

Basketball veterans lead the way
against Denison

Four upperclassmen amass double-digit scoring in road win



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Avery Beaver '24 (left) and Noah Hupmann '25 (right) high five during a game against Wittenburg on January 27 in Chadwick Court. The pair won North Coast Athletic Conference Offensive and Defensive players of the week.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

In what would become a thrilling shootout for the ages, the Little Giants traveled to Denison to defend their spot at the top of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) rankings. After the Little Giants dropped their first matchup against Denison on their own home court in early January, the stage was set for a rematch with conference-defining stakes. The February 3 contest was a captivating watch from start to finish that finally saw the Little Giants win 89-81.

“This game was circled on our calendar as soon as we lost the first game,” said Ahmoni Jones '24. “Going into the game, we had just won a big game against Wittenberg. And we were thinking that we control our own destiny moving forward and if we can just go on the road and get this big win, it would put us in a really comfortable position going into the end of the season.”

With their first-place status on the line, the Little Giants walked into the Denison gym and put on an offensive demonstration that the Big Red will not forget anytime soon. The team was never far from the next bucket as they matched

their season high of 89 points, ringing up points across the court including the free throw line where they were 23-28. Shooting a season high of 10-19 (52.6%), from three-point land, Wabash made the opposing defense look like little more than an exercise in futility.

“This game was circled on our calendar as soon as we lost the first game.”

- Ahmoni Jones '24

On the other side, the Big Red lived and, eventually, died by the three-ball. With their own season-high three-point night, a scorching 15-27 (56.6%) from deep, Denison was able to patch over some struggles in other areas, like their rebounding disadvantage. They found enough points across the board, including a 48-point night from the bench, to ride the Little Giants’ heels for most of the game. But eventually the luck wore out. A few missed threes allowed Wabash to take control of the back-and-forth contest with a

quick double-digit lead, sealing out of the race for the conference crown.

“It was definitely frustrating knowing that the team was just hitting tough shots back-to-back,” said Jones. “But I think that we made it as tough as we possibly could. And by the end of the game, we had to just tip our hat off to them. But we got enough shot stops down the stretch and we were able to pull through, offensively, in those last three minutes.”

Four veterans led the way for the Little Giants. Vinny Buccilla '25, Ahmoni Jones '24, Sam Comer '24 and Avery Beaver '24 combined for 71 points in the game. Comer and Buccilla recorded 18 and 16 points respectively. Meanwhile Jones achieved a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. But it was Beaver who stole the show for the Little Giants, as he went off for a career-high 20 points, while hitting 4-7 from deep.

“During the game, I actually had no idea what [number of points] I was at,” said Beaver. “But after the game, when I saw the stat sheet, I was pretty happy. Pretty cool to finally reach that 20 mark.”

Continued page 8

Wabash to fund childhood
development center

Partners with Montgomery County Community Fund

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

As part of the \$25 million grant Wabash received from the Lilly Endowment, a local early childhood learning center will be constructed. The early childhood development center will help families with finding childcare in Crawfordsville and the wider Montgomery County area.

The five-year grant is aimed at strengthening and expanding the bond between Wabash and the Crawfordsville community by using the college’s existing and future resources to make meaningful changes that will benefit both the students of Wabash and Crawfordsville residents. One such change is the early childhood development center scheduled to open in 2025, that will provide childcare for over 100 children up to the age of five.

Stable and accessible childcare is critical to economic maximization. A 2018 study by Indiana University’s Public Policy Institute indicated that Indiana loses out on over \$1 billion due to “inadequate” childcare.

“Our county is known as a ‘childcare desert,’ meaning there are twice as many children as licensed child care spots.”

- MCCF Early Learning Director Lisa Walter

The study goes on to say that inadequate child care acutely affects rural areas like Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Community Fund, the organization Wabash is partnering with to establish the new center, concurs with the study’s findings and estimates on their website that, “The lack of access to child care costs Montgomery County businesses \$7.9 million annually.”

“Our county is known as a ‘childcare desert,’ meaning there are twice as many children as licensed child care spots,” said MCCF Early Learning Director Lisa Walter. “Our recent data shows that there are currently 1,623 children in need of care; however, there are only about 750 seats available.”

Of the 750 seats available, only 16% were deemed “high-quality” by Brighter Futures Indiana, a research arm of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration.

“Our young children deserve to have the best start possible; providing a high-quality early childhood education is critical in the success and future of our community.”

- MCCF Early Learning Director Lisa Walter

While childcare options are simply too scarce, undersupply is far from being the only fold to the problem. The cost of childcare, when families can find it, is exorbitant and often puts families in between a rock and hard place when making important personal finance decisions.

“Our state-wide child care cost averages close to \$9,000 per year, which is nearly equal to a year of in-state college tuition,” Walter said. “When our families cannot access quality childcare, they are faced with the dilemma of either moving out of our community [or] leaving the workforce, and some are left with the risk of leaving their child with an unlicensed/unregulated childcare provider.”

Cassie Hagan, director of professional development at Wabash and a board member of New Beginnings Child Care in Crawfordsville, offered her perspective on the issues working families with young children face when looking for childcare.

“Seats for infants to two years remain the most underserved demographic of kids in our community, which means families with new babies trying to return to work are in the most challenging situations,” Hagan said. “It can take months to get off a waitlist, which also means families often feel they don’t have choices in selecting child care that’s right for their families — if they are on a timeline to return to work, they often need to take the first seat that opens up.”

Continued page 2

Wabash hosts annual Special Olympics

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

The Allen Center is no stranger to crowds on the weekend, but this past weekend it wasn’t the Little Giant basketball team drawing the crowds. On Sunday, February 4, Wabash hosted it’s annual Special Olympics competition in Chadwick Court as well as the Knowing Fieldhouse.

With 63 basketball teams ready to play, Assistant Athletic Director Victoria Gregory was ready for a busy day as the organizer of the event. For the participants, it is an opportunity

to gain valuable experience in leadership and teamwork that cannot be replicated in other environments.

“Everyone is always so sad to leave, because for some athletes they don’t necessarily get that level of social interaction,” said Gregory. “All of these events are just a great way to get that level of social interaction that is needed.”

The Special Olympics is a safe space for many of the participants. Leadership and teamwork are all taught through experiences that will shape and leave a lasting impression on the players, coaches and even

the volunteers of the event.

For some, the Special Olympics is a place where disabled athletes won’t be discriminated against, allowing them to create bonds that they can hold forever. For others, it is a chance to have fun giving back to the community.

“This helps you realize that there’s more to the world than just right here on campus.”

- Leann Parish

“This is a fun way to get involved, to show that you can do an action that has a big impact on a group of people,” said Community Partnerships Coordinator Leann Parish, who helped coordinate the volunteers for the Special Olympics. “Many of the students were happy to take the time on a Sunday afternoon and be part of such a great event. On several occasions, volunteers stayed longer than they signed up for just to continue helping and being a part of something. They were just always cheery and upbeat guys with great attitude . . . just guys I can always rely on.”

During the Special Olympics, there was a combined total of 203 service hours with 159 of those hours coming from student athletes. There were a total of 75 student athlete volunteers and eight student volunteers, who were all needed to smoothly run the event that consisted of 476 athlete participants.

Many groups on campus such as the soccer team, Sigma Chi and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee played large roles in giving support to the program. Having such a smooth and great turnout at an event like the Special Olympics is a great representation of the Wabash culture.

“I enjoy volunteer work as a way of giving back to community members and organizations that support Wabash by attending sporting competitions, commu-



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
A player on the Shelby County Special Olympics basketball team shoots over the defense on February 4 at the Knowing Fieldhouse.

nity meetings and other events that allow Wabash to thrive as an institution,” said Chris Zimmerman '25. “I believe that the occurrences on our campus and the activities that we maintain have a large effect on the community around us, and we are responsible for providing opportunities like these with the great facilities to those we have around us.”

“All of these events are just a great way to get that level of social interaction that is needed.”

- Victoria Gregory

Volunteering provides students with opportunities to take part of the community they live in and break out of the college bubble.

“This helps you realize that there’s more to the world than just right here on campus,” Parish said.

Programs like the Special Olympics work to give experiences and a place to belong to disabled athletes all over the country. Participants could always be seen with a smile on their faces and simply excited to be able to compete against others. Events such as this take place all over the world and more will be held at the College in the coming months. Wabash’s involvement with the event continues to build a space for disabled athletes to compete in and gain valuable wisdom in leadership, teamwork, and more.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Porter County plays defense against opponents on February 4 at Chadwick Court.

