

Iranian-backed groups target US forces

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

Over the last 30 years, Americans have watched the United States military be involved within the Middle East in various capacities ranging from conducting the Global War on Terrorism to training local militaries in the region. The latest of this extended period of involvement in the region has the United States military conducting missile attacks against Iranian backed militias such as the Houthi Rebels in Yemen and other regions. These attacks speak for the larger narrative of the political turmoil in the region that has lead to so much conflict.

“If you think of the Cold War, the rivals were the United States and the Soviet Union,” said Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander. “Now, in the Middle East, for the last ten years, maybe more, the two rivals have been Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

“The United States will continue to bomb Yemen, we’ve been doing so since 2012 and the Yemeni resolve remains high.”

- Gavin Hill '24

The two countries mirror the relationship that the United States and Soviet Union had during the Cold War, essentially forming it’s own Cold War within the Middle East. However, unlike the Cold War, there is a third major power at play with Israel contributing to the icy relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran. However, Israel has begun to align itself with Saudi Arabia, removing the trifecta of power in the region.

“It used to be that there was a third player in Israel, but in the last five years or so, Israel and Saudi Arabia have been slowly burying the hatchet,” said Hollander. “That, of course, stresses out Iran because Iran knew Saudi Arabia had a different enemy in the region. But the two countries have gotten closer, and are both US allies.”

The tension between these three countries and the United States has prompted many proxy wars to be fought in the Middle East, once again mirroring the Cold War of the 20th Century. Both Iran and the United States fund groups that they view as freedom fighters, removing any direct involvement from the conflicts in the region.

“The United States has aircraft carriers and formal bases in all of these countries,” said Hollander. “But everyone doesn’t have that capability, so Iran sponsors militant groups who fight on Iran’s behalf.”

“You shouldn’t have views on this that are too one-sided. Both sides have such legitimate claims. Both sides have been wronged in so often. Both sides are right in so many ways.”

- Professor Ethan Hollander

These Iranian backed groups have come to the limelight within recent weeks, namely with the Houthi rebels attacking American bases and vessels. The attacks began in response to the Israel-Hamas War, which started on October 7, 2023. The war between Israel and Hamas is popular cause within the region, and could be leveraged by political groups to shift the balance of power. This can be seen in the Houthi attacks that have prompted a response from the United States military.

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BASKETBALL SPECIAL • PAGE 6

Basketball beats Ohio Wesleyan to set up matchup against Wooster. The winner will become the NCAC regular season champion.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Avery Beaver '24 (left) watches as Gavin Schippert '26 (middle) tips off against Ohio Wesleyan's Tony Carter. The Little Giants would go on to win 90-76 against the Battling Bishops on February 14, 2024 in Chadwick Court

IFC votes to regulate sober driving

New regulation aims to prevent irresponsible transportation practices.

