



COURTESY OF PBS

WAR IN UKRAINE, ONE YEAR ON • PAGE 6

Hiram’s bark no match for Little Giants’ bite

Wabash drops 91 on Hiram, advances to the NCAC semifinal

ETHAN WALLACE ’25 | STAFF WRITER • It’s no secret that the Little Giants struggled in the final weeks of the regular season, going 1-3 in their last four games. But the postseason doesn’t hold a grudge. Wabash, seeded second, started off the NCAC tournament by kicking the door closed on Hiram’s season. On Tuesday, February 21, the Little Giants beat the No. 7 seed Terriers 91-71 to advance to the tournament semifinal.

“Regardless of who we play, we’re not going to underestimate anybody.”

- Ahmoni Jones ’24

The Little Giants were the clear favorites coming into the game, having just beaten Hiram on the same Chadwick Court ten days earlier. With their last loss at home being in November, the team was confident in their ability to defend home court.

A three by Gavin Schippert ’26 in their first possession gave the team a lead they would hold for the rest of the contest. Just six minutes into the game, the Little Giants held a 17-point lead and, at half-time, led 45-36. Ahead by double digits for the entire second half, the team extended the lead to 91-71 before the final buzzer.

“It felt great to contribute on offense,” said Schippert. “After I made the first one, it really helped my confidence. Being a freshman, I have had to find spots where I can contribute. I think

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Keeping up with Student Senate



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE

Student Body President Bryce McCullough ’23 discusses pressing topics with Student Senate Chairman Ben Jansen ’24 during the February 20th, 2023 Student Senate meeting.

COOPER E. SMITH ’23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • After last week’s hiatus, Student Senate reconvened on Monday, February 20. Among the regular business items included securing funding for Rugby Club, a new deadline for first-time budget requests and the long-awaited announcement of the National Act artist.

Student Body President Bryce McCullough ’23 announced the National Act artist: Cheat Codes, an EDM trio based out of Los Angeles. The group’s most prominent hit is “Sex” (2016), which samples “Let’s Talk about Sex” by Salt-N-Pepa. McCullough’s announcement also came with a date for the performance: April 15.

“The paperwork has been signed,” McCullough announced during the Senate meeting. “They gave us a pretty killer deal on production.” McCullough explained that the group’s production cost is normally \$18,000, but they offered the Senate to reduce the rate to \$6,000.

The Executive Cabinet maintained that the National Act budget will fall within the \$60,000 that Senate previously allocated to the one-night event. During discussion, McCullough announced that cabinet was planning to organize a handful of student DJs to open for Cheat Codes, and there will be food trucks at the event

beforehand.

After initially tabling all budget requests for the week, the body decided to reopen discussion on key items, including Rugby Club’s season. Rugby Club is in an unusual financial situation for a Wabash sport, as Student Body Treasurer Ian Rollins ’23 explained.

“Rugby is entirely dependent on Senate funds,” Rollins said. Because rugby is not an NCAA-recognized sport, it is a club sport, not a varsity one. Therefore, the rugby season is dependent on funding allocated by the Student Senate.

But due to the current budget situation, where the Senate is facing limited unallocated funds for the remainder of the semester, the Senators faced a choice. Rugby requested \$7,111 from AFC for the semester, a figure quite close to the \$7,500 earmarked (though not officially allocated) for the end-of-semester Brew credit for all students.

After brief discussion, the Senate unanimously voted to allocate those funds instead to the Rugby Club. As a result, the team will be able to go ahead with their planned travel to this year’s regional tournament.

For those students concerned about the end of the Brew credit finals week tradition, the executive cabinet was quick to add that the Brew credits could still be on the table, provided there is enough unallocated money at the end of the semester.

“It’s entirely possible that we will still be able to do the normal Brew credits,” said McCullough.

Another item for discussion was the new deadline for all clubs to submit their first budget requests for the semester. The administration announced that March 1 will be the final date for clubs to submit initial requests to AFC. This decision came as part of the administration’s efforts to encourage clubs to submit budget requests in semester-long applications, rather than on a week-by-week basis.

“March 1 is the deadline for clubs to ask for money for the first time,” McCullough said. McCullough explained that clubs would still be able to request additional funds, provided they met the initial March 1 deadline.

Looking ahead, next week’s Senate meeting will feature discussion over the McCullough team’s proposal to amend academic policy to forbid professors from assigning academic work during semester breaks. This item was one of McCullough’s campaign promises, and the cabinet is preparing to share its draft with the Student Senate next Monday, February 27.

“Breaks are for breaks,” said Vice President Benjamin Sampsell ’24.

A friend, a mentor and a role model for all Wabash men

Remembering Rem ‘The Big Cookie’ Johnston ’55

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash community this week lost one of its greatest and best-known supporters, Remington “The Big Cookie” Johnston ’55, who passed away on February 18, 2023, at age 89.

Johnston was born in Ossian, Indiana, in 1933 and attended Allen High School in Bluffton, Indiana. He came to Wabash in 1951 as a third-generation legacy and majored in political science.

After earning a degree in printing from Carnegie

Mellon University, he lived in Dallas for eight years working for the Harris-Seybold Printing Machinery Company. He returned to Indiana in 1964 and immediately began donating his time back to the College. He lived in Fort Wayne and owned the Johnston Printing Company in Bluffton.

It was his printing that first earned him popularity among the Wabash community. Before every major sporting event, Johnston printed car bumper stickers which always began

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Lilly Scholar hopefuls to arrive on campus

JAMES WALLACE ’26 | STAFF WRITER • Eighteen high school prospects will be on campus for the beginning of the Lilly Scholarship weekend beginning on Sunday, February 26, 2023. The weekend is the final step in the extensive process of naming the three winners who will be granted the Lilly Scholarship, the prestigious full-ride opportunity for domestic students provided by the College through the Lilly Endowment.

While the weekend is a competition for the three scholarships, it is also some of the students’ first interaction with Wabash.

“The Lilly Scholarship can lead individuals to Wabash,” said Tommy Oppman ’25, who earned the scholarship in 2021. “It then leads them towards unique opportunities that they would have never otherwise had the opportunity to experience.”

Director of Financial Aid Alex DeLonis agrees with Oppman.

“Aside from the scholarship itself, we use the weekend as a recruitment tool,” DeLonis said. “Our hope is that of the 18 gentlemen who come to campus this weekend, all of them come back in the fall.”

This is done by organizing an extensive, personalized visit for all 18 young men who are invited on campus.

“They will have very busy schedules from 8:00 in the morning until noon,” said Senior Assistant Director of Financial Aid Apryl Bradley. “You’ll see them walking around trying to find the places they’re supposed to go.”

Aside from the visit

experience, the scholarship itself has the potential to influence the three individuals who earn it.

“The Lilly Scholarship has kept me grounded and focused here at Wabash,” said Oppman. “It reminds me that I’m here to study and learn and helps me when it’s a busy time and I just have to hit the books.”

The scholarship pushes its recipients past their normal limits, and allows them to appreciate the education they are receiving without the financial strain associated with a post-secondary education that is becoming more of a problem nationwide.

“The scholarship has taken away the financial burden and allowed me to focus on my studies,” said Will Trapp ’24. “Not having student debt for my undergraduate degree will change how I’ll be able to invest my time and money in the future.”

Though it may seem counterintuitive, many Lilly Scholars like Trapp and Oppman credit the scholarship for playing a major role in keeping them focused on their studies and encouraging them to push through busy times at Wabash.

But while the Lilly Scholarship truly is an honor to receive, it is important that the 18 young men who qualified for the final round this year recognize their own accomplishments, even though many of them will walk away without the scholarship.

“They are already winners, they’ve been able to put together an amazing resume,” DeLonis said. “They’re already on the path to do great things.”



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Prospective students and parents listen to opening remarks in Pioneer Chapel during Scarlet Honors weekend on December 2, 2022.

Distinction in Comprehensive Exams 2023

Benjamin Bullock	History and Humanities	Alexander Koers	Chemistry
Tyler Danielewicz	Psychology	Brayden Lentz	Classics and Latin
Jakob Faber	Biology	Joseph Mullin	English
Thomas Gastineau	Biochemistry	Nathan Pairitz	Biology
Jackson Heldt	Biology	Carson Price	Philosophy
Austin Hughes	Religion	Elijah Scurlock	Physics
Bradley Johnson	Biology	Cooper Smith	History and Political Science
Grant Johnson	Biochemistry	Ryan Sowers	Humanities
Mitchell Keeling	Biology	Khôi Truong	Economics
		Eric Zhu	Financial Economics

The Biden economy is working



Liam Buckley '23

Reply to this opinion at lbuckle22@wabash.edu

Death, taxes and jobs numbers—the three certainties of American politics. Under the leadership of President Biden, more Americans are working today than ever—and they are doing so for larger paychecks and better benefits.

At the supermarket, the inflation brought about by the pandemic has mostly subsided. The U.S. boasts one of the lowest inflation rates in the world and sits middle-of-the-pack among other developed nations. Though consumer spending is lower than in previous months, that is mostly the result of the interest rate hikes brought on by the Federal Reserve and its chair, Jerome Powell (originally a Trump appointee).

In terms of wealth distribution, Fed figures indicate that the wealth among the bottom half of Americans is increasing at a rate 10-15 percentage points higher than that of any other wealth group. For an economy that boasts higher income inequality than at any point since before the Great Depression, this is an excellent sign. And since the middle class does the lion share of consumer spending, their rising wealth doesn't come at the expense of profits for businesses and corporations.

These indicators are signs of the strength of Biden's economic policies like the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan. It also demonstrates the early success of investments in American manufacturing

through the CHIPS and Science Act and the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The latter two bills contain nearly \$1.5 trillion in direct investments in the U.S. economy: investments in jobs, technology, research, tax subsidies, and American-made raw materials.

American manufacturing output has now reached an all-time high. Whereas the Trump administration oversaw a net decrease in total manufacturing jobs, the Biden administration has overseen an increase of more than six percent.

Not only is the heart of our economy strong, the soul of the nation is too. The American people gave nearly half a trillion dollars to charity last year. And in terms of foreign aid, the federal government contributed more than \$50 billion before accounting for the tens of billions sent to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia's inhuman aggression. Still, foreign aid accounted for less than one percent of the total federal budget—reaffirming that while congress and the president care deeply about the plights of the world, their first responsibility is the United States and its people.

Conservative commentators have lambasted our economic support for the Ukrainian defense effort, and used the rail disaster in East Palestine, Ohio to suggest that the federal government fails to prioritize the American people. They neglect to point out that it was the Trump administration that rolled back an Obama-era regulation requiring trains transporting explosive fuels to be equipped with advanced braking technology called ECPs. Like with so many tragedies this century—the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 2008 financial crisis, and our response to the COVID-19 pandemic—it is Republicans who sowed the seeds of chaos, only to leave everyday Americans and Democratic leaders to clear the rubble.

Compared to the modern ultra-right Republican Party, the contrast Democrats

present couldn't be clearer. The GOP have identified several top legislative priorities like banning college professors from teaching about Malcolm X and making it illegal for transgender kids to play middle school basketball.

When it comes to their economic agenda, the Republicans seem concerned that so few elderly Americans are dying in poverty these days. They have proposed a plan to sunset Social Security and Medicare, something that would almost assuredly end both programs for good. Concurrently, the 'party of small government' has proposed raising taxes on 40 percent of Americans and using some of the money to officially name the southern border wall after Donald Trump. All of these are real proposals included in the "11 Point Plan to Rescue America." And we should believe leaders like Senator Rick Scott—who recently ran the GOP senate campaign arm—when they pledge to implement every one of them.

Democrats have demonstrated a sincere dedication to governing on behalf of working people's interests. It's a program that led to the most successful midterms for an incumbent Democratic president since John F. Kennedy after the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Biden economy is built on the best of America: innovation, ingenuity, aspiration and perseverance. It is an economy that sees even the most immense challenges, like climate change and automation, as opportunities to rebuild communities left behind by the free-trade revolution. The administration's work is rooted in their sincere desire to make life better for the American people. It is not as flashy as that of past administrations, but the effects are as durable as any other.

The State of the Union is strong because the economy is strong, and because, in the words of the president earlier this month, "the people of this nation are strong." We are made stronger by his enduring faith in bettering the lives of all of us.

Baseball is losing its identity



Samuel Benedict '25

Reply to this opinion at ssbendi25@wabash.edu

Recent rule changes across all levels of baseball have seen the game begin to dramatically shift. For the NCAA, pitchers now have 20 seconds from when they receive the ball from the catcher to make a pitch. A pitcher is allowed one warning per batter, but that warning can also be used if a pitcher makes a, now illegal, non-action move (such as stepping off the mound). Batters are only given five seconds to step into the box and are given one warning as well. If a violation occurs after the warning, the pitcher is punished by adding a ball to the count and the batter is punished by adding a strike. In the MLB, rule changes will be going into effect that limit the number of pick off moves allowed by the pitcher, ban the shift and increase the size of the bases. The MLB is also instituting similar time restraints on pitchers and hitters.

All of these changes are being enacted following pressure from fans to speed up the pace of play and create an offensively charged game. I understand the reasoning behind it; baseball's average age of a fan is rising and younger generations are choosing to watch football or basketball or even soccer. Losing viewers to soccer is a serious red flag for baseball.

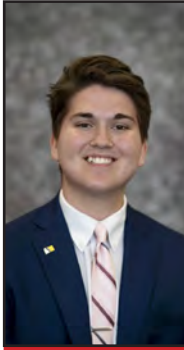
However, I don't think that these rule changes are the best way to go about improving the status of baseball with younger generations. As a pitcher I am biased, but these changes make the game slanted significantly towards the offense. Baseball has always been an interesting sport because unlike in other sports, failing 70% of the time is considered exceptional. Baseball forces players to have the mental fortitude to keep attacking after consistent failure, and this unique quality is part of what makes it special.

