

Vandalism at Delta Tau Delta sparks debates over motives, homophobia

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • This weekend, Delta Tau Delta was the victim of hateful vandalism. Late on Saturday night, brothers of the house discovered that a homophobic slur had been spray-painted onto the pavement of their basketball court. The perpetrator is currently unknown, with no leads.

“The brothers at Delt found it at about 1:30 in the morning,” said Assistant Director of Campus Security Buck Waddell. “They cleaned it up and had it removed by the time they sent us a notification.” Although campus security was alerted, a police report was not filed. Waddell explained, “vandalism does not meet criminal intent, despite what was sprayed.”

Delt has been in contact with administration and campus security to investigate. Sadly, it appears as though nothing will come of these events.

“Obviously no one is going to come forward,” said Delt President Corbin Strimel '25. “It’s hard to do anything, unfortunately, if no one saw anything.”

“Willingly injuring another member of the Wabash community is wrong. Even if you don’t know them, they’re still your brother.”

-Ben Cody '26

While the actor that sprayed the slur is unknown, there is debate surrounding the tagger’s motive. Campus security maintains that the vandalism was an arbitrary crime.

“I don’t believe a brother did it here,” said Waddell. “I believe this was just a random act of having a spray can in a convenient area and moving on.”

However, the brothers at Delt are not so sure.

“It’s common knowledge we have members of the LGBTQ community in our house,” said Ben Cody '26. “I would really hope it’s not targeted.”

“I think it’s targeted,” said Strimel. “But at the same time it could have been someone doing something because they were drunk.”

Despite the disturbing attack, Delt has unified in the face of hate.

“The house rallied around the members of the LGBTQ community in our house,” said Cody. “People have checked up on the guys that it directly affects just to make sure that everybody’s okay.” Strimel and Cody appealed to Wabash brotherhood in response.

“One of the biggest reasons I came to Wabash was because we’re supposed to be a brotherhood,” said Strimel. “We’re all supposed to be included here.”

“Wabash men are supposed to be gentlemen,” said Cody. “Willingly injuring another member of the Wabash community is wrong. Even if you don’t know them, they’re still your brother.”



Wabash student takes recommended precautions by wearing a mask during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unoccupied beds pose challenges for fraternities and independents alike

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 AND RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER • As skepticism of fraternity life has risen to an all-time high nationwide, Wabash has not been immune. Over 80 fraternity beds campus-wide are unoccupied—enough to fill the entirety of Martindale Hall. This figure has alarmed both the administration and members of fraternities alike, prompting questions about the future of rush and fraternal living.

The uptick in unoccupied fraternity beds is, of course, a matter of urgency for many houses. But the issue extends much deeper than simply a matter of empty rooms. With an increasing number of students opting for independent life, some independent living units are

accommodating more students per room than they otherwise would.

“For fraternity life, it is a time for reflection and then to communicate that value-add to others.”

-Dean Marc Welch '99

While it is not unusual for fraternities to experience fluctuations in their occupancies at any given time, the current situation is unprecedented. With a handful of houses all simultaneously experiencing below-average rush numbers, administrators are having serious discussions about how best to

help fraternities going forward.

“The College is currently working on fundraising projects in each of the College’s fraternities,” said Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch '99. Lambda Chi Alpha, Theta Delta Chi and FIJI have been the subject of three recent projects to bolster fraternity housing. Welch assured that this is a very high priority for the administration. “On a daily basis, we are engaged with fraternity leaders and alumni advisors,” he said. Fraternal living has long been a part of the Wabash experience, and Welch firmly believes this will continue into the future. But just like all traditions, fraternities have to find

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COVID-19 outbreak

Campus sees spike in COVID-19 cases as students are asked to be cautious

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash community this week has been struck by a new wave of COVID-19 infections, prompting campus-wide caution after an extended period with relatively few cases. At the time of writing, there are 17 confirmed student cases spread across seven living units.

“After a long quiet period, we are seeing an uptick in COVID infections on campus,” said Dean of Students Gregory Redding in an all-campus email. “Since most of us are out of practice with how to react to symptoms or possible exposure, please take a moment to review the protocols at the College’s coronavirus Information page.”

“We ask that everyone be vigilant and, at least for the time being, be cognizant of exposure to others, particularly those who are ill or may have an increased risk of severe infection.”

-Dr. John Roberts

Several fraternities have reported increased case numbers, with Phi Delta Theta and Theta Delta Chi hit particularly hard. A handful of faculty members and staff have also tested positive.

“COVID is not over—there are still about 500

people dying of it in the U.S. daily, about twice the number we see during a very bad flu season,” said Dr. John Roberts '83, one of the College’s physicians. “While the vast majority of students will not suffer severe disease or lasting effects (Long-COVID), we should all remember that we are members of a larger community and, as such, we have a responsibility to look out for everyone’s health.”

Despite the uptick of cases on campus, state-wide figures remain low. According to data from the Indiana Department of Health, Indiana is averaging 546 new cases per day. These numbers are, however, provisional, and only reflect cases reported to the IDOH.

The College has reiterated the importance of preventive measures to slow the spread of the virus. Symptomatic students are encouraged to mask up, limit contact with others and contact the Student Health Center for testing information. There are also home test kits available on the first floor of the Lilly Library.

“We ask that everyone be vigilant and, at least for the time being, be cognizant of exposure to others, particularly those who are ill or may have an increased risk of severe infection,” said Dr. Roberts. “If you have to participate in a group setting, please consider wearing a good-quality respirator. Try to temporarily refrain from going to large parties or other indoor events until we are sure the outbreak on campus has peaked.”

Biden’s State of the Union hints potential 2024 platform

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • President Joe Biden addressed the nation on February 7 for the annual State of the Union address. This was Biden’s first State of the Union where his party did not have a trifecta, but it was clear the intended audience was beyond the bounds of the House chamber.

For Biden, the purpose of this address was to directly communicate with the estimated 24 million viewers, telling them what he has done so far and what he plans to do. Preparing for a likely reelection campaign, Biden, now 80, needs to convince the electorate that he has used his position to deliver results and that he will continue to do so, even with a newly divided Congress.

Despite stumbling over his words a few times, Biden gave a vigorous and energetic speech that painted a hopeful light on the future of the nation.

“Folks, the story of America is a story of progress and resilience. Of always moving forward. Of never, ever, giving up,” Biden said. “We’re not finished yet by any stretch of the imagination.”

Very much in line with the Biden of the past, references and appeals to the middle class were peppered throughout the

address.

“So many of you feel like you’ve just been forgotten,” Biden said. “Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades, too many people have been left behind or treated like they’re invisible. Maybe that’s you, watching at home,”

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, 62 percent of Americans say Biden has not achieved much during his first two years in office, making it strategic for Biden to highlight specific legislation during his speech.

“I signed over 300 bipartisan laws since becoming President,” said Biden. “From reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, to the Electoral Count Reform Act, to the Respect for Marriage Act that protects the right to marry the person you love.”

Biden went on to draw comparison from the beginning of his term to present day, highlighting his leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic and record job creation.

“Two years ago, our economy was reeling,” said Biden. “As I stand here tonight, we have created a record 12 million new jobs, more jobs created in two years than any president has ever created in four years.”



President Joe Biden delivers the State of the Union address to members of Congress and special guests, as both parties stand to applaud on February 7, 2023.

Biden tried to project himself as the adult in the room, someone willing to be calm and lower tensions, with the first half of Biden’s address seemingly a play for unity. Biden did provoke some Republicans by calling out plans to cut Social Security. Biden smiled through heckles from Republicans in the audience, at one point responding, to shouts of ‘liar,’ saying that he “enjoys conversion.”

“There is no reason we can’t work together and find consensus on important things in this Congress as well,” said Biden. “The people sent us a clear message. Fighting for the sake of fighting, power for the sake of power, conflict for

the sake of conflict, gets us nowhere.”

Amid criticism on China, Biden made reference to the Chinese spy balloon that entered US airspace and was shot down.

“Make no mistake, as we made clear last week, if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did,” Biden said.

Ultimately Biden gave a hopeful assessment of America’s future, while asking Congress and, to greater extent, the American people to allow him to “finish the job.”

“Because the soul of this nation is strong, because the backbone of this nation is strong, because the people of this nation are strong, the State of the

Union is strong,” concluded Biden.

Despite his calls for unity, reactions to Biden’s speech were mixed.

Left-leaning pundits praised Biden’s speech, with NBC Presidential historian Michael Beschloss calling it “wonderful.”

“He was elegant, he was civilized, he was conciliatory, he was reasonable,” said Beschloss. “Most of all, he sounded like a centrist, which is exactly where he wants to be.”

On the other hand, conservative pundits like Sean Hannity, a longtime friend of Trump, panned the speech. Hannity called Biden, “a weak crotchety old man, disconnected from reality, mumbling and bumbling.”

Unoccupied beds

Continued from front page

ways to adapt to the current climate, be it on-campus or nationwide.

“For fraternity life, it is a time for reflection and then to communicate that value-add to others,” said Welch. “Fraternities need to look inward and determine if their practices align with the Gentleman’s Rule and their mission, core values and principles.”

“At the end of the day, it starts with us. It is a combined effort in order to promote Wabash and its men.”

-IFC President Brett Driscoll ’24

But as well as alarming administrators, the empty beds have caused avid discussion among fraternity leaders on campus. Inter-Fraternity Council President Brett Driscoll ’24 hopes that fraternities can come together and work to increase overall rush numbers.

“The Council has done a great job of recognizing this issue and setting goals toward what we are going to do to fix it,” said Driscoll.

As well as wider national concern around the merits of fraternal living, COVID has also severely harmed rush efforts in recent years. Nevertheless, with campus events returning en masse, Driscoll hopes that rush numbers will also rapidly increase.

“We have some big attendance goals for rush,” said Driscoll. He also added that fraternities should be mindful when recruiting freshmen and focus on the “individual approaches to get these guys an experience they will never forget.”

No one fraternity will be able to increase rush numbers on their own, and Driscoll reiterated the need for inter-fraternal cooperation going forward.

“We definitely want to take a more active stance in supporting the fraternities and their brothers on campus,” said Driscoll. “At the end of the day, it starts with us. It is a combined effort in order to promote Wabash and its men.”