Professor Lake presents research on John R. Blackburn



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Professor Lake presents his research to a full house in Salter Hall.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Descendants of Blackburn accept an honorary diploma on his behalf.



COURTESY OF @SLJMXI ON X

Brothers of the MXI stand next to the painting based on a rare photo of John R. Blackburn on February 5 in Salter Hall.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

A painting was created based on a rare photo discovered of John R. Blackburn found during Lake's research.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

11 descendants of Blackburn pose with his portrait and his honorary diploma.

News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

United Kingdom

In a break from traditional Crown policy towards the health of the royals, Buckingham Palace put out a press release earlier this week that King Charles III, 75, was diagnosed with cancer by his doctors. The king had seen doctors for an enlarged-prostate three weeks earlier and his tests came back with concerning results that doctors investigated further, discovering the cancer. Palace officials did not specify the type or stage of cancer; however, they did rule out prostate cancer. Charles, who began treatment on Monday, will step back from some of his more strenuous activities, like public speaking, work at charity events and international travel; but he will continue his weekly meetings with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and attend to his weekly flow of procedural paperwork. While there won't be an impact to the day-to-day functions of government, should the king's condition worsen over time, it is likely Queen Camilla and Prince William would start to take on some of Charles's duties.



COURTESY OF AP

King Charles III and Prince Harry face each other on November 12, 2023 in London.

Pakistan

Bombs detonated outside two Pakistani election offices on Wednesday killed more than 30 people just a day before Parliamentary elections were set to take place. The bombings, which were claimed by the Islamic State's Pakistan arm, occurred at two separate locations and are part of a larger trend of election violence in Pakistan. Despite the jarring attack, the Pakistani government remained committed to holding the elections on Thursday and declared a three-day mourning period. Pakistan's Parliamentary elections will be the 12th held in their 76-year history and have been hotly contested to this point. Three main parties, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, are vying for a majority of the 342 seats available in the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan's bicameral legislature. If no majority is won, which is the most likely outcome, then the party closest to a majority earns the right to form a coalition-government.



COURTESY OF AP

Pakistani Paramilitary soldiers stand guard ahead of elections on February 7, 2024.

Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave Hamas' proposed deal a hard no on Wednesday, calling their demands "bizarre" and remarking that if Israel were to accept the deal, "It will just invite another massacre." The U.S backed effort to bring Hamas and Israel to a point where both sides could end the war that continues to rage on after four months will continue, with Israel requesting that Egypt exert some pressure on Hamas to offer improved terms. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken commented on Israel's response in a press conference after Netanyahu rejected the deal. "Clearly there are things that Hamas sent back that are absolute nonstarters, and I assume that's what the prime minister was referring to," said Blinken. While the U.S and other third-party negotiators remain hopeful a deal can get done, Netanyahu recommitted to Israel's goal of completely eradicating Hamas, saying Wednesday he believes that could happen within the next few months. The conflict's death toll is almost 30,000.



COURTESY OF NPR

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks on October 28, 2023 in Tel Aviv.

El Salvador

The self-proclaimed "world's coolest dictator," president Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, is set to win a second five-year term as his country's highest elected official in a landslide election. Bukele will become the first Salvadoran to be re-elected as president. Despite the fact that El Salvador's constitution prohibits a president being re-elected, he is backed by a court system full of Bukele-appointed judges after his "New Ideas" party won a majority of legislative seats in 2021 elections. Bukele claims to represent a democratic system, but he drew international criticism for the way he coalesced power during his first term. He initially tried to negotiate with El Salvador's gangs who controlled regions of El Salvador, but after gangs took the lives of 62 people on one day alone in 2022, Bukele dramatically reversed his policy towards gangs. In the nearly two years since, Bukele's government has incarcerated 76,000 people, which equates to over 1% of El Salvador's entire population. The crackdown on gangs made neighborhoods safer and businesses more profitable, and the voters of El Salvador have clearly taken notice.



COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele addresses the nation on September 16, 2023.

Childhood development center

Continued from page 1

These sorts of lose-lose economic decisions that families are dealing with then have negative impacts on businesses further downstream. It is therefore in local businesses' best interests to help mitigate the problem of childcare, and according to Hagan, they are starting to do just that.

"I think the most significant victory is that local businesses have signed on to support the project," Hagan said. "Childcare is absolutely an economic development matter, and our community isn't going to make strides toward supporting the growth of our businesses without their support."

The economic benefits of the childhood development center will undoubtedly be impactful (not sure about this clause) but even more impactful will be the personal impact for children and their families. According to Walter, children experience up to 85% of brain development in their first five years of life. That development is crucial to setting children up to live healthy and full lives, making positive impacts on the world. That is the most important goal of the new center.

"Our young children deserve to have the best start possible," Walter said, "and providing a high-quality early childhood education is critical in the success and future of our community."

Myers Dinner Theatre

Rodgers & Hammerstein's
Cinderella

february 9 - March 9

Get your tickets now!
myersdt.com

Get \$20 off
Dinner + Show
Code: Wabash20

Get \$15 off
Show-Only
Code: LittleGiant15

Scan for tickets!

15 miles west of campus
on U.S. 136

Myers Dinner Theatre
108 N. Water St.
Hillsboro, IN
MYERSDT.COM
765.798.4902

Senior spotlight: Camden Cooper on getting comfortable with the uncomfortable



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Camden Cooper '24 (right) has made a name for himself by hurdling seemingly impossible obstacles, both in the classroom and outside.

ZACH GELEOTT '27
STAFF WRITER

Throughout his time at Wabash, Camden Cooper '24 has been a testament to the dedicated work-ethic of Wabash men. Being a chemistry major and biology minor, Cooper has found a way to successfully tackle his burdensome schoolwork, all while involving himself in numerous organizations on campus.

Cooper attended Zionsville High School, where he played football and baseball. Initially, he didn't see himself wanting to play a college sport, but when the opportunity arose to come and play football for the Little Giants, Cooper decided to visit the school and see what it was all about.

"I knew I wanted a smaller school, so seeing the small class

size when I came for Scarlet Honors, and then meeting the faculty was like a double whammy," said Cooper. "From there, I knew this was where I wanted to go — I had that feeling that this was the right spot for me."

Cooper had a successful freshman season on the gridiron, but his career was cut short due to an ACL tear at the beginning of his sophomore season. Although this was unexpected, it created more time for Cooper to involve himself in other areas of campus, racking up titles like brother at Phi Gamma Delta, secretary of the Wabash Acts Responsibly (WAR) Council and member of the Sphinx Club and Wabash's Public Health Organization (PHO), among other clubs.

In addition to his roles within various campus organizations, Cooper's presence in the classroom leaves an indelible mark, reflecting his commitment to academic excellence and active participation in campus life. If you've had a class with Cooper, then chances are you've experienced this infectious energy he brings with him.

"He always has good things to say and can spark up a conversation with anybody," said Pro-

fessor Laura Wysocki, chair of the chemistry department. "He keeps the good vibes going in the lab and asks really engaging questions throughout the class."

Cooper first had Wysocki as a professor during his sophomore year, when he enrolled in her organic chemistry class. Dubbed "the pre-med killer," this has been considered one of the most difficult courses at the College. However, Cooper dove into the class head-on with a positive attitude, ready to face the challenges it would bring.

"Even when he hit adversity — because organic chemistry is hard for everyone — he still had really positive energy and worked hard, and I love that about him," said Wysocki.

After commencement, Cooper will be attending the Indiana University School of Medicine in Bloomington, with hopes of pursuing a career in pediatric oncology or surgery.

"Heading off to medical school, and seeing the progression from this young, enthusiastic, hardworking student who had his ups and downs getting ready to go out there and lead in the next phase of his life, I couldn't be more excited for

him," Wysocki said.

As he finishes up his last semester, Cooper looks to pass the torch to the next generation of Little Giants, urging future Wabash students to "not be afraid to put yourself out there and try new things... Take chances, join clubs you maybe wouldn't have joined if you were at other places."

For Cooper, putting himself out there taught him the ever-important skill of being comfortable with the uncomfortable. Some of his best memories over the past three and a half years have come from spontaneous conversations that he has had around campus and with his fraternity brothers.

"Never say no to a conversation," said Cooper. "Really enjoy your time here and don't take anything for granted. Before you know, you'll be a senior and everything will feel like it went by in a blink, so cherish the present moment."



