

Over 300 run in 5K for men’s mental health



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash students, alumni, faculty and community members gathered on Saturday, September 9, to run a 5K memorial for Wabash brothers lost to suicide. “I hope that the Wabash community can continue building momentum for men’s mental health by checking in on one another and taking advantage of the opportunities we have to get involved,” said Tristen Abbott, Wabash Wellness Coordinator.

The 5K followed a Chapel Talk given on Thursday September, 8, by Leslie Weirich who lost her son, Wabash brother Austin Weirich, to suicide nearly seven years ago. “Wabash College in many ways is defined by Wabash Always Fights, and that mantra can be applied to men’s mental health,” said Jehan Boyers ’25, Peer Health Educator. “There is no reason that any one of our Wabash brothers should be going through their fight alone.”



Increase in climatic weather events raise climate change questions

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER • The summer of 2023 was a time of climactic unrest across the world, but especially in the United States. July and August went down in the record books as the two hottest months globally in recorded history. And, within the space of two months, two abnormal weather events struck: Hurricane Hilary off the American West Coast and monsoon-like rains at the Burning Man Festival in

“Rare things are always happening... but a lot of extreme things are happening all at once.”

- Prof. Bradley Carlson

Nevada. The direct impact of these events is evident, but how they fit into the larger context of climate change poses a more complicated question.

On their own, both Hurricane Hilary and the rains at Burning Man were rare phenomena that simply happened to fall within the same year. However, the scientific community maintains concern about the recent increase in frequency and intensity of previously-rare weather events.

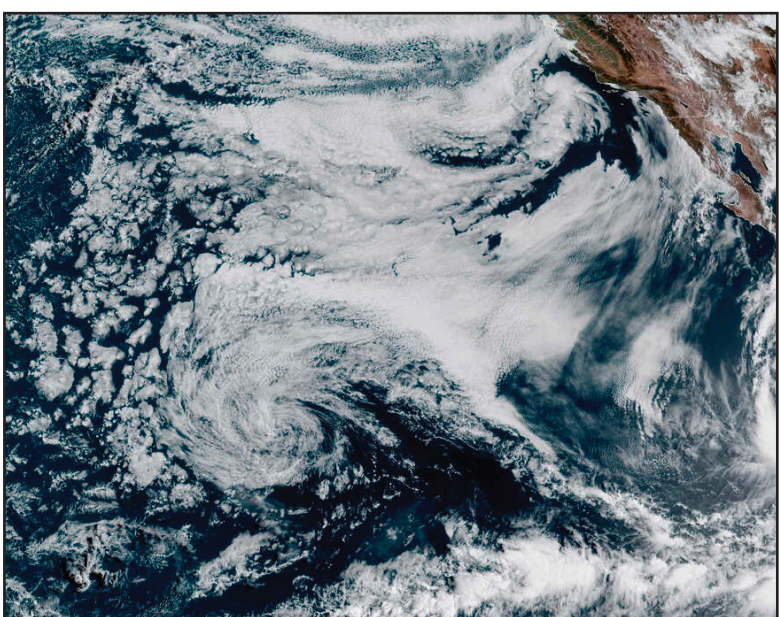
Associate Professor of Biology Bradley Carlson concluded that Hurricane Hilary and the Burning Man rains were events in a larger pattern due to the increased frequency of inclement weather events.

“Rare things are always happening and there’s always been extremes,” said Carlson. “But what’s standing out is that it seems like a lot of extreme things are happening all at

once.”

One possible contributing factor to some of this year’s severe weather is the El Niño weather cycle. While areas of California are normally protected from tropical storms for a variety of factors—including colder Pacific Ocean temperatures and east to west wind patterns—the El Niño phase can neutralize some of those factors. Professor of Biology Amanda Ingram explained how the El Niño cycle helped make Hurricane Hilary possible.

“The Pacific Ocean gets warmer, so that helped the storm get bigger in the first place,” said Ingram. “And certain weather events in the center of our continent helped minimize the typical east to west winds. And so the combination of those factors, plus the fact that everything is warmer because of climate change allowed that storm to



COURTESY OF NPR

Hurricane Hilary makes landfall on August 20.

move inland in a way it usually doesn’t.”

Diagnosing what role climate change plays in any one

weather event is difficult, but the overall pattern of climate change contains more tangible

Continued page 2

News around the world

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR •

Morocco

Morocco is dealing with the after-shocks of a devastating earthquake that killed thousands of people in the major city of Marrakech. With a death toll nearing 3,000 and over 5,500 people injured, the magnitude 6.8 earthquake that hit Morocco on September 8 has taken a heavy toll. Rescue crews have been working around the clock to recover both survivors and the dead out of the rubble.

[Photo courtesy of Reuters]

Mexico

In a special session of Mexico’s Congress, lawmakers heard testimony from researchers about the possibility of the existence of extraterrestrials. This session echoes a similar session that took place two months prior in the U.S. Congress. Testifying under oath, journalist and ufologist José Jaime Maussan Flota presented two boxes which he claimed held the remains of extraterrestrials. However, skepticism abounds as Maussan has had similar claims debunked in the past.

[Photo courtesy of Forbes]

Israel and Iran

In yet another sign of escalating tension between the two countries, Israel has accused Iran of building an airport in southern Lebanon with the intended purpose of staging aerial attacks across the border. During a security conference, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant claimed that the airport was being constructed in a densely forested area just 12 miles from Israel’s border. Photos presented by Gallant seemed to show both the Iranian national flag as well as Lebanon’s militant group, Hezbollah.

[Photo courtesy of Associated Press]

Romania

Romania, a member of NATO, has found fragments of drones thought to be remnants of Russian arms used against Ukraine. These remnants, the third of their kind to be found in a week, have led to emergency alerts being issued to Romanians living on the border. The alert warns of the “possibility that objects will fall from air,” and urges civilians to “stay indoors, away from windows and external walls.”

[Photo courtesy of Politico]

Spain

Amidst mounting pressure, Spanish Soccer Federation President Luis Rubiales has resigned after planting a kiss on the lips of a member of the Spanish women’s soccer team following the team’s win at the World Cup. Jennifer Hermoso—the player who was kissed—called the actions of Rubiales an “impulse-driven, sexist, out of place act without any consent.” Rubiales, who announced his resignation in a statement posted to X, said that “the people who love me have suffered the effects of persecution excessively, as well as many falsehoods.”

[Photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports]



Increasing Climactic Weather Events cont'd



Thousands of Burning Man attendees are trapped in Nevada desert after flooding.

COURTESY OF VICE

evidence for the effects it can have on the globe. The key, says Carlson, is temperature.

“In terms of extreme weather, it all has its roots in temperature. The sea level rise is because of elevated temperatures,” said Carlson. “Warmer temperatures are melting ice from the polar ice caps, but another factor is that the water is getting warmer, and warm water expands. So the ocean is actually getting deeper as it gets warmer.”