The NBA and the NFL excel in drawing in younger audiences because they are able to utilize social media to their advantage. Posting clips on Instagram or allowing content creators to analyze games and post their own commentary is the best way to reach younger audiences. The MLB has been notorious for having content creators with millions of followers take down their videos for copyright infringement. Unfortunately, the MLB doesn't have the popularity to monopolize their content across online platforms. This is free marketing that targets the generation that is missing. Unfortunately, instead of encouraging this content, the MLB elects to threaten legal action.

The MLB needs to look inward at its own practices from an administrative side instead of changing a game that's been nicknamed "America's pastime." Ridiculous rule changes that pull at the seams of the sport are unwarranted and disrespectful to the hundreds of thousands of athletes and fans that live and bleed baseball. The MLB is facing an identity crisis as old and new school ideas battle back and forth for the right to determine the future. This problem needs to be solved soon or more fans will continue to defect. I consider myself more of an old school ball player, if old school means not changing the rules of the sport. My fondest memories are sitting outside, enjoying the company around me, and watching the Cubs game. What more could you ask for?

If the MLB still finds itself in trouble down the road, then the best option to ignite the offense is to bring back steroid use!

Let's get our act together first



Seth Kirkpatrick '24

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Before I explain my opinion on the actions of Senate and its members, I feel it is necessary to establish my perspective on the topic. I understand that I have been far too brash in the past regarding my opinions of Senate, and for that I apologize. These are my genuine opinions and perspectives on Senate and its impact on the collaborative efforts across clubs and cultural organizations that make Wabash Wabash. I write this not because I want to attack any one person. However, when in positions of power, we all—including the student supreme court—must be ready for criticism and must respond genuinely and with intent to improve.

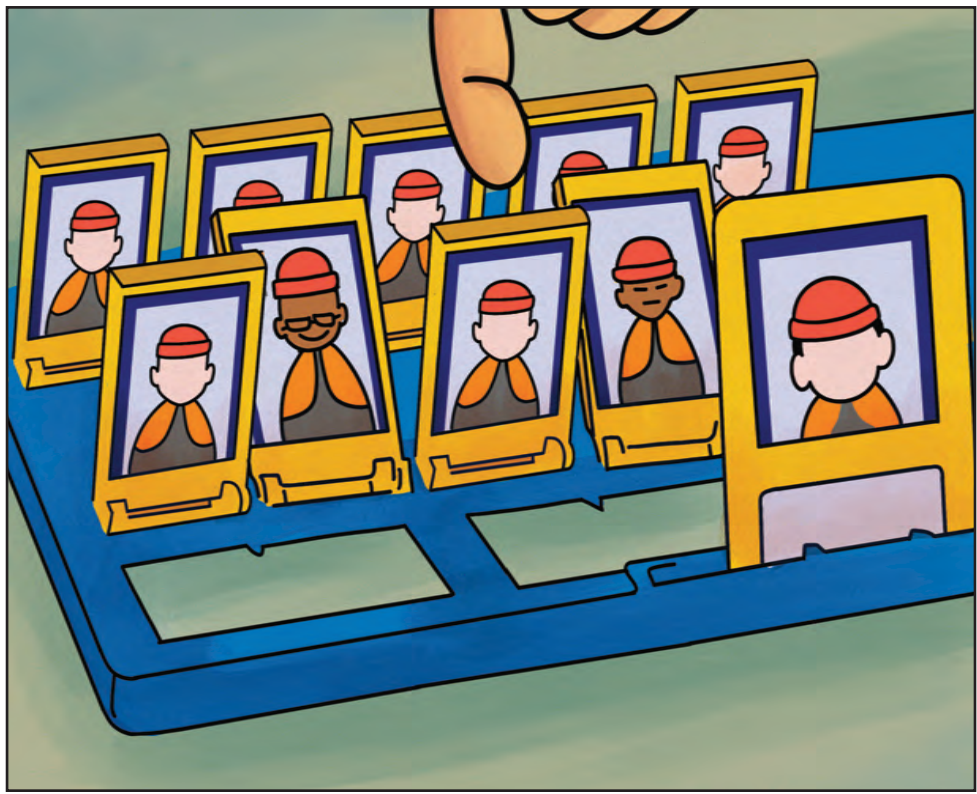
I think we all believe Senate should achieve certain values throughout its work, including a willingness to improve, a policy of equity towards all clubs and their budget requests and a desire to handle all Senate-related work with delicate care and dedication. Each of these values have been violated over the last few weeks by the student senate. First, members of Senate appear to be more invested in getting out of meetings on time than working on problems with a high degree of care. Second, Senate's handling of cultural clubs creates a perception of unfair and unjust treatment. Third, they've shown an inability to take criticism.

Within my position as a Student Justice, I have attended many of Senate's official meetings, and have spoken with many of its members privately. Through my observations, it appears to me that conversations on budget requests have been dependent more on the time of the clock than anything else. Senators are supposed to have autonomy and are meant to be active members of the conversation, but, unfortunately, the AFC appears to dictate the flow of the discussion in ways that are not representative of the interests of its constituents. Making things worse, hearing senators say things like, "Come on guys, let's vote on that so we can get out of here," is disheartening. A senator's role first and foremost is to be the voice of the student body. You signed up for a responsibility. We are all students with other responsibilities, but this does not justify the frequency at which many members will stand up and leave mid-conversation to pursue their other work. Your work in Senate is what people depend upon to make their time at Wabash memorable. Blindly voting on a budget (that was recommended, not ordered), demonstrates that some members are less invested in the important issues we face on campus today. While some may say that this is merely because senators trust the AFC's opinions (which is a valid position), what makes me doubtful regardless is that Senators abandon their posts during meetings, regularly avoid some debate for the sake of time and have an overall attitude of "I need to go do X, because it's more important."

Whether Senate intends to be supportive of cultural organizations is irrelevant. What matters is what they accomplish and how it is perceived by the campus. While we can debate the matter, Senate has appeared to be more critical of cultural groups than their non-cultural counterparts. This leads many to believe that Senate's issues with a cultural club's budget request are based on politics as opposed to finances. This is exemplified by a meeting a few weeks back when tens of thousands of dollars were allocated and

‘Does your character... increase our diversity by 75%?’

Cartoon by Arman Luthra '26



‘shOUT asked for \$900 for roughly 10 members to take a two-day trip to Chicago to learn more about LGBTQ+ history and experiences. Senate spent roughly 20 minutes discussing the matter, asking a plethora of questions while simultaneously researching cheaper options for the club. They voted only to provide funding for parking, leaving ‘shOUT to pay for the other \$600. Eventually, Senate voted on the rest of the overall budget, going through 15 or more clubs requesting a total of several thousand dollars in mere minutes. Regardless of Senate's intent, this was perceived as ‘shOUT being short-handed – grilled for 20 minutes over their request while senators undermined ‘shOUT's treasurer by looking up different options (assuming that he would not already know), while a dozen other clubs faced a quick and easy vote for approval of AFC's recommendations. Many I have spoken with have expressed the opinion that ‘shOUT is not the only club to have faced this treatment, which motivates me even further to make note of their experiences.

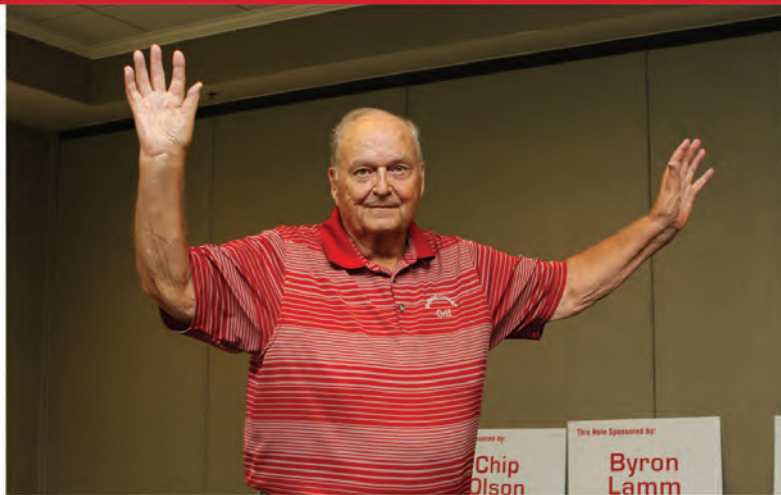
Finally, Senate seems unable to take criticism from the student body. I see a common theme arise when they interact with the student body: they shift the blame. From my own interactions and from hearing about others, the cabinet shifts the blame to senators while senators do the inverse. Often, any criticism is met with an intense defense, as opposed to an open mind and willingness to improve. There's always an excuse for why certain events proceeded, but it is almost never "you're right, we messed up and will try doing more moving forward." This sentiment on Senate's attitude is shared strongly with those I reached out to while writing this piece. This criticism, if anything, is a call for a good-faith attitude by everyone involved. Responses to criticisms about National Act should not be "People are always going to be mad!" but instead "How can I make this event better for you?" The former approach forces us into a state of accepting mediocrity. As members of Senate, it is our job to comply with and discuss the issues of the student body and what changes they want to see. This, of course, warrants that students speak to their Senators about issues they have. At the same time, however, I have heard countless times that students feel their Senators will not care, will not respond, or will not act effectively on their requests. For all of the aforementioned reasons, and the current attitudes and climate of Senate itself, I cannot blame them.

The solutions to our current dilemma are not complicated. All it requires is the genuine investment on behalf of senators to better the climate and attitudes of Student Senate. Perhaps an additional session of Senate for students to voice their concerns personally will help, bridging the connection between Senate and its student body.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Wabash Says...

Thank You, Big Cookie.



Rem Johnston '55, Some Little Giant

facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

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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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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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Staff Editorial: Black History Month isn't enough



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Members of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies pose for a group photo with Chief Officer Karrah Herring after her MLK Day address on January 9, 2023, in Salter Hall.

Black History Month isn't enough. For centuries, Black leaders have dedicated their lives to the mission of liberating Black Americans. Many died in the fight: Dr. King, Fred Hampton, Medgar Evers. And we celebrate them, or at least some of them, during Black History Month. However, their mission remains unachieved.

Celebrating Black history isn't enough if we aren't honoring the legacy of Black leaders and continuing their work. Today, Black Americans are faced with a reality in which they are five times as likely to be incarcerated in state prisons as their white counterparts. Black Americans own one-tenth of the wealth white Americans have, and Black women are three times as likely to die due to pregnancy related issues than white women. There can be no equality without tearing down the structural and social inequities that Black Americans continue to face. Black History Month must be a reminder to learn from Black history and honor that history by paying it forward.

Part of honoring the legacy of Black leaders is protecting their legacies. Today, those legacies are under attack. Whether it be attacks on inclusion of the Black experience in American education like book bans, rejecting Black Studies AP classes for high school students or attacking affirmative action, American politicians are taking a hatchet to Black history at each stage of the education system. We condemn this erasure of Black struggle, activism and success—in

short, the erasure of Black lived experience. Understanding Black history is essential to understanding America. And by preventing teachers from sharing it, we ensure the very systems Black leaders died fighting against prevail because no one will even know they exist.

And while Black history month is the most obvious time to learn about Black history, it is imperative that we consistently interweave Black history into the broader fabric of American history, all 12 months of the year. Black history is a critical component of American history, as are the struggles and contributions of all ethnic groups throughout the American project.

Consequently, it is integral to the missions and work of Black leaders like Dr. King and Malcolm X that we learn, commemorate and remember Black history every month of the year, not just February. Too often, when people celebrate ethnic months of history, they relegate that history to just that month. They show up, genuinely learn and then move on. This unfortunately reduces each month, including Black History month, to one twelfth of the year... forgotten after midnight on the last day of the month.

Black people are an integral part of our nation's history. It's time to view the accomplishments of all Black Americans in the same light as their fellow American citizens. Black history is American history, not just a fraction of it.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

HOW IS THIS STILL A THING?

Hi-Five to LeBron for bringing Livvy Dunne as his personal guest to the NBA All-Star game. That didn't happen? Who cares. We didn't watch it, and neither did you.

T HIM UP, REF!

Lo-Five to the University of Alabama for letting Brandon Miller play this week after delivering a murder weapon to his teammate. Basketball players are supposed to be good at stealing and shooting, but I don't think that's what Naismith meant when he invented basketball.

DID Y'ALL WRITE HARRY POTTER TOO?

Lo-Five to the transphobes who outed themselves on the Yak. Y'all care a lot about what's in a person's pants for people who aren't getting into any.

AND STEP, AND KICK...

Hi-Five to the Rhynies for attempting to teach one certain arhythmic Rhynie how to join a kick line. Please don't encourage him to apply to the Rockettes.

REALLY? THOSE GUYS?

Lo-Five to Netflix for centering their series Quarterback on Patrick Mahomes, Kirk Cousins and Marcus Mariota. Were Nathan Peterman and Zach Wilson too busy?



Dr. Sabrina Thomas, History

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On August 14, 1862, one month before Union and Confederate soldiers fighting to preserve the Union and to protect slavery massacred each other at the Battle of Antietam, five prominent African American men met with President Abraham Lincoln at the White House to discuss a potential resolution to the war. The delegation included members of Washington's Black elite, all with deep ties to Washington's white political establishment. Among them were John Cook Jr., an educator who had attended Oberlin College; Benjamin McCoy, founder of the Asbury Methodist Church; Edward Thomas, a prominent intellectual and messenger for the U.S. House of Representatives; John T. Costin, Black leader and freemason; and William Slade, the head White House servant. The men listened intently as Lincoln blamed African Americans for the Civil War and lamented the futility of racial equality in America.

"We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races," Lincoln explained. "Even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race." He continued, "your race suffer very greatly, many of them by living among us, while ours suffer from your presence."

Believing that slavery was detrimental to white progress and that Black and white people could not coexist peacefully, Lincoln had a plan to end the war and prevent future racial conflict. With the same thoughtful and measured confidence that would come to symbolize the sixteenth president, Lincoln told the delegation of his master plan: to deport all Black people—free and formerly enslaved—from the United States to Chiriquí, Panama. Chiriquí, Lincoln informed them, was rich in natural coal deposits that could help them start their new colony. Silently, Lincoln also held the hopes of his business friends—that once in Chiriquí, Black people would extract and export coal for the United States.