PPE major enjoys renewed financial and institutional support

COLE BERGMAN ’24 | STAFF WRITER •

As the third class of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) majors await their comps results, the College’s newest major has enjoyed renewed financial support from Trustee Tom Walsh ’73 and Anne Walsh. At the recent trustee weekend on January 27-29, the trustees celebrated the Walshes’ support and the new major’s recent successes.

“The major has taken off better than our expectations, which is wonderful,” said Dr. Nicholas Snow, the Tom and Anne Walsh Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Economics. The Walshes’ gifts endowed Snow’s professorship, making the PPE major possible. “So, as I like to joke, the problem is we have too many students, and that’s a wonderful problem to have. So we’re all very excited with how things are going, but this is a fund that’s going to help us to support the major more.”

Snow was excited for how this renewed funding could be utilized by the PPE program.

“It pays for my position, and I believe it’s going to also help with potential visiting lines,” said Professor Snow. “Right



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jonathan Silva ’24, a PPE major, presents his research at the Celebration of Student Research.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Trustee Tom Walsh ’73 and his wife, Anne Walsh, celebrate the success of the PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) program.

now, Professor Aaron Salomon is filling that role. Very well, I might add. It will also help us bring speakers and other events to campus. So we’re very excited for the potential things that we are able to do and bring.”

Speaking on the Walshes, Snow was appreciative of the support the PPE program has received.

“Tom and Anne have been very supportive of the major,” said Snow. I believe President Hess was the one who initially brought them this idea, and they jumped on board very quickly. They’ve been wonderful. They’re very excited about the ideas. They care about helping students succeed.”

Through the support of donors such as the Walshes, Snow is optimistic for the future of the PPE program.

“I’m excited to see where we go with it,” said Professor Snow. “This coming class, I believe it’s our third set of graduates and will be our biggest class yet for the pipeline. We’ve been super excited about the projects. The way the major works, where we have an intro course and then a senior seminar in which students can work on a capstone project that is their choice, I’ve

been super excited about the variety of projects we’ve gotten and the quality of them have been excellent. The projects have had a variety of viewpoints, which is important to me. I think diversity of ideas is a crucial thing.”

“So, as I like to joke, the problem is we have too many students, and that’s a wonderful problem to have.”

-Dr. Nicholas Snow

Looking forward, Snow feels confident that the PPE program will continue the success they have seen so far.

“We want the major to be something where students can feel free to think for themselves and come to their own conclusions,” said Snow. “The power of ideas is a strong line, so we’re hoping that we’re able to keep doing that moving forward as we continue to refine what we’re doing.”

Stephenson Institute presents dynamic speaker series

SCSTEPHENSON INSTITUTE FOR CLASSICAL LIBERALISM

SPRING 2023 SPEAKER EVENTS

CARCERAL CONTACT AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

February 10
Baxter 101
Noon
Lunch Provided

BRANDON DAVIS

BAD BATCHES AND BROWN ACIDS: THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG PROHIBITION

February 13
Baxter 101
Noon
Lunch Provided

AUDREY REDFORD

CARL HART

February 21
Baxter 101
Noon
Lunch & Book Signing

CHASING LIBERTY IN THE LAND OF FEAR: DRUG USE FOR GROWN UPS

CHANDRAN KUKATHAS

THE FRENCH LIBERAL TRADITION

March 28
Center 216
Noon
Lunch Provided

GIANNA ENGLERT

CLASSICAL LIBERALISM AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INDIA

April 11
Baxter 101
Noon
Lunch Provided

SHRUTI RAJAGOPALAN

IMMIGRATION AND THE LIBERAL ARCHIPELAGO

March 30
Salter Hall
Evening Talk
Reception & Book Signing

PRESTON REYNOLDS ’25 | STAFF WRITER •

In 2021, after a donation by Richard J. Stephenson ’62, the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism opened on Wabash’s campus and it’s had an explosive start.

In tandem with the PPE department, the Stephenson Institute has welcomed guests from all over the country and funded undergraduate research, with plans to do much more. This semester, the Stephenson Institute is launching a broad lecture series, inviting speakers from across the nation to speak on a broad range of topics, including drug use, the Indian economy and immigration.

By the end of spring, the Stephenson Institute will be welcoming Audrey Redford of Western Carolina, Brandon Davis of Tulane, Carl Hart of Columbia, Dianna Englert of Southern Methodist and Shruti Rajagopalan of the Mercatus Center.

The Stephenson Institute’s quick start is no shock at Wabash, which has always had a strong foothold in classical liberalism. Ben Rogge, a household name for Wabash students, advocated for a free society not “absorbed by the state.”

“Society, with its full network of restraints on individual conduct, based on custom, tradition, religion, personal morality, a sense of style and with all of its indeed powerful sanctions, is what makes the civilized life possible and mean-

ingful,” said Rogge. Even our century-old Gentleman’s Rule is a minimalist rule for student conduct. The principles of classical liberalism are nothing new to Wabash.

The head of the Stephenson Institute, Dr. Daniel D’Amico, clarified the role the Stephenson Institute hopes to fill at Wabash, “We are an educational resource for [classical Liberal] education,” said Director of the Stephenson Institute Dr. Daniel D’Amico. “Anyone who has a project of relevance should have a viable avenue for engagement. Some people have no strong familiarity with classical liberalism. Its intuitive with the role that the institute fulfills at Wabash.”

“Anyone who has a project of relevance should have a viable avenue for engagement.”

-Dr. Daniel D’Amico

The Stephenson Institute has assured its future with a strong founding. With the invitation of this semester’s speakers, the Institute is defining what looks to be a valuable resource for students curious about classical liberalism.

A close-up photograph of a large, multi-layered sandwich. The sandwich is filled with fresh green lettuce, sliced red tomatoes, cooked meat (possibly chicken or pork), and melted cheese. It is served on a long, crusty roll.

The logo for Maxine's On Green Bakery & Bistro. It features a circular emblem with a wreath and a loaf of bread, with the text "MAXINE'S ON GREEN Bakery & Bistro" to its right.

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Setting the record straight on the Student Senate budget



Executive Cabinet

Bryce McCullough '23
Ben Sampsell '24
Ian Rollins '23
Sarvik Chaudhary '25

Reply to this opinion at
abmccull23@wabash.edu

The executive cabinet would like to commend the recent interest of students on the Student Senate budget. Our executive team continues to listen attentively to the students who approach us to discuss how their money is being spent, and we are thankful for all those who have genuinely engaged us in conversation to learn more about our financial standing. Listening to our Wabash brothers is a priority. That is what we are here to do.

We write to give readers an accurate picture of our financial situation.

Mr. Bertsch's opinion piece about Senate spending last week titled "Fraud or Fatuity?" was, unfortunately, misinformed.

We'd first like to debunk Mr. Bertsch's overarching claim that "reckless spending, as seen in the extravagant Butler allotment, is the reason Senate is running out of money so quickly."

Alongside the funding allocated to the IMA, Student Senate generously allocates an additional \$1,000 per RA per year. \$500 was dispersed to each RA in the Fall, and these accounts were topped back up to \$500 at the start of the spring. Many RAs did not fully utilize their funding in the fall, and this surplus remains available for appropriate residence life requests.

If it's not needed, however, it could be reallocated to other clubs or committees.

Mr. Bertsch claimed that Senate gave Butler House \$2,000 this semester. This is false. Student Senate allocated \$500 to the RA assigned to Butler House. The allocation amounts vary between living units due to the differing number of RAs. For instance, Butler House and College Hall each have 1 RA, while Martindale has 3 RAs.

Mr. Bertsch also claimed that Senate approved \$10,000 for the IMA for "Wings and Bowling" and denied the Wabash Christian Men \$150 for books. This claim is false. The IMA was allocated \$1700 at the first Senate meeting this semester, and then an additional \$2,522 this week. This is a total of \$4,222 for the entire semester for perhaps the largest club on campus, which doesn't come close to the 10K falsely claimed in the opinion. Furthermore, Senators simply tabled the Wabash Christian Men's request. There is a good possibility they will still receive the \$150 once they return to justify their request for personal use books.

After uncovering the reality of the situation, Senate has not engaged in "reckless spending", and the reasons cited by Mr. Bertsch are obviously not why the Senate is "running out of money."

The reason we have a budget challenge right now is because more clubs have requested more money this year than they have in recent years (not to mention the \$17,500 in Bell Tickets this year due to DePauw increasing prices). Nevertheless, increased demand for the budget is a great problem to have—our goal from the beginning was to increase campus engagement and activities to the level they were pre-COVID.

We have heard overwhelmingly positive feedback on how much better this year has been at Wabash due to the increased

level of student activity. But Senate has finite resources, and your Senators must make tough decisions on how to prioritize that money. This has resulted in a more fiscally-responsible, not liberal, body. For example, Senate has scrutinized every club's budget proposal for a combined four and a half hours over the first two Senate meetings this semester alone.

There is no need for panic. We had an overwhelming number of clubs submit semester-long budget requests before this year's first Senate meeting, which is exactly what we encouraged. It is much more efficient to approve budgets for entire semester club plans.

This way of budgeting helps us avoid a financial "crisis." The last thing Senate wants is to realize in the middle of the semester that we don't have enough money to fund important events because they were requested too late. Our available funds look smaller than they usually do this early on because of semesterly budget planning. This also incentivizes clubs and committees to plan out their semester activities sooner.

Mr. Bertsch also suggested that "senators allocate our money without a full list of what it is being spent on." This is false. Every senator receives a complete, itemized, and annotated budget ahead of Senate, which includes a description of every event, and what every penny will be spent on. Senators are expected to review the list, read the AFC suggestions, and discuss them. AFC will consider emailing budget minutes to the entire student body if senators so decide. Until then, every student is welcome to ask their senators to review a copy of AFC minutes.

We were also concerned about Mr. Bertsch's hinting at fraud or embezzlement by any member of the Student Senate or club leaders. Every dollar spent by Student Senate is accounted for through receipts and digital allocations which are handled by Vic Lindsay.

We are unsure where Mr. Bertsch found his information, but it was misguided. Expressing concerns over budget allocations is welcome, but if you have any, please reach out to Treasurer Rollins or your respective senator to have a conversation. We want to increase understanding and hopefully prevent future Bachelor opinion pieces based on false information.