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Cousin Rick's Pick Three

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST

Lines and odds provided by FanDuel, accurate as of February 6, 2024. Please gamble responsibly.



Last Week's Record: 3-0
2024 Record: 4-2

Travis Kelce (Anytime Touchdown Scorer) +100

Almost in spite of my fantasy team, Kelce has decided to come alive in the playoffs once again after a relatively dismal regular season. As usual, a large part of the Chiefs' playoff success has been owed to Kelce, whose uncanny ability to find holes in coverage has created big play opportunities not just this season, but in seasons past. For the Chiefs to reach the proverbial mountain top, much will have to be the same. Facing a stout 49ers run defense, expect the Chiefs to rely even more heavily on the passing game and target their franchise cornerstone in the red zone when it counts the most.

George Karlaftis (To Record A Sack) +110

Sadly, this pick cannot be added to a parlay, but with the odds and the way Karlaftis has been playing throughout the playoffs, it's one I couldn't pass up. The 2023 season was a relatively quiet coming out party for the second-year defensive end out of Purdue notching double-digit sacks this year. In the playoffs, Karlaftis has managed to notch himself another 2.5 sacks in three games. While the 49ers themselves have one of the league's better offensive lines, I would find it relatively shocking to see Sunday's game end without Purdy getting dropped in the backfield once or twice, with Karlaftis being a prime candidate to wreak such havoc.

Kansas City (v. San Francisco) at +2.5 (Kansas City ML) +110

It would feel wrong to provide Super Bowl gambling advice without actually making a prediction for the game. While this game does genuinely feel like a toss up to me, I think the Chiefs have one primary advantage on the 49ers: quarterback play. I believe Purdy is a great, starting-caliber quarterback in the NFL, but I don't believe him to be the transcendent talent many thought he might be this time last year. I believe Purdy's QBR hovering in the 80s throughout the playoffs has been strongly representative of the 49ers middling performance throughout these playoffs. And lastly, while the Mahomes media mania from Cris Collinsworth and others has been just as infuriating to me as most, Mahomes previous success in this league and particularly on this stage is something that cannot be denied, especially in comparison to Purdy's lack of experience. For two teams that match up extremely evenly, expect quarterback play to be the difference in Super Bowl LVIII, and expect the Chiefs to win not only in that category, but the larger game.

New faculty hiring shows student-led liberal arts experience at work

JAKE WEBER '25
STAFF WRITER

Each semester, Wabash email inboxes are flooded with messages advertising faculty candidate research presentations; often soliciting feedback on the candidates from students and staff.

These faculty searches are a long and complex process, requiring much more work behind the scenes than one research presentation. Furthermore, no two searches are the same; requirements and expectations shift and change with each position. Visiting Assistant Professor candidates receive different scrutiny than an applicant seeking a tenure-track position.

Julia Phipps, Academic Administrative Coordinator for the Fine Arts Center handles these responsibilities for applicants to the Art, Music, Theater and Rhetoric departments. Phipps schedules preliminary interviews and organizes campus visit dates, as well as lodging for the applicant. The candidate meets with at least six different people, holds a lunch talk and has dinner with the department. These arrangements all come together in a matter of days to ensure that interviews can be

completed with ample time for discussion and decisions to be made.

For Phipps, a candidate who is respectful and kind quickly jumps to the top of the list. Candidates who appreciate the effort and behind the scenes work that goes into arranging their campus visit also makes candidates stand out. More importantly, Phipps reinforced the importance of student feedback on the decision-making process.

"Your input matters so much!" said Phipps. "We are here for the students and we want to hire faculty that excite you to learn, grow and lead."

With such a unique culture, it is no surprise that candidates arriving at Wabash are often expected to be evaluated based upon how they approach their presentation.

"It was important for me to be able to see their teaching styles, and whether or not it works for us as Wabash students," said Francisco Jimenez '24. "There is a positive impact that the candidates can have on us as students when we can effectively engage with their materials."

Candidate research presentations present a unique spotlight into the candidate's area of ex-

pertise. Getting to see an interesting topic be presented attracts students to the talk, allowing for new thoughts and ideas to spur amongst its attendees.

"When we sit in on presentations, they're normally interesting and fun, especially when learning from each candidate's specialties," said Mitchell Shea '24.

While student feedback is undoubtedly valuable when evaluating candidates, there are also struggles that students may face when trying to add their thoughts.

"It sometimes produces awkward moments for students who aren't sure what exactly to do, especially because we both want to impress each other," said Shea.

However, students should always feel encouraged to send their feedback in any way whether it is a critique of their research or simply how they interacted with students, even when candidates present on topics outside of one's area of expertise. Going to candidates outside of one's usual disciplines offers an opportunity to learn more about subjects that are unfamiliar, echoing a core tenet of the liberal arts education at Wabash.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Assistant Professor of Math Timur Akhunov leads a mock class to a group of prospective students for Scarlet Honors Weekend on December 1, 2024. Akhunov is among the latest additions to the Wabash faculty.

Five rom-coms for lonely Wallys this Valentine's Day

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR EMERITUS
Sigh...it's that time again, fel-las. The dreaded middle of February. As Valentine's Day looms dark and dismal on the horizon, it's time for those of us still single to make our plans to fill that partner-sized hole in our love lives: A difficult task that usually requires copious amounts of chocolate and wine (ironic, I know) and a movie to take your mind off of your friends who have fallen from our noble bachelor ranks.

But what if you, like me, are a hopeless romantic? What if you, too, wonder what greatness lies

in the only genre of movie fitting for Valentines Day? The rom-com. Incredibly kitschy, utterly predictable and yet truly heart-wrenching. You haven't really lived until you brush away the "dust in your eye" watching an ambiguously handsome A-list actor proclaim his love to Julia Roberts, again. Allow me to put your queries to rest. I have compiled a list of the top five rom-com movies to watch on that dreaded February 14, with or without your partner. Each of these films is sure to melt even the most macho of men.

"The Princess Bride"

If you haven't seen this movie already, watch it tonight. "The Princess Bride" has it all. Daring feats of strength, unparalleled cunning and a love story full of passion and longing. This classic 80s flick is the archetype for the rom-com. It doesn't even bear explaining. This is the go-to pick for a night in with your roommate for sure.



COURTESY OF AMAZON



COURTESY OF IMDB

"About Time"

A personal favorite, this movie follows Tim, a redheaded up-and-coming lawyer with an eccentric, yet surprisingly normal-feeling family, who finds out from his father that the men in their family have a unique talent: They can travel back in time. Needless to say, Tim uses these skills to woo the woman of his dreams named Mary, played by the lovely Rachel McAdams. With heartwarming relationships and equally heart-wrenching goodbyes, this rom-com remains a top pick on my watchlist every February.

"A Knight's Tale"

Move over, Joker. With an all-time performance by Heath Ledger as Will Thatcher, a squire-turned-knight after his master keels over dead, this satirical comedy checks all the boxes for a good rom-com. With witty remarks around every corner by Gregory Chaucer (Paul Bettany) and fueled by a soundtrack filled with 80s rock music, this love story between a young knight trying to realize his dream and a mysterious princess who turns him this way and that is another classic of its kind. This movie will have you ignoring leftover Brother's Pizza and reaching for a tissue box for a full two hours.



COURTESY OF IMDB



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

"Purple Hearts"

This movie is like nothing else I have ever seen. As with all romantic comedies, the plot is simple to follow, but the militaristic context set down by this film defies many of the less serious settings more akin to rom-coms. It comes across as gritty and serious, with the two main characters, Luke and Cassie, benefiting from a mutual need of marriage to rescue both of their separate lives. But with love prevailing even in dire circumstances, even Wabash ROTC members will have to admit that it gives them hope for love in the future.

