

Review: ‘Hand to God’ has all the right pieces, but fumbles tone

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In conversation with Coach Daniel Bickett

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PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

‘There’s a fear around walking away’

SPECIAL REPORT

Wrestlers quit team after health and well-being concerns allegedly go ignored

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • When Jack Heldt '23 won the national heavyweight title in March 2023, it capped off another impressive year for the Wabash wrestling team. Heldt became the fifth Little Giant to win a wrestling national championship, a success story that helped propel his team to 10th in the Division III standings.

On and off the mat, the team has excelled. This year, seven Wabash wrestlers received Scholar All-American recognition and the squad was named a Scholar All-America team, boasting a 3.56 grade point average.

However, some former wrestlers believe that, behind the championships and honors, the team’s winning pedigree has created an unwelcoming atmosphere, and it is driving some to quit the team.

An investigation by *The Bachelor* has revealed an alleged lack of support for the mental and physical well-being of some team members on the College’s most successful athletics program.

The findings of the report include an allegation that a coach blamed “lazy” athletes for their own injuries, that some wrestlers are allegedly forced into medical forfeits against their will, and that individual wrestlers’ mental health issues often go ignored. As a result, in fall 2022, at least six wrestlers left the team within a two-week window.

This investigation includes interviews with eight former wrestlers, all of whom wished to remain anonymous out of fear that going on record would socially isolate and ostracize them from their peers. In order to protect their



Exterior of the Shelbourne Wrestling Center.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAGE '23

identities, *The Bachelor* has attributed an alias to each interviewee.

‘We don’t do wrestle-offs’

Wabash wrestling has one of the finest reputations in Division III and is the College’s most success-

ful athletics team. Since Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson took over in 2004, five wrestlers have won a total of eight national titles. Anderson has also made Wabash a consistent challenger for the national team title, finishing second overall in the

2022 tournament.

“We’re a top tier wrestling program,” said Anderson, the 2022 national head coach of the year. “Since 2014, we have not fallen out of the top 10 in the country. So, we’re about as high-end as you can get.”

It’s a winning pedigree the coaching staff prides itself on.

“You coach to win, right? That’s the goal,” Anderson said. “You want to win everything in life, you want to win in the classroom and you want

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Bergman–Rivera, Kirkpatric win in unopposed election

SAM BENEDICT '25 | JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Another election season at Wabash is over. Although neither election received any competitors, the importance of these elections can’t be understated. Cole Bergman '24 has been elected as the Student Senate President, Luis Rivera '25 as the Student Senate Vice President and Seth Kirkpatrick '24 as the Student Supreme Court Chief Justice.

“We didn’t want to take the election for granted. With the victory secured, though, it’s going to be nice to finally see our plans put into action.”

-Cole Bergman '24

After almost a month of campaigning, the Bergman-Rivera cabinet can focus on what they want to accomplish during their short time in office.

“I’m excited to get started,” said Bergman. “The team and I have been putting off making some final decisions to

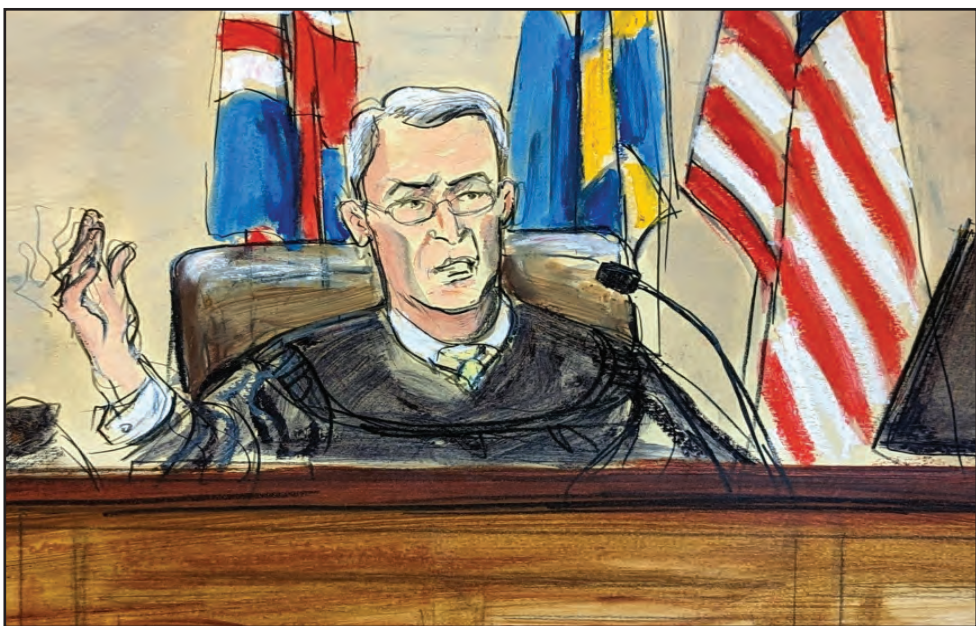
focus on campaigning and spreading our message as best as we could because we didn’t want to take the election for granted. With the victory secured, though, it’s going to be nice to finally see our plans put into action.”

Recently, the Student Senate has been under a microscope as changes in the process to give funding to clubs, namely requesting that semester budgets be submitted as opposed to weekly needs, has led to confusion and distrust.

“Funding is really the expression of Student Senate’s power, so I think that when all students contribute to the funds we allocate, there is some pressure to make good decisions,” said expected secretarial nominee Liam Grennon '24. “But honestly that’s the way it should be. I won’t always be able to balance everybody’s interests perfectly, but I encourage people to speak up when they disagree with budget decisions. However, I can promise to put our financial health first and foremost to ensure we can provide the best experiences for the most guys. I’m nervous for the inevitable hard decisions, but

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Fox News pays historic settlement to Dominion voting systems



COURTESY OF THE AP

Artist sketch depicts Judge Eric David of the Delaware Superior Court overseeing Dominion Voting System’s lawsuit against Fox News on April 18, 2023.

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDANT • Fox News reached an agreement with Dominion Voting Systems resolving a lawsuit filed over the network’s spreading of conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election and subsequent dragging of Dominion’s reputation. The network notably amplified former President Donald J Trump’s claims that Dominion’s voting machines had been used to ‘steal’ the election.

Fox News agreed to pay \$787.5 million dollars to Dominion, one of the largest settlements to date in a defamation case. The scale of the payout sets a tone for the future as Dominion still has several cases pending, including against MyPillow executive Mike Lindell and news outlet NewsMax

“Even though it was a settlement, it certainly was a victory for Dominion,” said Margaret M. Russell, a law professor at Santa Clara University. “For other possible defendants, I don’t think this will make them double down; it will make them fearful.”

Dominion is the second largest election technology company in the United States. Dominion caters to officials overseeing voting in states and counties all around the country, serving 28 states, as well as Puerto Rico. The company claimed it was made “toxic” by the false narratives of fraud in 2020, according to court documents. Dominion estimated that the allegations spread by Fox cost it \$600 million in profits.

In court filings, Fox argued that Dominion did not suffer as it did not have to lay off employees, close offices, default on any debts or suffer any canceled business contracts because of the news network’s coverage. Fox claimed Dominion had projected \$98 million in revenue for 2022, making Tuesday’s settlement roughly equivalent to eight years of sales.

The case was resolved within the first day of its trial in Delaware Superior Court. A 12-member jury as well as alternatives had already been seated and sworn in before the announcement came. The trial was meant to be the culmination of

Dominion’s two-year lawsuit against Fox News with filings from both legal teams indicating over 13,000 exhibits.

Before the trial began, bits of texts and internal emails between Fox hosts had been made public. A summary judgment motion filed in February by Dominion alleged that Fox feared it would lose viewers to NewsMax unless they continue to spread false stories of election fraud.

The 192-page motion contains deposition transcripts as well as material found in discovery. Within the pages it’s made clear that as Trump continued to peddle election lies Fox News decided to go along with him, even if they thought it was untrue.

“What (Trump)’s good at is destroying things,” wrote Tucker Carlson, according to the filing. “He’s the undisputed world champion of that. He could easily destroy us if we play it wrong.”

“The network is being rejected,” wrote Sean Hannity, in a text message to Laura Ingraham and Tucker Carlson. “Respecting this audience whether we agree

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Fraternity Day returns

JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER • Wabash fraternities will come together on Sunday, April 23, for the return of Fraternity Day. The event will celebrate the accomplishments of the Greek life system and foster engagement between fraternal living units.

The Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), who is hosting the event, expects a potential attendance of over 180 people. Attendees will include current members, alumni and advisors, in addition to faculty and administration.

Each fraternity will share an update on the affairs of its chapter and discuss strategies to ensure the improvement of Greek life. The IFC Executive team has been working the past few months to plan this event and provide a productive experience for its attendees.

“The process has been very educational about all the fraternities on campus, and what fraternities mean for Wabash,” said Matt Lesniak '25, IFC Treasurer and brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon. “The biggest challenge has been getting interest from both the student body and the community of faculty, alumni and administrators to attend the event as we bring it back. But we are confident that we have done a good job and will have an extremely successful event.”

Fraternity Day was inaugurated in 2013, originally named the Celebration of Greek Life. It is making a comeback in 2023 after a COVID-induced hiatus.

The event was the brainchild of Jon Pactor '71, alumni advisor to Tau Kappa Epsilon. The event honors fraternities and is an opportunity for fraternity members to share their experiences with other chapters on campus. Additionally, there are several awards up for grabs for attendees.

Fraternity Day is set to be a celebration of campus unity and a way to celebrate the achievements of all our brothers.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Fox News pays historic settlement to Dominion voting systems

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or not is critical.”

Occasionally it seems Fox reporters would push back against the lies. Jacqui Heinrich “fact checked” a tweet from Trump and said that there was no evidence of vote tampering.

“Please get her fired,” Carlson texted Sean Hannity. “Seriously What the f—k? actually shocked It needs to stop immediately, like tonight. It’s measurably hurting the company. The stock price is down. Not a joke.”

While Fox lawyers took to arguing that the network was merely covering the controversy of election results rather than endorsing them, this strategy was far from fruitful.

“Fox endorsed at times this false notion of a stolen election,” said Media Magnate Rupert Murdoch, speaking under oath, before quickly backpedaling. “Not Fox, no. Not Fox. But maybe Lou Dobbs, maybe Maria [Bartiromo] as commentators.”

