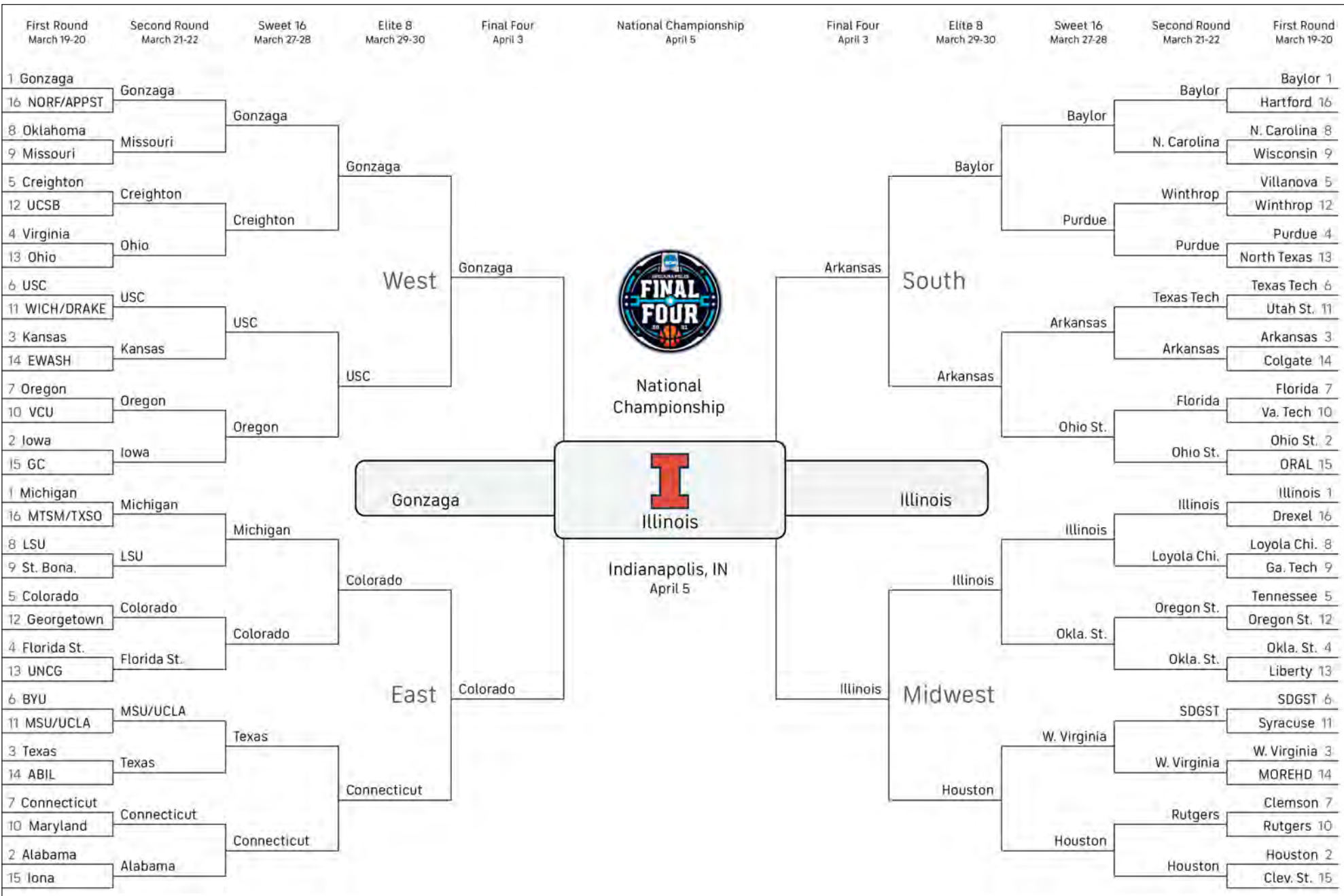
GOLF:

Wabash 2nd/3

at Franklin Inv.