"Marry Me"

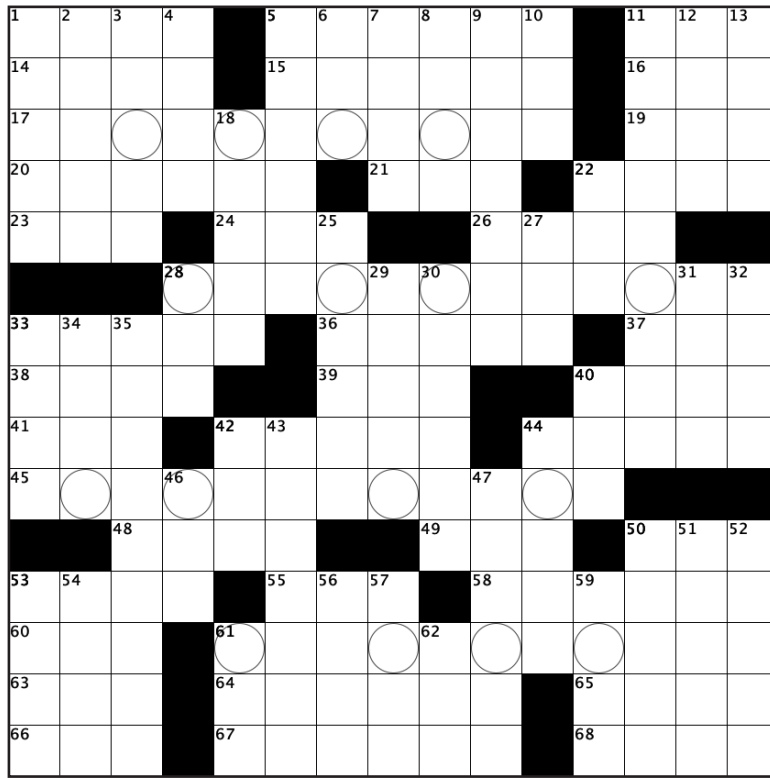
To fall directly into the narrative of having beautiful, yet emotionally lost, women fall for awkward, stable guys, look no further than this movie. When Jennifer Lopez, playing a jilted pop starlet, is cheated on by her classically-beautiful fiancée, she takes a leap of faith, marrying someone from the crowd at one of her concerts. Needless to say, Owen Wilson, a math teacher without social media (how much more cliché do you want?) steps up to the plate and says "I do." Navigating the differences in lifestyle creates a unique and surprisingly logical storyline, guaranteed to persuade even the most level-headed Wally that yes, even you may someday marry Megan Fox.



COURTESY OF IMDB

'Four eyes'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

- 1. "Shoot!"
- 5. Type of clock or wedgie
- 11. Get on in years
- 14. Dance done in skirts of the same name
- 15. ___ Beach: Southern California resort
- 16. DJ's setlist
- 17. Red-shirt athlete's concern
- 19. Cup holder?
- 20. Weather alert word
- 21. Mess up
- 22. "Barbie," e.g.
- 23. NNW's opposite
- 24. Pale Blue Dot, e.g.
- 26. Syllabus section
- 28. Psychological warfare tactic
- 33. Not to be trusted
- 36. Hans Christian Anderson and Scooby Doo, for two
- 37. In need of a filling, briefly?
- 38. One might apply gloss to them
- 39. "What's up, ___?"

- 40. Three-piece ensemble
- 41. Sight over Roswell
- 42. "Carmen" or "Salome"
- 44. Breathing marks, musically
- 45. Like many authoritarian governments
- 48. Rotten smell
- 49. Hosp. areas
- 50. Scale abbreviation
- 53. Building block company
- 55. Tuna container
- 58. Cartwheel where the gymnast doesn't touch the floor
- 60. Singer Grande, to fans
- 61. Quality of the United States, per the Pledge of Allegiance
- 63. Piece in a D&D bag
- 64. Prevent from going out of bounds
- 65. Word before period or school
- 66. Word of consent
- 67. Shakes an Etch a Sketch
- 68. Middle ___

Down

- 1. Game with kings and queens
- 2. Does the job of kings and queens
- 3. Wanted poster word
- 4. Piece of paper
- 5. "Fat" Cosby character
- 6. ___ chi
- 7. Stare salaciously
- 8. ___ Woods National Monument
- 9. Barge in on
- 10. Small island
- 11. Enterprising
- 12. Gender reveal option
- 13. Medical look-see
- 18. "Seinfeld" specialty
- 22. In shape
- 25. Auction attendee
- 27. "Illmatic" rapper
- 28. Works as a bouncer, perhaps
- 29. Native New Zealanders
- 30. "Just ___" (if)
- 31. Aide's declaration
- 32. Brooklyn basketball team
- 33. Run-down part of town
- 34. Good quality, in music terms
- 35. "I am so sorry"
- 40. Fraction of a min.
- 42. Oklahoma native
- 43. Name on a law firm
- 44. Prepares to leave
- 46. Wedding words
- 47. Planes and automobiles go-with
- 50. "The Scales" constellation
- 51. Hits the hay?
- 52. Hit the hay
- 53. Lord's lover
- 54. Superior's inferior
- 56. "What's the big ___?"
- 57. Nibbles
- 59. Orange, for a mango
- 61. 1950s GOP nickname
- 62. Strive (for)



Scan for solution!

New locker room pays tribute to longtime basketball coach

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
STAFF WRITER

After 24 years volunteering his time, skill and heart to the Wabash basketball team as an assistant coach, Ron Henricks finally has his name up in lights — the lights of the newly named "Coach Ron Henricks Locker Room." Prior to and during his role on the Wabash coaching staff, Henricks has always been a community-oriented man, teaching government, coaching North Montgomery High School's basketball team to two conference and county titles and serving as a high school guidance counselor for North Montgomery students. Though he didn't attend Wabash, he knew that a Wabash education can be and is formative for so many young men.

"Being a guidance counselor, I dealt with kids coming into Wabash, and I just think that Wabash is a great experience," said Henricks. "When they come out... they can open any doors that they want to."

As many understand, Division III players aren't compensated for their participation. As Henricks put it, "you don't get paid, you love it." But it isn't just the love of the sport and that opportunity to play at the college level that is so impactful.

"The one thing you'll get is relationships and friends, for the rest of your life," said Henricks. "The networking and the relationships... that's what makes Wabash."

Brian Shelbourne '12, a four-year basketball player and one of the primary funders of the new facility, knows Henricks as well as anyone. Henricks poured his voluntary time into Shelbourne's team, calling it a "labor of love."

"Coach [Henricks] would get there early, and he would come rebound and do whatever Coach [Mac] Petty needed him to," said Shelbourne.

That time and effort Henricks put in helped facilitate an amazing Wabash experience for Shelbourne. Those relationships and experiences propelled him forward and reminded him why he still chooses to stay connected to his Alma Mater.

"It's the people, right?" said Shelbourne. "That's why it's so fun to go back."

The people, specifically Henricks, are why he funded the new locker room. He hopes gestures such as the new facility will help inspire future students to participate in the Wabash system that helped him so much.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Coach Ron Henricks has made the most of his retirement from high school counseling and coaching by assisting Wabash basketball head coaches since 1998, seen here observing practice on February 7, 2024 in Chadwick Court.

205 East Market St. Crawfordsville
765.361.1800

Mon-Thurs 11AM-10PM • Fri 11AM-11PM
Sat 11AM-10PM • Sun Noon-10PM

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE AT
WWW.BROTHERSPIZZACO.NET

2 Pizza Deal

Buy 2 Large Pizzas and get

\$4 off

Restrictions apply. Expires 1/31/2025

Pizza and Sticks

\$2 off

When you buy a Large Pizza and Bread Sticks

Restrictions apply. Expires 1/31/2025



BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

X: @WabCoBachelor_
IG: @wabashcollegebachelor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sam Benedict • ssbenedi25@wabash.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Logan Weilbaker • laweilba25@wabash.edu

NEWS EDITOR

James Wallace • jpwallac26@wabash.edu

FEATURES EDITOR

Nathan Ellenberger • nvellenb26@wabash.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Haiden Diemer-McKinney • hmdiemer26@wabash.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Ethan Wallace • ewallac25@wabash.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Will Duncan • wjduncan27@wabash.edu

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).

The importance of Black History Month



Jordan Thomas '24

Reply to this opinion at
jmthomas24@wabash.edu

There is no question that Black History Month (BHM) is one of the most important months of the year. With a country built on slavery, it is wonderful to see where we have come from and honor a race that makes up a great amount of our country's history.

To me, BHM means honoring and commemorating the accomplishments, contributions, and hardships of African-Americans throughout history. This yearly event offers the chance to recognize our rich cultural legacy and the crucial role that black people have had in forming society. It provides a forum for recognizing the past wrongs done to African Americans and raising awareness of their past struggles and current ones for justice and equality.

I feel the value of BHM can also speak to the African American culture's heritage. There are so many artistic, musical, literary, and customary practices in not only black culture but American culture as well. Through the display of black leadership, innovation, and more, this month's celebration cultivates a greater awareness and respect of what black culture brings to the table that people are not aware of.