Lincoln had long believed in deportation or "colonization" of Black people elsewhere as central to the success of the nation. However, he failed to convince all members of the delegation that the United States was not their home. Four months later and one day before signing the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln signed something else—a contract that allocated \$600,000 in federal funds to send formerly enslaved people to a tiny

U.S. history: The 'B'lack side

island off the coast of Haiti to pick cotton in exchange for their "freedom." That spring, 450 formerly enslaved African Americans set sail for their new "home," and within a year over one hundred of them died from disease and unlivable conditions. Lincoln's efforts to deport the nation's Black problem had failed, and Lincoln resigned himself to living in a nation with free Black and white people.

Interestingly, this part of Lincoln's legacy is not well known, and the history of the Black delegation, Chiriquí, and the island near Haiti, are largely absent from U.S. history classrooms and textbooks. While exposing Lincoln's racism, this part of the history also complicates the narrative of the "Great Emancipator" and the image of who Lincoln was and who we believe him to be—a one dimensional historical figure who "gave" Black people in America their freedom. In essence, this history makes Lincoln human.

But this part of the story also offers important insights into the free Black population in Washington in the midst of the war over Union and freedom. So, what happens to the story if we not only include them in the history, but consider it from their perspective?...

In the early months of summer in 1862, members of Washington D.C.'s free, educated and elite Black population convened in local churches to discuss concerns over increasing federal support for deporting Black people from the capital to Liberia or Haiti. While some African Americans agreed that leaving the United States was the only way to escape the violence and the vestiges of white supremacy and slavery, others believed simply that emancipation promised African Americans the freedoms granted by the Constitution, and that this country was their home. Black leader John Cook Jr., proved a strong advocate of emancipation. Although he was born free, educated and wealthy, Cook believed that with freedom, equality and opportunity, every African American could thrive. So, when Lincoln invited Black Washingtonian leaders to the White House that August to discuss colonization, Cook was rightly wary. Members of the Black community in fact, discussed the potential outcomes of the meeting at length, debating the benefits and consequences of colonization, and recognizing both the weight of representing four million free and enslaved African Americans and the opportunity to sway the President at this critical moment. The delegation listened carefully as Lincoln laid out his plan for deportation and his argument that white and Black people could not coexist. Some, like Edward Thomas, agreed and began advocating the benefits for African Americans to leave America. Others, like Cook and Black leader Frederick Douglass, vehemently disagreed and implored Lincoln to see a future America based on racial equality. The story then becomes more complicated as Black Washingtonians

vigorously debated colonization in the months leading to Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in January, 1863. What is clear is that this meeting between educated, intellectual and powerful Black men and President Lincoln was critical to the future of a free, democratic and interracial nation.

Including Black History into the narrative of Lincoln and emancipation not only reveals Lincoln's humanity but also humanizes the African Americans who played a critical role. By allowing us to understand these men as human—flaws and all—Black History forces us to think more deeply about who Lincoln and John Cook were, what motivated them to act in certain ways, and how they helped shape the country we live in today.

Efforts to erase African American history from U.S. history are not new. School curricula and textbooks have always been used to create a specific kind of national narrative in America that privileges white success, ingenuity and achievement. It is why most of us never heard of John Cook or Chiriquí or why Lincoln's legacy is one of racial benevolence and why he alone is credited with freeing the slaves. Current attempts to delegitimize black history by labeling it as "wokeness" and thus, "lacking in historical value" or

"indoctrination" seek to hold tight to this narrative of white success—and to keep history simple, erasing the contributions, the roles, the achievements of other kinds of people.

This is dangerous. It threatens to hold history to the unrealistic standard of a simple story by deleting all of the pieces that make the people who lived it real. Because people are complicated, history is complex. How can we understand Lincoln without grappling with his racism? How do we reckon with emancipation without considering the dissension between Black Americans who demanded it and those who advocated colonization? The answer: we don't. Rather, we devolve into senseless political debate over "identity politics" and "anti-woke" rhetoric instead of accepting the reality that history is not one-sided. It has never been. It is layered, deep and dirty, often ugly and beautifully uncomfortable. It reveals our strengths and weaknesses, our highest achievements and lowest failures. It is the story of people like Lincoln, but also of men and women like Cook and the millions of others of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and LGBTQ people whose stories remain on the "B" side.

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Review: Pink’s ‘Trustfall’ could have been a hit in 2012, but in 2023 sounds stale



COURTESY OF GOOD MORNING AMERICA

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • I’ll be honest, I had expected more from “Trustfall,” the ninth studio album by American singer Pink. But in retrospect, perhaps I shouldn’t have. Because this album, just like the two that came before it, is agonizingly stuck in 2012. And while it may make for a great corporate backing track, it is, all things considered, a relic of a by-gone musical era that Pink seemingly refuses to move on from. Little wonder, then, that the final product is dull, mismatched and lifeless.

Like all of Pink’s work, the album is deeply inspired by autobiographical events and comes from a place of genuine vulnerability. In particular, “Trustfall” explicitly draws on themes of loss, following the death of Pink’s father, and isolation through the COVID-19 pandemic. And though still firmly in the realm of pop, there are also moments when the raw emotion that inspired the record eek through.

In fact, the album is almost certainly at its best when Pink leans into the autobiographical, less pop-inspired elements of her musical palette. For instance, the opening song, “When I Get There,” posits a monologue to her dead father in which she yearns for answers, but knows none are forthcoming. “Is there a song you just can’t wait to share? You’ll tell me when I get there.” There is nothing particularly experimental about the music itself, but Pink’s sincerity and genuine emotion is obvious for all to hear.

Similarly, in “Lost Cause” and “Our Song,” Pink slows the tempo to ruminate on feelings of loneliness and insecurity, no doubt inspired by the pandemic. And without wanting to sound

like a “sad girl,” as my friends so often accuse me of being, Pink really is at her best when she embraces this level of emotional depth. In particular, “Lost Cause” really brings out the lyricality of her sublime mezzo gristle, making it one of the record’s standout songs.

But the three slow songs are really where the emotions end, and the rest of the album slides under a veil of banality. Not only that, but it feels as if Pink’s genre and style hasn’t adapted since 2012—because it hasn’t. There is little meaningful difference between the music on this record and the tracks on “The Truth About Love,” her 2012 release. If you had a profound sense of déjà vu listening to this latest album, then this is probably why.

The album’s title song “Trustfall” best epitomizes just how painfully stuck in the past the album is. A fade in, a generic pulsating beat, and an annoyingly persistent echo effect give this song all the hallmarks of a hit record in 2012, but a sad flop in 2023. Even the lyrics don’t exactly inspire confidence. “Close your eyes and leave it all behind, go where love is on our side.” I did initially wonder if Pink had ChatGPT write the lyrics, but I don’t think an AI would be capable of coming up with something quite so boring.

Very little else stands out as even noteworthy. “Never Gonna Not Dance Again,” released as a single in October 2022, comes off like a poorly executed Justin Timberlake song. “Last Call” has what can only be described as a cacophony of laughter as its chorus, a very strange listening experience indeed. And “Hate Me” sounds like a Pink parody of Taylor Swift. Really, though, who on earth thinks that Pink, of all people, is “an evil witch?”

Now, don’t get me wrong, my opinion of Pink as an artist is, on the whole, positive. I find the gruff huskiness of her voice rather enchanting, and that certainly does come over in parts of this album. But all too often, she ditches her signature smoky timbre for pop genericism, and that’s a shame. I think Pink had the opportunity here to live up to her own promise of the “best album [she] has ever made.” Sadly, this record falls far short of that.

FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS



Review: 'Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey' lacks any stuffing

CURTIS FAUGHNAN ’26 | STAFF WRITER • With Winnie the Pooh’s copyright running out in 2022, director Rhys Waterfield jumped on the opportunity to reimagine the beloved childhood bear as a slasher out for revenge. Before I tear this terrible film apart like I’m an abandoned demon bear, I think it’s important to keep in mind that it was a very low budget indie film made by a very small company with little-to-no resources. Still, nothing can excuse the absolute lack of quality in acting, effects, cinematography and plot.

First off, the acting was the absolute worst that I have ever seen in a film on the big screen. Their acting was so unbelievable and unlikely that I had absolutely no attachment to any character in the film. I felt so uninvolved with the story that I came out of the theater not knowing a single character’s name other than Christopher Robin and his old “friends,” and then only because I knew them from childhood. To be fair, despising every character made each kill so much more rewarding.

The effects were the only quasi-redeeming quality in the film. Every kill turned up the blood and gore to the max. I don’t feel bad spoiling this, because it was only in theaters for one night. One girl got her head crushed by a car driven by Winnie the Pooh, which

was obviously the use of practical effects but was nonetheless extremely satisfying and well-executed. But, uh, when did Winnie the Pooh learn to drive?

The cinematography felt mediocre at its peak. It was terrible, whether it was a headache-inducing running shot that had absolutely no focus or a shot so dark I thought that the screen turned off, it felt like I was watching a high school film.

The lacking plot also could not salvage the horrendous film. When the idea was announced, I was genuinely pretty excited with the concept. It sparked many thoughts in my head about what could happen if, for some reason, the stuffed animals did go mad. Unfortunately, they completely failed the execution and made what could’ve been a great indie horror film into an absolute dumpster fire of a movie.

Overall, this may genuinely have been the worst film I have ever seen. Honestly, I am just glad that this movie was a one-time event, and I feel for everyone who had to see it.

FINAL VERDICT:
0/5 WALLYS



Review: 'Quantumania' demonstrates broader Marvel problems

CURTIS FAUGHNAN ’26 | STAFF WRITER • “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” falls squarely in the middle of the other two Ant-Man films as far as quality: better than the second, but not quite reaching the first.

This movie marks the start to Phase Five of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and to be fair, after Phase Four you can’t really go down. This was a chance for Marvel to make a fresh restart after two years with only one good film (“Spiderman: No Way Home”) and two decent films (“Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” and “Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings”). Luckily, I felt that in comparison to the previous slate of films, “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” was a breath of fresh air for MCU fans that restored my faith in the franchise.

This felt like a Star Wars movie and Marvel movie decided to have a baby together. The Quantum Realm felt very sci-fi and space-like, filled with alien people and spaceships. Out of the hundreds of characters in the movie, Kang, played to perfection by Jonathan Majors, took over the screen. It was incredibly fun to watch such a powerful being: a perfect representation of comics brought to the screen.

Cassie Lang (Kathryn Newton) was a character that really didn’t need to be there. Beyond that fact that she brings Ant-Man face to face with Kang, she just brought bad jokes to the table. Honestly, this is just indicative of a much larger problem: excessive comedy is putting Marvel into the ground, seen clearly in recent productions like “She-Hulk” and “Thor: Love and Thunder.”



COURTESY OF MARVEL

Janet Van Dyne (Michelle Pfeiffer) was also hard to watch on screen. It felt like Marvel was desperately trying to reach that two-hour runtime. In doing so, they ruined Janet with out-of-character moments, like keeping a secret from the other characters.

Ultimately, this movie didn’t really feel like an Ant-Man film as much as it felt like a Kang film, especially with all the flashbacks to his past in the Quantum Realm and history with Janet. Overall, this film was better than Marvel’s most recent films. It was good, but not great.

FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS



Review: 'Your Place or Mine' is unknowable by actors and viewers alike

ELIJAH GREENE ’25 | PHOTO EDITOR • It’s a well-known fact that rom-coms, in general, are cheesy and easy to follow, with usually predictable endings that present as much intellectual challenge as a children’s picture book. Most people who love rom-coms stay for this predictability, with that feature driving the rest of viewers away from them. But even the most die-hard rom-com fan would stick their nose up at Netflix’s most recent addition to the genre, “Your Place or Mine.”

The general premise of the movie is a cross-country friendship/strange sexual tension between our two love interests, Peter (Ashton Kutcher) and Debbie (Reese Witherspoon). A one-night stand in college joins our two lovebirds together initially, and they remain “friends” for the next twenty years. Since they have reached adulthood, their friendship has only grown, setting the scene for our classic *in media res* beginning.

Within a single week, our two protagonists will swap houses temporarily, giving Witherspoon’s character a chance at becoming a certified accountant while swooning over her literary idol in Kutcher’s character’s apartment in New York City. And of course, her son, Jack (Wesley Kimmel), must have every allergy known to man and be friendless. So Kutcher flies to LA to “rescue” Jack from the helicopter parenting that Jack has had with Witherspoon. Throughout the week in each others’ lives, Witherspoon and Kutcher discover that they may not be as close as they once thought, but these insights reveal their long-felt emotions towards one another, thus bringing them together for the romantic confrontation in the middle of an airport in classic rom-com fashion.

On paper, this script sounds interesting enough, with an alternative take on most classic romantic storylines. However, this movie has several glaring discrepancies that cannot be overlooked.

A willful suspension of reality is needed to enjoy even the best of rom-coms, but this movie pushes that boundary to the extreme, and not in a good way. The writers seem to

add qualities to each character’s personality as they see fit without developing or maintaining any ironclad, consistent qualities that give the characters a sense of personality. Witherspoon never seems to be that much of a helicopter mom, despite that quality being central to half of the story’s theme.

In his own words within the movie, Kutcher’s character is supposed to be “an unknowable piece of shit.” I suppose the self-declaration isn’t incorrect, but it seems that Kutcher doesn’t know his character either. With stutters at every turn and subpar delivery, Kutcher seems to be just phoning this one in. These make for some truly cringeworthy moments that even the biggest Kutcher fans would blanch at.

Because rom-coms are so cheesy, their success and longevity are built upon the connection that the viewers can make with the love and chemistry that the two protagonists share. But the entire premise of this movie hinges on the characters remaining apart, with strategically placed phone calls between them to increase the plot tension. This makes for some truly inorganic chemistry that does nothing to endear the audience to the plight of the lovers. Even the actors don’t seem to believe the story that they’re trying to spin.