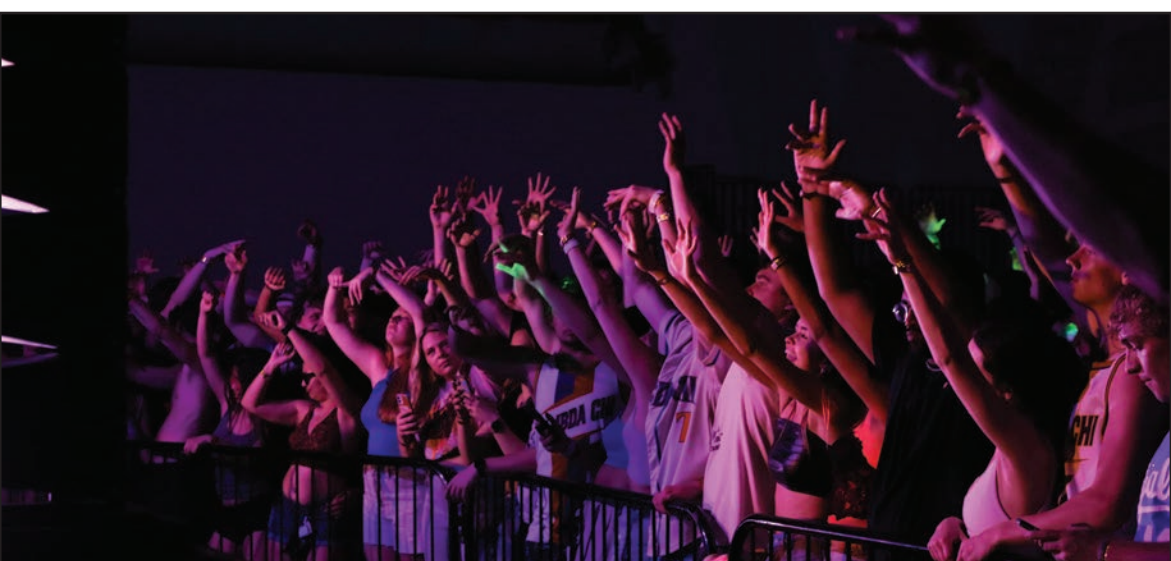


PHOTO BY BENAJMIN HIGH '24
Students and guests enjoy the music at National Act on April 15, 2023 in Chadwick Court.

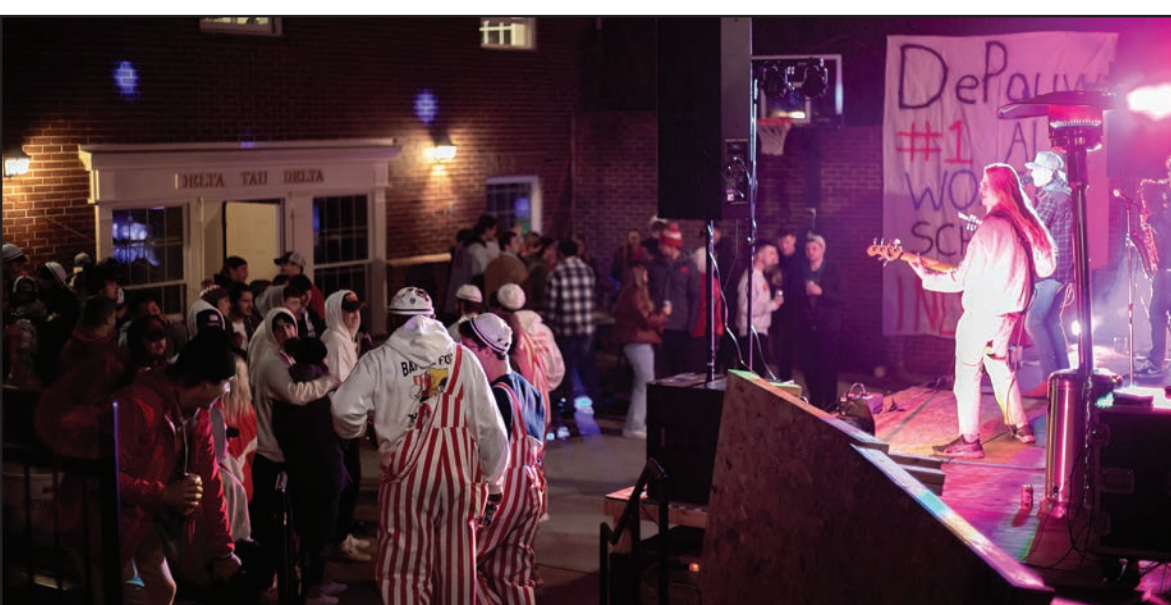


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Hank Ruff performs for Wabash students in a concert hosted by the Student Events Committee on November 11, 2022 outside of Delta Tau Delta.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) has taken significant steps to combat negative guest experiences at Wabash College. On February 13, the IFC voted to approve a new penalty of \$500 that could be levied at a fraternity if one of their sober drivers does not maintain their sobriety for both the pick-up and drop-off of guests.

The IFC’s willingness to pass the fraternity-wide sober driving fine on February 13 is one element within a larger conversation about sober driving at Wabash, a com-

mon practice, but one that is often taken for granted. Sober driving involves many groups, including the drivers, guests getting driven, fraternities and their officers and the College. In order for all parties involved to achieve their goals, elements of sober driving will need to be discussed and potentially adapted.

Sober driving is not a simple thing to organize, partly because of how many people have a hand in it. Fraternity risk managers organize other fraternity members to drive, guests from other campuses coordinate with their driv-

er to both arrive at Wabash and return to their campus, fraternities’ officers need to ensure that all guests get back safely and that their fraternity members are driving responsibly and the College has to hope that students remember the training they have tried to instill. . Each of these people likely have differing views on how best to safely transport guests to social events at the College, but there is plenty of common ground to be found as well.