We agree with Mr. Bertsch's call to students to become more actively engaged with Senators. You should pay attention to the power Senate has in deciding where your money goes. This is best accomplished by reaching out to your brothers holding positions or deciding to get involved yourself.

Until then, we encourage you all to think critically, ask questions and know that the challenge we face is the result of our collective commitment to making Wabash active and fun. We accept that challenge and thank you for it.

All of us should challenge ourselves to be active club members, come out to campus events and buy into the Wabash brotherhood. If we commit to that, our money will be well spent.

Stolte's Super Bowl betting tips

MARK STOLTE '25 • Sports betting is one of the more dangerous activities financially. It becomes so invigorating betting on games that otherwise you'd have zero interest in. One of the more dangerous things about it is that getting it right happens at a much smaller clip than getting it wrong. After all, Vegas knows exactly how to bake those lines. At times, it almost seems rigged.

I'd like to give you a warning: I am no expert when it comes to making bets. I'd like to think that I'm decent, considering the profits I've made and the success I've had. But the last thing I want is for someone to look at the bets I suggest and blindly follow them. The purpose of this piece is to give suggestions as to where I could see potential for profit to be made.

OPENING KICKOFF

First bet is going to start with the opening kick. Jake Elliott has had a touchback on 69.2% of his kickoffs this year while Butker comes in at 64.7%. -200 odds for the opening kick to be a touchback has an implied probability of about 66.7%. The thing to consider here is 28 of the last 32 opening drives in the Super Bowl have been touchbacks.

Safe/Favored Bet: Take the -200 and the historical rate.

Risky/Mark's Advice: +170 on opening kickoff NOT being a touchback.

CHIEFS VICTORY

As of writing this article, the Chiefs are +110 to win the Super Bowl. On paper, the Eagles have pretty much every advantage. Better offensive line, weapons, defensive line, linebackers, defensive backs, offensive play calling, etc. The only edge the Chiefs have are: The head coach and the QB. With that being said, having Mahomes on your side (injured or not) is a surefire way to win games you shouldn't.

Safe/Favored Bet: Eagles -130
Risky/Mark's Advice: Chiefs +110

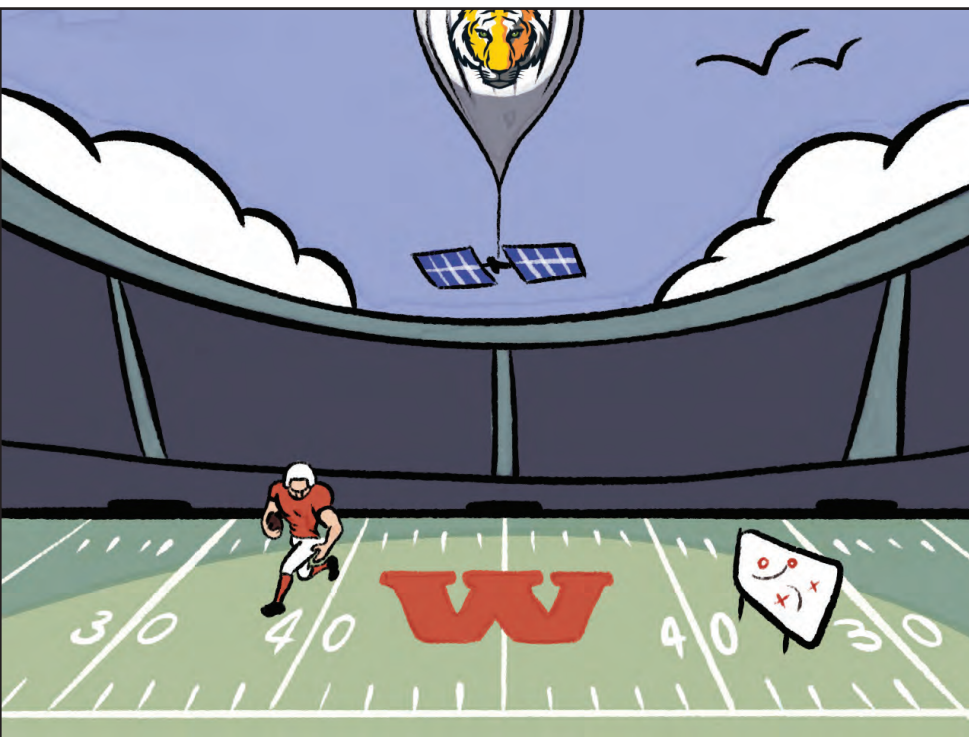
OVER/UNDER

With the over/under being placed at 49.5, you can look to historical trends in the Super Bowl to get an idea of what to go with. The Chiefs scored 29.2 ppg this season (first in the NFL) and the Eagles 28.1 ppg (third in the NFL). The Super Bowl has an over/under record of 27-28 with the under hitting slightly more. At 49.5, this Super Bowl will be the twentieth one in which the over/under was set between 45 and 49.5. In these 20, the over is 11-8 with 6 of the last 7 in this range hitting.

Safe/Favored Bet: Don't bet on it.
Risky/Mark's Advice: Life is too short to bet the under. The over is hitting.

'Just a weather balloon...'

Cartoon by Arman Luthra '26



I hope Ryan Reynolds proves me wrong at Wrexham... but I doubt he will



Benjamin Bullock '23

Reply to this opinion at
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As a soccer-loving Brit, it's quite comical to see so many Americans talking about Wrexham AFC. Owned since November 2020 by actor duo Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, the small Welsh team has skyrocketed to fame in recent months, helped no end by the FX docuseries "Welcome to Wrexham." But while I understand why people are enamored by this rags-to-riches story, don't be fooled: there is a darker side to the Wrexham project that Reynolds is building.

Wrexham is a non-league club that plays in the Vanarama National League, the fifth tier of English/Welsh soccer. For perspective, Wrexham is currently 2nd in the league standings, meaning they are the 94th best soccer team in the country.

But by no means is Wrexham a team to be laughed at. On the contrary, almost all teams in the National League are full-time professionals. And while 94th in the country may seem lowly, you must remember just how great the love for soccer is in Britain. Though I can't quite quantify this claim, I genuinely think any Division I soccer program in the U.S. would struggle to compete with the likes of Wrexham.

My point in saying this is to counter the narrative that Reynolds has created of Wrexham as a "small," mediocre team. They aren't, and never have been. Wrexham, even compared to some Football League teams, draws in large crowds and has in the past been a member of the Football League. And compared to their National League counterparts, they have always been one of the top teams, even before Reynolds came along.

Reynolds, of course, plays on the ignorance of many viewers to the above facts to portray Wrexham as a tiny team that he is bringing up through the ranks. I get it, it's romantic. But despite the glitz and glamor of the screen,

Reynolds has already got himself caught up in a number of missteps that, to me at least, show his ownership for what it really is: a PR stunt.

Perhaps the biggest controversy of the Reynolds tenure so far has been related to broadcasting rights. Before the 2022/23 season, the National League has tightly regulated its broadcasting rights. As such, there was no streaming service on which supporters outside of the UK could watch Wrexham games. Reynolds kicked up a big fuss about this over the summer of 2022, saying that people abroad "deserved" to be able to stream games if they so pleased.

Reynolds's whining worked, and the National League agreed to test a streaming platform. And you may be thinking, "but Ben, isn't that a good thing? Isn't it good that lower league clubs get to diversify their income?" The simple answer is no.

For the majority of non-league clubs, streaming is a hindrance. Of course, for Wrexham, who have quickly accrued a huge international following, streaming is great, and I'm happy for them. But in reality, who else does a National League streaming service benefit?

Because National League streaming services are bought on a per-club basis, Wrexham's opponents receive no cut of the profits from the broadcasts. And instead of encouraging more people to watch the National League, streaming actually makes fans less likely to go to live matches and spend money in stadiums. For Premier League clubs, that's money they can live without. But for teams in the lower echelons of the soccer pyramid, selling food and beer in the stadium is one of the biggest and most important streams of revenue.

Reynolds doesn't seem to care about any of this, instead seemingly believing that his presence alone will bolster the National League to some kind of popularity. But while Reynolds's dip into non-league may seem novel and interesting, he is by no means the first rich person to try and garner profits from lower league soccer. Take as one example Rushden & Diamonds, a team that, in the 1990s, was acquired by Max Griggs, owner of the Dr. Martens shoe company. Griggs pumped cash into the team and they quickly rose up through the ranks. It was a romantic rags-to-riches story not all too dissimilar from Wrexham's, and the public loved it.

Loved it, that is, until the progress started to stagnate. When the team got relegated from the third tier in 2004, support waned and

suddenly the wider public lost interest. With no romantic backstory to rely on anymore, Griggs sold the club in 2006 and, just five years later, the team went bankrupt.

My worry, then, is this: Wrexham is in great form right now, and I'm sure that Reynolds will be able to keep the hype train going for a while. Maybe Wrexham will win a promotion or two. Maybe they will go further in the FA Cup. Maybe they will travel to the U.S. and play some exhibition games. But when all of that is over and the novelty wears off, what then?

Reynolds says all the right things. He says he is in for the long haul and wants to own this team come rain or shine. But for all his rhetoric, I can't help but think his endeavor

into non-league soccer is nothing more than an elaborate and well-coordinated PR machine. The moment it stops serving that purpose, I think Reynolds goes.

Among all this, I want to make one thing clear—Wrexham was a club with fans and a strong sporting culture long before Reynolds showed up, and I think it will continue to be one after Reynolds leaves. Sports teams are so often at the center of our communities, and I think that is a wonderful thing for so many people. But seeing celebrities come in and dismantle those communities, all while outsiders cheer it on, is downright infuriating. I hope that's not the case for Wrexham, but I hold out little hope.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

9th Annual Leadership Breakfast
March 23, 2023 • 7:15 a.m.
Ivy Tech Culinary Center, Indianapolis



IN Sen. Mike Crider



Leslie Weirich



Dr. Chris Bojrab '89

Honoring Dr. Frank Kolisek '82
IAWM Man of the Year

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

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Recent fusion developments may be mere inflated fantasy



James Szalkie '25
Reply to this opinion at
jwszalki25@wabash.edu

Anyone with a news feed has heard about the recent advancements in fusion energy coming out of Lawrence Livermore lab in Southern California, and anyone with a physics-inclined friend has probably heard about the concept and the potential it has for our society. It has been hailed as a breakthrough and a major step toward clean energy for the world. But following the Physics Journal Club meeting, I call baloney.