However, I understand why we have a month to celebrate black history, but I am somewhat indifferent about it, because I do not think we should have a month to solely honor Black History Month. Maybe that drives the problem. I am not sure. It just makes me feel that being "intentional" in recognizing us during a month doesn't help make us feel like we are a part of America as a whole.

Three labs, that's bad



Ayden Lutes '26

Reply to this opinion at
aklutes26@wabash.edu

As a Chemistry major myself, I have a love-hate relationship with labs. I love it when they are over, and I hate how long they take. Just kidding! However, in all seriousness, labs take a lot of effort from both the students and the professor teaching them. This, to me, is a big reason why requiring a third lab credit to graduate is not only logistically challenging but unnecessary in my view.

As of now, most labs run Tuesday through Thursday in the afternoon. This means when taking a lab credit, the entirety of one afternoon must be dedicated to the lab. As many of you know, this means you can't take any afternoon classes on Monday/Wednesday/Friday, or Tuesday/Thursday, depending on which day the lab is.

For someone who's a stem major and needs these classes to graduate, this is a sacrifice I must make. Labs are essential for hands-on experience in whatever field of science one is studying. But for a humanities major, is it necessary for their post-graduate goals? I feel as if taking more elec-

tives that would complement their major is a better use of time for any non-stem major, as opposed to a lab credit which only serves the purpose of providing the "liberal arts" education experience.

Furthermore, adding three labs puts a lot of strain on the already busy science department. Unlike most institutions, the lecture professors are the same people who teach the lab. This means professors teaching lab courses have lectures and labs to account for, not to mention they are obligated to do research. Labs are another class to prepare for, to dedicate time to grade. Additionally, most labs require pre-lab and post-lab work, which is usually laborious for the student to complete, I would also assume for the professor to grade.

I don't think having a third lab credit is the worst idea ever. I do think the skills taught in lab sciences like how to make observations, applied mathematics and the understanding of our world from a perspective of forces and energy yield benefits to any person.

My question is, though, can this not be taught in other classes? A history class can teach us how to observe behavioral patterns and their consequences. A math class can teach us basic motion principles. Why is it pivotal for a lab to be involved when that level of depth isn't necessary for the general student population?

For the sake of Wabash students and staff, keep it as two lab credits!

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

SYSTEM GROUNDHOG

Hi-Five to Punxsutawney Phil for predicting an early spring. So what if his accuracy is only 39% in the last 137 years? He's still more reliable than RT's betting picks.

CHECKMATE

Lo-Five to King Charles for waiting his entire life for the throne only to be cut down by cancer in less than a year. Who knows, he's survived being married to Camilla all these years, maybe he can beat this cancer too.

LET THE MADNESS BEGIN

Hi-Five to Kansas and North Carolina for losing to unranked opponents after convincing wins over the weekend. If this is a sign of what's to come in March, we're in for a treat.

YOU MISS 100% OF THE SHOTS YOU DON'T TAKE

Hi-Five to everyone's guaranteed Super Bowl nine-leg parlay ending with a Travis Kelce proposal. Consider tuition paid for.

ALL IN ON RED

Lo-Five to Nikki Haley for losing to "None of These Candidates" in the Nevada primary and then blasting the GOP. To be fair, if we lost that big in Nevada we would double down too.

Free small drink when you show your Wabash ID!
With a \$5 minimum purchase

**114 W Wabash Ave,
Crawfordsville, IN**

765-362-2764

Like us on Facebook!
@Arni's Crawfordsville

The stanza: An uncommon therapy tool



Seth Acero '25

Reply to this opinion at
sacero25@wabash.edu

Like a good amount of men my age, I suffer from depression, anxiety and occasional suicidal thoughts. I can't exactly pinpoint when my struggles started; all I know is that one day, I found myself unhappy, and life seemed like it wasn't worth living. It's scary to think about being gone. Even worse, go eight years through the struggle until you finally find a place to seek help. One of those places is my new creative outlet: poetry.

Men's mental health is considered to be one of the most overlooked topics among men; in fact, the suicide rate is higher in men than it is in women aged 16-24. This statistic stems from multiple contributing factors, but they all boil down to one common theme: toxic masculinity.

As men, we are taught to be tough, that vulnerability is weakness, and the idea of expression is feminine, and the more we allow our feelings to be pushed down deep into our stomachs, the more accustomed our minds will be to stress. However, this never really happens, especially when one realizes that thoughts of sadness are normal in our minds and should be expressed openly through methods of therapy to dig deep into what is troubling us so that we may solve our problems. Unfortunately, most men, including me, never realize this at a young age.

Of course, I am now taking medication and going to counseling for my issues, and for the most part, they help. But one thing I lacked was the ability to have an open dialogue with myself to dig deep into the root of my sadness and understand why I feel the need to rid myself of the planet. I told myself that if I began to seek a creative outlet in which I could express my emotions, I would look like an absolute idiot, that my friends and my father would see me as less of a man and ridicule me for doing feminine practices to cope with my struggles.

And so, for the longest time, I stayed quiet. Two weeks ago, I woke up from my bed after a 20-minute depressive episode that included visions of suicide and said, "I cannot continue to let these thoughts win over me." I pulled out my laptop,

started a new Word document, and did the first thing that came to mind: I started writing poetry.

I chose poetry as my creative outlet for a multitude of reasons. I am an English major, so I could put the skills I've acquired over the past few years to good use. The second reason was that poetry, unlike prose, is a free writing style; it doesn't follow the same conventions as a novel or short story. It can be as short or as long as I'd like it to be, and I don't have to capitalize words or use punctuation (as someone whose mind is constantly racing, the ability to write rambling sentences is liberating). And the best part? I can let my thoughts spill out onto the page without overthinking.

And so, I began to write. The first poem was dark. It was a vision of dying and feeling so lost that life was meaningless. It was scary, but I felt no need to stop; the words flowed onto the paper

as the Mississippi flowed through New Orleans. With each line, I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders. Writing became my escape — a method to face my inner demons head-on and acknowledge them. When I had finished, I smiled, for the vulnerability I had expressed on the page made my depression feel manageable. I had developed a creative outlet for my struggles.

I intend to keep writing poetry for myself and, if I feel confident enough, print out my work for others to see so they can also feel confident to write their own. I understand it's not a cure, but knowing that there are methods that help you become in touch with yourself and be vulnerable is exciting. With my story, I encourage others to take up a creative outlet to help alleviate their mental health struggles. Who knows, you might feel a little more OK every day.

1613 US 231
Crawfordsville, IN

Wildfire348.com
(765) 307-3758

Wildfire348

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA

**10% off entire order for
Wabash Students
Wednesday & Saturday**

*Must present Wabash Student ID at purchase

Wally's Wall: Super Bowl Predictions

The Question:

We asked students for their predictions on the winner, MVP and other prop bets for Super Bowl Sunday! All odds courtesy of DraftKings, accurate as of February 5. Please gamble responsibly.

Who will win?

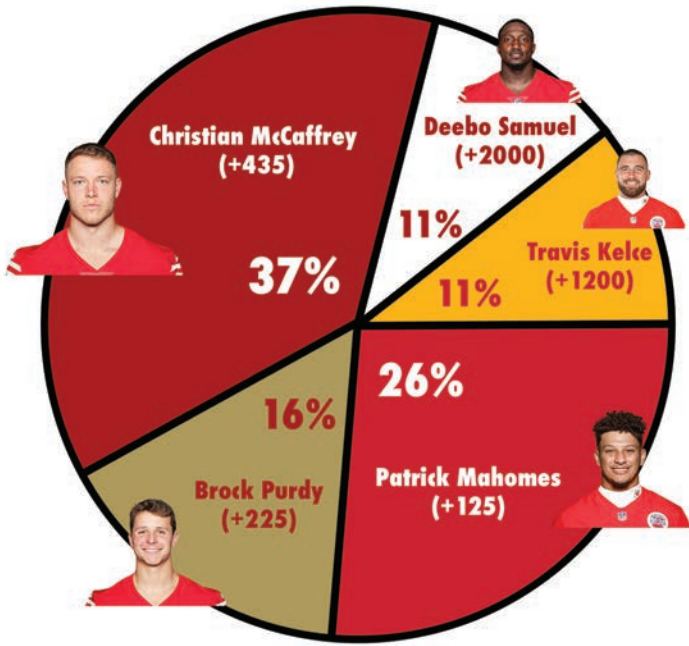


San Francisco 49ers (-125)
53%

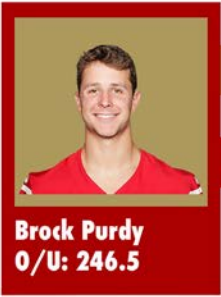


Kansas City Chiefs (+105)
47%

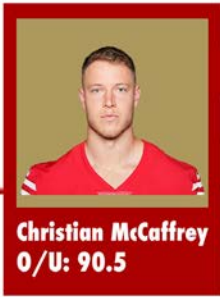
Who will win MVP?