As lawmakers search for ways to combat the most concerning effects of climate change, controversy often arises over how much responsibility individual countries should shoulder when mounting

a global response. Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Matthew Harvey addressed some of these issues.

“Climate change is something where there’s not always a clear cause and effect,” said Harvey. “It’s really difficult, for example, to decide whether the United States or Great Britain or whoever is responsible for ‘X’ percent of climate change, because we don’t have the historical data going back to the Industrial Revolution.”

While large-scale climate policy often moves slowly through political systems and can be difficult to implement, many ways exist on the local level where impact can be made. Ingram said simple

tasks like recycling, driving less and adjusting thermostats may seem insignificant on the individual level, but when they are adopted by a community, the results can be extremely impactful.

Seeking to have a positive impact on your local environment is one of the most important aspects to combating climate change, Harvey explained. By taking time to think about our relationship with nature as a community, and how we can better ourselves and the environment through our actions, we open ourselves up to experiencing the world in more beautiful and wondrous ways.



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FEATURES

Eric Dean Gallery opens first show of season



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Incongruous Dogs and Other Beasts" by Marina Kuchinski opened on September 13 in the Fine Arts Center.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Julia Phipps and Professor Derek Mong lean to get a better look.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Marina Kuchinski, Jonathan Silva '24 and Silvio Radice '26 discuss the sculptor's artistic vision.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jonathan Gonzalez '24 and Luis Rivera '25 admire delicate ceramics that date back to the 19th century.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jonas Akers '24 peers through the glass at a vibrant exhibit.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Professor Chris Anderson and Silvio Radice '26 gaze past a display at another piece.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jake Weber '25 and Jonathan Silva '24 point out fine details in a provocative sculpture.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Pooches of Staffordshire" features a collection of whimsical porcelain pets.

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium

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

Hard

'Sweet dreams'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3				4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11					12					13				
14				15						16				
17			18						19					
20							21				22	23	24	
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				55				56	57					
58	59	60				61						62		
63						64						65		
66						67						68		

- Across**

 - 1. DJ's collection
 - 4. 420 compound
 - 7. Cry from a crib
 - 11. Chihuahua on TV
 - 12. "Scram!"
 - 13. Rarin' to go
 - 14. Hello, in Rio
 - 15. Bygone catalog issuer
 - 16. Mole, e.g.
 - 17. *Sweet dreams specialist
 - 20. ____ Club
 - 21. Org. for drivers
 - 22. Belly, in "The Summer I Turned Pretty"
 - 25. "What a ____!"
 - 28. Blueprint
 - 30. Green org.
 - 33. *"Sweet dreams" writers
 - 35. Nick name?
 - 38. Monsters, Inc. employee
 - 39. Perfume ingredient
 - 40. *Sweet dreams, literally
 - 43. Vote for?
 - 44. Guarantee
 - 45. Boo, say
 - 48. However
 - 49. Communication syst. for the deaf
- Down**

 - 1. Often-mocked shoe brand
 - 2. Indian city
 - 3. Part of a kit
 - 4. Asian cuisine
 - 5. Rhinoceros feature
 - 6. ____ Rica
 - 7. Issue on a stand, informally
 - 8. Time period
 - 9. Tom, Dick, and Harry
 - 10. Apt name for a curator
 - 12. Septic stuff
 - 13. Otolaryntologist's concern
 - 15. Class of antidepressants: Abbr.
 - 18. Treasury dept. agency
 - 19. Cold War side
 - 22. Jupiter or Mars
 - 23. Pageant VIP
 - 24. Iraqi city
 - 26. Let fly
 - 27. Rainbow fish
 - 29. Beagle designation
 - 30. SAT section
 - 31. Remote button
 - 32. Subject of many a Green Day track
 - 34. "The Emperor's New Groove" villain
 - 36. Fraternity letter
 - 37. Prepare, as flowers or a marriage
 - 41. Change in Mexico
 - 42. Sent on, or went off
 - 46. French pronoun
 - 47. Chicken tender go-with
 - 50. Brain parts
 - 52. Indiana, for one
 - 53. Bath accessory
 - 54. Tip-toe
 - 55. Like a bug in a rug
 - 56. Defensive play type
 - 57. Escape route
 - 58. Walgreens competitor
 - 59. Cancer follower
 - 60. B&B

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Welcoming new faculty: Warren Campbell



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

“[My] favorite one is probably a simple bird that I chose the day of in the tattoo shop, which I think is a noble path for choosing a tattoo,” said Campbell.

Despite being here for such a short time, Campbell has a genuine interest in the Wabash community. Like a number of his colleagues in the Wabash faculty, Campbell has expressed interest in getting involved in student clubs and organizations.

“I would probably start or join an Elden Ring club,” said Campbell.

It is that very sense of community that drew Campbell to accept a position here.

“The fact that Wabash is a smaller college provides a greater opportunity for a robust communal life,” said Campbell. “The potential to have a relationship with a professor is much higher at a place like Wabash.”

Campbell also reflected on his choice to enter higher education. Like many professors, his journey began with burning curiosity before anything else.

“I think my experience was one of continually having questions about my field of interest and those questions not being satisfied with completing a degree,” said Campbell.

This curiosity extends beyond the bounds of just one field of study, however. Campbell emphasized the interdisciplinary aspect of studying religion.

“Religion is an incredibly powerful force in the world that is connected to a host of fields, [such as] economics, science, or politics,” said Campbell. “I find that my classes allow people to engage that force, rather than it engaging them.”

Much of his interest in studying religion also stems from pondering mortality. In fact, Campbell uses that as a hook for drawing interest in his classes.

“You are going to die, and

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27 | STAFF WRITER • This fall, Wabash welcomes Warren Campbell as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion. Hailing from Canada, Campbell received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

Stemming from his Canadian upbringing, Campbell described himself as a huge hockey fan. Although he grew up in Ottawa, Campbell is a self-proclaimed bandwagoner, as he switched teams from the Ottawa Senators to the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2016.

Campbell’s other passions consist of repairing road bikes, watching films and looking after his kids. Among all of his other passions, Campbell has a multitude of tattoos.

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'Rustin' in the Rain' review: Experimenting pays off



COURTESY OF AMAZON

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | MANAGING EDITOR • Tyler Childers has always been hard to define. His music floats between country, folk, rock and bluegrass, blending styles and adding modern twists to classic genres. Just when you thought it couldn't get any messier, enter "Rustin' in the Rain," Childers' sixth studio album.

From the opening note of the title track, this is clearly a honky-tonk album. There's no mistaking that shuffle beat of the drum, bouncing of piano keys and wail of the steel guitar. Not to mention Childers' classic, unmatched Appalachian drawl at the focal point of each song. These are songs that ought to play in a smoky saloon or around a campfire on the floor of a canyon. It's not necessarily my cup of tea, but you have to admit, it's hard not to sway along and admire the musical genius that Childers is.