Despite liking the initial concept, I believe that this movie is a miss on all fronts. With bad writing and poor execution, using two A-list Hollywood actors in Kutcher and Witherspoon only exacerbates the movie’s problems, since the audience would expect them to be involved in projects that would execute their theme well. This movie never found its identity or settled on a specific angle. Director Aline Brosh McKenna tried to cover too much in her directorial debut, without actually covering anything at all. It’s back to the drawing board for Netflix.

FINAL VERDICT:
1/5 WALLYS







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Review: 'Stage Kiss' a perfect balance of 'rom' and 'com'

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash Theater Department brings laughs and romance galore this weekend with “Stage Kiss.” The romantic comedy with an ensemble cast is an intimate but cleverly constructed work that places you right in the middle of all the melodrama that professional actors can conjure in their personal lives.

“Stage Kiss” tells the story of two estranged lovers that cross paths a decade after their separation when they are cast together in a mediocre stage play. What makes matters worse is the unfortunate coincidence that they happen to be playing the romantic leads. The plot of “Stage Kiss” continues to mirror the plot of the play-within-the-play as it unfolds, blurring the line between character and actor as the two ex-lovers are drawn closer and closer to each other onstage.

So what makes “Stage Kiss” work? Its foundation is built on an extremely solid script. Many stage plays, especially comedies, struggle to balance effective pacing, thematic exploration and natural dialogue. Sarah Ruhl’s script checks all of these boxes and then some. The only minor flaw worth mentioning is a slightly slow beginning, but the pace picks up quickly as soon as the two leads finally meet. With its cleverly placed jokes and tender realism, “Stage Kiss” strikes the perfect balance between “rom” and “com”.

However, a good script is nothing without the right execution, and Director Michael Abbott ’85 and Co. deliver quality execution by the truckload.

Krystal Hernandez, a professional actress from New York City, brings both star power and acting prowess to Crawfordsville as She. Her portrayal effortlessly runs from bubbly and awkward to biting and sarcastic to raw and sympathetic.

Drew Johannes ’23 was born to play He. His comedic chops are on full display, but he truly shines in his chemistry with Hernandez. The vicious barbs between the two create an electric experience; it could be the spark of romance, or it could be the beginning of a fire that burns the entire production down.

Tommy Oppman ’25 as the Director solidifies his status as a rising star on the Wabash

stage. His energetic physicality fills the stage, but he truly excels in his small, humanizing mannerisms that can only be appreciated in as intimate a theater as the Experimental.

Dario Banuelos ’23 crushes as Kevin. His deliberate awkwardness is the secret ingredient that elevates every scene in which he uses it. Many accolades could and should be given to him, but the most notable is that it takes a great actor to portray a believably bad actor.

Betsy Swift is fantastic as Millicent/Laurie. She nails Laurie’s Midwestern demeanor with accurate mannerism, but more importantly a nuanced sense of motivation.

Luke Fincher ’24 also shines as Husband/Harrison. He brings a grounded earnestness in his serious moments, and a Mid Atlantic breathlessness to rival Old Hollywood in his comic ones.

Lastly, Delada Mudd makes her Wabash Theater Debut as Millie/Angela. In the latter role especially, she portrays the character with a striking but appropriate bluntness.

On the technical side of things, each department is firing on all cylinders.

The scenic design, led by Adam Whitteredge, uses the intimate Experimental Theater to its full potential. The scenery varies from sparse black-box minimalism to a richly run-down New York apartment set, and each level of detail is executed seamlessly.

The costumes, designed by Andrea Bear, are equally diverse and skillful. Every costume feels rich and lived in, but the rehearsal scenes especially blend the disparate styles of the characters’ street clothes and assigned costume pieces to accentuate the theme of fiction bleeding into reality.

All in all, “Stage Kiss” has all the qualities that a romantic comedy should have. Its exciting chemistry, enthralling premise and surprising twists and turns deliver guaranteed success. “Stage Kiss” runs February 22-25: a romcom that you and your girlfriend will love.

FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Drew Johannes '23 and Krystal Hernandez engage in a kiss during opening night of "Stage Kiss."



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Dario Banuelos '23 and Krystal Hernandez recline on the divan during the play-within-a-play.

Senior spotlight

Logan Smith '23, from a small town to a world of possibilities



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | STAFF WRITER • Growing up in Crawfordsville, the cross-town move to Wabash was “a big jump” for Logan Smith ’23, an English major with a double minor in Black Studies and Music. Raised in a town dominated by a white populace, coming to Wabash was akin to being transported to an enigmatic bubble, one ripe for exploration. With a multifaceted education and through involvement in organizations such as the

Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, the Glee Club and Career Services, he has honed his critical thinking skills and expanded his perspective on life’s complexities.

As a member of the MXIBS, Smith experienced a sense of community and a safe space to engage in meaningful conversations that fostered personal growth and development.

“It’s super important to think about things outside of your own box,” Smith said.

Smith remarked that there were times when he felt like a minority in the situation, a feeling that was both enlightening and humbling. As someone who grew up in a predominantly white community, he acknowledged that the MXIBS provided him with a unique opportunity to broaden his understanding of the world and gain a new perspective on issues related to race and diversity.

Smith’s sophomore year bore witness to the advent of a groundbreaking development in his academic journey—joining the Career Services team. With a fervor for forging connections

with his peers, Logan relished the opportunity to acquire a holistic understanding of their individual stories in a succinct timeframe.

In turn, he was able to articulate their narratives through the medium of resumes, cover letters and other employment applications, a feat that has brought him immense gratification.

“Trying to understand people has been something that’s huge for me,” said Smith, recounting his experience at Career Services.

Smith is also a tenor section leader in the Glee Club. For him, the Glee Club has been a pivotal part of his college experience, allowing him to interact with community members in a unique and meaningful way.

"After the performance is over and we receive congratulations and kind words from audience members, it reminds me of how important music can be in people's lives," he said.

While he says that rehearsing can be draining at times, especially trying to perfect every note and rhythm, seeing it all come together “is so

beautiful that there are few feelings like it.”

Having spent his formative years in the small bubble that is Crawfordsville, Smith remained oblivious to his potential to bring about noteworthy change. However, his immersion in the wider Wabash community has helped him realize the significance of his voice and the impact he could create. Smith now seeks to embolden others to recognize their worth and establish a legacy of value in the world.

“I want to inspire people to know that they have a voice,” Smith said.

As Smith’s journey at Wabash draws to a close, he reflects upon the myriad of experiences that have shaped him into the person he is today. As he prepares to embark on the next chapter of his life, Smith’s unwavering determination to inspire others to recognize their worth and make a difference in the world is a testament to his character and a great example of the transformative power of a liberal arts education at Wabash.

Asian Cultures Club holds anti-Asian hate crimes vigil



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Students and faculty from across campus meet in Pioneer Chapel on the evening of Thursday, February 16, to hold a vigil paying tribute to victims of recent hate crimes against Asian Americans.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Prof. Yao Li, Instructor of Chinese, shares personal experiences and encourages students to be “tolerant” and “sincere.” “Ignorance is an important root cause for many of the Asian hate crimes in the U.S., lack of basic knowledge and proper resource officer information as well as intercultural misunderstandings,” Li said.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

“When I’m within the perimeters of this incredible college, I feel nothing but love [for] it. That is the kind of community I wish this country [would turn] into, where you are loved no matter where you come from or how you look,” said Sarvi Chaudhary ’25.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Evan Kanetkar ’24, Co-Chairman of Diversity and Inclusion Committee, speaks on the power of “speaking up and holding each other responsible.” “While it isn’t fun talking about these things, they must be talked about for change to occur. And when we talk about them together, change becomes a whole lot easier,” he said.

WAR IN UKRAINE:

Bullock: Everyday life in Russia may seem completely normal. Here’s why that’s only mostly accurate.

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • I stood up to leave and say my good-byes. It was my final day of class, and I was flying out the following morning. But as I kicked back my chair and picked up my bag, my teacher burst into tears. “I’m so sorry,” she said—half to me, half to herself. “I’m so sorry you have to go.”

I stood there, awkwardly and in shock. Katarina Ivanovna was a hard woman. The most emotion I had seen out of her in my five weeks in Vladivostok, Russia, had been the not-so-subtle looks of exasperation at my failure to pick up basic Russian grammar concepts. “Tak, tak, tak...,” she would say with an eye roll and a shake of her head. But there she was, stood before me crying because I was leaving.

Five days earlier, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. I had actually been in a karaoke bar when it happened, singing Bruno Mars and drinking Jack Daniels apple whiskey with my girlfriend and our two Russian friends. I saw the notification on my phone but figured that it was a problem to deal with tomorrow. When tomorrow came, I quickly realized the severity of the matter.

So, my girlfriend and I left. People like to use the word “evacuated,” but that makes it sound far more exciting than it really was. The reality was that we got a taxi to the airport, flew in business class and, after a day of traveling, touched down safely in Kyrgyzstan. Nobody questioned us, nobody cared where we were going, and nobody acted any differently than they had before. While a war raged on the other side of the country, nothing was any different for those of us in Russia—it felt like there wasn’t a war at all.

That was day six, and this is day 365. But the truth of the matter is this: except for families with a member in the armed forces, daily life has changed little for the vast majority of Russians, even one year on.

Within a month of the conflict’s outbreak, Western powers moved to impose heavy and far-reaching sanctions on Russia. On March 1, 2022, the U.S., EU, Britain and Canada agreed to remove Russia from the SWIFT banking

system, effectively preventing Russia from moving money in or out of its borders. Meanwhile, several big-name companies opted to withdraw from Russia altogether.

But while Western sanctions were brisk, they haven’t been effective. According to the International Monetary Fund, the Russian economy is set to grow by 0.3% in 2023 after shrinking by 2.2% in 2022. What’s more, according to research conducted in December 2022, only around 8.5% of EU and G7 companies have divested at least one of their Russian subsidiaries since the war began.

It certainly appears, then, that Western sanctions have been neither as broad reaching nor as catastrophic to the Russian economy as many early analysts had predicted. And perhaps this shouldn’t come as a surprise. When the G8 hit Russia with sanctions in 2014, the Russian economy recovered quickly then, too. That’s because, for at least the past decade, Russia has been safeguarding itself against Western sanctions by increasing economic cooperation with China and restructuring the country’s economy to withstand financial pressure.

As such, even though the withdrawal of big companies like Adidas, H&M and McDonald’s may have made headline news, the real effect of their exits from the Russian market has been negligible. Sure, Russians can’t indulge in a Big Mac or buy their sweatpants from an Adidas store anymore. But instead, they can eat a Double Grand at Vkusno i Tochka (the restaurant opened up in former McDonald’s) and buy the same pair of Adidas sweatpants from Sportlandiya, a Russian sports store.

With all of that said, it may seem as if Russian life is completely normal. And in many ways, it is. That karaoke bar I was at when the war started? Still open, and still hosting hordes of partygoers every evening. My roommates at the university? Some are still studying, and many others have graduated, found work and begun their regular, adult lives.

But something has changed in the Russian psyche, something that I saw on that final day when my



COURTESY OF MEDUZA

Students in Moscow celebrate the beginning of the new school year, September 1, 2022.

Russian language teacher cried as I left: a return to isolationism.

The Soviet Union may feel like a far-back historical artifact at this point, especially to those of us too young to have lived through it. But those that did live through it (about 61% of the Russian population) will distinctly remember a Russia before the Republic, before the opening up of Russia to new people, ideas and yes, money.

It is little wonder, then, that as many as 700,000 Russians have fled the country since the conflict began. Of course, a great number of draft-eligible men have flocked to neighboring countries to escape conscription orders. But this demographic only makes up only around 5% of the Russian population. What’s more, at least 200,000 of those that fled did so in the first month of the conflict, half a year before Putin introduced his conscription policy.

For most departed Rus-

sians, moving to neighboring countries has been an opportunity to avoid isolation from the cosmopolitan, international way of life they are used to. People who work for international companies or rely on international trade for business have had little choice but to move away from Moscow’s control. As a result, large communities of Russian expatriates have popped up in cities like Tbilisi, Almaty and Antalya.

Meanwhile in Russia, Putin’s propaganda machine continues to churn out pro-war, pro-expansionist materials. Throughout the conflict, the Russian government has tried to tie the military campaign in Ukraine to the nation’s victory in World War II, which is still a source of great pride for Russians. And especially for those Russians that look back on the Soviet Union with fondness, it’s easy to see why this kind of rhetoric is effective.

The wartime propaganda is perhaps the biggest re-



COURTESY OF MEDUZA

A protestor is arrested following demonstrations in Moscow on September 24, 2022.

minder for Russians that not everything is as it seems. In Russian elementary schools, for instance, schoolchildren make candles for troops on the frontline. A new art exhibit in Moscow, named “NATOzism,” is on display in the Victory Museum. And Victory TV, a Russian TV channel dedicated to celebrating World War II, is producing live talk shows.

Does all of this change daily life for Russians? Not really. But that’s not the

point. Rather, the idea is to occupy mental space and infiltrate the zeitgeist of the Russian people. In turn, the Ukraine crisis becomes one and the same with a great patriotic war where Russia is the hero of the day, just like in World War II.

The changes in Russian life are subtle, sometimes barely noticeable. But that is exactly what Putin wants: a war of ideology. And as things stand, that’s exactly what he’s creating.