“Freedom of speech and freedom of the press would be illusory if the prevailing side in a public controversy could sue the press for giving a forum to the losing side,” argued the network’s lawyers.

“Fox hosts took sides,” Dominion’s lawyers wrote, referencing comments by Maria Bartiromo and Lou Dobbs that seemed to specifically endorse the election fraud theories. “Fox knew the charges were false yet failed to provide viewers with any of the extensive evidence disproving them... ‘Newsworthiness’ is not a license to lie.”

“I understand the skepticism of potential voting fraud



COURTESY OF CNN

Attorneys for Dominion Voting Systems leave Delaware courthouse after defamation lawsuit against Fox News is settled just after the trial begins on April 18, 2023.

in regard to Dominion’s voting machines,” said Jerry McBee ’26, a campus Republican. “That being said, Fox definitely did not consider the possible repercussions before accusing Dominion.”

Judge Eric M. Davis, who was presiding over the case, had previously written in a ruling that it was “CRYSTAL clear that none of the statements relating to Dominion about the 2020 election are true.”

Fox’s settlement likely prevented what could have been a costlier trial and even more embarrassment for the company. In the original suit, Dominion had asked for \$1.6 billion in damages.

“We acknowledge the Court’s rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false,” said Fox in a statement after the settlement



COURTESY OF THE BBC

Protestors gather prior to Dominion’s \$787 million settlement.

was announced. “This settlement reflects FOX’s continued commitment to the highest journalistic standards. We are hopeful that our decision to resolve this dispute with Dominion amicably, instead of the acrimony of a divisive

trial, allows the country to move forward from these issues.”

“Fox has admitted to telling lies about Dominion that caused enormous damage to my company, our employees and the customers that we serve.

Bergman–Rivera, Kirkpatrick win in unopposed election

Continued from page 1

I think that is a good thing.”

The feeling of being elected hasn’t been tainted by the lack of competition for any of the newly elected students.

“It’s exciting,” said Bergman. “I know that we weren’t running against anyone, so a lot of people were expecting us to win, but it is still exciting to see how much support we have gotten from the student body so far.

On top of the presidential elections, the Wabash student body elected Kirkpatrick to serve as the next Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court. Kirkpatrick becomes just the second student to serve in this role.

“I am most excited to make people care about the Court,” said Kirkpatrick. “No one really does except for a handful of dweebs like Cole, me and the folks who are on it. But, I want to make this Court an integral part of the Student Senate process.”

Kirkpatrick believes that the Student Supreme Court is capable of impacting students’ lives on campus through its ability to make legislation more accessible for all to draft.

“I am not kidding when I say that the Court might be the student’s best friend within senate meetings,” said Kirkpatrick. “The fact that the other justices and I have to construct policy at a senate member’s request is wild. I do not think folks realize how powerful of a tool that is for individual students, who can tell their senators, to tell us, to write policy. I am also excited to see who else joins the Court next term; for the SCOWC to function properly, I think, you need a strong mix of justices who are willing to push back on one another. I am hoping that I will work with folks who are both invested and excited for the Court’s role in Senate.”

Both Kirkpatrick and Bergman’s cabinet recognize that they have much to prove in the coming year because they ran unopposed. For the Bergman campaign, funding is their number one priority for all members.

“I am not kidding when I say that the Court might be the student’s best friend within senate meetings.”

-Seth Kirkpatrick ’24

“No one wants to be the Senate that has to tell a club no on a request simply because we allocated our money too quickly,” said intended Treasurer Jake Weber ’25. “That being said, our cabinet has already discussed a few ideas to try to stop this from happening in the upcoming school year, and we are ready for the challenge ahead.”

Regardless of the circumstances of the 2023-24 elections at Wabash College, students had the option to abstain and instead voted for the winning candidates. This show of confidence provides legitimacy to the winners as they look to lead Wabash.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Then. Now. Always!



Cheers to a Tremendous 10th Day of Giving!

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SENIORS,
MAKE AN IMPACT!

Take the HERI College Senior Survey

Your insights and reflections are important, and they help us to improve the academic experience for future classes of Wabash men.

To thank you for your time, we're holding a random drawing for Amazon gift cards and credits to the 1832 Brew, Wally's, and the Wabash College Bookstore. Check your email inbox for your unique link to the survey.



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

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in *the Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

The Bachelor is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

Looking Forward



Cole Bergman '24

Reply to this opinion at
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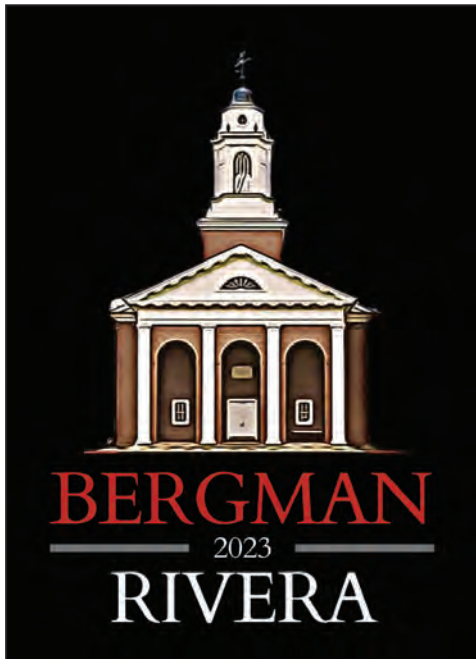
To start off, I would like to thank all of you who voted for your participation in this year's election. I realize that this election cycle may not have been the most exciting with only one candidate running (Abstain did make some campaign promises that were hard to keep up with). But, whether or not you voted for us, we appreciate that you still took time out of your day to show that you care about the outcome of this election.

To those of you who voted for my ticket, I want to say thank you for your overwhelming support, and I hope that I am able to prove that you made the right decision in the coming year. For those of you who voted abstain—whether for the meme or because you would have preferred another ticket—I hope that I am able to gain your confidence through the work we have already started.

Even though Luis and I still need to be sworn in, we have gotten permission from the current cabinet to start pushing forward with our plans.

First priority on our list is to begin establishing committees. Our goal is to appoint committee chairs and members before we leave for summer break so that these committees have more time to plan over the summer. We hope we can hit the ground running when we arrive in the fall. A major message of our campaign has always been finding ways to bring the Senate and student body close together, and we see committees as a crucial bridge to allow students to bring their ideas to benefit the Wabash campus. So if you want to become more involved in your Student Senate and utilize your ideas to benefit the Student Body, look in your email and fill out the form or just shoot Luis and me an email with your interest. Student input is the best way to give our students the best Wabash experience.

Second is figuring out next year's



National Act. Out of all of the questions Luis and I received while campaigning, the one question that would come up time and time again was about how we would handle next year's National Act given budget constraints and student feelings about the event. Well, while the Senate will have to come to a decision on this issue at some point, we think the best current course of action is to do what we have done from the beginning: hear from you.

Along with the form to apply to join committees, a form has also been sent out over email to gauge student interests, expectations, and concerns about past and future National Acts. We know that a lot of students have differing opinions about National Act and how it should move forward, and this is an opportunity to make sure that whoever is making decisions about the next National Act is working with your input. So, if you feel strongly one way or another about National Act, or have ideas about different ways National Act could work other than the one costly concert, let us know. Even better, get your brothers to send in responses too. The more responses we get, the more emphasis we will be able to put on the results of this form.

We are excited for this opportunity to lead Wabash, and are excited about what we will be able to accomplish in the next year. With that being said, we look forward to hearing from you.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

DEPAUW BLEW A \$440,891 LEAD

Hi-Five to the campus community for coming together to raise more than \$1.5 million for Day of Giving. We hit \$440K over our morning cup of coffee.

IT AIN'T MUCH, BUT IT'S HONEST WORK

Hi-Five to Sigma Chi for not doing anything roastable this week (that we know of). We're so relieved not to include you in the Hi-Fives section this week.

'MY HEART WILL GO ON'

Lo-Five to the KSig boat for collapsing without the iceberg. We'll never let go, Colin.

NO MORE ZEROS TO SHOOT DOWN

Hi-Five to the Rhynies for earning your stripes. Thursday mornings won't be the same without you.

'AWAY DOWN SOUTH IN THE LAND OF TRAITORS'

Lo-Five to the North Carolina lawmakers who introduced a bill to ban participation trophies. We're actually fine with this if it means we get to stop seeing all the confederate flags.

Response to 'Wabash Student Supreme Court issues first major ruling'



Kihyun Kim '23

Reply to this opinion at
kkim24@wabash.edu

Two things caught my eye when I read the article 'Wabash Student Supreme Court issues first major ruling' published last week. First, some seniors believe that they should have the right to vote. Second, the Student Senate Constitution should be more direct. As a drafter of the current version of the Student Body Constitution, I want to explain why it would not be the wisest thing to give voting power to seniors—and why the Constitution should be as vague as possible.

Although it is a proper criticism that seniors know the most, seniors should not have the right to vote. This was one of the agreements of the preliminary meeting where former Student Body President Daniel Bass '22, and former Student Senate Chairman Will Trapp '24 and I discussed what should be included in the new Constitution. While many sections of the initially proposed Constitution were edited or removed, the following Student Senate meeting also agreed that prohibiting seniors from voting is not a big problem. The major rationale for this decision is that they will not be affected by the student administration who will take office after their graduation. The election is held in the spring semester, and the new administration starts its activity in the fall semester. By that time, seniors who voted will not be on campus.

Furthermore, although this is a generalization, I simply cannot believe that seniors have enough zeal to care for the Student Senate like underclassmen. When I had the right to check the election results, I remember (I could be wrong) that the senior voting rate was pretty low compared to other classes.

In addition, I entirely agree that the Constitution has a lot of room for improvement. The proposed criticism of Article I, Section 2.1, should be

taken seriously. The main reason I used such a vague term, 'graduation year,' is that using the term 'senior' would prevent those taking a gap year or fifth year student from voting, which was not my intention.

However, the Senate failed to consider the case of transferring or dropping-out students, which is my fault. I thought there were not many transferring or dropping-out students interested in voting, and there was no practical way to prevent them from voting. Regardless, that section can be improved with more straightforward terms.