Two Mondays ago, Physics Journal Club met to go over the recent headline article on what has been recently hailed as a 'revolutionary' discovery in multiple fields, including nuclear physics and renewable energy. However, at the start of the meeting, the panel of physics professors had an air of skepticism. Dr. Brown was the first to point out that first and foremost, Lawrence Livermore is not an energy lab; it's a weapons lab. This method of fusion involves using lasers to ignite hydrogen pellets in quick bursts. This is not designed to be sustained for long term reactions. This is likely a design that will be integrated with weapons concepts. While many headlines have associated this recent statement with energy, this is only a small part of the story.

Dr. Krause also noted the misleading nature of the headline. While the reaction was able to surpass the energy input of the laser, they neglected to consider the electric input of energy into the lasers. It was suggested it is akin to rolling a snowball down a hill, allowing it to collect snow.

"But someone had to put the snow there, and that has to count," said Dr. Brown.

Said Dr. Krause, "Even though 3.15 million Joules (MJ) of energy was released by the fusion compared to 2.05 MJ of laser

energy directed onto the target, about 400 MJ of electrical energy was needed by the lasers to produce this optical energy."

Dr. Ross also said, "it takes 150x more energy from the electric grid than is delivered by the lasers. So although the fusion reaction did release more energy than the lasers introduced, that didn't count all the electrical energy that was required to create the laser beams. We are still a LONG way from break even when it comes to total energy input required."

Dr. Brown and Dr. Ross continued the meeting of the Journal Club by commenting on the future challenges to overcome in the field, comparing the fusion race to the space race of the 60s.

"The difference is, Congress put gobs of money into the space program. Our current Congress would never spend that much [on this project]," said Dr. Brown.

Much of the meeting ended up being devoted to discussion and discourse over the potential methods we have of igniting a fusion reaction in the near future. Complex geometric designs were proposed that were able to best utilize the magnetic fields that are essential to future designs. Many of these may be seen in development in the near future. In the meantime, scientists and engineers have been employing the use of computer simulations to test designs and save millions on development costs. Many of these 1s and 0s could someday represent the technology that will power our lives. Until then, we can expect the headlines to continue to buzz with optimism.

In conclusion, this news is not the news we want to be hearing, and the headlines are misleading. Not only is it not a design to improve our lives and provide energy at an incredible potential, but it also does not include many factors which make this "discovery" much less significant than we may want it to be. Until we can come together to fund this project on a massive scale, we remain shackled in the gridlock of fossil fuels and an underequipped renewable energy system.

Quote bite for the side: "Does anyone know where the nearest fusion reactor is?" "91.5 million miles away."

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

THE PASSWORD IS 'TAKE IT TO THE CLASSIFIEDS'

Hi-Five to Netflix for changing its mind on banning password sharing. Lo-Five to the College for not requiring a new password to prevent all-student emails about hammock club or "T.R.A.P."

"I'D LIKE TO BUY THREE ZS, PAT"

Lo-Five to one fraternity for "losing" \$300k. If you can spell embezzlement, your fraternity is fine.

"AND IT'S BRADY, GOING LONG..."

Hi-Five to Tom Brady for "soft"-launching his retirement side hustle. After tweeting his semi-nude with his hand over his bulge, Skip Bayless is looking for the OnlyFans preorder.

HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE LOSING THIS WEEKEND, GENTS?

Hi-Five to the sportsbooks for giving us bonus bets for our picks this weekend. Who else is hopping on a 16-leg parlay to pay off their student loan debt?

"I'M THE BIGGEST BIRD, I'M THE BIGGEST BIRD."

Lo-Five to Arizona Senator Kirsten Sinema for her Big Bird-cosplay dress at the State of the Union. K'tren, do your thing.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK POST

FEATURES

The Bachelor's guide to last minute Valentine's Day

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | FEATURES EDITOR • The day is almost upon us. No, not Super Bowl Sunday... worse. The day every man dreads for 364 days out of every year—Valentine's Day. Maybe you hate the holiday on principle, loathing any day so capitalistically contrived to take advantage of one person's love for another. Maybe you're single and ready to mingle, and Valentine's Day serves as a reminder of the distinct lack of mingling going on in your love life. Or maybe you hate Valentine's Day for the reason all men in relationships do—because it's already February 10 and you still don't know what to get. If you're in the third category, you're in luck, because *The Bachelor* is here to help with the best last-minute Valentine's Day gifts for that special someone.

Let's start off by addressing the elephant in the room: roses. The temptation not to buy roses is strong. They're marked up 300% compared to every other time of the year, but there's just about no other option. Corporate America has us right under its thumb. Out of all the cliché Valentine's gifts, this is one where you may just have to bite the bullet and write a blank check to your local flower shop.

Gifts DON'T GET

That being said, I strongly urge you to avoid other over-done, classic, emotionless V-Day gifts like discount chocolate, half of which is nearly inedible, and generic stuffed animals that will spend the rest of their days in the back corner of your girlfriend's walk-in closet.

DO GET

If you're looking for something practical, it's hard to go wrong with cosmetics. Lotion, body scrubs and face masks will all be a hit with your lady, regardless of brand. Just make sure it smells good, and don't buy the cheapest one they have.

On the more sentimental side, a thoughtful piece of jewelry can give your partner something to wear while thinking of you. No need to break the bank with a diamond necklace—a cute pair of earrings or a bracelet with her initial on it will do the trick.

Finally, if you've got a great photo of the two of you taken at your fraternity's formal, consider getting a nice frame for it or getting it printed on canvas. Walmart does quality same-day prints for a reasonable price.

DIY

DON'T

I pity the person who opens up a gift box on February 14 to find that someone loves them enough to... write a bunch of "free back rub" coupons in Sharpie. If you want your significant other to know you put zero thought into their gift, get them a coupon book.

DO

If you are feeling creative, though, consider other DIY options like baking cookies or another one of their favorite sweet treats. For an extra touch, get a cute box or tray and wrap it up with a ribbon.

If you've waited long enough that you can't get a reservation at any restaurant, try cooking a meal yourself. Light a couple candles, dim the lights and serve your best oysters and red wine. I also love this option, because it's something the two of you could do together.

For the artistically inclined, a really romantic move is to write a song or paint a picture that reminds you of your loving commitment to one another. It doesn't have to be great, as long as it comes from the heart.

Experiences

DON'T

Unless you're a middle schooler on your first date, don't take your sweetheart to a movie for Valentine's Day. Just don't.

DO

Going out and doing something together is a great way to spend a romantic evening, however. The classic date night option, of course, is dinner for two at an upscale restaurant. If you can find somewhere with an open table, get fancied up and take your Valentine out.

If you need a little boost to get you through to spring break, treat yourself and your better half to a spa day or couples massage.

And for those readers with a horizontal driver's license and a refined palate, consider a trip to a local vineyard or brewery and sip, relax and enjoy one another's company.

There are other activities you can enjoy with your partner, but I'll leave it at just those three.

The bottom line is: always do whatever your partner wants. If they tell you to treat them to a trip to see "80 for Brady" followed by a free back rub coupon and a dessert of crappy chocolates, that's exactly what you should do. But if you really aim to impress, consider these tips. No one even has to know you started planning on February 10.

Sphinx Club to announce second round of Rhyneship interviews

With a new focus on quality over quantity, fewer candidates are expected



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER • February 11 will mark the end of the first round of interviews for the Sphinx Club's spring Rhyneship class. While this process has been occurring for over 100 years, a newer, focused approach towards prospects' involvement on campus is likely to limit the number of Rhynes in the Spring '23 class.

Many Club members have noticed a recent lack of involvement from some individuals wearing the pot and stripes—something that has been on the radar of Sphinx Club Vice President Cody Bevelhimer '24. Bevelhimer is in charge of this semester's rush process and believes that the Club can use this semester to focus on the quality of the Club's new members.

"Some guys who have joined the Club join it and disappear," Bevelhimer said. "We want guys who are constantly active."

One of the Club's Rush Chairs, Brady Ester '24, concurs with Bevelhimer's goal to find individuals who will represent the Club and the College well.

"We are really looking for guys who love the College," Ester said. "We want guys who are in positions around campus not just for their resume, but because they love providing for their peers."

But how can these achieving individuals be separated from the masses that apply for Rhyneship? Connor Horning '23, another Club Rush Chair, has shed some light on how the Club will be weeding through candidates.

"We're going to trim down the number of second round interviews we give," Horning said. "If we only have ten great candidates,

we're only taking those ten; we don't want your friends in the Club, we want your best guys."

This approach will help to combat the lack of involvement seen in some members of the Sphinx Club, something that directly contradicts the goal of the group and impacts campus as a whole.

"Our purpose is to be the face of campus. We try to lead the student body by living up to TALL: to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively and live humanely," Horning said. "Some guys fall off, and I understand that some of them go abroad and others are trying to get into law or medical school, but I wish I saw a little more participation out of them."

"Some guys who have joined the Club join it and disappear. We want guys who are constantly active."

- Cody Bevelhimer '24

While this newer approach will have the potential to result in more individuals being turned down from Rhyneship this semester, it shouldn't be taken as a reason to neglect going out for the Fall '23 semester.

"I would definitely encourage everybody to go out again next year," Horning said. "Just because you didn't get in the first time doesn't mean that you won't the second time."

With the second round of Rhyneship interviews quickly approaching, campus can expect to hear the musical sounds of air-raids filling the mall again soon.

French Film Festival kicks off at Wabash, runs through March 27

Review: ‘Early Shorts’ Le manie des films français

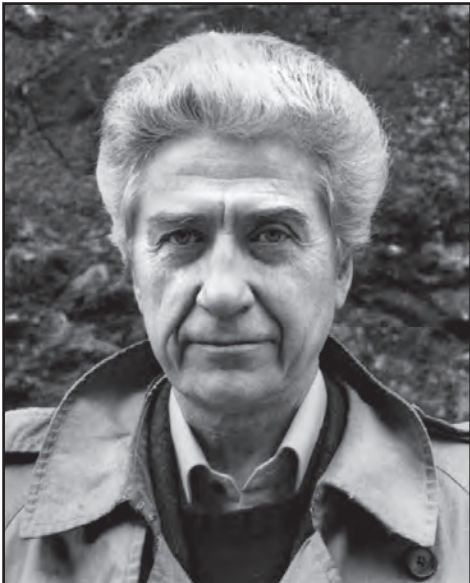
JACOB WEBER ’25 | STAFF WRITER • The first installment of the French Film Festival was a collection of five short films made by renowned director Alain Resnais. Resnais is known for his many short films and was a father of French cinema. His short films provide an experience of nostalgia to modern viewership due to their age, though this is not all that makes the films special.