Mar. 13

The Bachelor Presents: The Perfect March Madness Bracket



Time travel? Aliens? Unprecedented, once-in-a-generation sports knowledge? Don't ask how, just know: I, Sports Editor Blake Largent, have the world's first perfect NCAA March Madness bracket. And out of the bottom of my heart, I have chosen to share this with the Wabash community. All of these picks are bonified, 100-percent guaranteed locks. If I were you, I'd bet the house. This bracket might even get you blacklisted in Las Vegas. UConn and USC in the Elite Eight? Easily. Colorado making a Final Four appearance? No doubt. Illinois claiming their first tournament-era title? Destiny. This bracket has no foreseeable flaws and will most definitely claim your bracket prize pool. Do not be surprised to see me in a month, parading my bracket on ESPN with the likes of Scott Van Pelt and Stephen A. Smith, explaining my process. Not only do I produce perfect sports stories, but perfect brackets are just another of my talents. And if you take my advice, we can conquer the sports world together, perfect brackets in hand. Until then, enjoy games playing out exactly how I predicted above. Welcome back, March Madness.

Player Profile: Edreece Redmond '24



BENJAMIN HIGH '23 / PHOTO

Edreece Redmond '24 defends a Denison player. Redmond was a key asset off the bench for Wabash this season, playing in 11 games and averaging just under 10 minutes per game.

BEN BULLOCK '23 | STAFF WRITER • For incoming freshmen, adjusting to life as a Wabash athlete is a difficult transition at the best of times. During a global pandemic, that transitioin is much more difficult. However, Edreece Redmond II '24, one of seven freshmen on this year's basketball roster, has not let COVID restrictions get the better of him. Not only has he taken the challenge in his stride, the six-foot guard from Indianapolis is confident that he and his freshmen teammates have the ability to "do something special."

Before coming to Wabash, Redmond attended Bishop Chatard High School in his hometown of Indianapolis. After attending a number of his games, Coaches Brumett and Sullivan invited him to come and watch a game at Chadwick Court. "I knew then this was something I wanted to be a part of," Redmond said. "I really loved everybody on the team when I came to visit, and I loved how Coach Brumett and Coach Sully run their program. All the pieces just kind of came together."

This season has been far from normal, and one of the most demanding challenges for the athletics department has been acclimatizing incoming athletes. Redmond acknowledged that socializing in an era of distancing and pandemic restrictions has been tough on occasion. "The transition for all of the freshmen was really weird. We didn't get to spend as much time in the off-season with the team as we usually do, so we didn't come here in the summer and workout because of COVID. It wasn't as smooth as we hoped it would be, but we still managed to get through it and have a good year."

In spite of these difficulties, the team found creative ways to get to know each other. "Even through the pandemic, we did a good job of hanging out when we could, getting to know each other better, and doing as much as we could. We were tested for COVID a lot, and even though we had setbacks when people had to quarantine, we still managed to form good bonds."



BENJAMIN HIGH '23 / PHOTO

Redmond will be a player to look forward to in the years to come. He is key to the future foundation of Little Giant basketball.

The Little Giants finished the season 6-6, but Redmond chose to look on the bright side. "We had a few ups and downs, but with everything going on, we did well. I think we have a lot to look forward to next season." He also took time to reflect on his own season. "I was happy with how I performed coming in as freshmen, but obviously with COVID going on we didn't get as many chances or as many games as we normally would."

"Adjusting coming in as a freshman is already hard, but the older guys did a good job helping me figure out everything and bringing everybody along. I feel I can be a pretty solid four-year guard here. Coach Brumett

and Coach Sully do a good job of recruiting guys who really want to be here, especially at this level where it is important that people want to be here, want to get better. We have a good freshmen core that has that. I feel like we can really do something special for next year."

Away from basketball, Redmond is considering a major in economics and is a member of the CIBE and Malcolm X Institute. When I asked him how he is coping with balancing academics and athletics, he replied "I'm still getting used to that!" Nevertheless, he is comforted in the knowledge that Coach Brumett ensures: "Academics come first," Brumett says. "If we ever have

concerns, they [the coaches] are happy to give us time to do what we need to do. I'm getting better at it than I was first semester, but it's always going to be a challenge."

With the basketball season over, we will have to wait until the fall to see Redmond in action again. In the meantime, he has secured a summer internship through the CIBE and has vowed to continue working out and refining his skills during the off-season. Hopefully when he and his teammates return the full force of the Chadwick Crazies will be there to cheer them on. Wabash basketball has big goals next season, and Redmond will play a large part in that future.

Are you interested in covering sports for *The Bachelor*? Want to be published weekly? Have creative story ideas? If so, contact Blake Largent at jblargen22@wabash.edu and begin your tenure as a sports writer today!