**“The Student Senate
Constitution should be
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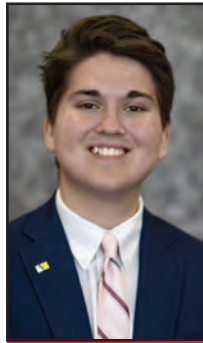
-Kihyun Kim '23

However, one thing I'm worrying about is that there might be a possibility that the Constitution becomes too detailed. The Student Senate Constitution should

be vague. In other words, it should give some flexibility so that future generations of Wabash men can promptly respond to issues pertaining. If anyone overlooks this principle, then he will experience the same issues that the Senate had in the last few convocations. For example, I should have nullified the results of the elections held in the spring semester, as the Constitution stated that the elections should be held in the fall semester, which would be utterly ironic as the President who won in the spring semester election gave me the rights to do so.

The Student Senate faced many obstacles in the last few semesters. It started with Covid preventing senators from meeting in person, which had many harmful effects, such as no discussion over issues. There was not enough interest from the Student Body as well. Fortunately, many leaders stood up and led the Senate. With growing student interest in Senate-related topics like this, I firmly believe the Senate is going in the right direction.

The path ahead for SCOWC



Seth Kirkpatrick '24

Reply to this opinion at
sckirkpa24@wabash.edu

Thank you to everyone who voted for me in this recent election. I was nervous about the outcome, given that Abstain had some fairly good policies I had to compete with (this is a joke).

But on a serious note, I am very excited for the work that SCOWC will accomplish over the next two semesters. My ultimate goal is to better public perception of the Court. Even accounting for how nascent the judicial branch is, I see countless students either not care or feel worried over the Court's existence and work. I believe that these perceptions operate under false narratives.

The Court is not the “big bad” who comes in to stop the democratic process of Student Senate, but rather, the Court is a companion in this process. Whether it be addressing Constitutional dilemmas, AFC policy questions or writing policy, the Court serves only to help students on an individual level.

As I have said in my campaign, students have the greatest amount of power in the Senate now that the Court exists. They nearly have a direct link between the policy that is created and voted on by the rest of the Senate. This kind of power should not go unnoticed.

This is not to say that the Court is all-powerful, however, as we can only write policy proposals, we cannot make them law. But for the students who are concerned with Senate's decisions, I urge you to first speak to your senators directly on these matters. Collaborate with your senators, ask them for their insight on how to resolve problems that matter to you. It may be the case that they bring these dilemmas to the Court, in the form of a policy request.

Although I am unsure about who my co-justices will be, I am certain that they and I will accept these policy requests with open arms. We will do no less than create the most clear, concise and constitutionally-sound legislation.

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No, Kubiak didn't 'destroy' gender feminism



Carson Price '23
Reply to this opinion at
crprice23@wabash.edu

Last week, there was an all-student email sent out linking a 2005 Chapel Talk by former Wabash Classics professor Dr. David Kubiak. This was in response to an assignment from Dr. Rognlie's Ethics course, which stipulated that students must defend various ethical positions during the "Ethics Bowl" assignment in the course. Some of these positions included defense of abortion, access to gender-affirming care and weapons restrictions. Unsurprisingly, some students were upset by this assignment, but there is something missing from these students' understanding of both the practice of philosophy as well as liberal arts more generally. Core to the practice of the philosophy is the analysis of argumentation, breaking arguments down into particular structures and generating new insights about the content of the arguments itself.

There is much insight to be gained from the construction of arguments, whether you agree or disagree with these arguments. The construction of arguments for positions you disagree with can be particularly helpful, showing the internal flow and logic of the position and revealing potential contradictions or limits. The notion that students of philosophy would be shocked or offended that they were expected to construct arguments they may disagree with in an introductory ethics course is quite strange, given that the aim of the course is explicitly to encourage analysis and construction of philosophical arguments. While I'd like to affirm the importance of thorough student engagement in courses, Dr. Rognlie's course expectations are clearly aligned with typical conduct in philosophy and promote further understanding of philosophical arguments.

To move past this discussion, however, I'd like to turn to the content of the talk from Dr. Kubiak and evaluate it. As Dr. Kubiak himself says, "I want to make some more theoretical remarks," though I suggest my remarks will be much more textual and substantive.

Because I wasn't a Wabash student in 2005, I'll ignore the comments regarding the state of the College, and instead focus on the theoretical remarks and claims he makes throughout his talk about feminism and gender theory. The talk, titled "Viva la Bash, or Why Gender Feminism is Killing Our College", begins by labeling his "perennial ideological opponents" as "gender feminists." These gender feminists, according to Kubiak, "hate [Wabash] men... who mostly have traditional ideas about what it means to be a man." He justifies this claim by arguing that several Wabash professors expressed their interest in campus as a sort of "laboratory," a description he finds to be dehumanizing.

Beyond the casual irony of Dr. Kubiak accusing others of dehumanization, I think it's important to give this point a serious reading. The point of Wabash as a "laboratory" is not to suggest that we are lab rats, but rather that Wabash offers a unique place to experience and research gender. The point is exactly the opposite of Dr. Kubiak's understanding, highlighting the potential of Wabash to cultivate new and interesting relationships to gender and masculinity.

Moving on to the next point, Dr. Kubiak claims that women are "much too intelligent and self-possessed" to enjoy Viva la Bam, an old MTV show which celebrates "unfettered masculine instincts."

While the claim is dubious at best, I'd like to focus on how Dr. Kubiak is clearly interested in concretizing gender roles and limiting the expression of Wabash men. To be a man only falls within the bounds of what Dr. Kubiak identifies as traditional masculinity, a term which is paralyzed by nostalgia. It is justified with reference to previous cultural icons of masculinity, but this is precisely the point; the figures are cultural, and our culture continues to change over time. The reason why something like Sean Connery's masculinity seems anachronistic in our contemporary era is because it truly is; his relationship with masculinity is informed by the culture he exists within.

To speak to his references and representation of "feminists," Dr. Kubiak claims that "feminist" thinkers such as Camille Paglia and Christina Hoff-Sommers have been "carefully concealed," but I contest that such thinkers have been amplified in conservative media and have generated significant attention for many of their claims. Camille Paglia appeared multiple times on Fox News to discuss the #MeToo movement and other contemporary



issues of gender. While Dr. Kubiak is quick to point out the heterogeneity of the feminist movement and highlight 'conservative feminists,' he has no issue homogenizing the complex and multiplicitous field of gender studies and feminism into "gender feminism." This ignores the robust intellectual tradition of the fields and obfuscates the various strands of thought within them. These aren't merely trivial disagreements between feminists, but rather have resulted in the development of entirely new methodological analyses including post-structural feminism, intersectional feminism, critical phenomenology, post-colonial feminism and many others. His portrayal of academic feminism and gender theory as homogenous is disingenuous and reveals a serious gap in his knowledge of the field. Turning now to his characterization of the French post-structuralist theorists, he argues that they are "ignorant of science [and use] esoteric language... to advance their academic careers after the collapse of the academic job market." This is obviously an unserious engagement and the relegation of these complex thinkers such as Julia Kristeva and Hélène Cixous to "social constructivism" shows a further lack of understanding and engagement with the fields.

To discuss a final example of Dr. Kubiak's intellectual laziness, I turn to a part of his Chapel talk in which he discusses "deconstruction." This is in reference to Jacques Derrida's work, and particularly his works Writing and

Difference and Of Grammatology. Dr. Kubiak claims that deconstruction is aimed to "see the sexist-style readings of [texts]... and whittle[s] books down to a "look at the overpowering sexist dominance of the main character." In contrast to Dr. Kubiak's characterization, at the core of Derridean deconstruction is the idea that "There is nothing beyond the text." (Of Grammatology, 64) This point clarifies that deconstruction is a method which uses the internal logic and grammar to expose presuppositions and commitments within the text. This can be manifest as things left unsaid, suggesting a reading of texts at the margins in order to develop new insights about its structure and logic. This description stands at clear odds with Dr. Kubiak's discussion of deconstruction, suggesting that he either is misrepresenting Derrida and deconstruction, or he simply didn't read the texts he is attempting to critique. This is a common theme in his remarks, and it seems that the repeated mischaracterizations and misreading reveals that he simply hasn't read the works which he is so committed to discrediting.

If Wabash students want to maintain the College's image of intellectual rigor and engagement, we must move away from thinkers who demonstrate such a disregard for these values. If you're looking for a space to practice intellectual rigor and engagement, the philosophy department itself offers an excellent opportunity for this.

Philanthropy is more than just money



Logan Weilbaker '25
Reply to this opinion at
laweilba25@wabash.edu

Day of Giving causes some mixed feelings. I get it. The well-coordinated media campaign always energizes me, and as I hear Wabash success stories, track the money-raising efforts on the game that is the Day of Giving website and load up my backpack with cool, new Wabash swag, I can't help but feel a sense of loyalty, duty and generosity to my school.

That all stops when I look at my bank account.

"Here's \$4.19," I sheepishly say, as I collect my free ObviousShirts™ tee and water bottle.

Because no matter how much we might want to donate money to Wabash, we're all still just college students. Even though 100% of Wabash students receive some sort of financial aid (per 2022 data released to IPEDS), very few of us are currently at a stage in life where we have a ton of disposable income lying around. As cool as it would be to have the stage in Ball Theater named after me, I'm afraid we're still several years out from that.

I won't spend characters here convincing you of the benefits of philanthropy including, but not limited to, helping others, contributing to a culture of benevolence and feeling a sense of self-satisfaction.

But for those who feel like money—or a lack thereof—is a major obstacle to their philanthropic pursuits, there's good news.

There's a concept known as the three

Ts of philanthropy: time, talent and treasure. "Treasure" is the sector of philanthropy we're all familiar with, because it's the one that gets its own website tracking live donations from students, alumni and friends of the college. It's what always comes to mind when we think of philanthropy, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Money pays for stuff. But money alone doesn't accomplish anything.

I am a big proponent of the forgotten Ts, the real action behind philanthropy.

There are many ways you can use your talent to give to others. Have tech experience? Help a brother in your house or living unit with wifi connectivity issues. Lord knows there are plenty of them to go around. Have skills with audio equipment? Try working on a show or performance in the Fine Arts Center. Use your graphic design expertise to make flyers promoting healthy life practices with the Public Health Organization.

There are plenty of ways to use the

talents that are unique to you in creative ways that give back to your community. And those are just a few ideas here on campus. For more, contact your local community foundation or a non-profit that speaks to you. Lots of Wabash students translate at the Free Clinic in town or walk dogs for the Animal Welfare League.