The collection began with “Le chant du Styrène” (1959), a romanticized view on the creation process behind plastic products. While the creation of plastic would have been considered a sign of the future at the time of its release, watching the creation of plastic by burning oil and coal on screen felt quite unnerving. The mention of explosion risks and other safety concerns without explanation for how they were handled gave an unsettling feeling. This being said, I did find it to be the most interesting of the films simply because of the change in rhetoric surrounding plastic that has occurred since the film’s creation.

Following was “Gauguin” (1949), a story of artist Paul Gauguin told featuring his own quotes and showcasing his works. The painter’s story begins with his somewhat normal life in Paris, though he soon leaves the City of Lights after losing his job in finance, opting to move to Tahiti and partake in his true passion, art. While on the island nation, he falls in love with the native people and their culture. His works that makeup the images of the film showcase his positive interactions with the natives of Tahiti.

The third short film was “Guernica” (1950), a narrated storytelling of the Nazi bombing of the Spanish city Guernica during the Spanish civil war through images of paintings, drawings, and sculptures by legendary Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso. The film’s exciting score allows the viewer to feel the tension of what it was like to live in Guernica, and the shift in the imagery from whole and put together art at the beginning to partial, incomplete sections of pieces in the end showcases the destructive nature of the conflict in Guernica.

“Toute la mémoire du monde” (1956) was an interesting adaptation similar to Le chant du Styrène above. However, rather than a



COURTESY OF IMDB

romanticized view on plastic, it showcases a romanticized view of the work done to maintain the French National Archives. The film showcases the process behind the collection and storage of artifacts for the archive, from publishers delivering books to newspapers from across the globe being stored for future reference.

Wrapping up the night was “Van Gogh” (1948), a short film featuring the works of Vincent Van Gogh. It shows his transformation throughout his career, and provides a nice narration over the life of Van Gogh, and the monochromatic nature of his paintings provide stark contrast to the Van Gogh we have come to know and love in modern times.

While each film was interesting, there was no cohesive nature to truly connect the works other than that they were all directed by Renais. Additionally, the utilization of a similar format for each of the short films prevented them from being able to shine individually.

FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS



Review: ‘France’ Chaotic, boring, less-than revolutionary

PRESTON REYNOLDS ’25 | STAFF WRITER • On July 14, 1789, partisans of the Third Estate stormed the Bastille prison, beginning a decade of chaotic revolution. On February 6, 2023, Wabash College screened the movie “France,” an unfocused piece of 21st century commentary. Much like the French Revolution, “France” illustrates many relevant topics: the stardom of media outlets, sensationalizing of current events and a lack of reconciliation in modern politics.

Yet, I can’t say the film does any of these topics justice. In its pursuit of relevance, “France” misses the mark. At a certain point, it feels as though the film is preaching but is unsure of the words coming out of its mouth. This, in combination with very poorly green-screened driving scenes and seemingly meaningless landscape shots, make me question the director’s attention span. The film is certainly not conventionally satisfying and does not deliver an effective message.

Director Bruno Dumont is no stranger to mixed messages, with previous works such as “Slack Bay” (2016) and “Jeannette” (2017) receiving similar criticism. Certainly he is interested in suggesting that the media aren’t necessarily in the business of faithfully reporting the truth. Yet it is hard to have it both ways. Dumont cannot suggest that France is politically neutral while implying that she is biased by her status.

It’s difficult to see this film for what it is—a critique of the French media—when it focuses all its attention on a character who is vain, empty and inconsequential. “France” is about the titular character “France de Meurs” (Léa Seydoux)—literally translated as France of dying/death. We are clearly not meant to like her character, but there really isn’t much to see.

This is not a critique of Léa Seydoux—of James Bond fame—who does a fantastic job rescuing the movie from itself. But when you are presented with the same narrative of hollow, rich, insincere elites, are you meant to praise it?

This is not to say the film has nothing to offer. As someone unfamiliar with the specifics of modern-day French politics, it



COURTESY OF IMDB

is interesting to see a French commentary on contemporary media. There are standout quotes which I got a kick out of like, “France is a country where disagreements are expressed firmly,” and the metaphorical interpretations of France de Meurs to a national spirit are similarly intriguing.

Yet beyond this, “France” is not telling us anything we don’t already know about the manipulation of TV news and does not approach the subject in a unique enough fashion.

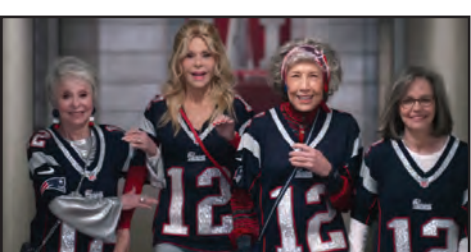
And worse than that, the film is incredibly monotonous and repetitive. The film’s tone seems to stagnate as time goes on. Everything surrounding Madame de Meurs is hollow, unfulfilling and undeveloped. Perhaps this is meant to highlight her self-centered nature, but this cannot excuse the poor character development.

France de Meurs is just as empty and shallow as the world in which she moves, even the main inciting incident fails to create any momentum in a film seemingly doomed to monotony. The script is genuinely unable to address any real implications, expressing the emotional risk of living in the public eye without any real resonance. Simply put, “France” fails to engage the audience on anything more than a surface level. Unfortunately a powerful lead actor and unfocused satire is not a winning combination. “France” falls flat.

FINAL VERDICT:
2.5/5 WALLYS



Review: ‘80 For Brady’ A waste of talent, but I was thoroughly entertained



COURTESY OF CNN

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • My friends thought I was joking when I told them I was dragging them along to see “80 For Brady,” the new based-on-a-true-story football comedy produced by recently retired NFL quarterback Tom Brady. But drag them I did, and the end result did not disappoint. After all, as the movie itself ponders, “isn’t that what friendship is all about?”

Well, if your friendships rely on cheesy slapstick, wasted talent and a plot so dry it’s almost painful to watch, then you’ve found the right movie. While my expectations were set firmly low, I really didn’t expect this movie to fall short in quite so many ways.

“Was it a good movie? Hell no, not in a million years. But was it entertaining? Absolutely.”

And yet, as I left the movie theater with my friends, I beamed from ear to ear. For all its flaws, and believe me this movie has many, I was thoroughly, thoroughly entertained. In-between the painfully slow start and the oh-so-predictably-cheesy plot points, I found myself genuinely enjoying the awkward yet hilarious slapstick comedy that “80 For Brady” so heavily relies on. Was it a good movie? Hell no, not in a million years. But was it entertaining? Absolutely.

The film, set in 1917, follows four octogenarian fans of Tom Brady and their

tumultuous journey to watch Super Bowl LI. The four ladies are played by bastions of the acting world, and nobody can deny just how fun it is to watch Lou (Lily Tomlin), Trish (Jane Fonda), Maura (Rita Moreno) and Betty (Sally Field) charm their way into the biggest stage in football.

The story is, however, drudgingly slow to get going. We find out, through an extensive bout of exposition that seems to go on forever, that the ladies fell in love with football (and more specifically Brady) completely by accident. Two decades before the movie is set, Lou was at home recovering from cancer when her and her friends turned on the TV to witness Brady replace the injured Drew Bledsoe. From that moment on, the ladies became Patriots superfans.

As Super Bowl LI draws closer, Lou hatches a plan: the quartet should travel to Houston and watch the game live. The entire premise is... dull, to say the least. The entire butt of the joke is “hey, look at these geriatric women going to a football game. Isn’t that funny?” No, not particularly, but to each their own, I guess.

I’m not even going to bother recapping the entire middle of the movie, because it’s as predictable as it is boring. The ladies win the tickets, lose the tickets, get incredibly drunk at a party and find the tickets again, all in the course of one night. But oh no, turns out that the tickets are fake. Who could have guessed it?

Mixed into this whole mess are guest appearances by “restaurateur” Guy Fieri and choreographer Gugu (Billy Porter). Fieri, who plays himself, is unfunny through no fault of his own, his part is just poorly written. Gugu, on the other hand, should probably have gotten more screen time. His biggest contribution to the film is getting the ladies into the stadium through an improvised dance routine, made even more hilarious by the fact that Rita Moreno, an Oscar winner for her dance-

heavy performance in West Side Story, admitted she had to dumb down her moves for the scene.

Interspersed throughout the movie, too, are scenes where Lou talks to Brady whenever she sees him on a television screen, almost as if she is praying for guidance. And guidance is exactly what she gets, with Brady breaking the fourth wall to offer generic and laughter-inducing advice.

The ladies do eventually make it into the stadium where, with the Pats down 28-3, Lou sneaks into the coordinators box to give Brady a cringeworthy pep talk. With generic inspiring music playing in the background, Lou gives Brady the courage to fight on and win the game. It’s meant to be a serious moment, but it is just so predictable that my friends and I sat there laughing the whole time. And who can blame us?

However, the most laughably bad moment comes after the game when the ladies find themselves in the Pats locker room. The scene features a brief cameo by Rob Gronkowski, who in the movie is the subject of Trish’s erotic fan fiction “Between a Gronk and a Hard Place,” a book Gronk claims he “carries everywhere” with him. It also features Tom Brady in the flesh for the first time as he offers Lou

his jersey, comedically admitting, with a simply indescribable voice inflection, that “it’s got a lot of sweat on it.” This movie is cringeworthy throughout, but it really peaks here.

This movie is, on all accounts, poorly done. The idea wasn’t exactly cinematic to begin with, but its execution and sheer waste of talent is pitiful. The serious moments just come across as funny, made worse by the fact that you already know exactly how each problem will be solved from the moment they arise. But still, I can’t help but say I had a good time.