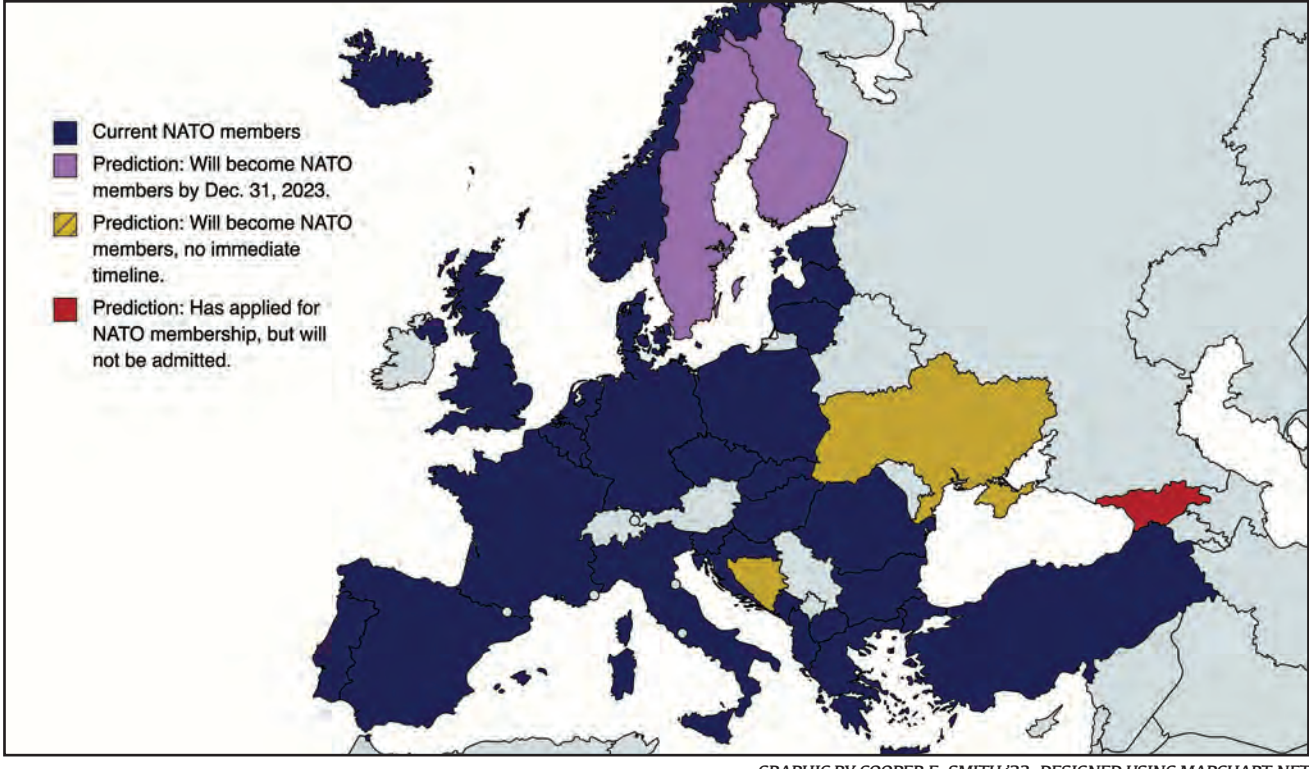
Analysis: What is the future of NATO?

COOPER E. SMITH ’23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • From the onset of his invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has attempted to spin the war as a conflict of Russian self defense, rather than an aggressive war of expansion. The aggressor, in Putin’s rhetoric, is not Russia or Ukraine. It’s NATO.

Putin has attempted to justify his invasion as necessary to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO. But if his goal was to limit the expansion of NATO, and especially to further divide Ukraine from NATO allies, it seems that he has failed. On the one year anniversary of the war, it is clear that the U.S. and NATO have continued to rally behind Ukraine, pledging aid and strengthening ties. The future of NATO seems to be stronger and bigger—precisely due to Putin’s expansionist war.

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a defensive alliance between the U.S. and European states that pledges mutual defense if any member state is attacked. Since 1949, the original 12 members have expanded to 30 member states. The defining feature of the NATO alliance is Article V, which pledges, “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.” The core premise is necessarily defensive, and is aimed to deter an attack on any NATO state.

As early as December 2021, two months before the invasion, the Brookings Institute tracked Putin as he amped up his rhetoric against NATO, citing a NATO chokehold that would lead to Russian retaliation. “The threat on our western borders is, indeed, rising,” said Putin at a Kremlin ceremony on December 1, 2021. “We will insist on developing concrete



GRAPHIC BY COOPER E. SMITH ’23, DESIGNED USING MAPCHART.NET

Cooper E. Smith ’23 predicts which nations will or will not become NATO members in the near future.

agreements prohibiting any further eastward expansion of NATO and the placement there of weapons systems in the immediate vicinity of Russian territory.”

But the increase in NATO’s members has not been an expansive chokehold, but a plea for mutual defense in the face of Russian expansion and jingoism.

“This wasn’t NATO trying to enlarge, this was countries hammering on the door saying let us in,” an associate professor at the Swedish national defense college said in an interview with *The Guardian*. “From our worldview, these are small countries that have good reason to be afraid of Russia.”

Putin’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, solidified these fears, strengthening calls within some non-member states to join the alliance for defense.

Including Ukraine, five nations have declared their aspirations to join NATO, but have not yet been

formally accepted. The remaining four are Sweden, Finland, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It seems quite likely that Sweden and Finland will become full members of NATO by the end of 2023, and perhaps in only a few short months. Sweden and Finland officially submitted a joint bid to join NATO on May 18, 2022, just a few months into the conflict. 28 of the 30 member states ratified, with Turkey and Hungary holding out.

Turkey initially announced that it would approve only of Finland’s bid, citing disapproval with Sweden’s “harboring” of Kurdish nationalists, some of whom have engaged in insurgent warfare against Turkey.

But just this week, during Antony Blinken’s visit to Ankara, Turkish officials seemed more willing to discuss bringing both nations into the alliance.

“More meetings will be held with Sweden and Finland on NATO membership,” the

Foreign Minister of Turkey announced. Similarly, Hungary announced on February 21 that it would be willing to accept Finland and Sweden into NATO as early as March 2023. And with the two holdouts increasingly on board, it seems that Sweden and Finland will bring NATO members up to 32.

Ukraine itself also seems poised to become a full NATO member—but only after the war has concluded. Ukraine is currently designated as a “NATO partner country,” meaning that it cooperates closely with NATO but does not enjoy the same Article V protections as a member state. The war, however, has bolstered ties between NATO and Ukraine, rendering Ukrainian membership all but inevitable.

In November 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky submitted a formal application for NATO membership. The NATO Secretary-General pledged the organization’s previous

commitment to accepting Ukraine into the alliance, but the immediate priority was supporting Ukraine during the war, not admitting new states. Though the first year has demonstrated surprising Ukrainian successes, it seems unlikely that the war will end anytime soon. So Ukrainian membership will have to wait.

Bosnia and Herzegovina seems to be in a similar position to Ukraine. In the wake of Putin’s invasion, Sarajevo strengthened its calls to join the alliance, receiving renewed verbal commitments from NATO allies on the possibilities of future membership.

However, it seems unlikely that NATO will similarly accept Georgia as a member state in the near future. This may seem to be a tough claim to make, as the allies pledged at a Bucharest summit in 2008 to accept Georgia sometime “in the future.” However, it’s not so simple. Shortly after this

announcement, Russia invaded Georgia in 2008 to back pro-Russian separatists in the region. To this day, Russia continues to occupy two regions militarily: Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This reality keeps Georgia in limbo status with regard to NATO membership: the allies have little incentive to welcome Georgia into NATO, as it would immediately compel NATO states to engage in warfare against Russia while Russia occupies parts of Georgia. But Georgia cannot repel Russian forces on its own. From the current vantagepoint, it seems that NATO’s promise of Georgian membership “in the future” lies indefinitely on the horizon.

If Putin’s goal was to weaken NATO, though this ever-increasingly seems to be a pure war of expansion, rather than ideological opposition, he seems to have failed. Before the invasion, there was far less enthusiasm within alliance members for adding several of these new states—states that Putin has now made far more eager to join such a defensive alliance.

President Biden perhaps made this point clearest at his speech this week in Poland, on the one year anniversary of Putin’s invasion:

“Putin thought he’d get the Finlandization of NATO,” Biden said. “Instead, he got the NATOization of Finland—and Sweden. He thought NATO would fracture and divide. Instead, NATO is more united and more unified than ever before.”

By the end of his speech, Biden had referenced an upcoming symbolic moment for NATO: the 2024 NATO summit in the United States planned for the 75th anniversary of the alliance. By that time, it seems certain that Sweden and Finland—and perhaps optimistically, Ukraine—will celebrate as the newest members.

ONE YEAR ON

Ukraine remains resilient in the face of Russian war crimes

Despite populist rhetoric, U.S. bipartisan support endures

TIERNAN DORAN '26 |

POLITICS CORRESPONDENT
• One year after Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine, perceptions about both countries have changed dramatically. Ukraine has proven itself both on the battlefield and in the world of international politics. Rising star Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has captured the world's focus, portraying his nation as strong and in a noble fight for sovereignty and independence. Meanwhile, Russia has been accused of committing numerous crimes against humanity, becoming a villain on the international stage. One year of conflict has culminated in the NATO alliance labeling Russia as the most significant threat to security, peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region.

From the beginning of their invasion of Ukraine, Russia has cracked down on free speech, opting instead to spread propaganda as means to influence its citizens. In early March of 2022, Putin signed into law a rule punishing anyone spreading reports about the Ukrainian invasion that conflicted with the Russian government's version of events.

“Who is [Putin] now? After the full-scale invasion, for me he is nobody. Nobody.”

- President Volodymyr Zelensky

“There’s a lot of misinformation and fake news about Ukraine being riddled with Nazis. While Ukraine does have a racism problem, President Volodymyr Zelensky is Jewish,” said Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Dylan Irons. “The idea that a Jewish man is leading a Nazi state is preposterous and kind of deranged.”

“[Russians] are being told that Russian soldiers are extremely decorous and careful about preserving Ukrainian civilian life, that they’re being greeted as liberators, that everybody wants to live under Russian rule, and that there are no civilian casualties on the Ukrainian side,” said Julia Loffe, a Russian-born American journalist in an interview with NPR.

“And if they trust those sources of information, then they believe, for the most part, what the Kremlin is telling them, and for the most part, they support this war,” said Loffe. “But the war they’re supporting is not the war that exists on the ground in Ukraine.”

Despite efforts by the Russian government, the war remains unpopular with many Russian citizens.

“This is not a popular war on the domestic front for Vladimir Putin,” said Professor Irons. “Since Russia has installed their draft to conscript young men into this war, The U.S. has received over 20,000 Russian asylum applications.”

And yet the Russian propaganda machine continues to churn.

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed a crowd during the nation’s “Glory to Defenders of the Fatherland” event, an occasion marking the eve of Russia’s holiday celebrating those who served in armed forces. The crowds were gathered in Moscow’s Luzhniki Stadium where tens of thousands of Russians packed together waving Russian flags and chanting patriotic songs.

During his speech, Putin ignored homegrown opposition to the war, declaring that “today they are supported by the whole country.” He opted instead to heap praise on Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine, addressing a crowd that erupted into chants of “Russia, Russia, Russia.”

“When we are together, we have no equal,” said Putin discussing updates from generals at the front lines. “The people standing here made a decision to defend the most sacred of what we have, family and



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky remains optimistic during visit to Ukrainian troops on the front lines of the Kharkiv region.



President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during a surprise meet in Kyiv as war with Russia reaches the one-year mark.



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses a crowd during “Glory to Defenders of the Fatherland” event. Attendees were locked in in Moscow’s Luzhniki Stadium for the entirety of the address.

Motherland.”

At one point, the ceremony took an especially dark turn when a group of children were ushered on stage – children who were ‘rescued’ from the Donbas region and Ukrainian city of Mariupol – and made to hug a uniformed Russian Soldier labeled as their rescuer. This was particularly disturbing when taken into consideration with a report produced by a US State Department-backed Conflict Observatory by the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, established last year to gather evidence of Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

The report contains details about Moscow’s efforts to relocate and reeducate Ukrainian children, finding that more than 6,000 children have been in Russian custody. The children are being held in a network of dozens of camps where some are being forcibly adopted and other’s abducted into the Russian army.

The report specifically states that the number of children, ages ranging from four months to 17 years, is “not known and is likely significantly higher.”

“All levels of Russia’s

government are involved,” said human rights investigator Nathaniel Raymond, a member of Yale’s Humanitarian Research Lab. “Consider this report a gigantic Amber Alert that we are issuing on Ukraine’s children.”

The Russian government disputed the report calling its findings “absurd.”

“In the case of Russia’s actions in Ukraine...there is no doubt: These are crimes against humanity.”

-Vice President Kamala Harris

“We do our best to keep minors in families, and in case of absence or death of parents and relatives—to transfer orphans under guardianship,” said Russian spokesperson Igor Girenko. “We ensure the protection of their lives and well-being.”

One year into the Russia-Ukraine war has led to a changing world but also

constitute crimes against humanity. Among the most severe crimes, according to Blinken are “execution-style killings of Ukrainian men, women, and children; torture of civilians in detention through beatings, electrocution, and mock executions; rape.”

Despite brutal human rights violations from Russia’s soldiers, Ukrainian resolve remains strong.

“The entire country rose up to defend itself,” said Ukraine’s Minister of Defense, Oleksii Reznikov during an interview with Forbes. “Not just our military forces but every citizen: civilians, volunteers, old grandmothers and grandfathers all started to fight to the best of their ability.”

Still, Ukrainians worry that while they stay resilient, the support that they have from other countries may start to fade.

“I was afraid last summer that Ukraine fatigue would set in, and the help would dry up,” said Reznikov during an interview with Forbes. “Luckily, that didn’t happen, and the Ramstein contact group, created under the leadership of the U.S., the so-called anti-Kremlin coalition of more than 50 countries, more than belong to NATO, continues to work. It’s been very clear: at first, we had to stop them, then stabilize the front and then start a counter-offensive. And then, to liberate our territories.”

Ukraine remains defiant, with Zelensky calling-out Putin during a recent interview. “Who is he now?” asked Zelensky. “After the full-scale invasion, for me he is nobody. Nobody.”