And if all else fails, the easiest thing you can give is your time. Everyone can give it, because everyone has it. You don't have to have any skills or money to volunteer at a food pantry, spend time chatting with a senior citizen or even answer the phones for a donation drive like the Day of Giving.

At the end of the day, it's all about paying it forward and finding a way to make an impact on those around you. And by paying it forward, I don't mean with your checkbook. If you look up and look around, you'll find countless opportunities to use your time and talent—as well as your treasure—to make a difference.





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Staff Editorial: Rethinking National Act for the 2032 age

With this year’s National Act behind us, we at The Bachelor think that our most expensive student event is in need of a breath of fresh air. Most of campus, including the Student Body President-elect, have already floated the idea of rethinking National Act. Let’s take this opportunity as a campus to think about how to reshape National Act to fit the current student body and promote campus unity.

Discussions of changing National Act have floated around campus for years now. We’ll acknowledge it—we’ve pushed the issue as an editorial staff this semester. Now that the event has passed, with student feedback and fun photos, we return to the issue once more.

Of course, as we’ve covered in news stories earlier this semester, one of the primary criticisms of National Act as-is is financial. The event comprised 37% of the student senate budget this semester. That’s 75 dollars from every. single. student. For one evening.

For the years ahead, we think there are other options. For an example of a comparable yet much cheaper option, look no further than Lambda. At the afterparty for National Act, more than 900 people congregated around Old Colony for hours.

Who is Old Colony? We certainly didn’t know before the party. And that’s a bit of the point. No, Old Colony does not have a feature on a Demi Lovato song—but they cost \$1,000, a far lower cost than Cheat Codes.



COURTESY OF JAKE PAIGE '23

Students and guests gather around Cheat Codes at National Act on Chadwick Court on April 15, 2023.

We think this demonstrates a new option. Call it Wabash Woodstock, LiveAID or Coachella—a series of unknown, up-and-coming artists at far cheaper rates. Take a weekend and hold a series of live performances instead of a one-stop shop. Like EDM? Great, there’s an option. Country music? An option. Lowering the stakes—and the costs—of choosing the “perfect”

artist would help create a stronger, much more memorable and well-attended event.

Some of these artists will be total busts. But we’d take a \$1,000 bust over \$60,000 bust, especially when there’s another live music option just a few hours later.

This is, of course, just one option. We join President-elect Bergman in calling for a campus-wide

conversation about what we want out of National Act going forward.

None of this is supposed to be a gotcha or a “we told-you so.” Far from it. Plenty of Wabash students and their dates had a fabulous time, and we of course have no quarrel with that. We hope only to spark a united campus conversation about how to shape this event in the years to come.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HIGH '24



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HIGH '24

Wally’s Wall: National Act, revisited

The Question:

Now that it has passed, what are your thoughts on National Act 2023?

Seth Acero '25:

Before going into National Act, I had some skepticism about the way representative bodies like our student-led senate could accurately spend money on things that people want. After the way National Act went, I am happy to announce that I have lost all faith in that idea and will be living off the grid in rural Alaska.

Tommy Minkler '25:

Despite the fact that it looked like it only had a third of the attendance that last year’s had, I enjoyed it a lot more.

Evan Kanetkar '24:

Canceling National Act and using the money to host multiple, much smaller bands throughout each semester would do much better for campus unity I think hiring small up-and-coming bands would be beneficial for both parties. We would give the bands exposure, and students would know what to expect while potentially discovering new music. All in all I think there are much better ways to promote campus unity.

Eric Copeland '26:

Instead of investing such a significant amount of money in a single event, our campus could benefit from allocating funds towards multiple events with small budgets of around \$6,000—far short of the \$60,000 spent on this one event. This would allow for a wider range of activities and opportunities for students to engage with each other, build community and enrich their college experience. As a campus community, we should strive to make the most of our resources and invest in events that will have a lasting impact on our community rather than one-time extravagances that leave little behind.

Alex Kindig '26:

I had a good time while I was there—for like 20 minutes. I’m not saying it was good, but I had a good time. And Dre killed it.

‘Start the buses’

Cartoon by Arman Luthra '26

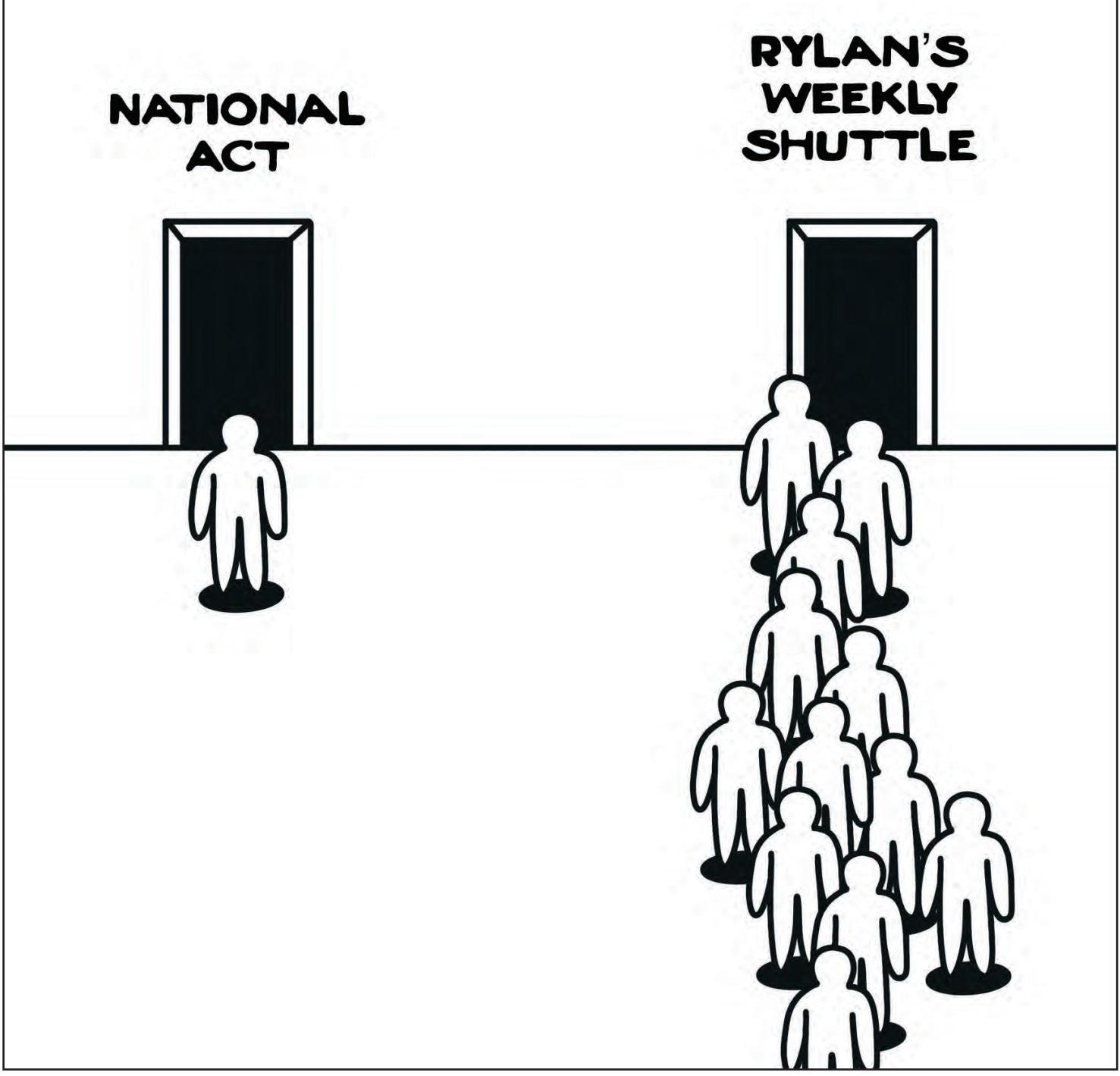




PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Inside the Shelbourne Wrestling Center, a practice facility dedicated in 2016.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson hugs his wife afted receiving an award at the Wabash Wrestling Celebration on January 21, 2023.

‘There’s a fear around walking away’:

Continued from front page

to win in the wrestling match.”

The coaches need some way to vet their athletes and choose their 10 starters. And with a roster of over 50 men at the beginning of each academic year, that’s no easy task.

Many colleges and universities in the U.S. choose their starters through a process of “wrestle-offs” in which wrestlers at each weight class go up against each other in practice to decide who the starter will be. But Wabash is different.

“We don’t do wrestle-offs,” said Coach Anderson. “I don’t think that’s very realistic. They’re not going to wrestle in the room like they do in a tournament.”

Instead of wrestle-offs, the team gives all of its athletes the opportunity to compete in every tournament that allows open competition. Therefore, if two Wabash wrestlers come up against each other in an invitational, they wrestle.

It’s a system that the coaches say levels the playing field.

“We can go to a tournament with 60 guys and they all wrestle,” said Anderson. “If you and me cross each other in a tournament, we’re going to wrestle each other, ‘Bash against ‘Bash. And as a coach, that’s how you like to see it.”

‘I just quit asking’

Some former wrestlers have expressed concern about the practice of omitting wrestle-offs. One such wrestler is Eric, who claims that while everybody gets an equal chance once on the mat, not everybody gets the same opportunities in the wrestling room.

“The guys that succeed in the Wabash wrestling program are those who are the most paid attention to,” said Eric. “So, when I got my first glimpse of that, I loved it, and I was seeing personal gains every day. But when the regular season hit and that attention started trailing off, I was just some other body in the room.”

As it grew clear that Eric was no longer the favored wrestler at his weight class, he claims that the coaches grew increasingly indifferent toward him.

“I got moved out of groups and was put with freshmen instead of wrestling with our starters who I trained with all preseason,” said Eric. “They shifted me around; they wouldn’t talk to me and they would coach against me—they would coach whoever I was wrestling with instead of me.”

For some wrestlers, however, the prioritization of the team’s best is a feature, not a bug.

Just like all team sports have practice squads, scout teams and reserves, wrestling teams equally need to focus primarily on their strongest wrestlers.

“To be blunt, no—everyone does not get the same level of attention, and I don’t think that’s a mystery,” said Jack Heldt. “But I do think everyone has the same tools. Our coaches have an open-door policy, and they love when guys want to do private lessons with them. They’ll open up private lessons to anyone on the team during the season, and the guys with higher goals

are going to be taking advantage of those.”

Other wrestlers, like Frank, have challenged this sentiment, claiming that the “open-door policy” is only available to the coaches’ preferred starters.