Total passing yards



Total rushing yards



Total receiving yards



Total receiving yards



Graphics by Logan Weilbaker '25



RT Hall '24
Reply to this opinion at
rthall24@wabash.edu

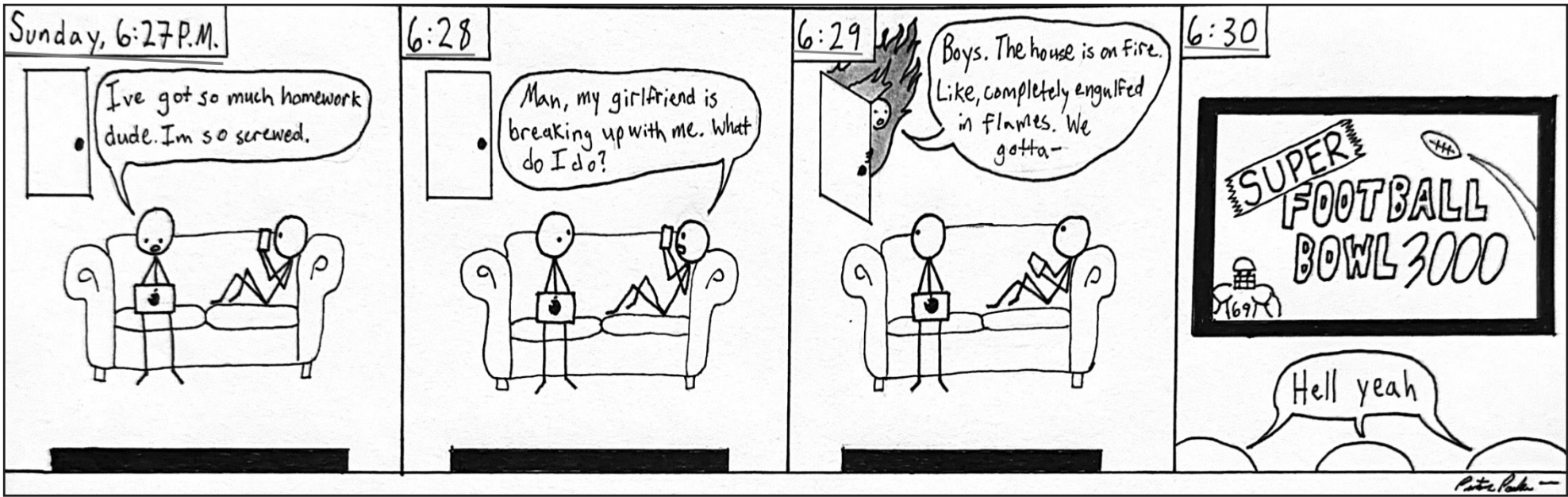
Are you not entertained? The Anatomy of Super Bowl commercials

ers have rewarded us now with one of America's greatest traditions, the Super Bowl commercial. With massive budgets and short time slots, Super Bowl commercials are forced to be memorable in more than an annoying earworm kind of way. As a result, the first technique of a good Super Bowl ad is to simply entertain. Many of the most memorable Super Bowl commercials rely on pure comedic effects. Possibly most notably, Doritos releases an ad each year to much anticipation, though the commercial itself rarely has anything to do with Doritos. Many Super Bowl ads successfully employ additional techniques. While these commercials are often major investments on behalf of marketers that exist outside of large campaigns, some ads have begun to push past this method recently, to develop a sort of "lore" spanning multiple commercials. After

all, who could forget Budweiser's epic storytelling of one of medieval history's finest warriors lost to time, the Bud Knight? Though for some reason, both Budweiser and Planters inevitably decided to kill off their expensively developed protagonists in their commercials, the lasting impact of the ads remains to this day. While characters like the Bud Knight have spawned real-life replicas such as Wabash's own Busch Knight, perhaps their more lasting impact has been in the development of a newly-created Super Bowl marketing technique, the soft launch. Seemingly discontent with the expensive world-building of multiple Super Bowl ads, companies have begun to launch their "Super Bowl campaigns" before the Super Bowl. In the past week, this technique has been prevalent with many pre-Super Bowl ads.

One such ad that has stood out in my feed has been an ad for Paramount+, in which Tia Tagovailoa, Drew Barrymore and Patrick Stewart conspire to throw Arnold from "Hey Arnold" at a mountain to climb to the top, all while Creed plays their hit song "Higher" (trust me, it's pretty funny). My point is, the anatomy of a good Super Bowl ad has seemingly reached a new form, in which good world-building is a necessary element for the staying power of your message. So this Sunday, be grateful for what we're blessed with; not only the pinnacle of sport but the pinnacle of advertising. Remember what you've sacrificed attentively to obtain this reward from our marketing overlords. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, remember that if there's a time to leave the TV, it's during the halftime show.

'Priorities' Comic by Preston Parker '26



This week in sports

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
OPINION EDITOR

Basketball: Hot-streak continues

The basketball team defeated Denison 89-81 on the road in a crucial conference win. This win avenges their loss to Denison earlier in the year and keeps a six-game win streak alive. Avery Beaver '24 won North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Men's Basketball Offensive Player of the Week honors while Noah Hupmann '25 won Men's Basketball Defensive Player of the Week for the third consecutive time.

The effort resulted in four players scoring 16 points or more and four players with six or more rebounds. Ahmoni Jones '24 earned a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

The Little Giants have further solidified the top spot in the conference standings at 10-3, one game ahead of Wooster. The team will seek to take care of business at Hiram on February 10 and against Ohio Wesleyan on February 14. Then the Little Giants season finale on senior day against Wooster on February 17 may determine the regular season conference champion.



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Rich Brooks '26 goes baseline against Wittenberg on January 27 at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27
Augusto Ghidini '26 readies for action in the Little Giants' scrimmage against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on January 20, 2024, at Collett Tennis Center.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

10th Annual Leadership Breakfast

Creating a More Sustainable Workplace

March 21, 2024 • 7:15 a.m.

Ivy Tech Culinary Center, Indianapolis

Melina Kennedy

Kevin Gearheart '98

Akilah Darden

Honoring Mac McNaught '76
WCI Man of the Year

Register at
wabash.edu/events/LeadershipBreakfast

Track & Field: Dominant performances earn team victory

The track & field team outshined their competition at the Anderson University Invitational on February 3. The Little Giants won the meet, finishing first out of nine teams with 182.83 team points.

Wabash had three event winners on the day: Josh Massaquoi '26 crossed the line first in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.79, Brayden Curnutt '25 dominated the field in the Mile with a 4:20.25 effort and Nathan France '24 put his strength on display in the 400m dash with a winning time of 51.35.

The team will compete at Centre College on February 10 while select individuals will compete at Grand Valley State in a large meet environment to hit conference and national qualifying marks on February 9.

Wrestling: Multiple top finishes at Anderson University

The Wrestling team competed at the Greyhound Open hosted by the University of Indianapolis on Sunday, February 4. While the meet had no team scoring, the Little Giants earned five top-six finishes on the day.

James Day '26 led the way with a second place finish in the

125-pound weight class. Day won three matches with a pin, 11-1 major decision and an 8-5 sudden victory on his march to the finals. Evan Burge '24 took third place in the 141-pound weight class with two pins in his first two matches.

The team will be back in action on February 17 when they compete at the Mid-States Invitational hosted by Trine University.

Tennis: Two losses ahead of first home match

The tennis team began their 2024 spring season in a hard-fought battle against Luther College on February 3, but came up short, losing the match 1-8. The only victory on the day came from Cole Borden '24 winning at number-four singles.

The team was back on the courts on February 4 when they competed against Augustana College. Despite a three-set victory at number-two singles from Augusto Ghidini '26 and a doubles victory from Ethan Koeneman '26 and Rafael Rin '27, the Little Giants lost to the host Vikings, 3-6.