From the beginning, the Biden administration has made its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict clear. Immediately after Putin’s initial announcement of war, Biden released a statement on February 23, 2022, calling for Russia to be held “accountable.”

“Russia alone is responsible for the death and destruction this attack will bring, and the United States and its Allies and partners will respond in a united and decisive way,” said Biden.

It seems this attitude holds true as Biden made a surprise trip to Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, on February 20, a move to further dignify solidarity with Ukrainians as they enter their second year of conflict with Russia. During his visit Biden met with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and the pair engaged in a five-hour meeting, discussing further aid efforts, next steps and Ukrainian resilience. The meeting culminated in Biden announcing a half a billion dollars of further assistance to Ukraine as well as new sanctions on Russia.

“One year later, Kyiv stands,” said Biden triumphantly, standing on a podium flanked with both Ukrainian and American flags. “And Ukraine stands. And democracy stands.”

Despite Biden’s renewed

enthusiastic support for Ukraine, support among the American people for Ukraine has begun to soften. According to a poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, only 48% of Americans say that they favor the US providing weapons to Ukraine, while in May 2022, 60% of Americans said they were in favor of sending Ukraine weapons.

“The idea that a Jewish man is leading a Nazi state is preposterous and kind of deranged.”

- Professor Dylan Irons

A minority of GOP House members have pushed for the incoming Republican majority to prioritize reducing aid to Ukraine, including representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) and others. Republican representative Jim Banks of Indiana said that the U.S. “can’t put America first by giving blank checks to those around the world to solve their problems.” Fifty-seven Republicans in the House and 11 in the Senate voted against the \$40 billion Ukraine aid bill in May.

“People like Marjorie Taylor Greene don’t represent people who have exposure to objective news or objective political analysis of foreign policy,” said Professor Irons. “They know it riles up their voter base and they know it garners support for them. I think it’s kind of sad because they don’t really stand for anything. They just want to make headlines.”

On Twitter, Marjorie Taylor Greene used the war with Ukraine as a reason for a “National Divorce.”

“In a National Divorce, our Department of Defense would defend America’s borders not be on the verge of WWII with Russia and China because our overly powerful federal warlords serve Ukraine first,” tweeted the congresswoman.

The threat of World War III was also echoed by Former President Donald Trump, who sent a message on the social media platform Truth Social criticizing Biden.

“If you watch and understand the moves being made by Biden on Ukraine, he is systematically, but perhaps, unknowingly, pushing us into what could soon be WORLD WAR III. How Crazy is that?” said Trump.

At the same time leading House Republicans have called on Biden to increase military support for Ukraine. Texas Republican Representative Michael McCaul has called bipartisan support for Ukraine “still very strong.”

“The longer [the Biden administration] drags this out, they play into Putin’s hands,” said McCaul during the Munich Security Conference in Germany. “He wants this to be a long, protracted war because he knows that potentially, he will lose.”

Also speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Vice President Kamala Harris directly called out Russia for war crimes.

“In the case of Russia’s actions in Ukraine, we have examined the evidence, we know the legal standards, and there is no doubt: These are crimes against humanity,” said Harris. “To all those who have perpetrated these crimes, and to their superiors who are complicit in those crimes, you will be held to account.”

“Opposition to sending aid to Ukraine is a very vocal minority,” said Professor Irons. “We may hear this blustery rhetoric from folks like Marjorie Taylor Green and other fringe right politicians, but the reality is that there is, by and large, bipartisan support for continuing aid to Ukraine.”

Celebrating the life of ‘The Big Cookie’

Continued from front page

with his signature slogan, “The Big Cookie says...”

Johnston’s stickers were a staple of Wabash athletics culture in the late ’70s, ’80s and ’90s, and have become something of a cult icon. Some of the finest examples included “Flush the Johnnies” (St. John’s College) “Bash the Britons” (Albion College) and “Tiger tail is easy to get” (DePauw).

“When we won the National Championships in ’82, he made amazing bumper stickers,” said former Head Basketball Coach Mac Petty H’82. “He helped me in so many ways. In recruiting for basketball, for example, he made custom letterheads and envelopes so that when our prospects got them in the mail, they wouldn’t just be generic. He used his printing company for all kinds of things.”

But while it was his stickers that put his name on the map, it was his philanthropy and kind-heartedness that earned him the eternal respect of students, coaches, and administrators alike. For example, the Big Cookie got his nickname from passing out batches of cookies to student-athletes traveling to away contests. And oftentimes, Johnston would arrive at away games before the team to check everyone in, arrange room keys and, of course, hand out snacks.

“Rem portrayed many characteristics of what we would all want a Wabash man to graduate with. He was a friend and a mentor. He was kind, he was generous, and he was open.”

- Coach Greg Carlson

Demonstrating such dedicated support, it didn’t take long for the Big Cookie to earn a reputation as one of the Little Giants’ biggest helping hands.

“I don’t think you could find a non-Wabash employee who has positively affected so many Wabash men,” said Steve Hoffman ’85, who worked with Johnston both as a student and, later, as a coach for the Wabash football team. “He was probably one of the wisest men I’ve ever met. If you were down, he could make you feel better. He read people like nobody’s business. And he would say things in the Rem way. Whatever he said carried a lot of weight.”

Johnston was awarded several of the College’s top honors. He was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame

in 1997 for his support of the College athletics department, served a term on the College’s Board of Trustees and, in 2018, was awarded an honorary doctorate. On top of that, in 2018 the College also named the campus gateway in his honor.

As a student and alumnus, Johnston was a loyal brother of Sigma Chi. Over the years, he recruited hundreds of students from Fort Wayne to come to Wabash and rush Sigma Chi. As a result, in 2022, he was awarded the Order of Constantine, the national chapter’s highest honor.

One of Johnston’s lasting legacies was the creation of the Big Cookie Athletic Spirit Fund. Established with the help of Hoffman and Jim Amidon ’87, the Fund promotes student spirit across the athletics department. It is just one of the many ways that Johnston’s philanthropy continues to influence generations of Wabash men.

“Rem portrayed many characteristics of what we would all want a Wabash man to graduate with,” said former Head Football Coach Greg Carlson. “He was a friend and a mentor. He was kind, he was generous, and he was open. Rem didn’t hold back, and I think he showed a lot of student-athletes that came to the program what it was like to be a good person.”

As well as helping guide student-athletes through their times at Wabash, Johnston was close personal friends with and mentors to an entire generation of Little Giants athletic coaches. The Big Cookie’s influence was felt across the athletics department, but nowhere more so than on the sidelines of the football field where he assisted coaches Frank Navarro, Stan Parrish, Carlson and their many assistants.

“Despite never coaching himself, he was such a mentor for our coaches,” said Hoffman. “He was just wise about life and people. And even though he never coached a game, he had close connections with players, admin and coaches.”

On top of his philanthropic efforts, Johnston was also a keen photographer. He would often be seen at football games with a camera around his neck. He then compiled the photos he took, had them developed, and sent them to players and their parents.

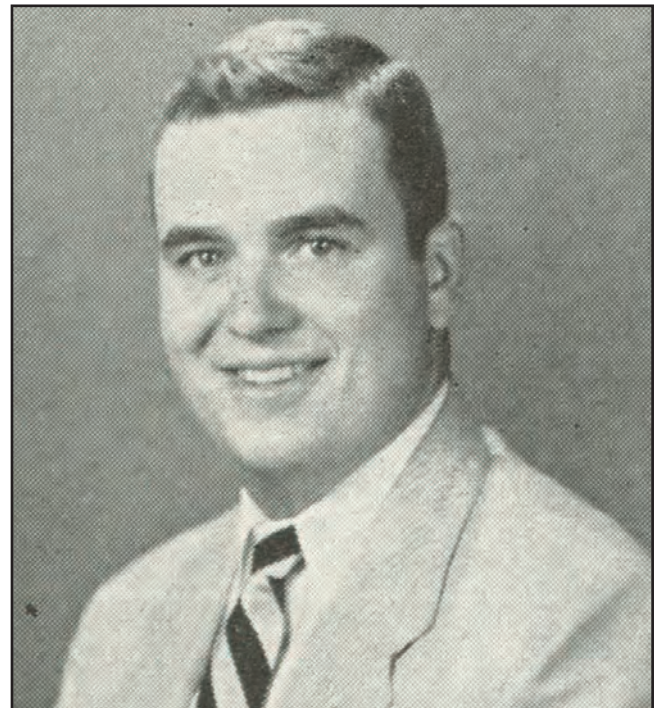
When he wasn’t at Wabash, Johnston loved to golf, despite only getting into the game later in life. He was a member of the Orchard Ridge Country Club in Fort Wayne, and in 2016, Wabash alumni and friends gathered at Orchard Ridge for the first Big Cookie Athletics Spring



Rem Johnston ’55, affectionately known as “The Big Cookie”, receives thunderous applause at his reception during the first Big Cookie Spirit Golf Outing on August 4, 2016 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



A legendary bumper sticker printed from Johnston’s family printing company.



Johnston’s senior yearbook photo from 1955.



Another of Johnston’s bumper stickers, reiterating the classic Wabash adage.

Fund Golf Outing, which has since become an annual College event.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne. The date has yet to be determined.

Johnston was Some Little Giant, and will be greatly missed by those students, staff, and coaches he spent so many years supporting. He was a friend to many, a mentor to those who trusted him, and a role model for all.



Kevin Clifford ’77 (left) and Rem Johnston ’55 (right) share a conversation at the Big Cookie Spirit Charity Golf Outing on August 4, 2016 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Known for printing bumper stickers to support Wabash in big games, Johnston printed many of these types of stickers during his time as an alumnus.



Johnson (left) pictured with Wabash College legend Pete Metzelaars ’82 (right) at an off-campus event.

Word ladder

Turn the top word into the bottom word by changing only one letter at a time. For an extra challenge, try to get the optimal number of steps.

BLOW

LAND

KISS
(6 steps)

MASS
(5 steps)

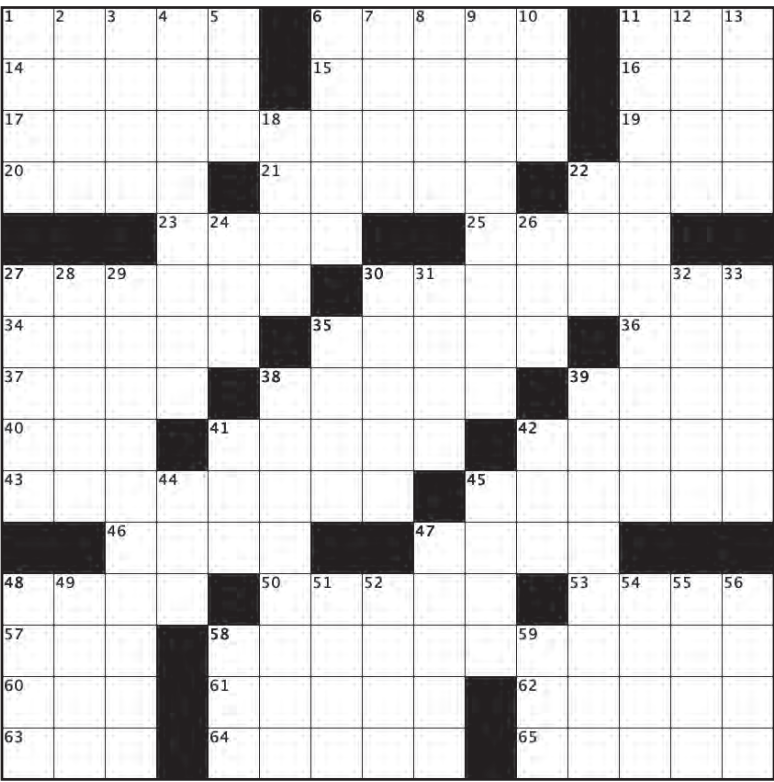
ACID

LILY

RAIN
(5 steps)

PADS
(4 steps)

'Whatever floats your G.O.A.T.'



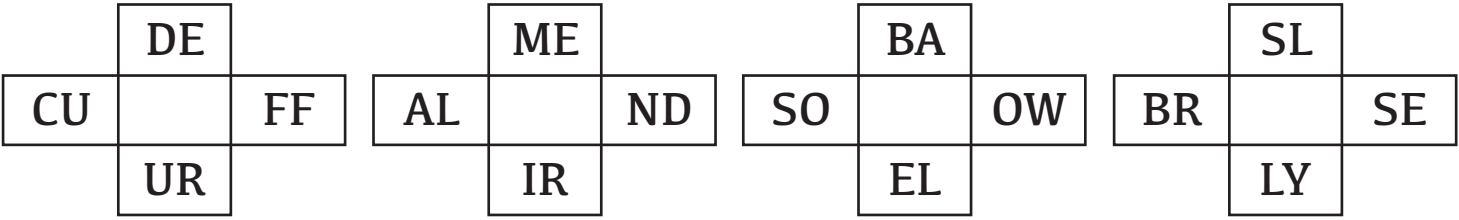
- Down**
- 1. Equips
 - 2. Bear down on?
 - 3. North Carolina county
 - 4. Play grounds
 - 5. Walton with an eponymous Club
 - 6. Big name in air fresheners
 - 7. Go back to square one
 - 8. Literally, "egg-like"
 - 9. Anthony Hopkins or Gareth Bale, e.g.
 - 10. Gift offered with an "aloha"
 - 11. "Little Women" (1868) but not "Little Women" (2019)
 - 12. MasterCard rival
 - 13. Cough (up)
 - 18. Denver's altitude
 - 22. Round Table title
 - 24. Speedway letters
 - 26. Crunchable muscles
 - 27. Swab
 - 28. Olfactory stimulus
 - 29. Virtuous, as a citizen
 - 30. Grin and bear it?
 - 31. Mayberry jail regular
 - 32. Collector's items
 - 33. It may cause an uprising
 - 35. Get the ____
 - 38. Flag thrown for unsportsman like conduct
 - 39. Hockey and maple leaves, quintessentially
 - 41. Touring act?
 - 42. Family VIP
 - 44. Slice of history
 - 45. What firefighters use to fight fires
 - 47. Carlo or Cristo
 - 48. Emulate a snake
 - 49. High wind
 - 51. Love, in Lima
 - 52. Crust, mantle, ____
 - 54. In addition
 - 55. Famed fiddler
 - 56. On the double
 - 58. Medicare org.
 - 59. Ammo for a Red Ryder

- Across**
- 1. Come together
 - 6. Pound sound
 - 11. Drink like a dog
 - 14. Dreadlocked one
 - 15. "American Pie" destination
 - 16. "If you ask me," in textspeak
 - 17. *Boxing*
 - 19. Bill backed by Alexander Hamilton?
 - 20. Go downhill fast?
 - 21. Baal and The Beatles
 - 22. Like a Playmate of the Month
 - 23. ____ of Man
 - 25. "Age of Aquarius" musical
 - 27. "Aye aye" gesture
 - 30. *Football*
 - 34. "My leg!"
 - 35. Breeze through one's classes
 - 36. V-neck, e.g.
 - 37. Column crossers
 - 38. Connect with
 - 39. Bay of Pigs locale
 - 40. Thurman of movies
 - 41. They might be checkered
 - 42. Ted Lasso's game
 - 43. *Baseball*
 - 45. "Really!"
 - 46. ____ Man
 - 47. Louvre name
 - 48. First Best Picture winner from Apple TV+
 - 50. Food truck fare
 - 53. S.N.L. alum Carvey
 - 57. Geisha accessory
 - 58. *Gymnastics*
 - 60. B+ or F-, e.g.
 - 61. [Pfft]
 - 62. Iraq port city
 - 63. Pants part
 - 64. See eye to eye
 - 65. "Doggystyle" rapper



Scan for solution!