Boasting only seven tracks, the album as a whole is certainly unlike any of Childers' previous releases, but there is also a lot of variety within it. For example, he switches up the sound with a tender piano ballad for the lead single "In Your Love." The song's debut at the end of July was accompanied by the release of a music video, depicting a story of two coal miners falling in love in the 1950s.

It's one of the most heartwarming songs on the album, but it also highlights what I love and respect so much about Tyler Childers: his commitment to telling the real stories of Appalachia. While the song

predictably caught some controversy, he didn't write it just to cash in on or play into the uproar. As he told NPR in an interview, "[One] reason that I wanted to do this music video was my cousin growing up, who's like my big brother, is gay.... And just thinking about him not having a music video on CMT that spoke to him."

Lyrically, Childers returns to familiar themes of rural, blue-collar living and the Christian faith integral to middle America in songs like "Percheron Mules" and "Luke 2:8-10." However, there are a fair few songs that are simple, heartwarming love songs that just make you want to dance with your lady under the front porch lights.

It takes a lot of confidence and talent to stretch yourself as an artist like Childers does in "Rustin' in the Rain." Though it isn't his best work in my opinion, I still applaud him for going new places with his music, and I'm confident his fans will have no problem following wherever he's going.

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



'GUTS' review: Faithful follow-up



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR • After her hit first album, "SOUR", made such a mark on the pop music scene, expectations for Olivia Rodrigo's second album have been extremely high.

Now that it's here, "GUTS", swings between energetic teen-rock anthems and slower soulful piano ballads. Both impulsiveness and regret abound in a thoroughly angsty and enjoyable collection that feels more like a continuation of "SOUR" than a new, unique, artistic endeavor.

It's very much a teen-centric pop-punk album, but as long as you can get past the frivolity and silliness that come with any teen anthems, it's an enjoyable listen. Often, "GUTS" is incredibly energetic and contagiously upbeat, but the slower moments that intercut it feel well placed and deliver emotional punches. She's funny, clever, at times deeply sad and always pissed off.

As expected, her love-life is on full display and full of disappointment; "You found a new version of me/And I damn near started World War III."

However, disappointment doesn't seem to dissuade her from trying again and again. "I'm planning out my wedding with some guy I'm never marrying."

It's full of lip-sync-able one-liners that will surely abound as social media captions or as audio on TikTok: "I wanna

meet your mom, just to tell her her son sucks." and "He said he's 6'2, and I'm like, 'Dude, nice try.'"

The highlight of the album is "Logical," one of the aforementioned piano ballads. A song about a manipulative relationship raises questions of responsibility and guilt, performed with the passion and rage that colors so much of Rodrigo's work.

The album doesn't really try anything new, remaining faithful to the style that skyrocketed Olivia Rodrigo to fame in the first place. It's a solid second album, avoiding a sophomore slump, but hopefully its reception will cement her once again as a queen of the genre and open the door to the possibility of more variety in her future work.

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



'The skies are clear'

Comic by Preston Parker '26







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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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Staff Editorial: Buy into Homecoming

Homecoming and the week leading up to it is one of the most exciting times Wabash sees all year, perhaps rivaled only by Bell Week. Campus echoes with the sound of air raids, sleepless freshmen trudge along the red brick and friends, family and alumni set off from across the country to join Saturday's celebration. This week has the opportunity to bring out the best Wabash has to offer, but only if we all play our part. Time-honored traditions such as Chapel Sing, float-building and banner painting during Homecoming are only as impactful as we choose them to be, regardless of if you are a freshman or upperclassman. Choosing to add to the fun sanctifies each of these traditions and allows new participants to experience Wabash in its purest form. We at *The Bachelor* highly encourage you to travel around the fraternity houses and independent living units to witness the creativity and passion shown by our new Wabash brothers. Widespread participation is paramount to a successful Homecoming week.

From ringing in to commencement and beyond, Homecoming will take on different meanings to us. We begin as anxious freshmen and new students, eager to take advantage of our one year in the spotlight. By the time we graduate, we watch as seniors and euphorically take in the last screams of "Old Wabash." In the middle, we expect that it will never end. We hope that no student comes back as an alumnus, only then to recognize the beauty of this time honored tradition. We have four years on this beautiful campus and all that we can control is how we act now. Buy in. Don't leave any moments unfulfilled. Whether you're the one feeling the spray paint hit your chest or a brother cheering on from behind the caution tape, whether you're on the football field bringing home the victory or storming the field at the game's end, don't leave with any regrets. We have an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime. Let's make it happen.

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

Contact James Wallace at
jpwallac26@wabash.edu and get your
point across to the campus in
The Bachelor opinion section.



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HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

'BOOM BOOM BOOM'
Hi-Five to the new Rhyne class for keeping the skies safe. Now the new enemy is on the ground: sweaty keyboard warriors on YikYak.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Lo-Five to Joe Burrow for taking home the biggest bag in NFL history only to get destroyed by a team without a logo. At least he made it out of Week 1 with his achilles tendon intact.

'A LITTLE BIT OF MONICA...'

Hi-Five to Stephen King for playing "Mambo No. 5" so much his wife of 52 years threatened to divorce him. No, this is not a joke.

'PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. . .'

Lo-Five to U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert for getting kicked out of "Beetlejuice" the Musical for talking, singing, recording and vaping during the show. Now if only we could figure out how to get her ejected from Congress....

LOOKIN' FLY CAUGHT IN THAT WEB

Hi-Five to Doja Cat for her VMAs outfit. IYKYK.

A self-fulfilling prophecy

James Szalkie '25

Reply to this opinion at
jwszalki25@wabash.edu



Back in my Psychology 101 class, we talked about the idea of conformity, and the effects of how vocal individuals can influence the opinions of others. One lesson we are taught at Wabash is to connect the things we learn in these different disciplines to our everyday lives. I could not help but connect this idea of conformity, influence and the Asch effect when it comes to social events on this campus.

I want to be clear- being critical of how we spend our time and money as an institution is crucial. We cannot allow ourselves to run rampant in our funds with no justification. However, Wabash as a whole has entered a new habit of condemning events to being below-par before they have even happened.

You can predict the public opinion of a party or event entirely based on the 'hype' surrounding it the week leading up. Houses that are not as well known for their social events can no longer compete with those houses who hold a monopoly on the social reputation here on campus.

Social media, especially apps such as YikYak, have accelerated this effect. Phrases such as "it's going to be an (insert house here) party, it'll be bad," or, "they never have good music, nobody will have a good time" influence people's expectation going into any event.

This is not even beginning to touch on the rare but unbecoming comments on the guests who come all the way to Wabash for our heightened standards of chivalry. As a result, functions, which houses and groups put weeks or even

months of planning into, are doomed to failure, as prideful individuals walk in, staring the DJ down their nose.