The team will look to secure their first win on February 10 when they host Capital and Manchester at the Collett Tennis Center beginning at 10 a.m.

Volleyball: Victory-packed start continues

The volleyball team ended last week with a win against Lakeland University on February 2. The Little Giants won the match 3-2, winning the last set 15-10, and extended their win streak to four games.

Bawibawi Thang '27 led the way with an astounding 22 kills, helped in part by a perfectly-executed performance from Will Beikes '25, who recorded 48 assists. On defense, Ricky Sessions '24 took command with 13 digs on the night, while Shad Wilson '27 had an impressive five blocks.

The team looks forward to a busy weekend as they are slated to compete in four matches at the Illinois Wesleyan Invitational on January 9-10.

Swimming & diving: Looking ahead to NCAC Championships

The Swimming & Diving NCAC Championships will run from Wednesday, February 14 to Saturday, February 17 and will be hosted by Denison University.

Volleyball off to historic start

PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27
Shad Wilson '27 (left), Bawibawi Thang '27 (middle) and Will Beikes '25 (right) prepare at the net in the Little Giants' 3-1 victory over Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on January 31 at Chadwick Court.

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
GUEST WRITER

After coming off of their first home win of the season at Chadwick Court, the Little Giant volleyball team looked to continue their success against Lakeland University last Friday night on February 2. Going into the game, the Little Giants boasted a 3-1 record with their sights on having their best start in program history with a win against the Muskies.

As the game got under way, neither team wanted to take the lead in the first set. It wasn't until Wabash scored its pushed the pedal to the metal. Bawibawi Thang '27 served ten times in a row to put the Little Giants up 19-11.

"As I ramped up the power of my serve, I kind of got tired, but I took some deep breaths every serve," said Thang. "I just told myself to breathe and rip it."

With the Muskies rattled by Thang's powerful top-spin serve, Wabash went on to win the first set 25-15.

The second set was more of a back-and-forth contest with the Muskies finding life in some spurts of points. As it came down to crunch time, Wabash reached set point being up 24-23 as well as 25-24, but two Wabash service errors helped the Muskies earn a second set victory.

With the game tied at one set a piece, the Little Giants came into the third set with a vengeance as they let the previous set slip out

of their grasp. Will Beikes '25 decided to go on a serving streak himself by letting his hard-driven float serve fly six times to put his squad up 14-8. From that point on, Beikes, Patrick Volk '26 and Ricky Sessions '24 combined for seven kills to help shut out the third set 25-13.

Set four was eerily similar to set two as the Little Giants had a slew of mistakes that kept Lakeland in the game. Wabash had the upper hand by reaching match point five times, but once again, they couldn't quite close it out. Lakeland won the set on three straight Little Giant errors.

The fifth set was packed full of pressure as you had the feeling that every single person in the gym was on the edge of their sets, but there was one player who did not let the pressure affect him: Bawibawi Thang. He recorded five kills in the tiebreaking set to put his total number for the match at twenty-two (nine kills more than the next closest Little Giant).

"The 22 kills didn't mean that much to me. I just wanted to contribute to the team's success in any way I could," said Thang.

Due to Thang's impressive performance, the Wabash volleyball team won the game against Lakeland, and the team got their best start in program history with a 4-1 record.

Tennis goes down swinging

Early losses offer team chances to grow

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash tennis opened their 2024 spring season with a week-end on the road as they visited Luther College in Clinton, Iowa and Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Playing against the strong opponents, the team would end up 0-2 after the matches. However, the team expects to find lessons in defeat as they prepare for the conference season later down the line.

The tennis team faced Luther on February 3, where they would go down 1-8. Despite a lopsided final score the contest was not a one-sided affair. The team's sole win came at 4-singles where Cole Borden '24 completed his win in three sets. At 1-singles Cole Shifferely '26 carried his match into a third-set tiebreaker where he lost 10-8 by the minimum margin. Then 3-doubles, Rafael Rin '27 and his partner Ethan Koeneman '26, came up just short in a 10-8 tiebreaker.

"All those matches came down to one or two points here and there," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "Even at doubles, we had a really good opportunity to win that 3-doubles match and just took a cut that we wanted to take and missed the shot just a little bit wide. Say we convert that shot. Then we're only down 1-2 after doubles."

The 3-6 loss to Augustana on February 4 was in reach for the Little Giants for most of the match, but would end up going the other way. Rin and Koeneman reappearing at 3-doubles handily won their match. Later in singles Augusto Ghidini '27 came out on top after a tiebreak in 2-singles and Rin won his second match of the day at singles-6.

For Bickett, facing tough opponents early in the season is more

PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27
Cole Borden '24 in the Little Giants' scrimmage against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on January 20, 2024, at Collett Tennis Center.

about finding lessons to take away as they look to continue upsetting the order of the conference later in the season.

One of Bickett's main emphases is for his team to be comfortable playing difficult matches in high-stakes situations. Many inexperienced players, in that situation, rush to try to win every point as the first opportunity they find. But that can result in that player taking an aggressive shot too soon, instead of waiting for a better chance later in the rally.

"We need to understand where we need to be a little more aggressive but also where we can afford to maybe not take the foot off the gas but to not add more pressure on ourselves," said Bickett. "Because you look across the majority of the matches, and it's probably just a few too many unforced errors here and there. And there are situations where we would be much happier if those errors were forced, if they were doing some-

thing that was causing us to feel the need to try a little bit more."

For now the team has an opportunity to move past their first losses and not have to carry the pressure of expecting a perfect season.

"Anytime you walk out on the court, especially with tennis, we're a team, but when you're playing in that match, you're also an individual playing for the team," said Bickett. "And sometimes we can have these expectations and feel like if we lose, we're letting the team down. Early in the season when you have those losses, but you have a good battle, you see that the team is still there behind you. It takes a little bit of weight off your shoulders."

The Little Giants will play their first home matches in Collett Tennis Center on Saturday, February 10 in a double-header against Centre College and Manchester University.

THE BACHELOR | BACHELOR.WABASH.EDU | 1

Veterans lead way against Denison

Continued from page 1

Beaver, who also scored 18 in the team's prior game against Kenyon, was named the NCAC Offensive Men's Basketball Athlete of the Week. He was joined by Noah Hupmann '25 who's four blocks helped him earn the Defensive Athlete of the Week for the third-straight week.

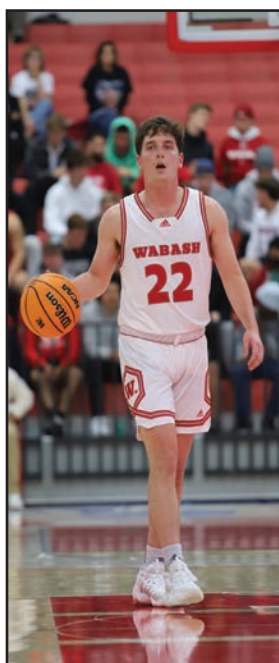
On top of a major win, the contest was a huge milestone for one of the players. Ahmoni Jones, who continues to shine in his final season, played his 111 game to surpass Jack Davidson '22 as the all-time leader for basketball games played at Wabash.

"I think it's really cool to be able to mark myself in history with a lot of great players before me," said Jones. "But it just shows how much love that I have for this place and all the hard work that I was willing and able to give to this place. I just appreciate everyone who's helped me through that process."

"I think it's really cool to be able to mark myself in history with a lot of great players before me."

-Ahmoni Jones '24

This win solidified the team's turnaround from a mid-season slump that nearly wrecked their chances of winning the con-



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

From left to right: Avery Beaver '24, Vinny Bucilla '25, Ahmoni Jones '24, and Sam Comer '24 on November 14, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

ference. Denison was the final NCAC team left to overcome, before they claim to be over the hump. But now they stand in the best position to win the NCAC.

"We never wavered," said Beaver. "We're still taking the same approach as we were in December when we weren't necessarily getting the job done. For this team, that's just kind of the steps we had to take to overcome those adversity and, and it made us stronger to where we are today. And hopefully we can get the job done in the next three games."

Three games remain in the regular season for the Little Giants 14-8 (10-3 NCAC). Their next

outing will be a game against the conference floor Hiram who stands at 2-19 (0-12 NCAC) this season. The first of the final two home games will be against seventh-place Ohio Wesleyan, who managed to defeat Wabash in their first contest, while the Little Giants were suffering through a winning drought.