Continued page 2

College shifts approach to Scarlet Honors Weekend #2

BEN DOUGLAS '27
STAFF WRITER

As a school of just under 850 students, Wabash relies on many different events throughout the year to find the next generation of Wabash men. Scarlet Honors Weekend is one of the most critical events for the College in this aspect to showcase the campus and give prospective first-year students a glimpse into college life.

However, things will be done different this time around. Previously, Scarlet Honors Weekend had been primarily held during a Friday and Saturday, but this year, it will be on a Sunday and Monday on February 18 and 19. Along with the change in days, prospective Wabash men will also eat at the fraternity houses if they are staying with a fraternity or Detchon Hall if they are staying with an independent. These changes bring new opportunities for the college to showcase the Wabash experience in a new light.

“It is good for students to eat with fraternities and see the environment they provide.”

- Matthew Lesniak '25

“In terms of the college, it’s essential for students to see what the campus is like during the school day as well as to get people who haven’t visited to see the campus to be able to see it,” Lesniak said. “On the fraternity’s behalf, it’s a big rush period. It’s not as big as admitted students weekend because these students are prospective. Still, bids are passed out, a big opportunity for fraternities to grow.”

Scarlet Honors Weekend represents a significant period for recruitment and growth as bids are distributed by fraternities, fostering opportunities for expansion of their chapter.

One of the major changes will be when the prospective students are on campus, with it being shifted from the beginning of the weekend to the beginning of the week.

“One reason [for the change] is that we wanted them to see what life was like during the week,” said Lesniak. “Because when it’s Friday, the weekend is starting to begin.”

By exposing them to campus life during the week and facilitating interactions with Wabash men in a more intimate setting, Wabash aims to provide a more authentic representation of its academic and social environment.

Another significant change is where the students will be eating. Previously, they have dined together as a group at the Allen Center. However, this time around, students will be eating with the fraternity that they are staying at or Detchon Hall.

“This is a huge opportunity for fraternities to grow their numbers. Admissions came to the IFC (Interfraternity Council) meeting today and are allowing 75 percent of the students to stay at the fraternities,” said Lesniak. “It is good for students to eat with fraternities and see the environment they provide. At other schools, you don’t get this opportunity to eat with the fraternity and meet the members.”

“It’s essential for students to see what the campus is like during the school day.”

- Matthew Lesniak '25

The opportunity for students to eat with fraternities is a prominent way to learn about fraternities and their benefits. It will help to foster a more genuine experience for the many prospective Wabash men as they get to interact with current students in a capacity greater than previously available.

The changes to Scarlet Honors Weekend were made with the hope of having a profound effect on the prospective students. The opportunities to eat with the fraternities and be able to be on campus during the week will showcase what being a Wabash student is like.

IFC votes to regulate sober driving

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Sober driving is always better than the alternative. Greg Redding '88, dean of students at Wabash College, emphasized that sober driving will always be the right choice, no matter the situation.

"I think the practice, if it is executed to its best potential, is great," said Redding. "I mean, why would anybody have a problem with making sure that a sober person is driving someone who isn't sober?"

The College's role in sober driving practices is mainly to provide education to fraternities and advise them on best practice. If something were to go wrong and a student or guest were injured during going to or from Wabash, each of the previously mentioned groups may face liability. The College is an educational institution, and by educating students on the risks of sober driving, they have effectively fulfilled their legal responsibility to the students and would bear no responsibility if an accident of some sort were to occur.

"From my perspective, sober drivers are a great idea."

- Grace Carlson

Redding provided a hypothetical involving Indiana's open container law, IC 9-30-15-3, which prohibits any alcohol containers with the seal broken to be in a motor vehicle while it is being operated on a public road; a law that if broken would result in a Class C misdemeanor. "I know we talked about the open container law, especially with bringing back people to campus who are pre-gaming," said Redding. "And if you're doing that, as soon as you pull away from the curb you are violating Indiana law. You are acquiring risk for yourself. So in that sense, you know, if something happened, we would be able to demonstrate in a legal setting that we have fulfilled our obligation as an educational institution. We have educated the students on what the risk is to them, and we've advised them on how to minimize that risk themselves."

Given the scope of freedom that Wabash men are given by the Gentleman's Rule, said Redding, the College does not want to forcibly step in where it is not needed.