And lo and behold, everyone leaves talking about what a terrible party it was. We have created a recurring self-fulfilling prophecy. One comment at the moment another party is announced can decide everyone's time once they're there, and that is too much power.

This does not stop just at parties. National Act has become a very controversial event on this campus. It is no secret that it has a large price tag, and the performance from NLE was decided by the court of public opinion to be subpar, even contrary to the hype it received leading up.

This controversy is further emphasized by the fact that every single person on this campus has "an act that would have been way better and half the price" compared to Cheat Codes, who delivered a very high-powered, professional set.

As the National Act was raised yet again in the Senate in recent weeks, this debate has reignited, and freshmen who have only heard the living history of these last two Acts are left feeling confused as to why we ever had such a tradition, forgetting performances on this campus by Jack Harlow and many other above-average acts.

This issue has farther reaching implications than just who has a fun time at a party. This pessimism is becoming the definition of many people's time here. Most people only get to enjoy Wabash for four years. When we write off opportunities, effectively canceling whole houses on the party scene, and doom a 60-thousand-dollar event weeks before it even happened, we have decided to find the worst of our experiences in college.

We are beginning to raise a generation of pessimists. Before the year, and thus the party scene on campus, swings into full force, I want to implore this community to look beyond the haters and walk into every weekend at this great school ready for a good time.

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Abroad vs. internship: Dilemma of an underclassmen



Matthew Brooks '24

Reply to this opinion at mjbrooks24@wabash.edu

Navigating how to spend your summer as an underclassman with the aim of enhancing your resume can be daunting. While the allure of working at a local landscaping business or restaurant to bolster your savings for the upcoming school year is strong, Wabash students possess a unique advantage in accessing career-boosting opportunities that can shape their post-graduate trajectory. Two significant avenues stand out: summer internships and summer study-abroad programs. Both offer distinct experiences that can elevate your resume and lens on the world.

Choosing between a summer study abroad and an internship is a pivotal decision for college students. Multiple factors, including financial considerations and post-college goals, come into play. Drawing from my engagement in both options, I've realized that this decision could be more complex than it seems.

My background: I participated in a one-month summer study abroad at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, before my junior year. This experience allowed me to take a macroeconomics course, fulfilling a requirement for my economics minor. Immersed in a foreign setting, I met new people, dived into a different culture, explored unfamiliar cities, pursued a course aligned with my interests, and created unforgettable memories.

On the other hand, this past summer, I worked as an IT consultant for Cummins, a Fortune 500 company specializing in

large-power diesel engines. This stint offered insights into the corporate 9-5 routine, reshaping my post-college perceptions, highlighting the value of mentorship, and clarifying my post-Wabash ambitions.

Despite their contrasting nature, both experiences enabled me to discover my place within diverse environments and acquire skills applicable beyond Wabash. Shifting focus, how can first- and second-year students weigh the choice between pursuing a study abroad or an internship? Financial considerations and post-college goals emerge as crucial factors.

Beginning with financial considerations, going abroad for a summer semester comes with a price tag, but it is doable. Opting for a summer study abroad means being financially responsible for costs beyond the standard eight semesters of undergraduate study. This financial commitment can be challenging for many students.

In addition, because you will be gone for a month or more, the ability to work a job is highly unlikely, as getting a student visa vs. a working visa in many study-abroad cases is costly and impractical. Side note: If you are going abroad, enjoy it; life is too short to travel to a fantastic country only to work your time away.

To mitigate costs, Wabash offers several scholarships that significantly ease the financial burden, covering over 50% of my expenses and transforming the study abroad option into a more attainable endeavor.

On the other hand, internships also present a valuable avenue, providing direct professional exposure and often offering compensation. With the support of Wabash's Career Services Center and the alum network, securing an internship is very achievable for Wabash students.

While cost is an important consideration, it's not the sole determinant. As someone majoring in rhetoric with aspirations in business post-

Wabash, I recognized the importance of my senior-year internship.

This pushed me to prioritize securing a meaningful internship that could potentially lead to a return offer while also providing experiences transferable to other job opportunities and master programs. Having a resume that could open the doors for valuable internships was necessary for me. My study abroad experiences also became a unique talking point in interviews, setting me apart from other candidates.

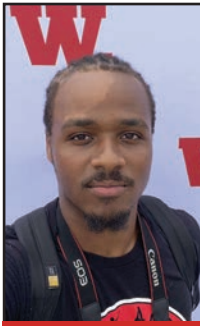
Ultimately, the decision of how to spend your summers rests with you. I emphasize the value of experiencing different cultures beyond one's borders. However, this doesn't necessarily have to occur exclusively during college summers.

Transformative journeys can be embarked upon at any stage in life. Each individual's unique circumstances should guide the decision-making process. Aligning choices with personal benefit is key. A study abroad venture may align perfectly with an academic path and enhance your qualifications for a dream job. Alternatively, a well-chosen internship could offer financial stability and a direct path toward the desired profession.

In conclusion, choosing between a summer study abroad and an internship is a matter of individual preferences. I firmly advocate for exploring foreign cultures and lifestyles and expanding your horizons beyond your comfort zone, which a study abroad experience unquestionably offers. It need not be confined solely to college days alone.

Likewise, internships furnish practical skills and networking prospects that can be equally influential in launching a career. So, whether you decide to traverse the globe or gain hands-on experience, you can be sure that either option has the ability to impact you in a positive way.

Truth be told



Jeremiah Clayton '26

Reply to this opinion at jdclayto26@wabash.edu

Let's talk about supporting artists and musicians: independent juxtaposed to industry. I find myself directly in this market as an independent artist and thus I will speak from my true experiences.

I've been making music since I was eight years old when my brother granted me the grace of microphone time in the closet studio. After a hiatus of a few years, I re-emerged on the scene around 2018, arguably one of Hip-Hop's most graceful years since its beginning.

As an independent artist, I saw; no even better, I lived through the ailments of the unspoken shadow-realm of music: marketing and promotion. I used to think that as long as I got the music out there it'd all magically transmute into billions.

But no, this proved to be false, especially in today's digital realm where the algorithm seemingly shows no reverence to the truths of those with no hashtags. Another hiatus, and here I stand today after doing my homework on what it takes to truly breakthrough as an independent artist without sacrificing my integrity in return.

The element of support is nondiscriminatory for indie artists especially and is very much essential in the aspect of musical outreach and potential revenue growth.

Industry musicians are blessed with various methods of stream allocation. They also have the privilege of being backed by marketing gurus and millions of industrial dollars, not to mention the pre-existing corporate contracts within these industries.

Though these industry individuals are backed by big industry, we independents are backed by support, which begins as a local phenomena. "It do hit different" if the art you're asked to support doesn't resonate with you personally, goes against your values or principles, or simply is not your taste.