At the crossroads

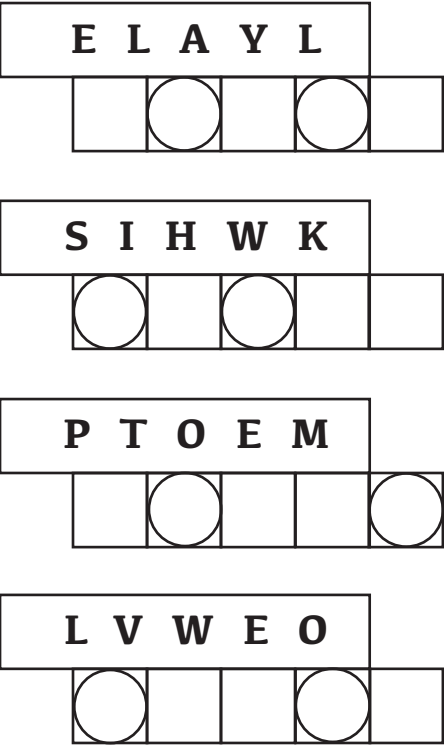


Fill in the crossing boxes with letters that will complete a word vertically and horizontally. When entered correctly, they will spell out the answer the riddle below.

What is always on its way but never arrives?

Rebus puzzles

- 1. EYE
- 2. HAHANDND
- 3. DOOR DOOR DOOR
- 4. te8gr



Scarlet scramble



Answers
Rebus: 1. Eshadaw; 2. Hand-in-hand; 3. Door-to-door; 4. Integrate Scarlet Scramble: ALLEY; WHISK; TEMPO; VOWEL; (bonus) "I love ewe" At the crossroads: TO MO RR OW

Now arrange the circled letters to reveal a bonus answer:

Sudoku

7			2		1			
6		1		9	5	4	7	
3				6	7	9		1
9	1							7
	5	3	1		8	6	9	
2								
			3		6	7		
	7	6	5	1			3	4
1	3	9			4		5	

2	8						9	1
	9	6	8		2		4	
		7		9		2		
5				8		1		
						5	2	
	7			3	5			
	6			8			2	4
	2			7	3			
					9	8		3

2						4		3
	4		6		7			
	7		5					
1	3			7			8	
					1			
		4	8	3		2		
	1	5			6			
							9	7
	2					5		8

Easy

Medium

Hard

Complete the grid by entering one number in each square so that each row, column and square contains the numbers 1-9 only once.

Lacrosse nets wins in first two matches



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Josh Taylor '25 looks to slip past his defender with the ball against Anderson University on February 15, 2023 at Fischer Field.

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • After an offseason of work and beginning the season with high expectations, Wabash lacrosse is 2-0 after dominant performances against Anderson University and Monmouth College.

The Little Giants lacrosse team opened their 2023 campaign by defeating the visiting Anderson Ravens 16-9 on the back of four goals from Quinn Fitzgerald '26 and three each from Ethan Stonis '23, Jake Pippen '26 and Josh Taylor '25.

The win over the Ravens was a great start for the Little Giants that gave them some confidence going into the rest of the season with such a young team.

“I think that we had a lot of nerves coming out against Anderson, especially because of how young we are and how many freshmen we have,” said Fitzgerald. “Now that the first game is out of the way and the nerves are gone, we’re really starting to grow into our own.”

This week, against Monmouth, Stonis led the team with an astonishing seven goals to a 20-12 victory over the Monmouth Fighting Scots. Fitzgerald followed closely with another five goals on Tuesday. After losing to Monmouth 7-9 last year, the team was excited to flip that script to start the year.

“[Wednesday], it felt great to get the program’s first win over Monmouth, especially because that scoreboard was the other way around just a few years ago,” said Fitzgerald. “The guys are confident and comfortable right now, and we’re quickly building up a lot of momentum that we’re looking to take with us up to Chicago this Saturday against Concordia University-Chicago.”

Stonis’ team-leading ten goals, Fitzgerald’s team-leading 12 points and Luka DiFilippo’s NCAC Lacrosse Athlete of the Week honors are early signs of how improved the Little Giants are this year, not only individually, but as a team.

“My performance is definitely enabled by the guys in the locker room with me—both coaches and players,” said Stonis. “We have a great offensive unit that puts me in the best positions to score and also a young and hungry defensive unit that challenges me to better myself every day at practice.”

The Little Giants return to action this weekend at Concordia, who the Little Giants trounced last year 15-1. Wabash then hosts Earlham College on Wednesday, March 1, for a Military Appreciation Game, one that the Little Giants should be able to win against an Earlham program that went 2-13 in 2022.

The lacrosse program made clear they wanted to be taken seriously. On the backs of Fitzgerald, Stonis and DeFilippo, the Little Giants could be 4-0, equaling their win total from 2022 before heading to Virginia over spring break.

This week in sports: Tourney time for winter sports

COLE BERGMAN '24 | STAFF WRITER • With this being the last issue of *The Bachelor* before spring break begins, it’s clear to us on the staff that we are witnessing some of the most exciting times in Wabash athletics. With winter sports entering the tournament season and spring sports beginning their drive forward into the regular season, there is a lot to see in athletics right now. Here’s everything going on this week.

Basketball: Tourney time

On Saturday, February 18, the Little Giants basketball team suffered a heart-breaking loss to No. 1 seed Wooster. After making up a 13-point deficit in the second half, basketball lost by one point to a buzzer-beating three-pointer to lose the game.

After this loss, Wabash remained No. 2 in the NCAC entering the conference tournament, facing off against No. 7 Hiram at home on Tuesday, February 21. It was a comfortable win for the Little Giants. Wabash established a commanding 17-point lead after just six minutes of play, and from there never really looked like losing. The Terriers fought hard, but their bark was far worse than their bite. Wabash won 91-71, the biggest margin of victory all season.

The conference tournament will continue over the weekend of February 24-25, with the semifinals taking place on Friday and the championship game taking place on Saturday. The Little Giants take on DePauw in the semifinal and, should they win that game, will play either Wooster or Denison in the final.

Track: Multi-Champs

The track and field team had a busy weekend, first visiting Rose-Hulman to compete on Friday, February 17,



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Attacker Quinn Fitzgerald '26 celebrates one of his four goals in Wabash’s win against Anderson University on February 15, 2023 at Fischer Field.

finishing fifth of six teams. The Little Giants’ performance was highlighted by Takeshi Greiner '24 taking first place in the 60-meter hurdles, earning him the NCAC Men’s Track Athlete of the Week award.

The team then competed in the NCAC Multi-Events Championships on Saturday, February 18, and Sunday, February 19. Giovanni Zapala '23 finished sixth in the heptathlon and Jake Oostman '25 finished third in the heptathlon, earning him all-conference honors.

These finishes by the Little Giants earned the team nine points going into this weekend’s NCAC Indoor Championships, placing Wabash in second behind Denison, who is leading with 10 points.

Swimming: Last Chance

Following the completion

of the NCAC tournament, the Little Giants went to the University of Indianapolis to compete in a “last chance” meet, designed to allow swimmers and divers a chance to improve their times or scoring to have a better shot competing in the NCAA Championships in March.

Baseball: Unbeaten in Tennessee

The baseball team has started out their season strong, winning three games over the weekend of February 17-19 at Rhodes College, Tennessee. Starting off the season 3-0, Liam Patton '23 and Caleb Everson '26 were both awarded NCAC Baseball Athletes of the Week for their efforts in these games.

The baseball team looks forward to more competition this weekend, facing both Albion College and Hope

College on Saturday, February 25, followed by a game against Heidelberg University on Sunday.

Lacrosse: Starting out strong

After their dominating opening-day victory against Anderson University on February 15, which earned Luka DiFilippo the NCAC Men’s Lacrosse Athlete of the Week honor, the Wabash lacrosse team looked to continue their strong opening against Monmouth College on Tuesday, February 21. And continue they did, beating the Fighting Scots 20-12.

Ethan Stonis '23 has been the standout performer in the opening two games, scoring 10 goals and picking up two assists. The team will be back on the field this Saturday, February 25, as they face off against Concordia

University in River Forest, Illinois.

Volleyball: Win streak ends

The Wabash volleyball team was able to extend their winning streak on Friday, February 17, after they beat St. Norbert College in five exhilarating sets. However, this run was cut short by losses to Trinity Christian College and Marian College on Saturday, February 18. The Little Giants lost both games in straight sets.

Facing new competition on Saturday, February 25, against Roosevelt University and Concordia University, the volleyball team has plenty of time to recover from these losses and prepare for the court this weekend.

Tennis: Sweeping victory over Manchester

Tennis was able to secure another win last Saturday, February 18, against Manchester University in an uncontested 9-0 victory. The Little Giants will look to continue their win streak this weekend as they face both Principia College and Earlham College on Saturday, February 25.

Wrestling: Regionals

After a week off from wrestling competition to rest and prepare for the postseason, the wrestling team will compete in the NCAA DIII Central Regional on Saturday, February 25, and Sunday, February 26. The Little Giants hope for success in this tournament in order to advance in the national competition.

Golf: Music City opener

Although they’re spring season hasn’t started yet, the Little Giants golf team will be looking forward to getting some time on the green this weekend as they compete in the Music City Shootout on February 25-26.

Pitch clock issues complicate successful start to baseball season

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • Just as football has its play clock and basketball has a shot clock, baseball, at every level, is picking up a pitch clock, and teams from the Little Giants to the Yankees are learning to deal with it this year.

After a weekend where the Little Giants had multiple pitch clock infractions against them, the pitch clock and its inconsistency will play some role in Wabash’s coming games against Albion, Hope and Heidelberg over the weekend of February 25-26.

According to new rules, pitchers have 20 seconds to begin their pitch home and batters must be in the batters’ box by the five-second mark. Batters can call timeout and pitchers can step off once each to reset the clock, but any other infractions will cost the pitcher a ball or the batter a strike.

“The implementation and enforcement of the pitch clock rules have been problematic thus far.”

- Coach Jordan Niespodziany

And Wabash coaches aren’t wholly opposed to the new rules, designed to help speed up the game. However, the new rules have one major issue: no one can see how much time they have left.

“I understand the purpose of introducing a pitch clock, with the goal being

to speed up pace of play and ultimately shorten games,” said Pitching Coach Jordan Niespodziany. “However, the implementation and enforcement of the pitch clock rules have been problematic thus far. At the Division III level, teams are not required to have a visible pitch clock until 2025. Meaning, the only person aware of the stop/starting of the pitch clock is the base umpire” who wears a device on their hip to keep track of time.

That fact has made the new timing rules even more difficult, according to Niespodziany.

“It places additional responsibility on our pitchers to not only be aware of signals from the catcher, hitter awareness, controlling the running game, but also, a 20 second clock in their brain to when they need to deliver a pitch,” said Niespodziany. “In our three games last weekend, we had two violations called against our pitching staff. In talking with the umpiring crew, I walked away more confused than I was before as to the subjectivity around the pitch clock and what constitutes a violation.”

And it’s not just coaches who are frustrated with the pitch clock.

“There seems to be quite a bit of gray area with the rule,” said Jacob Bishop '23. “And you’re left guessing how much time you have left as the pitch clock is not visible. There’s going to be an adjustment period for sure.”

Still, the Little Giants are prepared for the pitch clock and they have adjusted after an opening weekend whe-



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Catcher Liam Patton '23 jogs off the field after the third out of an inning against Allegheny College on April 2, 2022 at Goodrich Ballpark.

re they went 3-0 against Augustana, Wisconsin Eau Claire and Rhodes.

“Moving forward, we will continue to communicate with our players on any changes and new understandings of the rule,” said Coach Niespodziany. “I think there are ways to use the pitch clock to your advantage both offensively and defensively. The most important thing we preach to our team is the ability to be flexible with rule changes and don’t let one call ruin your competitive nature.”

This weekend, Wabash travels to Westfield, Indiana, to play three games after

a comeback for the ages to sweep last weekend’s slate. With a six-run eighth inning to overcome a four-run deficit, Wabash defeated Rhodes College 10-9.

“[We’re] really proud of the way the guys competed and had each other’s backs throughout the weekend,” said Bishop. “Everyone competed their tails off and the ‘WAF’ mantra was evident, especially in our come from behind win Sunday.”