Yes, I know, I have just spent this entire review making fun of its poor plot, scripts and execution. All of that is still true, and if you go into this movie for an immersive experience then you will be deeply disappointed. But if you embrace its cringe and go in with no expectations at all, I promise you will leave the movie theater with a smile on your face.

FINAL VERDICT:
1.5/5 WALLYS



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Whose lie is it anyway?

Spot George Santos’s lies



COURTESY OF CBS

JAKOB GOODWIN ’23 | MANAGING EDITOR • The United States Congress is always good for a few weirdos and nutjobs, and even the occasional fraud. With George Santos (R-NY) representing New York’s third congressional district, he brings with him a resume that has more than a few questions. He’s gotten caught lying about where he went to high school, previous employers and if his mother died on 9/11. And even if he didn’t lie about his name, George Santos isn’t exactly what he has always gone by. In previous campaigns and in real life, Santos has gone by Anthony Devolder, his middle and first last name.

So we want to give Wabash students the chance to guess what he has lied about. Below are things he has claimed as truth. Guess which ones we whipped up and which the newest congressman from New York actually told. Good luck. (Answers below)

#1: Santos claimed to be a star-volleyball player at Baruch College.

#2: Santos claimed he worked for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup on Wall Street.

#3: Santos claimed to run a charity for veterans and their pets.

#4: Santos claimed his mother died on 9/11.

#5: Santos claimed he was Jewish.

#6: Santos claimed he was “definitely not a drag queen in Brazil.”

#7: Santos claimed he was the producer of the Broadway show “Spiderman, Turn Off The Dark.”

How do you think you did? Here’s the truth.

#1: Not only did Santos not go to Baruch College, he didn’t go to any college at all.

#2: The divisions of those banks Santos claimed to work for didn’t exist when he said he worked there.

#3: Santos actually pocketed the money that he said he raised for vets and their pets.

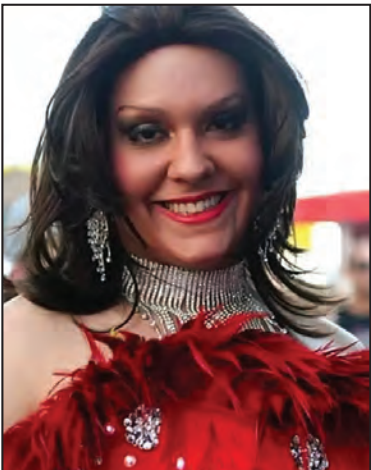
#4: Not only did Santos’ mom die in 2016, she was in Brazil on 9/11.

#5: Santos is not Jewish, and claims that instead of saying he was Jewish, he only meant that he was “Jew-ish.”

#6: Santos absolutely dressed in drag in Brazil. (photo below)

#7: Santos never served as a producer for that Bono-led project. And we don’t really know why he lied about working on this dud that epically failed.

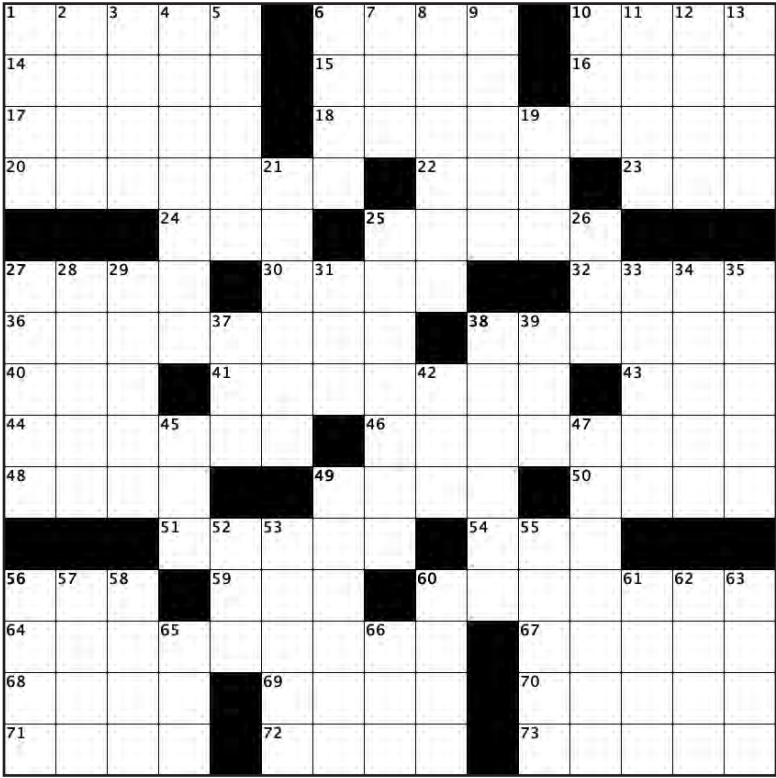
If you’re keeping track, the correct answer is that he lied about all those things. Nuts, huh?



COURTESY OF NY POST

‘Don’t forget the puppies’

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker ’25



Down

1. Brewpub array
2. Suspicious (of)
3. Eye piece?
4. The Bachelor output
5. “Welcome!”
6. Got it on lock?
7. Babylonian god of the heavens
8. Movie site of many an alien invasion
9. Rack up
10. Light touch
11. Classic Monopoly token
12. The Bachelor output
13. Big bash
19. “Looking good!”
21. English and French, for two
25. Mideast appetizer
26. Thanksgiving staple
27. Gem state
28. Tsar, e.g.
29. Half of a 45
31. Flock female
33. ____ Hall University Pirates
34. Famous, or infamous
35. Hallmark of Liberace
37. Earlier than 1, initially
38. Not as evil, say
39. “Red” or “white” tree
42. Part of the fam
45. Red letters?

47. Steal
49. Top off an Indiana Jones costume?
52. Car ad fig.
53. Prize given to both Bob Dylan and Marie Curie
55. What you’ll need for the big game?
56. SALT I signer
57. Big cat
58. Like some fabric
60. Ran, as fabric
61. Teenage bane
62. Judge
63. Give it a whirl?
65. Chick-to-be
66. Come out on top

Across

1. “You Only Live ____” (1967)
6. Valley girl’s home
10. [That is correct!]
14. “You done messed up, ____!” (punchline from a Key & Peele skit)
15. Follower of Q or Al
16. Two-dimensional measure
17. Lithograph, for one
18. Partygoer’s favorite football game?
20. “All ____ go!”
22. Grammy category
23. Codebreakers’ org.
24. Geological period
25. Number of winks in a nap
27. Oil-rich country
30. Denim fabric
32. Queries
36. John Steinbeck’s favorite football game?
38. Rue
40. “The Greatest” in the ring
41. Does a bit of ironing
43. Hamm or Forky
44. Front yard borders
46. Sushi chef’s favorite football game?
48. Snack in a stack
49. Own (up)
50. Bronte or Boleyn
51. “Around the Horn” group
54. Muff
56. FedEx competitor
59. Like two peas in a ____
60. Fighting force
64. America’s favorite football game
67. Two-____ (deceitful)
68. Cocksure
69. Northeastern Native Ameri can tribe
70. Like most notebook paper
71. “You ____?” (Lurch’s question)
72. Run aground
73. A Hatfield, to a McCoy



Scan for solution!

How not to embarrass yourself... Preparing a steak

TIERNAN DORAN ’26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • Often considered the pinnacle of fine dining, a beautifully prepared steak can turn your next meal into a Michelin-star-worthy experience. Pan-searing a steak is great, whether you’re cooking to impress a date on Valentine’s Day or you just want to upgrade your home-cooked meals. You can’t go wrong with a steak. Or, perhaps, you can go wrong, but that’s what this guide is for.

Part I: Choosing a steak

Before you run to the store and grab the first hunk of meat that you see, let’s take some time to discuss types of steaks. For a beginner, there are three main entry-level steaks I would recommend: ribeye, strip steak and tenderloin. All three of these cuts come from the back of a cow, which is the area on a quadruped that does the least amount of work and yields the most tender meat.

If you want the distinctive classic steak flavor, ribeye is your best bet as its marbling of fat preserves a juicy flavor post-cook. The tenderloin, on the other hand, is a bit trickier due to its lower fat content. Less marbling leads to a razor thin line between the perfect cook and a dried-out steak.

However, if cooked correctly, the tenderloin is, as the name would suggest, by far the most tender of the three, with an almost buttery texture. Finally, the strip steak gives us an option

in-between, with less fat than the ribeye but more than the tenderloin, its big beefy cuts make it easier to cook without drying it out.

Whatever cut you choose, make sure it’s 1.5 to 2 inches thick so that you can properly brown the outside without overcooking the interior.

Part II: Seasoning

No matter what steak you use, it is essential that you let it come to room temperature before searing. Failure to do so makes gray steak with a disappointing and uneven crust. I implore you, be patient. You paid money for a steak, so take the time to make it properly.

Once it’s at room temperature, pat your steak down with paper towels to make sure it is dry. Next, you have the task of deciding what to season it with. For a beginner, I would recommend a seasoning just consisting of kosher salt and fresh ground pepper. A simple combination with a winning, classic flavor. For a smoky and spicy flavor you can throw smoked paprika and chili powder into the mix. Or, for a darker and richer flavor you can utilize ground coffee beans, brown sugar, and ground coriander.

The combinations and possibilities are endless and allow for experimentation as you gain experience with flavor profiles. Whatever you choose to do, do not be afraid to season your steak generously.

Part III: Cook

To cook you need a medium skillet, one that is big enough to hold your steak. It needs to be on medium heat with a couple of tablespoons of vegetable oil. Once the oil on the pan is shimmering and the pan is roaring hot, you will add your steak. You will carefully place the steak on the pan, away from yourself to avoid any unnecessary burns. Do not be afraid—hot oil can smell your fear.

Once the steak has been added, you will invariably hear a beautiful, if not slightly alarming, sizzling symphony. Do not panic. After two to three minutes of searing, use tongs to carefully flip the steak, once again avoiding splashing any oil. At this point you can add a few tablespoons of butter, a couple lightly crushed garlic cloves and one bunch of fresh thyme.

Once that butter has melted, carefully, use a spoon and continuously spoon melted butter over the top of the steak. This process is called basting and it helps infuse the steak with flavor. As with the seasoning, what you add during this process is up to you. I recommend thyme and garlic for beginners, but as you gain more experience you can include different herbs such as rosemary for unique flavors.