Now what does support look like? Listening! A fairly easy way to support is to simply listen or see the art produced. Giving feedback is another step of support, though be mindful that music is not only something we hear, but if done correctly conveys one's truths through the lens in which their experiences were received.

Now that you've listened you can base your next moves upon the resonance of the music. Is it heat? Put it on repeat! Dry, like ash? Out with the trash! I find it easier to support an artist when I can relate.

Now it's time to show you care, now share! Sharing is caring and single-handedly one of the most impactful supporting tactics as it allows one's voice to be heard across various platforms and in various audiences.

Sharing is not exclusive to the internet. It's as simple as enlightening a friend on a new drop, mentioning it to a family member or telling your dog on your daily walk. It all matters!

Red, white and gray America: The first gerontocracy?



Hunter Otto '26

Reply to this opinion at hhotto26@wabash.edu

The late 1940s marked the beginning of the Baby Boomers, a generation of individuals who entered this world after the end of World War II.

Since then, the Baby Boomers by far have been the most influential generation in American history. This can especially be seen in our government, as currently 66% of the Senate and 44% of the House are Boomers.

America, as we know it, is completely dominated by this generation. Some may even call it a gerontocracy- when a nation is governed by one generation.

When Boomers first came of age and exerted their political will through sheer demographic power, incredible things such as civil rights, women's rights and decolonization of the globe were accomplished.

Concepts such as racism, imperialism, sexism and colonialism were gradually made too taboo to discuss in the political conversation. However, like anyone that ages, the Boomers become less creative and dynamic.

The Baby Boomers today are entrenched at the top of nearly all government positions even as they begin to age into incompetence.

The last non-Boomer president was George Bush who served 30 years ago. In 2024, there will likely be another race between aging Boomers in the form of Biden and Trump.

As will become evident shortly, some kind of legislation is needed to prevent legislators from serving until they die of old age- which it appears many politicians are keen to do.

If the average age of retirement in the US is 64, why would we elect someone in their 80s? A policy that prevents a candidate running for reelection after the age of 70 would be a major step in the right direction.

Senator Mitch McConnell, named

one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Forbes, "froze" while meeting with reporters on July 26th, 2023.

While the situation was bizarre, most were able to write it off as an oddity. However, a little over a month later, Sen. McConnell froze once more while addressing reports at a press conference.

When prompted if he would run for reelection in 2026, the interaction went as follows:

Sen. McConnell- "What are my thoughts about what?"

Questioner- "Running for reelection in 2026."

Sen. McConnell- "Oh (laughter). That's..."

Questioner- "Did you hear the question, Senator? Running for reelection in 2026?"

Sen. McConnell- "Yes."

After receiving clarification, Sen. McConnell was unresponsive for 30 seconds, looking torpid and flummoxed. Seeing as he is 81, concerns of Sen. McConnell's mental acuity are at the forefront of conversation.

In an official statement, Sen. McConnell's office stated that he suffers side effects relating to medication he is taking after a fall earlier this summer, in which he suffered cracked ribs and a concussion.

Despite this explanation, his age is not doing him any favors. McConnell first came into the Senate in 1984 at 42 years old. Since then, he has spent 39 years entrenched in the Senate. Such a length of time in a position of immense power is startling.

What is even more shocking is that the median age of Americans is 38.8. What this entails is that over half of all Americans alive today were born after McConnell was first elected Senator. This sort of decades-long Senate domination by individual politicians is unprecedented. So, why are our congressmen so old?

As of today, the average age of the House of Representatives is 57.9, down slightly from an all-time high of 58.9 in 2021-2022. The Senate is currently at an all-time high of 65.3.

Among the oldest include Ed Markey

(76), Richard Blumenthal (77), Dick Durbin (78), Angus King (78), Ben Cardin (79), Jim Risch (79), Mitch McConnell (81), Bernie Sanders (81), Chuck Grassley (89) and Dianne Feinstein (90).

When a person reaches 80, they should be in retirement. When someone is in their 90s, a serious conversation needs to be had about removing them from their position.

There comes a point in everyone's life that retirement becomes a necessity. However, a simple fact in politics is that as people age their connections, wealth and name recognition generally increase. As a result, entrenched politicians become unbeatable, especially when in power for decades.

Notably, Senator Dianne Feinstein also appears to be suffering effects of cognitive degeneration due to age.

While in the hospital for several months in the spring of 2023 due to health complications, she missed 91 votes in the Senate which delayed proceedings.

When asked by reporters when she would return to the Senate she said "I haven't been gone... I have been here... I have been voting," seemingly not understanding that she has been in a hospital.

Aging, especially past 70, leads to decreased mental sharpness. Gen X should have begun taking over the government ten years ago, but they have not. A trend is emerging of older legislators in the Boomer generation not passing on the torch of responsibility and power to the next generation.

Unfortunately, the only way to get many of these politicians to retire is to force them with legislation or wait for them to pass. We need legislation to cap the age at which someone may serve in government, particularly for congress.

To have a healthy society it is necessary to give more young people important seats in government. The day is approaching when Baby Boomers such as Biden (80), Trump (77), McConnell (81) and numerous others will simply be too old to represent us in any effective manner.

Underclassmen scoring wave

Ten goals in five games lead soccer to undefeated start



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jesse Martinez '26 celebrates his goal with a salute against Anderson University at Fischer Field on September 12.

RODOLFO ELIZONDO-ALCALA '27 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash soccer team is on a roll this season, riding a wave of 10 goals in their opening matches from an starting attack comprised entirely of underclassmen. Wabash remains undefeated after five games.

Over the September 9-10 weekend, the Little Giants traveled to the Berry Invitational in Berry, GA. Their first match came against Berry College. Due to adverse weather conditions, the match ended in a 0-0 draw.

The Little Giants were determined to bounce back, and they did just that in second match against Birmingham-Southern College on Sunday morning. In one of the most thrilling matches of the weekend, Wabash emerged with a 3-2 victory, ready to continue their impressive 2023 campaign.

Two days later, the Little Giants returned to Fischer Field for their home opener, securing a dominant 3-1 victory against Anderson University and maintaining their unbeaten streak. The first half was a grueling defensive affair, where both teams struggled to create chances on offense.

Despite the dominant control of the game's pacing, with many crosses and corners, Wabash struggled converting their ball possession to points on the board.

The second half took a drastic turn in Wabash's favor. Just minutes

into the half, freshman winger Bryce Kinnaman '27 made his impact on the game, scoring twice in a quick five-minute stretch, solidifying a win for Wabash in his first home game as Little Giant.

"Well, home games are 100% better than away games," said Kinnaman. "I've been to a few home games as a recruit and saw how they were. But playing on the field, you get a completely different sense of how it feels to be a part of Wabash with the Sphinx Club standing outside on the wall. That was really cool to see."