“I had gone to the coaches several times saying I’d really appreciate an hour of their time for a one-on-one,” said Frank. “I gave them my schedule, and they’d say ‘Well, I can’t tomorrow.’ Then I checked back, and the same thing would recur for probably two or three weeks. Then I just quit asking.”

Anderson stressed that, although the coaches try to make time for everybody, they are nonetheless a small staff.

“We put a lot of time into our guys, and we’re very blessed that we have four full-time coaches,” said Anderson. “We have a big roster, and even though we have four, it’s almost not enough at times. It’s a lot of people to keep tabs on.”

‘Sometimes that ruffles a guy’s feathers’

Despite the rhetoric around letting wrestlers wrestle, Trevor’s story paints a different picture.

“In my senior year, I made it to the finals of a tournament and I was going to wrestle another Wabash guy,” said Trevor, who is now an alumnus of the College. “I had beaten him in practices, so I was ready. But [as] I was getting ready for the match, one of the assistant coaches came up to me and said, ‘You’re not wrestling.’ I asked him why, and he didn’t say anything.”

Trevor claims that the coaches made him take a medical forfeit, despite the fact he wasn’t injured and wanted to wrestle.

“There’s no reason to make our top guy run through his teammate again, who he has wrestled all year long and already beaten three to five times.”

- Coach Anderson

After the incident, Trevor quit the team.

“I left because I was so frustrated,” said Trevor. “And then I had a conversation with Coach Anderson, and he told me the reason why was because I ‘didn’t have a chance.’ I said, ‘Well, everybody can wrestle well on any given day.’ And he told me that’s what they were already set on.”

Anderson confirmed that the team does make wrestlers medical forfeit in certain circumstances, but explained that there are many reasons why a team might make that call.

“It could be to win a tournament. It could be that, as coaches, we’ve seen enough at that point to know who our guy is. It could be that we don’t want to risk injury late in the season,” said Anderson. “Sometimes that ruffles a guy’s feathers. He wants as many opportunities as possible to beat his teammate, and we preach that [mentality] a lot.”

“But at that point, it’s not about beating your teammate,” Anderson said, “it’s about beating a guy



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Mawuli Nevis ’25 grapples with his opponent at the Wabash College Invitational on January 21, 2023, in the Knowing Fieldhouse.

that’s going to the national tournament.”

Anderson emphasized that the main reason to withdraw a wrestler from a match is to decrease the risk of injury, especially late in the season.

“There’s no reason to make our top guy run through his teammate again, who he has wrestled all year long and already beaten three to five times,” said Anderson. “How many chances does that other guy need?”

But some former wrestlers believe that forcing people into medical forfeits against their will runs counter to the program’s open competition mentality.

“They don’t want to risk their guy being beaten,” said Marcus, another former wrestler. “It gets ridiculous.”

But to Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney ’05, medical forfeits are akin to any other selection decision a head coach makes.

“That is a level of granularity in a sport that I would defer to our head coaches’ expertise on,” said Tanney. “That would be the same reason that I don’t ask about Coach Bickett’s ordering of our tennis doubles and singles players, or the same reason I don’t ask Coach Morgan who’s running in our relays. When we get to that level of detail on organizing a sport, that’s why we have head coaches.”

‘You’re lazy, that’s why you’re hurt’

When the 2022-23 wrestling season began, there were 56 athletes on the roster. By the end of the fall semester, that number had dropped to 43. And the majority of

the 13 wrestlers who quit did so after the Adrian College Invitational on November 5, 2022, the team’s first competition of the year.

The trip to Adrian had certainly not gone the way Wabash had hoped. Wabash finished first out of the 15 teams in attendance, yet several wrestlers picked up injuries and exited the tournament early.

For some wrestlers, the problems began almost immediately thereafter.

Latham was a sophomore who had spent some of his freshman year injured. But after working hard all preseason, he was fit and ready to get back to competitive wrestling. However, his season was cut short when he picked up another injury at the Adrian meet.

“I was hurt, and I lost the match,” Latham recalled. “One coach came over and asked, ‘Did you lose?’ I said yes, and then he just walked away. I thought, well, you weren’t watching, you don’t know what happened—you’re just disappointed.”

When they returned for practice the following Monday, many of the injured wrestlers felt they could no longer be a part of the team.

In the wrestling room, injured athletes spend entire practice sessions on exercise bikes. They do this until they are fit enough to get back on the mat.

Eric was one of the injured wrestlers on the bike that Monday after Adrian.

“We’re all sitting there and one of our coaches has a list,” said Eric. “It’s full of guys that are injured or sick who are on bikes not practicing. He turns to all those athletes and says, ‘So, what happened this

weekend? Why is everyone here on the bike?’

“Guys started rattling off answers. Maybe it was just an off weekend? Coach said, ‘No.’ Someone said that maybe we didn’t stretch good enough or didn’t do our hydration or nutrition right. ‘No.’ Another guy said that maybe we went too hard this week in practice. ‘Oh no, no, of course not,’” Eric recalled. “And then coach said, ‘What this list tells me is that this whole team is lazy. The only reason you get hurt is because you put yourself in the position to become injured.’”

Other former wrestlers tell a similar story.

“When we came back from that tournament, it was, ‘You’re lazy, that’s why you’re hurt,’” said Latham.

“Everything was our fault,” said Marcus. “The injuries were because of our own doing. They said we hadn’t been going hard enough.”

“We were seeking out help to get treated, and it got slapped back in our faces.”

- Henry

“We were seeking out help to get treated,” said Henry, “and it got slapped back in our faces.”

All four of these wrestlers quit the team shortly thereafter.

“Obviously, that wouldn’t be an appropriate response to an injury,” Tanney said in response to these claims. “I’ll leave it at that.”

The coaches deny the use of the word “lazy” and claim that the conversation in question was taken out of context.

“No coach has said that,” said Anderson. “Kids can take a story or hear something, and it comes out a different way. They didn’t hear what was truly said to them, or they took it out of context.”

“We preach to our guys that they can’t relax in matches. When guys relax, you can get hurt. And first tournament of the year, we got hurt because we relaxed in some moments. If you’ve got a guy that’s not stopping and you relax, he’s gonna pick you up, put you down and it’s gonna hurt. That’s the whole context of that conversation.”

‘Pride of winning’

Not long after they quit the team, a group of former wrestlers took their complaints to the athletics director. The wrestlers informed Tanney about the “lazy” incident and expressed their concerns about the coaching staff’s alleged disregard for the well-being of athletes.

“Under the guise of high-level success and of chasing national championships year after year, the coaches have created high walls around their wrestlers that make them feel like they can’t escape or find appropriate help when it comes to matters affecting their physical and mental health,” wrote the wrestlers in a private correspondence to Tanney, which The Bachelor obtained. “In short, their pride of winning has ironically kept us from wrestling at all.”

“When we have issues, we need to work through them as a team and as a coaching staff. This isn’t about agreeing with one side or another side. It’s about asking ourselves: what would it take to see each other’s point of view?”

- Latham

“I’ve heard from guys on the team that we’ve been ridiculed for doing this and ridiculed for speaking out about our concerns because we’re ‘betraying’ the team.”

- Henry

“We preach to our guys that they can’t relax in matches. When guys relax, you can get hurt. And first tournament of the year, we got hurt because we relaxed in some moments.”

- Coach Anderson



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Wabash wrestlers pose with awards at the Wabash Wrestling Celebration on January 21, 2023.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Exercise bikes in the Shelbourne Wrestling Center, where injured athletes train.

Wrestlers speak out about mental health experiences

Tanney declined to comment about specifics of the meeting but said he was open to their feedback.

"I think guys were pretty vulnerable and willing to share how they felt," said Tanney. "I did a lot of listening during that conversation. I took the information under consideration, and it has helped shape plans."

'I couldn't believe the disregard for my mental health'

A month into his freshman season, José had a traumatic mental health episode. A lot of things were weighing on his mind—personal life, school and, most importantly, wrestling.

José was a hard worker and did everything the coaches asked of him. After a rigorous preseason, was excited to get on the mat for real.

"I took the preseason to heart," he said. "Leaving the team did not cross my mind once during the preseason."

But when the regular season began, things started to change. The personalized attention he had received in the preseason faded away, and suddenly he felt a deep sense of rejection.

"The lack of attention that I got from the coaches—I started attributing it to me personally, and I started obsessing over it and making it my own self-worth," José said. "I already had a lot on my plate, and I was breaking down mentally."

One night at 3 a.m., José was wide awake and having a panic attack. His roommates, who were also wrestlers, knocked on his door to make sure he was OK. José told them he was feeling nauseous and that he was worried sleep deprivation might affect his performance in the early morning lift, which was just a few hours away.

"My roommates were super supportive," he said. "They told me that my mind and body needed rest. And then they said to go to bed and worry about the lift after."

José, having never missed a wrestling practice before in his life, was conflicted. But his roommates assured him that they would inform the coaches about what was going on. So José went back to bed to get some much-needed sleep.

"I went to the coach's office [later that day] and I spoke to the coach that runs the lifts. He's like, 'Where were you?' And I told him everything, how I was at an all-time low with my mental state," he explained. "I was just told that I'm 'worrying myself too much' and that I'm 'worrying about things that aren't real.' He said that 'I had no excuse not to be at the lift.' I couldn't believe the disregard for my mental health."

Disappointed but not dissuaded, José sought professional help. He went to the Counseling Center, got the mental health care he needed and turned his focus back to wrestling.

At the beginning of his sophomore year, he approached the coaches to ensure he would continue to get the mental health support he needed.

"I went to coach and said 'Hey, this is what I was going through last year. I want this [program] to be a safe place for me, and, if I want to do good things for this team, both of us need to be on the same page with what's going on behind the curtain,'" José recalled. "And coach seemed super receptive to it."

But that supportive attitude didn't last. A few weeks later, when José returned to the coach's office with another mental health concern, he claims he was once again told to "stop worrying."

"Once I heard that, I realized that I care about my own sanity and my own health more than I could ever care about this program, these coaches or this team," he said. "That's when I decided to quit."

A national problem

Student-athlete mental health concerns are not just limited to wrestling or Wabash. According to a well-being survey conducted by the NCAA published in May 2022, 12% of male college athletes experience "overwhelming anxiety," while 19% experience difficulties sleeping and 22% feel mentally exhausted.