At this point, you’ll want to use a thermometer to keep track of internal temperatures. If you are good and holy, you will want your steak at medium rare. This corresponds to an internal temperature of 135°F. Beyond that, medium is 145°F, medium well is 150°F and, if you are a monster, well done is 160°F.

Part IV: Beyond the steak

If you’ve successfully cooked your steak, congratulations! However, your story doesn’t end here. Having gotten a taste for the culinary arts, there’s many challenges awaiting you. You can go beyond steak and make a full-course meal replete with salads, side dishes and desserts. Enjoy your newfound confidence in the kitchen, because ultimately food brings people together, and it’s always nice to have an old friend for dinner.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Senior spotlight Allen Johnson Jr. ’23, servant leadership and 'paying it forward'



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE ’23

ELIJAH GREENE ’25 | PHOTO EDITOR • When Allen Johnson Jr. ’23 thinks about his future, a knowing smile comes over his face. He knows that his career will affect the lives of the next generation of students in more ways than they could ever know, which is why he is this week’s senior spotlight for *The Bachelor*.

A native of Indianapolis and a soon-to-be master’s student in Ball State University’s Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education (SAAHE) program, Johnson has set his sights on a career in student services, primarily in either admissions or career services, with hopes of being a dean or a president of a college himself one day. And Johnson seems to have known that this was the career path for him for a long time.

“I’ve worked closely with the people over at Career Services [at Wabash] since I was a freshman,” said Johnson. “It’s been really enjoyable to read resumes, talk to students about interview skills and talk about working with internships.”

Along with working with Career Services, Johnson, a Psychology major and Black Studies minor, has been involved all across campus during his tenure at Wabash. He is currently serving as a Membership Co-Chair of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, he is a varsity golfer and also a server for Bon Appetit Catering. Johnson said he also loves to “stay involved with community efforts off campus, whether that’s going to a local food shelter and donating my time there, or trash pickup in the Montgomery

County area or in Indianapolis. I try to make sure that I’m invested in making my time [at Wabash] worthwhile.” But if Johnson had to pick, he wants to utilize his Wabash education to “pay it forward.”

The question is, to pay what forward? Johnson wants to become a resource and an example to young, up-and-coming men of color who may not see people who look like them in positions of power and leadership at educational institutions.

“I think that having people see representation from a black man in those types of jobs is extremely important. You might only see men of color at different colleges and institutions working in the Diversity and Inclusion sector, but not in admissions or working in Career Services” said Johnson, who understands that he has received instruction in leadership from some of the best that Wabash has to offer. “I get the opportunity on a daily basis to work with Dean Steven Jones, Assistant Director Kim King and Coach Clyde Morgan.”

Johnson wants to create a foundation and structure that other men of color can begin to build upon, and this is his way that he believes he can give back to Wabash.

“We get this idea of Wabash being an opportunity,” said Johnson. “An opportunity where alumni pay it forward and give guys internships and a face that they can match with a job so that they can have some type of knowledge of the field before they go into their post-grad plans.” And Johnson wants to be this opportunity for the future generations of Wabash students.

True to the mission of Wabash, Johnson aspires to leave his college experience “leading effectively.” Whether it be in the classroom, in athletics, or simply trying to “do [his] best to help put smiles on peoples faces,” Johnson has left his mark on Wabash, and will hopefully be marking the Wabash men of the future with his service and “paying it forward.” And who knows, maybe someday in the future we will see Johnson’s name in Center Hall, next to the title “President of the College.”

This week in sports: Dawn of spring athletics

COLE BERGMAN '24 | SPORTS WRITER • Well, gentlemen, it may only be the second week of February, but things are already getting busy in the world of Wabash athletics. And as the snow melts, we know this can only mean one thing: spring sports. Before that, though, our many winter sport competitors are still striving to finish their seasons on a high note.

Basketball: Regular season nears close

The basketball team can still secure the No. 1 seed for the NCAC Tournament, but it will be no easy task. The Little Giants (17-5, 10-3 NCAC) have just three games left in the regular season to prove themselves.

Against fellow title contenders Ohio Wesleyan on Saturday, February 4, the team was able to rally to a one-point victory in front of a packed Chadwick Court. Ahmoni Jones '24 scored the game-winning basket with just 15 seconds left on the clock, moving the Little Giants to second in the conference behind Wooster, who has played one more game than Wabash.

But on Wednesday, February 8, Wabash fell to fourth-placed Denison in Granville, Ohio. After a dismal first half, Wabash rallied hard in the second, to no avail. Final score: Wabash 61, Denison 68.

Looking toward the future, the Little Giants have just three regular season games remaining, all against opponents they have beaten before. The team should be on track to finish the season strong, and the tantalizing possibility of a title-deciding game against



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Ahmoni Jones '24 scored the game-winning basket against Ohio Wesleyan on February 4, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

Wooster on February 18 is still on the cards.

Wrestling: Strong performances at Greyhound

The wrestling team continues to drive forward, with a solid finish in the Greyhound Open at the University of Indianapolis on Sunday, February 5. Although this was a non-scoring event, the Little Giants did finish with 10 top-six placers during the tournament. These placements were highlighted by James Day '26 at 125-pounds and Jack Heldt '23 at heavyweight, both finishing as individual champions in their respective weight classes.

The Little Giants have only one tournament left before regionals, occurring this Saturday, February 11, at the Mid-States Invitational hosted by Olivet College.

Track and Field: Tim Hreha

The Little Giants track and field team managed to run over the competition on Friday, February 3, at the Tim Hreha Memorial Indoor Invitational hosted by DePauw, finishing first out of five competing teams. Additionally, this victory included the Wabash team winning six events and turning out 30 top-five finishes, beating rivals DePauw by 15 team points. The team hopes to continue this

success at Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, February 11.

Volleyball: Drought continues

The volleyball team is still rallying to recover from a recent slip in form. The Little Giants (2-6) haven't won a match since January 14 when the team beat both Maranatha Baptist University and Rockford University.

On February 4, Wabash fell to Wittenberg in three sets and had their second match of the day against Hiram canceled. Then, on Tuesday, February 7, Wabash faced Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College at Chadwick Court. Despite winning the first set, the Little Giants eventually lost 1-3.

The team has a full weekend ahead of them with four matches between Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11, giving them ample opportunity to improve as they get deeper into the season. One of the team's opponents will be Illinois Wesleyan University, who beat Wabash earlier in the season.

Swimming and Diving: NCAC Championships underway

Good luck to our Little Giant swimmers and divers as they compete in the NCAC Championships. Although the championships have already begun, the swim team is still competing at the time of this paper's printing, and will continue through the weekend.

McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

NOAH McROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER • The end is in sight. After weeks of fighting through the trenches, teams are just a week away from the end of the regular season. So let's check out who's been on the up-and-up this week.

▲ 1. Wooster Fighting Scots, (18-4, 12-2 NCAC) [Last week: 2]

Since flopping against Oberlin a couple weeks ago, Wooster is back in stride. Holding teams to a mere 67 points per game, they hold the toughest defense in the conference. What they lack in three point prowess they make up with domineering height down low.

▼ 2. Wabash College Little Giants, (17-5, 10-3 NCAC) [Last week: 1]

It hasn't all been plain sailing for the Little Giants. After losing to Denison this week, Wabash needs to trust in its fearless leader Ahmoni Jones '24. The senior has become a top player in the conference, averaging the third most points per game and leading the conference in free throw percentage. Even after this week's setback, Wabash is still ready for tournament play.

● 3. OWU Battling Bishops, (14-8, 9-4 NCAC) [Last week: 3]

After losing a nail biter in Crawfordsville a week ago, OWU does not control their destiny. They have three games left against the Dannies, the Big Red and the Terriers, and this gives them solid matchups to prepare for the conference tournament. Led by Jack Clement, they will have ample opportunity to make a run if they work out the kinks.

▲ 4. Denison University Big Red, (12-9, 8-5 NCAC) [Last week: 5]

I picked these scarlet Ohioans to make a push toward the end of the year, and they haven't disappointed. Prior to beating the Little Giants on Wednesday night, they firmly held off DePauw and Hiram last week to firmly establish themselves as the number four team in conference play. Is an underdog story in the making for conference play after all?

▼ 5. DePauw University Tigers, (15-8, 7-7 NCAC) [Last week: 4]

No longer kings of the jungle, the Tigers have lost five of their last seven matchups, going from 5-2 all the way down to 7-7 in conference play. The magic in the palms of Elijah Hales is starting to fade in the midst of lackluster lineup decisions and offensive strategy. Will they be able to pull it back together?

▲ 6. Oberlin College Yeomen, (7-15, 3-10 NCAC) [Last week: 7]

Well, you know Jesus is coming back soon when an art school starts dunking on fools. The Yeomen are actually one of the most feared schools in the conference right now. In the last five games, they took Wabash to overtime, hit Fighting Scots fans where it hurts and drop kicked the Terriers into next week. They are a No. 1 seed's nightmare.

▲ 7. Wittenberg University Tigers, (10-11, 6-7 NCAC) [Last week: 8]

Though playing slightly above average basketball the last three weeks, the Tigers are still bound for an average season. With a bunch of average guys on the team and an average seed to come in the tournament, Wittenberg is hoping that they don't get some average recruits next year. How many uses of "average" did I average per sentence?

▼ 8. Hiram College Terriers, (11-12, 5-9 NCAC) [Last week: 6]

I think the Terriers will take this year as a victory. They were above .500 for a substantial portion of the year, and if they can get some more height on the roster, these Dogs might have some fight in 'em sometime this century.

● 9. Kenyon College Owls, (7-15, 0-13 NCAC) [Last week: 9]

I almost feel bad for these guys. Their point differential tells a sad story of a team that fights to the bitter end every single time, just to lose by the narrowest of margins. It's a tough time to be an Owl.

Basketball navigates conference shenanigans
Wabash falls to fourth-ranked Denison

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | BASKETBALL WRITER • A long basketball season is sure to have its ups and downs, but the end of the break marked the start of a wild roller coaster for the Little Giants' conference hopes. After losing to DePauw on January 14, and nearly falling out of the NCAC race, the team beat Wittenberg to kick off a five-game win streak that would drive them to the top of the conference.