After securing the lead with Kinnaman's two goals, the Little Giants appeared to relax, which resulted in lax defending and a goal for Anderson. However, Jesse Martinez '26 sealed the game for Wabash with a goal in 73rd minute, extinguishing Anderson's last hopes of victory.

Even looking at the stats, it's clear that the new additions to the team are comfortable in their new roles at Wabash and they seem to be the catalyst to the success of the season. Escalante and Kinnaman are tied for lead scorer with four goals apiece with Martinez coming in third with two goals.

"Your spot is never guaranteed whether you're a freshman or a senior," said Kinnaman. "So I have a good run of form right now. But that doesn't mean in two games, I'll be starting still. So that gives me inspiration to keep working,

keep battling and no matter what, if I'm a freshman or not, I still get to fight for my spot to be starting every game."

While it is less common to see a team that produces most of its points from the newest additions, thus far the team has been able to ride this scoring avalanche. Older members of the team seem to have embraced the scoring abilities of these three younger players.

"It is great to see the younger guys showcasing their talents and strength to our squad," said Hugo Garcia '24, the team's stalwart senior midfielder defender. "I can't wait to see how they will develop over the rest of their careers here. As a freshman, you have lots to prove. With that comes the fear of messing up in the games. So it's important for younger guys to be confident in their play because it shows in the game."

Despite their undefeated 3-0-2 record, the team expressed frustration that they weren't able to convert their two ties into wins. Looking forward they will want to avoid any close games by replicating the explosive scoring burst from their three wins.

The Little Giants have a break this weekend, but will be back in action at Hanover College on Monday, September 18, where they will look to continue their impressive run of form.

Near-perfect start for tennis

Young talent dominates at Transylvania Invitational

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • Rarely does Wabash see a performance which can be called an unadulterated success. But that is exactly what the tennis team demonstrated at the Transylvania University Invitational on September 9 and 10. If there are any negative takeaways from the team's performance, nobody seems to know what they are.

Wabash tennis spent the weekend in Nicholasville, KY, where they had the chance to play against Wittenberg, Transylvania University and Asbury College. The tournament was not divided up into regular matches, but instead, every team faced each of the other three teams in separate matches of both singles and doubles with four doubles teams and eight-to-nine singles players.

Doubles

The Little Giants went 11-for-12 in doubles over the weekend, sweeping both Transylvania and Wittenberg and losing only #3 doubles to Asbury. What's more is two of the team's best doubles players—Liam Grennon '24 and Cole Borden '24—didn't play over the weekend to make court space for younger players. While it may have been a stumbling block season for Wabash doubles up to this point, any worries about their effectiveness have been put to rest.

For Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett, the big difference between this season and from years prior is how well the team is executing the game plan and maintaining a high level of energy: aspects of the game that they practiced all week.

"We have a lot of guys who are entering their second year and are starting to understand how I want them to play doubles," said Bickett. "And I think that was the biggest

thing that we saw this weekend is they really committed to playing how we want to play doubles and they went out there and executed that well."

Singles

Even though they set the bar high in doubles, the Little Giants found a way to follow up with a near-equally impressive singles performance, going 21-for-26. Transylvania, un-

Three freshmen—Rafael Rin '27, Sam Dziadosz '27 and Vittorio Bona '27—saw court time, combining to win 15 of their 16 matches. Their only loss was from Dziadosz in a #8 singles matches that ended with a third-set tiebreaker.

The other key takeaway was how well the sophomore class handled itself in the tournament. As expected, Cole Shifferly '26 resumed his role



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Cole Borden '24 and Liam Grennon '24 rest between games in their doubles match against Wittenberg on April 7.

able to secure a single win against Wabash all weekend, dropped all nine singles matches. Faring slightly better, Wittenberg captured a single win at the #3 singles spot.

Asbury's singles provided the team with their biggest challenge, winning five of the nine singles matches against Wabash, going 3-3 in the top six spots and winning two of the final three spots. However, because Wabash was down two of their best singles players, the team will lose no sleep over the result.

Takeaways

If there's anything to be learned for the team's performance, it's that the class of 2027 is ready to go.

Getting ready for gameday with Coach Kopp



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH CLAYTON '26

Golf prepares for tournament play with exhibition match against DePauw on September 10.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Golf isn't like other sports. Even though players and teams are competing against other players and teams—like every other sport—not many other sports have to compete against their playing surface. During a match, a golfer's toughest matchup may not be the player next to him, but the course itself. Because there is no opponent across from you that you can directly impact, preparation for a golf match is significantly different to game preparation in most other sports.

"[Course preparation] is a huge thing we have been working on recently," said Lewis Dellinger '25. "The new technology that we just got has completely changed our focus towards a much more process-based practice and playing style rather than an outcome-focused playing style. This means that when you are on the course, you're not even wondering what the other guys in the group are shooting or what you are shooting. Instead, you are focusing on optimizing each shot you have and how much error to take into account when hitting your golf ball."

Typically, practice rounds are the primary way that the Wabash golf team prepares, but their practice course, the Crawfordsville Country Club (CCC), is different from the courses that they compete on.

The CCC is 6,188 yards long. For comparison, the last course that the golf team competed on was 6,559 yards, almost a 400 yard difference. This difference puts players in alternative situations, situations that they would not have when practicing, such as hitting a driver on a par four and following that with a longer iron. At CCC, it's likely that players will hit a driver off the tee on a par four and follow that with a wedge or short iron.

"If we know that a course is longer, we'll make the CCC longer," said Head Coach Justin Kopp '21. "So the way we do that is taking iron off the tee and then you have a long iron in or we'll just work on drivers and wedges on the course so we can manipulate the course a little bit to make it play like different courses."

There are advantages to playing at CCC, according to Kopp, one of which being the tightness of the course.

"It's an older course and the trees are big; the guys are used to practicing there. So, [when] they get out to a bigger course [they find] more room to hit [their] driver."

Although the CCC is a smaller course, being able to practice where there is less room for failure is an advantage for the team. The harder practice conditions may be frustrating, but it benefits the team during tournaments with open courses.

A new addition to the team's preparation is a device called "Decade Golf." The system allows for players to recreate their round by entering in exactly where each shot went and how far the ball carried. Then, the system will analyze the player's performance and give quantitative feedback to tell them what needs to be improved.

"Every player, after each round, puts in every single shot they took," said Kopp. "For example, if I hit my drive from a 500-yard tee box in the right fairway, I then would have 220 yards to the pin. From there, if I have a 30 yard chip, maybe I left it to 10 feet on the green. Next, I missed my putt and had a two-footer coming back. At the end, you put in all those calculations and then this software analyzes it and tells you that you lost three strokes putting and you gained two strokes off the tee, but you lost a stroke from chipping. So based on that, I know I need to work on my chipping and putting. It's really a good way of showing guys what they need to work on."

After analyzing the number of shots lost on average for each player, Kopp said that if each player had, on average, gained two more shots during their round, they would have been a top-20 team in the country. The margin for error in golf is minimal, so every shot counts.