Many of those problems can be compounded in a sport like wrestling where weight cutting, pressure on individuals to perform and the risk of serious physical harm are all at stake. Well aware of this, the Wabash coaches have placed an increased emphasis on mental health in recent years.

"It's affecting our guys," said Coach Anderson. "I have college-aged daughters, and we have these kinds of conversations, because mental health is very real."

"We have a lot of conversations in these offices with kids to try and lift them up, get them over to the counselors and do the right things," he said. "We have discussions with parents because we're worried about them. It's not just wrestling. We care for our guys, and we put in a lot of time to make sure that they're not going down a slope."

Mental health support has grown to be a top priority of the Athletics Department more broadly in recent years.

"It's a topic that our coaches regularly engage with our students on," said Tanney. "If people need to seek counseling, we have that available on campus, and I hope they get it. But it's also not something that our coaches have the professional training to be able to give. So, it's a fine balance between providing the support that students need to be successful here while also referring them to professional services when they need it."

'Quitting is a disease'

When Bernie stepped away from the team, he claims his coaches and teammates ridiculed him for giving up just because things were getting hard. It's this kind of rhetoric, Bernie says, that is keeping more people from speaking out.

"There's a fear around walking away from something that's unhealthy for you, and they call it quitting," said Bernie. "It's the same about talking out, and it's usually done by the people that are perpetuating the issues."

Quitting is, indeed, a big concern for Coach Anderson. And while he recognizes that people leave a sports team for a multitude of reasons, he also thinks that quitting is a slippery slope.

"Quitting is a disease," said Anderson. "As soon as you quit something, anything in your life, the next time it's going to become easier. That person is going to quit again, and that's a bad pattern to get into."

For many other wrestlers, this characterization of quitting rings true, especially with regard to mental health. For Heldt, overcoming mental challenges is an integral part of the sport, and giving up doesn't allow people to realize their full potential.

"Wrestling is a sport that takes a lot of mental toughness, and in an era where we're huge on mental health and opening up, there's also a certain degree where you have to



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

A wrestler tries to take down his opponent at the Wabash College Invitational on January 21, 2023, in the Knowling Fieldhouse.



COURTESY OF JASON CARVER

Jack Heldt '23 celebrates after winning his final match at the NCAA Division III National Championships on March 11, 2023, in Roanoke, Virginia.

"I was just told that I'm 'worrying myself too much' and that I'm 'worrying about things that aren't real.' I couldn't believe the disregard for my mental health."

- José

just suck it up and get through the grind," said Heldt. "I think a lot of guys, when it gets really hard, just give up for their mental health instead of pushing through."

The mental aspect of wrestling also opens up questions about the role of coaching staff in supporting student-athletes. For some, they believe coaches should be a shoulder to lean on and a beacon of support. But for others, addressing serious mental health is out of the purview of the coaches.

"You want to go into the wrestling room and feel like you know the coaches actually want the best for you," said Frank. "You want to

feel like you're getting invested in, but none of us were. We were just there to compete with one another. I never understood their process."

Heldt disagrees.

"I think the wrestling coaches' job is to coach wrestling, and they're really good at it," said Heldt. "If you need mental health help, go to Jamie [Douglas, Counseling Center Director]. She's the expert in mental health and helps people who are struggling. The coaches are there for you and they're there to talk and listen, but that's not their job. That's not what they're hired to be."

Opening up the conversation

Coach Anderson doesn't want wrestlers to leave his team. Quite the opposite, he wants to keep guys around for the benefit of both themselves and the team as a whole. And he believes that student-athletes who need support can find it in the Wabash wrestling room.

"As a coach and a teammate, I will do everything in my power to try and get those demons out of your head—don't quit on us," said

"I think a lot of guys, when it gets really hard, just give up for their mental health instead of pushing through."

- Jack Heldt '23

Anderson. "Guys start questioning things. 'Why am I doing this? Do I really love doing this?' And that's hard. But talk to the older guys that made it through their first year. Let them help guide you and counsel you. That's what we do as a program."

For Anderson, quitting is not only a "disease" but also a form of letting down your teammates.

"It's a letdown, and I felt that in college when some of the really talented guys in the room hung up their shoes," said Anderson, who wrestled for four seasons at Manchester University. "What would the basketball team have felt if Jack Davidson had quit the team last year when they went to the Final Four?"

Many former wrestlers expressed concerns that talking to The Bachelor would ostracize and socially isolate them from their peers. As a result, none of the seven former wrestlers interviewed for this piece were willing to go on the record.

"I've heard from guys on the team that we've been ridiculed for doing this and ridiculed for speaking out about our concerns because we're 'betraying' the team," said Henry.

The coaching staff expressed disapproval of former wrestlers who were unwilling to go on the record for this investigation.

"If you're going to try and discredit the program," said Anderson, "that's pretty disrespectful in my mind."

But in the minds of many former wrestlers, talking out isn't about disrespecting the team, nor is it an attempt to discredit Wabash wrestling at large. Rather, they say, it's about opening up a dialogue where wrestlers, former or current, can talk about issues without fear of repercussions.

"When we have issues, we need to work through them as a team and as a coaching staff," said Latham. "This isn't about agreeing with one side or another side. It's about asking ourselves: what would it take to see each other's point of view?"

Review: 'Hand to God' has all the right pieces, but fumbles key elements

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash Theater Department closes out the 2022-2023 season with "Hand to God." Directed by Dr. Jim Cherry, "Hand to God" caps off a year of comedy with a provocative, puppeteering (and very much not for children) take on adolescence, love, loss and one's inner demons.

Drew Johannes '23 stars as Jason, a meek but principled teenager with a strong attachment to the homemade puppet on his arm, Tyrone. As the play progresses, Tyrone begins to take on a life of his own, threatening the status quo of the small southern church community that frames the play.

Per usual for Wabash Theater, the cast pulls its weight with grace and enthusiasm.

Veteran Johannes bounces back and forth between the moderate Jason and the more free-spirited Tyrone effortlessly, demonstrating great skill in his ability to multitask while puppeteering nearly constantly onstage.

Brea Carlson also commands the stage as his mother, Margery. Carlson nails the harried widow role with tangible weariness and pain.

Drew Delor '24 portrays Timothy, a troubled and aggressive youth, well. His character carries much of the irreverence and edginess the show is known for.

Making his Wabash stage de-

but, German language TA Sascha Sackniess eagerly tackles the role of Pastor Greg. His earnest, optimistic approach nicely fits the clean-cut persona of the Texas preacher.

Betsy Swift returns as Jessica, a creative, but frequently annoyed potential love interest for Jason. Swift performs excellently, but sadly has quite little to do within the plot, and feels pushed to the side at some points.

On a technical level, "Hand to God" excels as well. The staging is intricate and detailed, with the too-brightly colored church basement aesthetic coming through in every saccharine poster and pastel floor mat. The scene changes are cleverly executed as well.

The puppets, designed by Andrea Bear, are extremely well done, with a lovely eye for fine detail and some effective visual gags that hold up at any distance.

However, this technically proficient and well-cast production is not without its flaws, largely coming from the script.

The play is marketed as an irreverent comedy, but after the first couple profanities uttered by a puppet, the novelty wears thin quickly. Yes, the incongruence of naughty puppets in a small conservative church is worth a chuckle or two, but only a few gags take full advantage of the medium.

More importantly, an audience that goes in expecting a comedy just barely on the dark side of tame will be blindsided by certain elements. There is a disturbing plot line that is a serious, dramatic driving force for the characters, but some of these scenes are underscored with a grossly misplaced comedy that feels entirely off-putting for the grave subject matter. Admittedly, the play is a dark comedy, but the fine balance in tone required for the genre is fumbled in a particularly inappropriate way.

Perhaps some of the dramatic issues could have been resolved with a better-supported ending, but the finale comes so abruptly that the resolution feels rushed and incomplete overall.

Despite its imperfection, audiences may well find something to enjoy in "Hand to God." Many of its themes and motifs are quite relatable, and there are some moments of effective comedy, as well as generally good performances. However, this dark comedy excels at neither securing great laughs nor nailing a serious drama.

FINAL VERDICT:
3/5 WALLYS



PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN HIGH '24

"Hand to God," written by Robert Askins and directed by Jim Cherry debuts Wednesday, April 19 and runs through Saturday, April 22. The dark comedy is brought to life by returning and first-time actors (top, clockwise) Drew Johannes '23, Betsy Swift, Drew Delor '24, Brea Carlson and Sascha Sackniess. Set in the church basement of small-town Texas, "Hand to God" tackles issues of adolescence, love, loss and "your inner demon puppet."

Classics senior seminar presents dramatic reading of Sophocles's 'Philoctetes'



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Dr. Bronwen Wickkiser's Classics senior seminar of (left to right) Hawk Ricketts '23, Brayden Lentz '23, Ben Marino '23, Lucas Daniken '23 and Thomas Kay '23 presented a dramatic reading of an excerpt from "Philoctetes" by Sophocles, a fifth century B.C. Greek tragedy about a wounded and marooned soldier who must rejoin the army.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Ricketts brought to life with an emotional performance the titular character, Philoctetes, who suffers from a permanent foot wound from the curse of a goddess.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Before the performance, Lentz presented on the history and cultural background surrounding "Philoctetes."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The class partnered with the Crawfordsville American Legion and VFW to feature a panel of veterans including (left to right) Dr. Tobey Herzog, Dr. Helen Hudson, Commander Bonita Clement and Dr. Zachery Koppelman. The veterans discussed how the play grappled with pertinent issues such as duty, obedience and PTSD.

Games by
Logan Weilbaker '25

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.