"That's what we talked about with the Gentleman's Rule," said Redding. "gives you the maximum amount of freedom that you can responsibly handle, and then if a student or a group of students, you know, shows us that they are not willing to take on the responsibility that the Gentleman's Rule asks for, then we start restricting the freedoms that it otherwise allows."

However, he believes the practice can be improved.

"Specifically, I want to challenge upper class fraternity leaders to lead by example and if you're going to put an expectation on freshmen, it should be one that you're prepared to do alongside those freshmen," said Redding. "That's how leadership works. That might mean that I'm sitting this party out, and I'm here for the safety of my fellow fraternity brothers and I think a lot of fraternities do that. I just want them to make sure they stick with that practice."

While there is a natural limit as to how much the College will be able to regulate the negative side effects of sober driving, the IFC has the ability to work more intimately with fraternities. Matt Lesniak '25, president of the IFC, noted that a growing problem of sober drivers not staying sober for the duration of parties— leading guests to panic when they don't have a ride back to their campus— prompted the IFC to take action.

"It's a pretty big problem [sober drivers not staying sober to drive their guests back] because it doesn't just look bad for the house that's hosting," said Lesniak. "It looks bad for all of Wabash and all of Wabash fraternities."

Instituting this sort of policy is uncharted territory for the IFC. Prior to the previous cabinet, Lesniak believes that the IFC was incapable of enforcing something like this because of a lack of respect that the IFC had as an executive power. Lesniak recognizes the overbearing nature of other Panhellenic organizations on college campuses and said his vision for IFC is to act as a "guide to foster Greek improvement all around campus." Lesniak believes IFC's new fine targets a specific



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HIGH '24

Wabash men and their guests listen to Cheat Codes during National Act on April 15, 2023 in Chadwick Court.

issue and will ultimately pay off for Wabash fraternities.

"I think this was one of those unique situations where there's been a serious problem with the Greek community on campus and doing this [implementing a fining system] helps us better ourselves and better our image not only at Wabash, but at surrounding universities," said Lesniak.

Arguably, the most important party involved in the sober driving system hasn't been mentioned: the guests. Sober drivers inherently take on risk when they drive, but their passengers also accept risk when they enter the car. Grace Carlson, vice president of standards and values at Purdue's chapter of Sigma Kappa, expressed apositive experience when navigating sober driving arrangements to Wabash and mentioned that she appreciates the structured timing and politeness shown by drivers.

Sigma Kappa does not have a national policy directed at members accepting sober driving from fraternities; that responsibility lies with standards officers like

Carlson, and she views sober driving as a useful tool for her to help protect her members.

"From my perspective, sober drivers are a great idea because there would be someone else besides me who is sober and able to monitor our members," said Carlson. "They have the right to not allow them at the fraternity house if they believe the member is too intoxicated. It gives me more assurance that our members are acting appropriately."

Coordinating sober driving takes a lot of behind the scenes planning from fraternity risk managers and social chairs. They are the fraternity members tasked with organizing groups of drivers for parties. Henry Giesel '25, risk manager at Lambda Chi Alpha, offered his first-hand insights into planning a party where sober drivers are used.. Giesel said that the drivers he works with are almost always freshmen, and sometimes, drivers have to be prepared to make multiple round-trips.

"Realistically, at least one person is making more than one drive for pretty much every party," said Giesel. "Often it's more than that, but I at least try to limit that as much as I can."

Freshmen who drive for parties are not free from risk, no matter how safe of a system you have. Giesel mentioned concerns he had with drivers being alone in a car with multiple intoxicated individuals, which raises concerns about accusations the driver may unjustly face but have no proof to defend himself. Giesel also talked about the risks of open containers to drivers.

"I recently had an instance with one of our freshman who had a group of people in his car, and he had asked him to remove the open drinks they had in the car. They gave him a hard time for it, and eventually got them to remove it," said Giesel. "But then he saw later in the drive through the mirror that some of the people in the back actually were still drinking."

While nothing resulted from that story, it is not a benign anecdote. Had the freshman been pulled over, he could have faced at least one misdemeanor charge. This story raises concern that drivers, even if they are aware of risks, are sometimes unable to enforce rules in their vehicle when they are on the road. Rowdy passengers, open

containers, and confusion about laws they may be violating, open drivers up to unnecessary risk.