And what a great run it was. A buzzer-beater to force overtime against Oberlin, a second half comeback against Kenyon, a cathartic revenge against DePauw in front of the home crowd and a go-ahead three with 15 seconds left on the clock to beat Ohio Wesleyan 76-75. All that in combination with Oberlin upsetting top-seed Wooster could have set up one of the greatest late-season confer-

“Winning on the road is very hard, and we knew it wasn’t going to be easy to win there. We need to play at our own speed and be tougher as a whole..”

-Styles McCorkle '25

lead at the end of the first half, with the scoreline reading 37-30 in favor of The Big Red. Wabash mounted something of a comeback in the second half, managing to briefly take a two-point advantage, before slipping back down to seven under. After that, they were unable to close the gap. The final score was 68-61.

“We definitely learned some of our weaknesses tonight,” said Styles McCorkle '25. “Winning on the road is very hard, and we knew it wasn’t going to be easy to win there. We need to play at our own speed and be tougher as a whole. Defensive rebounding can and will be the difference in games, and we are working on improving in that area, along with limiting turnovers.”

The Little Giants looked tired for most of the game. And even when they were in the process of fighting back, they lacked a certain intensity. They could not capitalize on their opportunities and left open lanes for The Big Red to get to the rim. In the second half, both teams struggled from beyond the arc. Denison shot 3-16 from deep, while Wabash went 1-14.

Despite holding Denison to 68, the usually-excellent Wabash defense wasn't doing much to stop their opponent, allowing Denison to get good looks in the paint. Both teams found more than half of their points in the paint. Rebounding was another major struggle for the Little Giants during the game, as they were out rebounded 41-37, giving up 15 offensive rebounds.

Ahmoni Jones '24 led the Little Giants in scoring with 23 points,



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Josh Whack '26 rises above his Ohio Wesleyan defender in his signature style on February 4, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

picking up his 1000th career point during the game. Apart from Jones, only Vinny Buccilla '25 had double-digit scoring. Buccilla put up 16 on 6-13 shooting. Reflecting a struggle from earlier in the season, the Wabash bench only brought two points to the game.

“We have to make sure that we're coming out strong in both halves of the game and play every game like it's our last,” Jones said. “Between now and Saturday, we have to put more emphasis on getting defensive rebounds.”

With this loss, the Little Giants remain second in the conference, just one game ahead of Ohio Wesleyan (9-4 NCAC) who suffered a similar upset to Wittenberg the same night. But even if the Wabash team manages to beat the top team, Wooster (11-2 NCAC), they won't overtake the top spot in record. Now the only chance for Wabash to win the regular season conference is if Wooster meets the same fate at the hands of Denison.

WABASH vs HIRAM
Team PPG:



Wabash College

77.9



Hiram College

79.0

AHMONI JONES '24

Wabash guard

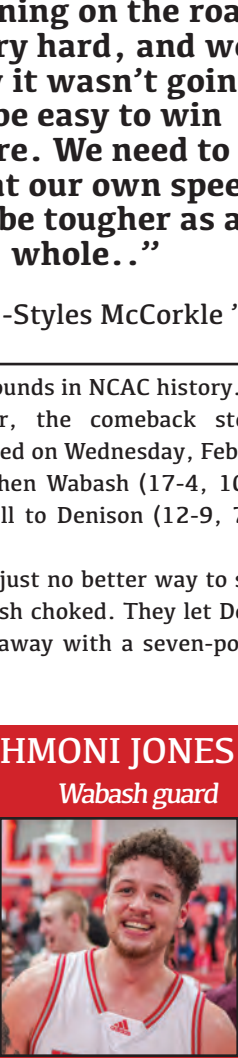


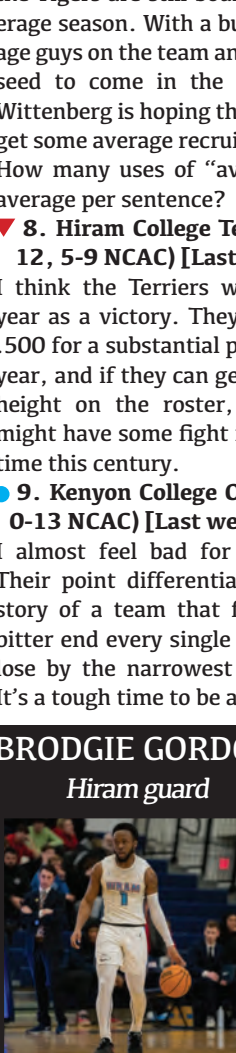
PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 17.0 APG: 0.9
RPG: 6.0 3PT%: 33.9

BRODGIE GORDON

Hiram guard



COURTESY OF HIRAM ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 15.2 APG: 4.5
RPG: 4.5 3PT%: 31.9

Volleyball looks to end six-game drought

Fresh start needed ahead of four-game weekend at Illinois Wesleyan

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS WRITER • The Little Giants volleyball team is set to take on four unique opponents this weekend at Illinois Wesleyan University. On Saturday, February 11, Wabash will face Wisconsin Lutheran College and the host Illinois Wesleyan. Then, on Sunday, February 12, the team will match up with Edgewood College and Maranatha Baptist University.

The team has already faced two of this weekend's four opponents. In the season's first game, the Little Giants defeated Maranatha Baptist 3-0 on January 14. Just three days later, Wabash dropped their first game of the young season to Illinois Wesleyan at home in three sets.

Wabash is coming into the tournament this weekend off the back of six consecutive defeats. With a 2-6 record on the season, the team will hope to end their drought in at least one of these four weekend matches. To do so, the Little Giants will need to minimize unforced mistakes.

"We need to do a better job of controlling our side of the court," said outside hitter Carson Meadors '24.

Meadors, who has been a part of the program since its inception in 2021, also understands that he needs to be a leader of this team. "Personally, I just need to be more vocal in the game," said Meadors. "That's something I need to do better to help my teammates."

Setter Will Beikes '25 wants his teammates to become more of a collective rather than six individual players.

"We can do a better job of coming together as one unit this weekend," said Beikes. "And that



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

#15 Jackson Leeper '25 (above and top left) "leaps" into action against Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on February 7, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

starts with me."

The preparation for the weekend is critical to the success of the team. A good or bad week of practice can make or break an entire tournament.

"We started off the week strong with some good practices, so I

think eventually we are going to get the results we have been looking for," said Beikes.

Moving forward, Beikes noted that the shortcomings of earlier this season against Illinois Wesleyan will benefit them this weekend when they match up again.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Will Beikes '25 lays up Sam Heckman '25 against Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on February 7, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

"It was a tough loss, but we learned a lot from that game," said Beikes. "We should be able to take what we learned and apply it to this weekend."

For the rest of the competition, the Little Giants just need to focus on their own abilities.

"We just need to focus on playing our game," says Beikes. "Keeping the energy high I think could lead to a pretty positive weekend."

In this tournament and beyond, Meadors has one simple message for the Wabash fans: "be ready for more wins this year."

Six game drought

OPP.	RES.	SCORE
Maranatha Baptist	W	3-0
Rockford University	W	3-0
Illinois Wesleyan	L	0-3
North Park	L	1-3
Benedictine	L	0-3
Trine University	L	1-3
Wittenberg	L	0-3
Hiram	-	-
Saint M-o-t-W	L	1-3

It's time to take us seriously

Lacrosse ready to prove naysayers wrong

JAKBOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • If you looked at Wabash lacrosse's record last year, you would expect the coaches and team to be disappointed in the season. After all, a 4-12 record and a negative 139 scoring differential tell the story of a season gone wrong. But if you ask Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke and his team, last year was the first step in building a competitive Little Giant lacrosse program.

"Neither this campus nor this conference take us seriously, and to be honest we haven't given people much of a reason to historically."

-Quinn Fitzgerald '26

To understand the team's mindset, you must look to its past. Wabash lacrosse has never posted a winning record and Coach Burke is the fifth coach in eight seasons. And on top of the dramatic turnover in coaching staff, Wabash's lacrosse roster has fewer names on it than almost any of the team's competition.

"It's very easy to look at the wins and losses and go 'That was an unsuccessful season,'" said Burke. "But we had 20 guys when we're playing [teams] with 50 guys on their roster. And I think we held our own pretty well. It's really a statement and a testament to the guys

that remained on the team. They helped us build a foundation that we feel like we can build on."

When he arrived in July 2021, Burke committed to a long process of building a program from the bottom up, beginning by instituting a culture of hard work and physically building the roster to compete.

"Where we are talent-wise doesn't matter," said Burke. "We're going to outwork you. And I think we did a really good job developing that culture and that mentality last year. We started to build on that in the fall and then added key pieces talent-wise."

One of those key pieces of talent was redshirt freshman Quinn Fitzgerald '26, a transfer from Division II Florida Institute of Technology. Fitzgerald should start at the attacking position for Wabash, and Burke thinks he has a chance to lead the Little Giants in scoring this year. Fitzgerald is a member of the first class of many that Burke hopes will cement Wabash as a main player on the Division III stage. And that's exactly why Fitzgerald came to Wabash.

"This class is unlike any that the school has had before," said Fitzgerald. "We bring a new level of talent and experience that will hopefully be the first steps toward making this program a reputable force in Division III. This year, we plan to put everyone on notice to the fact that this is a new era of Wabash lacrosse."

Fitzgerald's class is not alone in that mission, as the recruiting class of 2023 is already larger than last year's, which at the time was the largest in Wabash lacrosse history. While the future of the lacrosse program is promising, the team has worked to contend this year.

"We have put the work in and are looking forward to winning some games," said Brigham McGill '24. "Since my freshman year, we have only improved, and this is the year where it all comes to fruition."

At the same time as they look to prove the NCAC wrong about its skill, the lacrosse team is looking forward to showing the Wabash community that it can get the job done and put on a show.

"Neither this campus nor this conference take us seriously, and to be honest we haven't given people much of a reason to historically," said Fitzgerald. "One of our goals for this season is to change that. I believe that we are all sick of being overlooked. At the same time, however, we have embraced an underdog mentality that will just make us more dangerous. I have no doubt that we are going to make some noise."

The Little Giants open their season at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, hosting Anderson University at Fischer Field, where they hope to begin the 2023 campaign with another win against the Ravens. The team's only request is this: take them seriously.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Defender AJ Miller '23 has played 30 games for the Wabash lacrosse team.



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