Two players won NCAC player of the week honors, with catcher Liam Patton’s '23 seven hit and four RBI weekend and Caleb Everson’s '26 5.0 IP, 4K outing serving

as an early sign of how successful the Little Giants can be. During the 2022 season, they got off to a hot start but came to a halt during conference play. This year’s team thinks it can stay consistent and avoid that plateau.

“We have to make sure that we don’t get complacent,” said Bishop. “Early success shows us how good we can be, so we have to stay hungry and not get comfortable with where we are at. Our goal is to try and go 1-0 every day and win the day every time we take the field.”

Dever: The highs and lows of the basketball regular season

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPI-NION EDITOR • After an exceedingly impressive regular season, the Wabash basketball team finished second in the NCAC on a heartbreaking buzzer-beater loss at Wooster last Saturday, February 19. As a result, the Little Giants entered the NCAC tournament as the No. 2 overall seed at 19-7 (11-5 NCAC) in regular season play.

After a dominant, wire-to-wire victory over Hiram on Tuesday, February 21, the team heads back to Wooster to play in the NCAC tournament semifinals, with a semifinal showdown against rivals DePauw. However, it is important to understand how the Little Giants got to this position and Wabash's prospects going into the final rounds of the tournament.

With the loss of an experienced senior class at the end of the 2021-22 season, including National Player of the Year Jack Davidson '22, the Wabash faithful went into the beginning of the 2022-2023 regular season uncertain. How would the new-look Little Giants respond to the challenge of graduating the heart of the team? And would they continue to be one of the best teams in the NCAC?

This young squad more than answered those questions. Wabash took the community by storm, doing far better than most Wabash students and fans expected. But that is not to say that the regular season was filled with triumphs and smooth victories. There were many hiccups on the road. Looking back at the season, it's easy to see that, as with most young teams, the year was filled with ups and downs.

High: Home non-conference victory over WashU

In only their second game of the season, Wabash welcomed nationally-ranked Washington University-St. Louis, a formidable foe, to Crawfordsville. After narrowly escaping the season opener with a 81-78 victory over Mount St. Joseph University just days before, the Chadwick Crazies were animated but anxious for the

arrival of WashU.

However, in a continually close contest, Wabash entered halftime with a 37-30 lead. The multi-faceted attack of Vinny Buccilla '25 (who added 15 points) and Edreece Redmond '24 and Sam Comer '24 (who each added 14 points) eventually led to a 70-67 victory.

In addition to the diversified scoring attack of the Little Giants, Wabash's defense had arguably one of its best games of the season, shutting down WashU's strong interior presence and forcing 15 turnovers. As a result, the Little Giants firmly established that, on their day, they could compete with the best.

Low: Home non-conference loss to Earlham

Coming off the impressive victory over WashU and several close victories over other Indiana basketball teams, most thought that Earlham would be another good opportunity for our young team to gain some experience and minutes against weaker opposition. However, Earlham dominated the first half, entering halftime up 33-22.

While the Quakers played one of their better games of the season, it was ultimately the uncharacteristically sloppy play of the Little Giants that led to the defeat. Throughout the game, Wabash turned the ball over 16 times, leading directly to 18 points for Earlham. Additionally, Earlham guard Jaden Terry consistently dictated the pace, leading all scorers with 21 points.

Down the stretch, the Quakers' lead and Wabash's mistakes were insurmountable for the Little Giants. While Earlham's Terry did drop 60 points over two games last week, the Quakers fell to a dismal 5-20 on the season. Consequently, this home loss served as Wabash's worst defeat of the season, especially considering that the game was at Chadwick.

High: Home conference victory over Wooster

In the most dominant performance of the regular season, Wabash whooped Woos-



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Ahmoni Jones '24 (right) hits a shot over a Hiram defender as Gavin Schippert '26 (left) posts his defender up, looking for the ball against Hiram College on February 21, 2023 at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

New rhynes Lewis Dellinger '25 (right), Matt Lesniak '25 (middle) and Sam Long '25 (left) celebrate a made layup during Wabash's game against Hiram College on February 21, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

ter in a rematch of the 2022 NCAC Men's Basketball Tournament final, beating the Fighting Scots 83-68.

Although the Scots were leading early in the second half, a red-hot offensive performance, facilitated by 62% from the field and 52% from three, allowed Wabash to ease past Wooster down the stretch. Additionally, the Little Giants were aided by collective team scoring,

with five players scoring in double figures, led by Avery Beaver's '24 18 points.

By the midway point of the second half, Wabash had extended the lead to fifteen points and stifled much of the Scots' offense. Although Wooster would end up winning the outright NCAC regular season title on the last play of the season, this overwhelming performance demonstrated that the Little

Basketball travels to Ohio for NCAC semifinal

Continued from front page

my rebounding and defense benefits the team. Last night it was my scoring."

The relative ease with which Wabash won allowed many of the starters to play fewer minutes and get some rest. But that didn't disturb the team's flow, and the reserves were able to get extra court time to build up their confidence and prepare for later rounds.

Hiram only had two scorers in double digits, compared to the four Little Giants with more than 10 points. On the starting five, Schippert led Wabash in scoring for a career high 19 points. Ahmoni Jones '24, currently the third leading scorer in the conference, had 14 points and nine rebounds. Avery Beaver '24 led the bench in scoring with 16 points, seven of those coming from the line.

"We all feel really good heading into the weekend playing against the rival. Then we will get revenge on whoever we play after that," said Beaver. "I hope to continue to be a good teammate and do whatever the team



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Edreece Redmond '24 extends the ball in an attempt to avoid his defender against Hiram College on February 21, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

needs for us to win."

On the same night, the No. 6 seed DePauw upset the No. 3 seed Ohio Wesleyan. With the NCAC's leading scorer Jack Clement back home for good, the Little Giants will have one less problem to deal with. Nevertheless, if Wabash wants to progress

to the final, they will have to get past the Dannies. And with Elijah Hales, the second-leading scorer in the NCAC, on the DePauw roster, the Little Giants will once again need to find a way to contain the Tiger offense.

On the other side of the

bracket, the top seeded Wooster quietly put away the No. 8 seed Oberlin. Denison, the No. 4 seed who managed to defeat both Wabash and Wooster in the final weeks of the regular season, snuck out a win against Wittenberg.

Hungry for a repeat title,

the Little Giants have a long road ahead. From now on the team will play on the road, where they've struggled all season. If they manage to finish off DePauw, they'll have to face either Wooster or Denison. Both of those teams defeated Wabash in the final two weeks of the regular season.

However, there's still plenty of room for hope. So far, the tournament has gone as well as any Wabash fan could have hoped. Coming into the tournament, Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan and Denison were the three biggest threats to Wabash. With OWU gone, the Little Giants' chances of winning have increased significantly.

Make no mistake, DePauw will not go down easily. But in their last matchup, Wabash won with a comfortable 10 point lead, as opposed to the one point lead that Wabash snuck past OWU.

"We're trying to go into the game with the mindset that, regardless of who we play, we're not going to underestimate anybody," said Jones. "We have to be ready to bring our own energy and

finish the playoffs early so that we can finish the game off down the stretch. We're a family and we're going to play for each other through it all."

Wabash faces DePauw at Wooster on Friday, February 24. The game begins at 5:30 p.m. and will be broadcast on the Wooster video network.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Josh Whack '26 bulldozes through contact on his way to the rim against Hiram College on February 21, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

AHMONI JONES '24
Wabash forward



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

2022/23 STATISTICS


PPG: 16.2

APG: 0.8

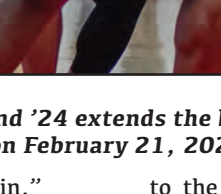
RPG: 5.9

3PT%: 33.3

WABASH vs DEPAUW
Team PPG:




Wabash College
77.5



DePauw University
74.6

CAMDEN BROWN
DePauw forward



COURTESY OF DEPAUW ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 10.3

APG: 1.19

RPG: 5.5

3PT%: 47.1

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Wabash ‘kills’ the competition

Pictured: Carson Meadors '24. Photo by Elijah Greene '25.

Ainabor: Halfway through the season, where does volleyball stand?

PRECIOUS AINABOR '26 | SPORTS WRITER • We are already halfway into the volleyball season, and conference play is just around the corner. It has certainly been a yo-yo of a year so far, so where exactly do the Little Giants stand? Let’s take a look.

Eleven games into the 2022 season, the volleyball team had won just two games. And by the end of the year, that wasn’t much improved, finishing the season with a 3-18 overall record.

But fast-forward to 2023, and the picture couldn’t be more different. The Little Giants kicked off the season at Rockford, Illinois, with confident wins against Rockford University and Maranatha Baptist University, beating both teams in straight sets.

After this impressive season opener, the Little Giants went on to lose their next seven games, including two losses at home. Even Wittenberg, who Wabash beat in their inaugural season, was among the teams that the Little Giants conceded to in these games.

Regardless, the Little Giants fought back to come up with four wins in their next six games, the

only two losses coming against Marian University and Trinity Christian University. As such, Wabash currently sits on a 6-9 overall record, much improved from this time last year.

The 2023 season is shaping up to be the team’s best so far. Even factoring in the rollercoaster of emotions, the numbers just don’t lie. And as a result, hopes are high heading into the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League portion of the season.

“[Volk] is the motor of our team.”

- Michael Enz '26

“I definitely think we have a shot,” said middle blocker Patrick Volk '26. “I think our team is getting to the point where we are able to compete with anyone in the conference. Even though there are still a lot of teams in the conference that we have not seen yet, we really feel that we can compete in the conference and potentially make it to the tournament.”

Regarding their attack and set, the Little Giants already have a total of 541 kills and 489 assists at the halfway point, compared to their total of 624 kills and 569 assists at the end of their 2022 season. Looking at their defensive statistics, the team already has 506 digs, getting closer to their 659 total digs from last season. These are some of the crucial stats of these relentless Little Giants. They show no sign of slowing down as they prepare for future meetings.

“The team has definitely shown improvement over the practices and games we have had thus far,” said Volk. “We have apparently gotten better since last season, even though I wasn’t here. I am looking forward to the end of the season with how we’re doing”.

Regardless, Volk believes there is a lot more room for improvement.

“We have had at least one or more games that I think we should have pretty easily won, and a couple of others that we were in contention for that we could have pulled out,” said Volk. “We just need to stay a little bit more consistent.”

Volk himself has been one of the

biggest improvements to the team this season. Helped out by an impressive cast of veterans, Volk’s stats are already impressive. He was named Athlete of the Week alongside Trine University’s Hunter Haas '25 in the fourth week of the year and, so far, has 142 kills on the season.

“I am happy about it, but I am less interested in personal accolades,” said Volk on his Athlete of the Week recognition. “I care more about the fact that our team had a good weekend. I do whatever I can do to help the team, either on offense or defense.”

It’s not just the stats that speak to Volk’s abilities. His teammates, too, have noted his important role in the development of the program.

“He is a motor for our team,” said Michael Enz '26. “Patrick [Volk] always has high energy and is very confident on the court. Whenever we need a crucial point in the game, we can rely on him.”

On Saturday, February 25, the Little Giants will take a trip to Illinois for a two-match set against Roosevelt University and Concordia University Chicago.

Álvaro Alonso Sánchez '23: ‘I was looking up to Nadal’

JIM DALY '24 | STAFF WRITER

- Very few names on the Wabash tennis roster hold as much prestige as Álvaro Alonso Sánchez '23. Within the team, he is well-respected by his coach and fellow teammates. Alonso-Sanchez’s upbringing from humble roots is arguably just as impressive.

Alonso-Sanchez was born and raised in Alameda De La Sagra, Spain, living there until eventually moving to the States to begin his college education. Beginning in his youth, he has been involved with tennis for his entire life.

Nadal is widely considered to be one of the greatest tennis players in history, frequently ranked in the top five of all time. According to Alonso-Sanchez, he idolized Nadal, who had served as a major influence on his life inspiring him to take up in the sport in the first place.

“I was around five or six when I started,” said Alonso-Sanchez. “I was looking up to Rafael Nadal.”

Alonso-Sanchez transferred from McKendree University after his sophomore year, and is currently majoring in computer science here at Wabash. Given the intensity of playing tennis combined with the academic rigor of being a computer science major, Wabash can prove at times to be particularly overwhelming. But Alonso-Sanchez is always one step ahead, budgeting his time appropriately.

A notable detail about this year’s team is their exceptional youth. Out of the fourteen members on this incredibly young Wabash team, only three are upperclassmen, with Alonso-Sanchez being the only senior. His leadership and poise are the rudder that steer the Wabash tennis ship.

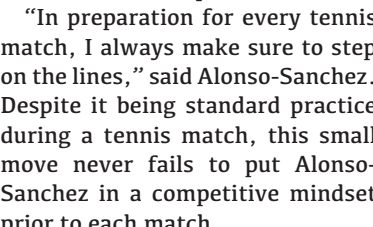
“In preparation for every tennis match, I always make sure to step on the lines,” said Alonso-Sanchez. Despite it being standard practice during a tennis match, this small move never fails to put Alonso-Sanchez in a competitive mindset prior to each match.

Earlier this month, Alonso-Sanchez won his first singles match of the spring on February 11, 2023 against Clayton Maack of Millikin University in three sets (6-4, 1-6, 10-4). Having struggled throughout his fall and early spring seasons, this win was a big confidence booster for Alonso-Sanchez.

Even though he has only played with the Little Giants for two years, he has had enough time to make long-lasting memories with the team since joining. He recalls that his favorite memory on the team has been getting the opportunity to travel out-of-state.

“I [know] I have only been here for two years,” he said. “[But] during my junior year, we went to South Carolina and that was nice.”

When asked about his plans post-graduation, Alonso-Sanchez stated that his plans are largely up in the air at the moment. He has expressed interest in pursuing a master’s degree, going straight into a career in cybersecurity, or taking a position in software development.



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PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Members of the Wabash volleyball team celebrate a block by Partick Volk '26 in their game against Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College on February 7, 2023.

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