Example: CASH

NOTE

NOSE

LOSE

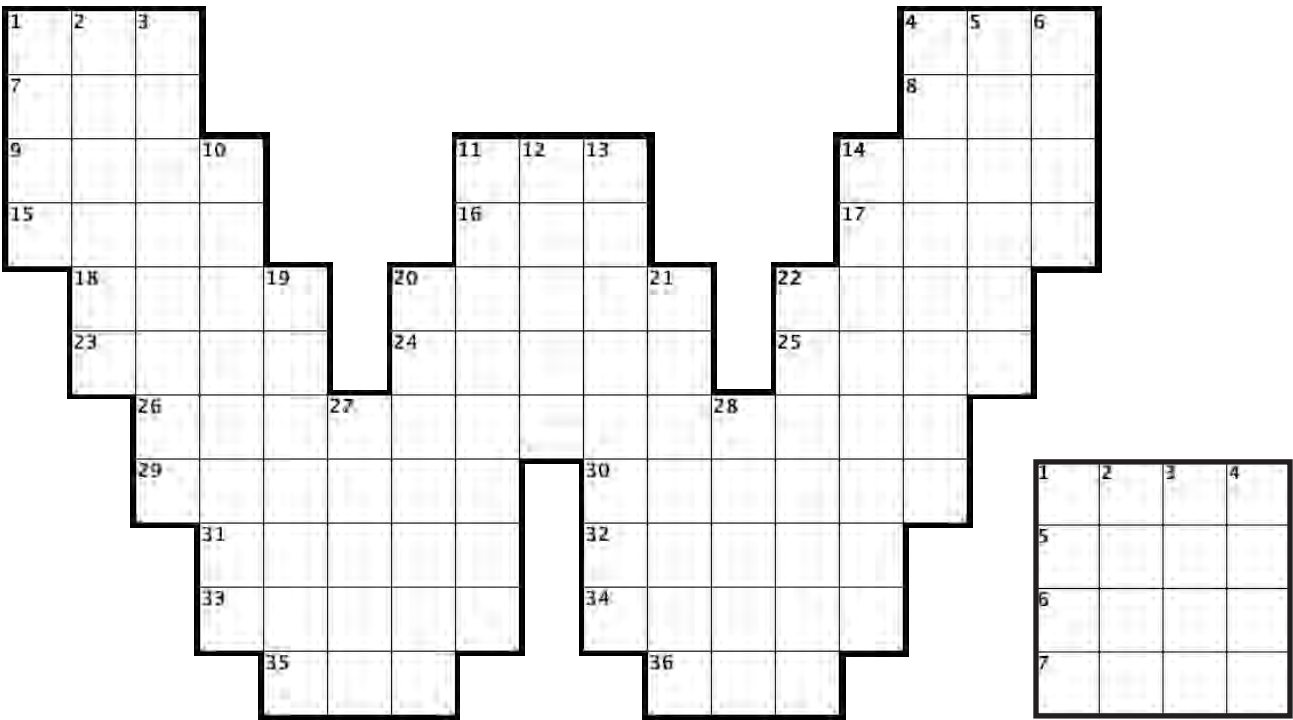
LOST

LIST GIFT
(4 steps) (4 steps)

GOLF SHOE

CART LACE
(5 steps) (7 steps)

'Then. Now. Always.'



Across

- 1. College conf. home to three tiger and two bulldog mascots
- 4. "Hurry!"
- 7. Past
- 8. Slice of history
- 9. Burgundy and Weasley
- 11. Great, like a starting basketball squad
- 14. Sheldon, Leonard, Howard or Raj
- 15. Go (through)
- 16. Work "to" something or someone
- 17. One of 30, for a dodecahedron
- 18. In-your-face affront
- 20. Mary Jane, in modern jargon
- 22. Climb without ropes
- 23. Spider's smaller cousin
- 24. Martini garnish
- 25. Augury interpretation
- 26. Given conditions
- 29. Bob, in "VeggieTales"
- 30. Blue eyes and blond hair, e.g.
- 31. Dressed to the ____
- 32. Respected one
- 33. Like a little teapot of song
- 34. Nike, e.g.
- 35. Parisian possessive
- 36. Brut

Down

- 1. ____-CoV-2 (pathogen)
- 2. Diva's quality
- 3. Lead-in to resolution
- 4. "____ to say..."
- 5. Home to Nike
- 6. Rise and shine
- 10. Pennsylvania and Paddington, e.g.
- 11. Chief
- 12. First president to live in the White House
- 13. Sloshed
- 14. Class of planes?
- 19. Authorizes, or authorizations
- 20. Bum muscle?
- 21. Warned, maybe
- 22. High ____ (elite group)
- 27. Summer camp craft
- 28. Apex's opposite

MINI

Across

- 1. Bunches
- 5. Make a donation
- 6. Like half the sides of a die
- 7. Email or snail mail

Down

- 1. Gets on in years
- 2. Not pre-recorded
- 3. Bun in the ____
- 4. Care for, as a flock



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 to the riddle below.

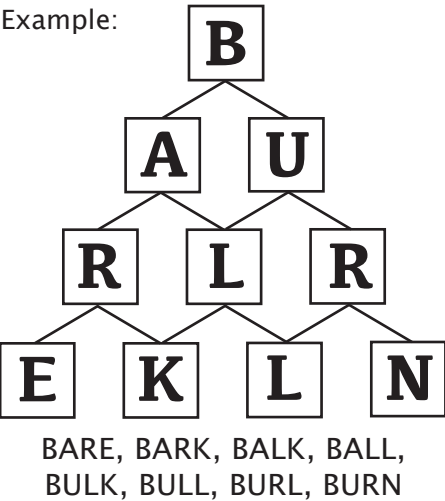


What animal costs the most?

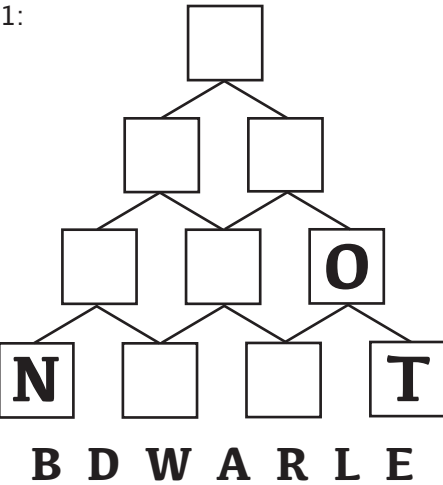
Word waterfall

Place the letters given below each diagram into the squares to form eight four-letter words reading from top to bottom. The top letter is the first letter of all eight words, each letter in the second row is the second letter of four words and so on.

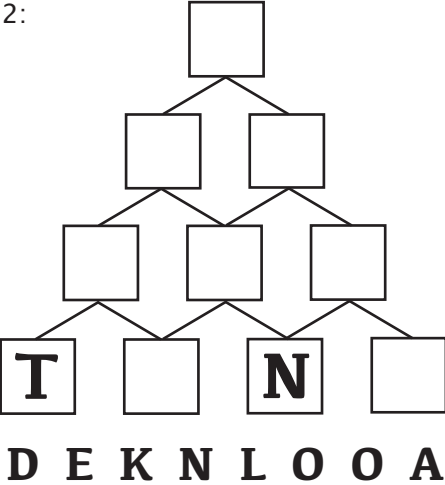
Example:



1:



2:



Answers

Word waterfall: (1) BRAN, BRAD, BREW, BLEW, BLOW, BLOT (2) LENT, LEND, LEAD, LEAN, LOAD, LOAN, LOON, LOOK

At the crossroads: GO LD FI SH

Sudoku

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

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

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

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.

At a tipping point: Baseball prepares for Kenyon

Little Giants drop two games on the road to Wittenberg

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

• As the Little Giants enter the intense conference stretch of the season, each game proves critical. After two tough losses to Wittenberg on Wednesday, April 19, the team looks forward to this weekend's double-header against Kenyon College—who will seek to pass Wabash in the conference standings—at 12 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Goodrich Ballpark.

The Little Giants dropped both games to Wittenberg on Wednesday, 2-12 and 10-11. Wabash opened the scoring when Cam Scheidt '25 scored following a Liam Patton single. But that lead was short-lived, as Wittenberg put up three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Pitching struggled, with the first four Wittenberg batters reaching on three walks and a hit-by-pitch, sending the first of 12 Wittenberg runs home.

“Obviously not how we wanted the day to go, but we gotta look for the positives and keep our heads up and move on,” said Scheidt. “Witt is a good team and they played well today, but I think we hung in there and didn't give in to them. We had a few big moments and big swings—like from Lentz—so that was great to see.”

After that first inning, Wabash held the Tigers scoreless through the third while bringing the game slightly closer with Kamden Earley '24 scoring on an errant pickoff move by Wittenberg. But by the bottom of the fourth, Wittenberg pushed the game out of hand with six runs. After three additional Tiger runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Wittenberg had its ten-run lead at the end of the seventh to end the game.

The second game was much closer, with the lead trading back and forth throughout. Every time Wabash took the lead, Wittenberg equalized or retook it. The brightest moment for the Little Giants was when



Camden Scheidt '25 swings at a pitch against Anderson University on April 11, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

“Witt is a good team and they played well today, but I think we hung in there and didn't give in to them. We had a few big moments and big swings—like from Lentz—so that was great to see.”

- Cam Scheidt '25

Brayden Lentz '23 cranked a three-run homer in the top of the 5th, sending Will Phillips '25 and Earley home too. Neither team's pitching was spectacular; this was an offensive battle. Wittenberg narrowly edged out Wabash's 11 hits with 13 of their own, and their bats carried the day in the end.

“We played hard today and we battled our asses off,”



Aidan McConnell '26 pitches against Anderson University on April 11, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

said pitcher Caleb Everson '26. “I think both games could have gone either way with one or two things going differently. We know that we were in the game the whole time and just fell short, but I'm proud of how we fought and I'm excited to play Kenyon.”

After Wednesday's games, Wabash seems to be at a tipping point in the conference standings. Denison and Wittenberg still top the conference, undefeated in conference play. After Wednesday's losses, the Little Giants are an even .500 in conference play—but quite close behind Wooster in third.

And who is knocking on the door, just one game behind Wabash? The Kenyon Owls. That factor adds just a bit more spice to Saturday's matches.

“We're excited to get right back at it and take on Kenyon,” Scheidt said. “They swept us last year, and that left a bad taste in our mouths. So it should be an exciting day.”

As Wabash played Wittenberg, Kenyon played Oberlin, winning both games and bringing the Owls' conference record to 3-5. Kenyon dominated the Yeomen in the first game 12-3, with another strong performance in game two, winning 5-3. Kenyon looks to continue this win streak on Saturday, swapping places in the conference tables with Wabash.

“We know we're a good team and that we can play with pretty much everyone,” said Scheidt after the games on Wednesday. “The key is keeping our heads up and keeping that confidence after tough days like today.”