"We are going to continue to have great energy as a team and really try to pay attention to the game plan each game," said Comer. "We have put ourselves in a great place, but we can't have any let downs."

The final game will be a home rematch against second-place Wooster on February 17, a game

which may end up being the determining battle for first place in the NCAC. For Wabash this will be déjà vu, as they continue to compete with the familiar Fighting Scots, who have been the second-place team in both of Wabash's NCAC Conference Championships in 2022 and 2023.

"We have done it before," said Bucilla. "And we know what it takes, especially late in the season. We get everyone's best shot from now on, because we have that top spot right now. We know every game for the rest of the year is pretty much win or go home."

Lacrosse plans breakout season



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Lucas Cunningham '26 hangs tight on defense as Wabash lacrosse faced DePauw University in a 5-15 loss on April 1, 2023 at DePauw.

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
SPORTS WRITER

Coming off the best season in their history, the lacrosse team plans on building their momentum to reach for their first season over .500. With 14 freshmen coming in to bolster their previous stretched out roster, they have more than just words on a white board to get them going for the upcoming schedule.

During the team's 2023 campaign, they shattered a multitude of both team and individual records. The team set an incredible seven new program records. On top of a stellar team performance, Wabash had four separate players break individual season records, as well as five single-game records, which included a 13-goal day for Quinn Fitzgerald '25 that tied the NCAA record.

"We're hungry," said Fitzgerald. "Last year was a good year, but we want so much more. We aren't satisfied with a 7-9 record and only one conference win. Everybody counts us out, and we just want to prove them wrong."

Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke has set the goal to finish with an above .500 winning percentage for the first time in the program's history. The team would also like to move up the rankings in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC).

"If you're looking at wins, I think finishing .500 or above is a huge positive. I don't think we need to shoot for the NCAA Tournament just yet. But I think we need to be

moving towards it."

A source of inspiration came early this calendar year for the Little Giants, when the NCAC Coaches Men's Lacrosse Pre-Season Poll was released on February 5, where Wabash was placed in eighth, only above Hiram.

"The guys, myself and the coaching staff were pretty pissed about that [the poll]," said Burke. "There are a lot of people who don't understand what we're trying to build. We have the culture and the right guys in the locker room to do something Wabash has never done. I think we can beat a lot of teams that they don't expect."

But the team will have more than just motivation to get them through the season with a strong mix of new and returning athletes to bolster the lineup. There were major holes left by the departure of Third Team All-NCAC attackmen Ethan Stonis '23 and defensive leaders AJ Miller '23 and Conner Cochran '23, but there are going to be several players that are prepared to step up and make a difference.

On the offensive side of the ball, attackman Fitzgerald, who in his sophomore campaign was second in both scoring and assists, tallying 46 goals paired with 18 assists, is going to be a vital component to Wabash's offense.

Another returning staple of last year's record-breaking attack is two-way midfielder, team captain Artie Rogers '24. Already tied for the most career assists in school history, Artie's playmaking and

leadership is going to be essential for this offense to make the next step.

"I think a name to be recognized is Jake Phippen '26, he continues to get better everyday. He had 41 points last season, which is the most points ever by a freshman. He is a pivotal part of this offense," said Burke.

"We have the culture and the right guys in the locker room to do something Wabash has never done. I think we can beat a lot of teams that they don't expect."

- Coach Burke

This year's offense will also be relying on a plethora of talented freshmen. Firstly, Christian Dyebedock '27 will appear behind the goal at the X position. Will Sorg '27, an Indiana All-American in high school will have plenty of opportunities to shine this season. Midfielders Zade Kalesperis '27 and Blake Stephans '27 are also going to find time on the field as the season gets going.

Last year, Wabash was spread thin on defense. They were an extremely young group that fought through injuries.

This predominantly young, returning defensive core boasts

two veterans, defensive midfielder Sam Miller '24 and defensive pole Brigham McGill '24, who are invaluable with the leadership they provide.

In a defense with a lot of holes to fill coming into the season, fans will see numerous freshmen play big-time minutes for this aspiring Wabash team. One of the top recruits from this loaded recruiting class, Indiana All-American Quinn Shefferly '27 looks to be a massive contributor for this young defense. Fellow freshman Luca Flaim '27 will also be a massive asset as he is stepping in for an injured Jack Bohrer '26 this season at LSM.

Coming off a record-breaking year at face-off, junior Luka DiFilippo '25 will continue to be a massive asset for the team. Last year DiFilippo boasted an impressive 53.3% faceoff percentage. If he can reproduce those numbers, and even improve from last year it will be invaluable for Little Giant lacrosse.

Three freshman goalkeepers are coming into this season with no returning goalies.

"We have Colin Krekeler '27, Hayden Hicks '27 and Colin Hamilton '27, all three could play at this level. That's a massive upgrade. We're not relying on one guy. If one guy's not seeing the [ball], we can put another guy with confidence in the cage. I'm excited to see those guys grind out the season, and see who ends up on top," said Burke.

The season and home opener for Wabash College lacrosse is slated

McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
SPORTS WRITER

1. Wabash College Little Giants (14-8, 10-3 NCAC) ^4

After starting the season in the top 25 (and at the top of my power rankings...I was actually right all along), the Little Giants ran into some tough sledding, losing six out of seven games after the end of the first semester. Yet, WAF, and our boys in red and white have stormed their way back into conference contention as the current favorites to host the tournament on the back of a six-game winning streak. If they can close out the regular season strong, Wabash has a very solid shot of three-peating

2. Wooster College Fighting Scots (14-8, 10-3 NCAC) ^3

I've had Wooster at #2 on these rankings three Februarys in a row and, I have to admit, I didn't expect I would do it again this year. The Fighting Scots' downward skid seemed to be continuing following a 2-3 start to conference play. However, with top-flight guard Jamir Billings wreaking havoc in the backcourt and junior transfer Ashton Price lighting up the scoreboard, Wooster's #1 offense will have Little Giants fans on the edge of their seats for the 3rd season in a row.

3. Wittenberg University Tigers (15-7, 9-4 NCAC) ^2

After a lightning quick rise to stardom, the Tigers from Ohio have struggled as of late going .500 in their last 6 games, with all 3 losses taking place on the road. With this intense split, Wittenberg has their work cutout for them as, in all likelihood, they will be hosted in the tournament by either Wooster or Wabash. However, with the best scorer in the conference in Killens, they still pose a stout obstacle for either of the top 2 teams.

4. Denison University Big Red (13-10, 9-5 NCAC) ^1

What once was a high flying Big Red squad, is now a team plagued by the injury bug. Denison has managed to put together an impressive season without senior guard Darren Rubin, but they've scuffled of late. That leaves only 2 players left who have started every game for Denison, but neither player has averaged more than nine points per game.

5. Oberlin College Yeomen (12-10, 6-7 NCAC) ^6

My tone is correlated positively to the overall complexity of names on a team's roster. Thus, I'm on the Oberlin hype train, and I think it is conducive for other Wabash fans to join me on the bandwagon. Not only do they have consistent players and perhaps the future top conference player, JJ Gray, but they are also late season headhunters.

6. Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (10-13, 7-7 NCAC) ^7

The Battling Bishops have been about as predictable as a Dr. Blix comps question, losing to Oberlin, beating 'Bash, and narrowly losing to Wooster after being trounced by over 30 to them earlier in the year. They are as middle of the road as they come, with the only exception being all-conference candidate Henry Hinkle who is second in FT% and 3PT% this season. Odds are he won't be able to carry them all the way to a title this year.

7. DePauw University Tigers (11-12, 6-7 NCAC) ^5

Lo and behold, the Dannies are what we knew they were all along: losers. They put up a solid act towards the start of the season but have since lost four straight on their way from 6-3 to 6-7. This young and dumb Tigers crew still has a chance of bettering their post season likelihood if they can turn things around. But they'll probably finish embarrassingly early as they always do.

8. Kenyon College Owls (5-16, 3-9 NCAC) =

I've been calling for the Owls upsets all season after they opened up conference play with a W over the Dannies, but I'm starting to lose hope. I suppose it isn't the worst thing that they still stink as they look like a cake firm matchup in the NCAC tournament, which seems to favor the Little Giants at this point.

9. Hiram College Terriers (2-19, 0-12 NCAC) =

I've been trying to insult the Terriers as best I can this season, but my editors keep censoring my jokes. Thus, I haven't been able to give Hiram the righteous indignation that they need to succeed. I've decided to take a page from their book and just give up.