Outside of the post-match analysis, the program allows players to analyze the course prior to playing.

"When using 'Decade,' it also gives us knowledge on the course and tells us what the average shot outcome is for a normal Professional Golf Association (PGA) player to make from that spot on that course," said Matthew Lesniak '25. "It allows us to understand exactly where you want to miss on the golf course."

Being able to strategically plan out each round is a valuable skill that takes preparation as well as on-course management.

"The day before the tournament, we usually play a practice round," said Kopp. "Before that, we do a yardage book meeting, where we print out books with the course in them and go through each hole. We discuss what we see on the satellite images, what we see in the orange book and things to note during the practice round."

Players are expected to understand the yardage book, the intricate details of the course and plan for each shot accordingly. Although Kopp is on the course throughout the round, he isn't able to be with every player during every shot. This puts an extra emphasis on each player doing their research beforehand.

"I'm able to help get them out, but at the same time, I'm just one guy for five of them," said Kopp. "Usually I'm on a lot of par threes, helping with the arches. Then on greens, especially par five greens if they have birdie putts, I want to be there to help them read putts that they're all able to make. If I'm not there, I know that they are all plenty capable. They know the game plan and they've put in the preparation."

On the day of the match, the team will wake up, have breakfast together, head to the course and warm up for about an hour. Each player has invested significant time in mental preparation for the match. At that point, it's time to execute.

ly. "I won two of my three singles matches last weekend at the Transylvania invite, and I only narrowly lost the third. Having said that, I feel confident that I can compete at the highest level in our conference, and hopefully, I can help lead my team to a lot of victories this year."

The other members of the class tested out different orders in singles, where they all won at least one match.

The final takeaway is that this season's roster is deeper than ever before. Of the nine players at the invitational, only four saw significant playing time on the main roster last season. Players like Eduardo Werneck '26 and Blake Discher '26, who played just outside of the top-6 lineup last season were able to fit in over

the weekend in matchups against opponents who played as high as #3 singles for the other teams.

This depth will be a major advantage during the spring season, where a grueling schedule can sap the energy from teams who have to run their top six players in every match. With the ability to call guys from the bench who can compete in those top spots, Bickett will have plenty more opportunities to rest players before the team's biggest matches.

Looking ahead, the team will continue their fall season in a two-day tournament at Hope College, starting Friday, September 15. This will be a chance for the team to compete as individuals against players on eight different teams.

XC beset by injuries

JAMES DALY '24 | SPORTS WRITER• Competing against ten other schools on Saturday, September 9, the Little Giants cross country team raced in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) XC Championship Preview Race at Denison University, finishing the race in seventh place. This event marked their first 8k race of the season. Although the outcome wasn't ideal, it was not unexpected. Wabash went into the meet without their top three runners— Joe Barrett '24, Brayden Curnutt '25 and Will Neubauer '25—because of injuries/illness.

Without their best runners, the Little Giants did the best they could under the circumstances, while realizing that—if those runners were present—the team would probably finish the race in the top three.

"I am not concerned about the results," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "We're in a really good position as a team to be very competitive at the conference championship, which is our main focus this year. So, there's a lot to be excited about."

In total, the team scored 167 points and had an average time of 29:33.

"Our guys did well,"said McCreary. "We weren't necessarily concerned with how the performance went. We just wanted to preview what the conference championship was going to look like so we know what to expect when we get there. But, overall, our guys ran really well."

Jacob Sitzman '25 led the team by finishing the race in 28:56.8, ending the race in 17th out of 172 competitors.

"I think, overall, it went pretty well," said Sitzman. "[This race] was a good building block and I

"I am not concerned about the results. We're in a really good position as a team to be very competitive at the conference championship."

- Tyler McCreary

think [our training] transitioned well from our first 5k to our 8k, which is what we've done for all our races. I think [this race] was good showing, which will translate well to next week."

Other top finishers for the Wabash included Drake Hayes '24 and Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26. Both performed well, with Hayes finishing in 25th place in a time of 29:12.9. Diemer-McKinney, he finished in 30th place with a time of 29:19.9. For their next meet, the Wabash Redpack will compete at the University of Louisville on September 30 in the Greater Louisville Classic on the course at E. P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park.

Long-dead rivalry revived

Wabash to face Butler in the 'Iron Key' game



ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR• Some might say Wabash takes its rivalries too seriously. They would be wrong. The College seems to have built a lot of bad blood over the past 150 years. Sometimes those rivalries die. And sometimes they return after a long hiatus. On Saturday, September 16, Wabash will renew its longstanding rivalry with Butler University once again.

Back in the day—when rough 'em up football was commonplace for Wabash College—the Little Giants were known for knocking helmets with much larger institutions like Butler. Situated in Indianapolis, Butler was close enough to become a regular occurrence on the schedule.

The Little Giants and Bulldogs took the field together for the first time on October 25, 1884. This game was Wabash's first ever intercollegiate football game, and would end as their first win after the team routed Butler 4-0.

In the early years of the rivalry, Wabash found regular success as regulations on athletic scholarships hadn't yet created a wide division between schools of differing sizes. Wabash won 12 of the games before 1925 with a would-be six game win streak from 1910 to 1921 broken up by a single tie in 1913.

The rivalry was as hot as any involving Wabash, despite Wabash's odds of winning trending down every year. In fact, earlier in the rivalry, Butler was considered the true archrival of Wabash football. Huge crowds assembled to watch the event with as many as 12,000 fans gathering in Indianapolis to watch the 1948 iteration of the game.

Adding to the allure of this enigmatic, abandoned rivalry is a mysterious traveling trophy that has been lost to time. The Iron Key was adopted in 1933 to serve as the trophy of the Wabash-Butler rivalry, just one year after the Monon Bell was added to the Wabash's rivalry with DePauw.

The Key was a unique design, sporting a W and a B worked into the features of a regular skeleton key. Similar traditions as those surrounding the Bell enveloped the Iron Key. Several stories of the Key being stolen by either school have been immortalized in the pages of *The Bachelor*. According to the November 15, 1956 issue of *The Bachelor*, the original Iron Key was stolen in 1955 and a replica was made for

the 1956 matchup.

The Key would continue to switch hands until 1976, when Butler won the last matchup, presumably claiming the Key for their own. Since then the trophy has disappeared. Perhaps a final heist secured the Key into the

What had been a competitive rivalry in the early 1900's petered out after a six-game losing streak erased Little Giants' hopes of ever emerging victorious again. Time passed and the stories of Wabash football meeting Division I teams on the gridiron drifted into legend



The original Iron Key served as a trophy for the rivalry between Wabash and Butler.



COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES
October 20, 1933 issue of The Bachelor.



COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES
October 2, 1953 issue of The Bachelor.

hands of an unknown alumnus. All-in-all, the two teams have faced off 67 times, with Butler winning a vast majority of the games. The last time that Wabash and Butler played each other was in November of 1976. Wabash entered the contest 6-2 on the season under the leadership of coach Frank Navarro, after whom the new football field in Little Giant Stadium is now named. Butler won the contest 35-12. The series died after that matchup, leaving the score at 19-39-9 in favor of the Bulldogs for nearly 50 years.

as the team turned its attention towards smaller schools. But at Wabash, traditions die hard. Butler may lead the all-time series, but the Little Giants will look to chip away at their deficit in Indianapolis this upcoming weekend. Despite being underdogs, the Little Giants will embrace the College's longtime mantra and fight once again for glory and recognition, hopefully bringing home a win that has been a long time coming. And just maybe the matchup will spawn enough interest to unearth the lost Iron Key.

An entirely new challenge

Wabash squares off against DI opponent in Butler University



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Liam Thompson '24 lauches pass under threat of a sack against Kenyon College on November 5, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.

WILL MCKINZIE '26 | SPORTS WRITER• After their first nonconference matchup in the Gentlemen's Classic two weeks ago and an early bye week, the Wabash football team is ready to play its final non-conference game in Indianapolis against Butler University on Saturday, September 16. A long-awaited resurgence of a classic Indiana football rivalry, Wabash is looking to upset the heavily-favored Bulldogs before returning to Crawfordsville to commence NCAC play.

The Little Giants are consistently a must-watch team in Division III football. With an explosive offense and a defense eager to compete,

confidence is key for the Little Giants to take on a much more difficult opponent in Butler. Even with the daunting task waiting for Wabash on the gridiron, morale and expectations are higher than ever.

For the Wabash, a win on Saturday would be massive for both the program and players alike. To most spectators, this seems like a matchup of David and Goliath proportions, leaning heavily in favor of the Bulldogs. However, if the Little Giants pull off the upset, it's hard to see any other team standing in their way.

The Little Giants feel more than ready to take this challenge head-

on, following a productive slew of practices during their bye week.

"For the first time in four years, we had practice on Saturday [during] bye week," wide receiver Jacob Riddle '24 said. "We have every intent on taking it to Butler and beating them. Coming back to Crawfordsville with a win is going to be a perfect slingshot into conference play, and I think we are more than capable of doing it."

A week two bye is not an ideal way to start a season. And with a long stretch ahead for the Little Giants, this season will be a difficult grind. However, this Saturday, both teams are looking to make a

statement.

The Bulldogs have started their season 1-1 with a week one loss against the University of Montana and a decisive 41-13 victory against Taylor University in week two. The Little Giants are 1-0 with a 29-28 win against Hampden-Sydney College. Both Wabash and Butler have relied on their offenses to keep them in games thus far, so the key to the game on Saturday is going to be finding out which defense can impose their will and stop these big offenses.

When looking at the offense for both teams, the standout position is most definitely at quarterback. Bret Bushka '25 and Liam Thompson '24 will be facing off after they both received high honors last year. In their week one matchups, both quarterbacks threw two touchdowns and over 200 yards passing each.

Wabash hasn't beaten the Bulldogs since 1969, so this game is one of the most anticipated for Wabash fans and players alike, itching for game day to commence. With the Bud and Jackie Sellick Bowl as the venue, seas of Wabash red and Butler blue will gather to cheer their teams to victory. Only one will emerge with the coveted win. Will it be Wabash? Only time will tell.

McRoberts: NCAC Week 3 Football Power Rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER•

1. Wabash College Little Giants (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)

Following a week two bye, the Little Giants have done what they can to prepare them for the tough task of going toe-to-toe with the Bulldogs of Butler University. Their performance in Indianapolis this Saturday will shed light on Wabash's ability to stand atop the NCAC this season. With the talents of the dynamic Liam Thompson, the brilliant mind of Don Morel, and the newly minted class of Rhynies ready for Saturday, one has to think Ol' Wabash has it in her to win this week.

2. DePauw University Tigers (2-0, 0-0 NCAC)

Good for you Dannies. You beat Anderson 68-19. They have literally won 1 game in each season since 2019. And, oh boy, you face off against Hiram next week. Only Dannies load up the chumps at the beginning of the year with the idea that they can make the top of my power rankings. Better luck next time Tigers, you aren't fooling me.

3. Denison University Big Red (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)

However, one team that could be fooling folks by the end of the year might be the Big Red of Granville, OH. Their 28-14 loss over the weekend is deceiving, as the visiting Linfield University Wildcats are ranked #8 in the country. Once that is taken into account, a 14-point loss is rather impressive. This Denison squad might have the stuff to prove that there is something good in Ohio after all.

4. Wittenberg University Tigers (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)

The Tigers who call Springfield home have an opportunity to right the ship this year. Having five times ruled D3 football, Wittenberg has a history of great success, though recent years have been rough. With a stout defense and a propensity for averaging the lowest number of yards per play to still produce first downs, Witt will fight you to the bitter end. With two straight weeks of rest (I mean can you really call a matchup with Kenyon a game?), Wittenberg has been set up well to take NCAC conference play by storm.

5. Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (1-1, 0-0 NCAC)

Daring to take on the formidable foe of #7 UW-River Falls, Ohio Wesleyan learned that they aren't competing for the National Title this year. I mean, I could've told you that one. Jokes aside, playing the national contender likely highlighted the weaknesses in their game more than any other trial could. So, we shall see how well they learned when they take on The College of Wooster at 7pm Saturday.

6. The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (1-1, 0-0 NCAC)

It is tough to gauge where the Scots are right now. Following a very mediocre loss in week 1 with a mediocre win last Saturday doesn't inspire much confidence. Well, on second thought it makes me confident in their mediocrity. Perhaps it isn't so hard to get a read on Wooster after all.

7. Oberlin College Yeomen (1-1, 0-0 NCAC)

I think it is a sign that the end is near when Oberlin beats a team not named Kenyon in football. In fact, they beat a team that also has beaten teams not named Kenyon. Does this mean an alien invasion or maybe a nuclear war? Maybe that loony conspiracy theorist guy we all know isn't so crazy after all...

8. Hiram College Terriers (0-2, 0-0 NCAC)

Come on Hiram, I could've spared you the embarrassment of losing a combined 130-35 in your first 2 games by letting you know you sucked. You just needed to ask. Now you're headed straight into a Danny shaped buzz saw with the opportunity to have the worst point differential in human history. There might not be much left of these Terriers by the time they leave Greencastle with weekend, so all 4 of you Hiram fans out there will be saddened to know that your hounds won't go to heaven.

9. Kenyon College Owls (0-2, 0-0 NCAC)

Well Kenyon, I tried talking you up to everybody, I really did. I thought you might be decent, but now you have a worse record than Oberlin after an even worse loss to the same team that beat them. I just can't do it anymore guys. I'm done sticking up for you. You're demoted.