NEXT UP:

KENYON, at WABASH

Goodrich Ballpark
April 22, 2023

AJ REID '24

Wabash IF



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

2022/23 STATISTICS

AVG: .426 3B: 4
HITS: 52 HR: 8
2B: 12 SB: 6

WABASH vs KENYON
Team Batting AVG:



Wabash College

.322



Kenyon College

.330

TRIPPER CAPPS

Hiram IF



COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022/23 STATISTICS

AVG: .437 3B: 0
HITS: 34 HR: 2
2B: 7 SB: 1

Goodwin: NCAC baseball power rankings

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • As we round third on the baseball season, here's a look at who is going to make it home on their feet, who is going to have to slide across the finish, and who is going to be called out.

1. Denison Big Red (23-6 Overall, 10-0 NCAC)

[Last week: 1]
There's no two ways about it: Denison is the best team in the conference. They just are. Maybe someone can get them in the conference tournament, but Denison is one of the best teams in the country. Their destruction of DePauw this week only solidified that.

2. Wittenberg Tigers (22-6, 8-0 NCAC)

[Last week: 2]
Wittenberg remains within striking distance of the Big Red, but Witt is still an obvious number two. After sweeping their double header with Wabash this week, they solidified that. They will close the season against Denison, so maybe they can capture the crown at the end of April.

3. Wabash Little Giants (19-12, 4-4 NCAC)

[Last week: 3]
Wabash has played decently enough lately, beating the teams they should, but losing games they need to win. The Little Giants round out the “good” category, but if they don't get it together, they'll slip down these rankings.

4. Wooster Fighting Scots (11-16, 6-4 NCAC)

[Last week: 4]
Wooster remains in the same spot after beating up on Ohio Wesleyan this past week. Wabash remains just ahead, but Wooster is closer to Wabash than Wabash is to Wittenberg.

5. Kenyon Owls (15-10, 3-5 NCAC)

[Last week: 5]
Kenyon rocked Oberlin this week, but I think Southmont could beat Oberlin, so they don't

get a whole lot of credit for it. If Wooster and Wabash begin to slide, Kenyon could move up these rankings should they steal their series against Wabash this weekend.

6. Hiram Terriers (12-16, 1-7 NCAC)

[Last week: 7]
Hiram did not play a game this past week, but they slid up only because OWU got crushed by Wooster and we wanted to shake up the rankings some. The Terriers have Denison coming to town this weekend, so expect them to move back down again next week.

7. OWU Battling Bishops (14-14, 3-7 NCAC)

[Last week: 6]
OWU may have a better record than Hiram right now, but their performances against Wooster this past weekend earned them a demotion. They have Wittenberg this weekend, so unless they pull off the upset of the century, they'll remain in this lower tier of NCAC baseball.

8. DePauw Tigers (10-17, 3-5 NCAC)

[Last week: 8]
Sure, they lost to Denison. But they got crushed, so they don't get to move above a team that didn't play. They should be glad Oberlin got wrecked by Kenyon or they could be the last team on this list. With a series against Wooster this weekend, they may well be on the way to number nine.

9. Oberlin Yeomen (9-16, 2-8 NCAC)

[Last week: 9]
Oberlin is bad. Thankfully, they get to play some non-conference teams this weekend, but that doesn't change that they are easily the worst team in the NCAC. The only way they lose that title is if the Tigers decide to put on that mantle.

This week's game to watch out for: Kenyon at Wabash on Saturday, April 22. It may not pull Kenyon up to the fourth spot, but it may well drag Wabash down.

Lacrosse looks to stick landing on season

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER • One year ago, if you would have told anyone that Wabash lacrosse would be holding on to an above .500 record with three games left in the season, they would have laughed. But now, with more than three quarters of their breakout season behind them, the Little Giants are clinging to a narrowly winning record.

On Wednesday, April 29, Wabash faced off against Wittenberg, hoping to score their eighth win of the season and guarantee the program's first .500 season heading into the conference tournament. Coming into the match, Wabash had a 7-5 record compared to Wittenberg's 4-7 record. Both teams were sporting a 1-3 NCAC record, promising a solid matchup that Little Giants expected to walk away with.

Despite the stats giving a slight nod towards Wabash, the match started off with tragedy.

Wittenberg butchered the Little Giants early on with a 6-0 first quarter. Down big, the team had no alternative but to go to work.

Twenty minutes into the affair, Wabash scored its first goal thanks to the team's leading scorer Ethan Stonis '23.

“It was just little mistakes—a couple of drop balls, a couple of shots that went wide. We're just so many little mistakes away from being a really, really good f-king team.”

- Quinn Fitzgerald '26

Over the rest of the second and through the third, the Little Giants fought back, giving up only a single goal and capturing six more goals of their own. Three of those came from Stonis, despite the senior suffering a slight injury early in the competition. Heading into the fourth quarter, Wabash trailed 7-8.

“The guys left it all on the field tonight,” said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. “The players kept us in the game—not coaching, not an-



Evan Stonis '26 passes the ball to a teammate against Oberlin on April 8, 2023, at Fischer Field.



Evan Stonis '26 gets into position Oberlin on April 8, 2023, at Fischer Field.

anything else. The guys fought, and they kept us in the game. We were able to do some things that we haven't been able to do in the past.”

The fourth quarter of the match was a rollercoaster affair. Just over

three minutes into the final quarter, Wabash gave up its ninth goal of the game. Then the team went on another run. They managed to force three points into five minutes, taking their first lead over

Wittenberg at 10-9.

However, a victory was not in store for the Little Giants. Wittenberg tied it all up with six minutes left in the game and got the go-ahead goal as the clock ran down

to its final two minutes. Wabash was unable to rally, as the time ran out. The final score of the match was 10-11.

“We finally started playing our game, and I think we matched up with that defense really well,” said Quinn Fitzgerald '26. “That was a game that we absolutely should win. It was just little mistakes—a couple of drop balls, a couple of shots that went wide. We're just so many little mistakes away from being a really, really good f-king team.”

After the disappointing loss to Wittenberg, Wabash sits at 7-6 (1-4 NCAC), ranking at seventh in the conference with a tenuous grasp on a winning record. Looking forward, the Little Giants will have three more opportunities to secure a winning season. Winning one of the three will be good for an even 8-8 record in the regular season. However, with no guarantees for success in the NCAC tournament, the team will need to win two of the three for a winning season record.

But where will the team pick up these wins? That is a question the Wabash team will have to find an answer for, as the next three matches will see them face off against the top three teams in the conference Kenyon, Denison and Ohio Wesleyan.

“It's all about us here on out,” said Burke. “It's going to be like that for the next couple games. I don't know what the score is going to be, but if we fight like we did tonight, I'm going to be pretty damn happy.”

Lacrosse will get its first swing at program history against 12-1 (5-1 NCAC) Kenyon on Saturday, April 22. The match will kick-off at 2 p.m. in Crawfordsville on Fischer Field. The following Tuesday, April 25, the team will travel to Delaware, Ohio, to play the third-ranked team in the NCAC, Ohio Wesleyan University. If the Little Giants cannot secure a win in these two matches, they will get a third swing against Denison to see if they, to use an analogy from the wrong sport, will get the walk-off hit or strikeout.

‘We want to focus on the process’

In conversation with Coach Daniel Bickett

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | CARTOONIST, STAFF WRITER • Talking to Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett, it's impossible to ignore the rows of tennis balls adorning his office wall. Each one tells a different story; something that has special significance to him, or a marker of a given stop on his coaching journey. They speak not only to his path to Wabash, but also to his philosophy of coaching.

Bickett has known since college that he wanted to coach. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-White-water in 2010, majoring in finance—partly as a “backup plan” in case coaching didn't work out. But he also believed it was a tool that could benefit him in the world of tennis coaching.

“I knew I wanted to go into coaching after college,” said Bickett. “My initial goal was to go into a private club setting. So, I felt like having that business experience would be good to understand.”

And for a while, he followed through on that aspiration, coaching at a private country club in Chicago. But it was there that he realized how much he missed the team atmosphere and the challenge of preparing for opponents. This longing led him back to White-water for his master's degree and solidified his desire to pursue college coaching full time.

After finishing his master's degree, Bickett bounced around between coaching positions, for the most part staying within the University of Wisconsin system. He took up his first head coaching job at UW-Oshkosh in 2014 before moving to UW-Green Bay the following year. And it was there that he started his collection.

“We'd play a team and I'd just ask, ‘Hey, do you have a logo ball?’” explained Bickett. “Can I snag one? And usually people were pretty generous with them.”

Of all the balls he has on display, his most memorable is from

the University of Southern California. He collected it in 2017 while coaching at UW-Madison, a team without any ranked singles or doubles players at the time. But at the NCAA Tournament, Bickett led the team to 28th in the nation—the USC ball reminds him of his first major coaching success.

“That was the first NCAA tournament the school had made since 2010, so that was a really amazing experience and just a fun team,” he said.

Bickett took over as Wabash head coach in 2019, making this his longest-held head coaching position yet. He knew that the Wabash team needed rebuilding, but he wasn't afraid of the challenge. And given the institution's stellar reputation for supporting student-athletes, Bickett knew this as the right place for him.

“I wanted to make sure that the school had an education that I could sell first, and something that would attract the students to the school more than just the tennis,” said Bickett.

His coaching philosophy revolves around the mental aspect of tennis, focusing on quality over quantity and the importance of a goal-oriented mindset.

“We don't want to focus on the result,” said Bickett, “we want to focus on the process.”

To him, the goal of college athletics is to instill confidence and self-belief in his players, ensuring they walk onto the court with a mentality that their opponents will have to take the match from them.

But the rigorous academic environment at Wabash can be challenging for student-athletes. As a coach, he emphasizes the importance of time management, and helps his players navigate the balance between sports and academics.

“Our guys have done a really good job, since they want to make it here, of really doing what they need to do,” said Bickett. “They al-



Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett watches on against Principia University on February 25, 2023, at the Collett Tennis Center.



Bickett gives his team talk against Principia University on February 25, 2023, at the Collett Tennis Center.

ways make sure they're taking care of the academic side of things.”

Asked which tennis player, past or present, he would most like to have dinner with, he had a decisive answer.

“John McEnroe,” he replied. “He is known for his on-court antics and fiery temperament, and would

probably be pretty exciting to have dinner with.”

And asked what piece of wisdom he would like to impart on his players, he quoted Confucius.

“The man who thinks he can and the man who thinks he cannot are both correct,” he said.

This quote, he believes, summa-

rizes his philosophy when it comes to training, a lesson that guides his team both in academics and sports. And with his focus on the mental game, fostering self-belief and his ability to balance the demands of academics and athletics, it may just sum up the new direction of the Wabash tennis team.