The levels of risk involved are not lost on many of the freshmen who end up driving. Ben Douglas '27, a freshman at Lambda Chi Alpha, said that the biggest problem is not sober drivers shirking their responsibilities or becoming intoxicated, it's the risk drivers take on when they cannot opt-out of driving.

"The issue is not with them [sober drivers] not drinking, it's that you're placing a ton of responsibility on 18, 19 year old kids," said Douglas. "I mean, you're entrusting several people's lives with these freshmen, who are 18, 19 years old, and look, kids that age don't make the best decisions."

"Why would anybody have a problem with making sure that a sober person is driving someone who isn't sober?"

- Dean Greg Redding '88

Douglas also expressed concern about sober drivers making multiple drives in a night and endangering themselves and passengers with their lack of sleep. He estimated that he drove on seven or eight separate occasions this semester, and on some occasions he was driving groups to and from campus until 4 a.m. Douglas said he wishes groups coming to Wabash would bear more responsibility for their own transportation.

"I think there needs to be a way for people to bring a designated driver," said Douglas. "For a lot of these girls that come to parties, you know, having a designated driver wouldn't hurt them because you're going to an all-male school that's 40 minutes away. If everyone is drunk, you're trusting a freshman to handle all that?"

While sober driving is undoubtedly a good practice in principle, it is by no means perfect for everyone who has a hand in it. It will not go away anytime soon, but it may need to evolve to better fulfill everyone's needs.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash fans tailgate before the 129th Monon Bell Classic on November 11, 2023 in Mud Hollow.

Iranian-backed groups target US forces

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"The United States will continue to bomb Yemen, we've been doing so since 2012 and the Yemeni resolve remains high" said Political Science major Gavin Hill '24. "The biggest issue is that the Houthi's have a very important geographic location."

The cause of the Houthi and Hamas attacks still remains unclear to many. However, there are quite a few theories as to what the attacks are about.

"It used to be that there was a third player in Israel, but in the last five years or so, Israel and Saudi Arabia have been slowly burying the hatchet."

- Professor Ethan Hollander

majority view is in [the latter]."

The atrocities of the Israel-Hamas war have created a lot of sympathy for the Palestinian people from the populations of many Middle Eastern countries, as over 29,000 individuals have died in the conflict, a majority of them being Palestinian. This conflict throws a wrench into any peace talks Israel and Saudi Arabia were having. It also helps the Iranian-backed militias gain popularity with the populuses of the countries in the area.

"There's a lot of sympathy for Palestinians, and very little sympathy for Israelis," said Hollander. "The Houthi's get to say, 'We are fighting the Israelis by showing solidarity with the Palestinians. We are fighting the Americans by bombing American ships in the Red Sea.'"

The Houthi attacks against American ships have had minimal impact on any military operations in the area. However, it has prompted a response by the United States through a variety of missile attacks in various countries that hold Iranian backed militias such as the Houthis.

With the Middle East's cold war heating up, many have begun to have concern for more direct involvement from larger powers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States. However, Professor Hollander stresses that it is still unlikely that the United States will directly step into the numerous conflicts in the area.

"I think the chances that we would get involved directly are very small," said Hollander. "But the chances that we stay



COURTESY OF DAILY BREEZE

Houthi supporters attend a rally in support of Palestinians on February 9, 2024 in Sanaa, Yemen.

very involved in this indirect way are very likely. Maybe we'll do even more in terms of our involvement behind the scenes."

While the Houthi's and other Iranian-backed militias have been provoking the United States, these small attacks still are largely insignificant when compared to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"You shouldn't have views on this that are too one-sided," said Hollander. "These are really complex issues. Both sides have such legitimate claims. Both sides have been wronged so often. Both sides are right in so many ways. It's almost liberating to be able to say 'I don't have to choose.'"



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

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

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

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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).



Braeden Cooper '26

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As another week passes by here in Crawfordsville, the pre-med students of Wabash inch closer to the dreaded MCAT. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is among the most difficult tests for any post-graduate program out there, maybe even as challenging as comps. A mix of Biology, General and Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, Psychology, Sociology and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills, thrown together with an incredible amount of confusing wording, misleading questions, long passages and spanning over seven hours, no wonder this is one of the most anxiety-inducing exams of all time.

Wabash helps prepare its pre-meds through a well-crafted class structure, offering flexibility in certain areas if needed. As a pre-med myself, I am a perfect example of this flexibility. I've worked with Jill Rogers and other department chairs to coordinate the opportunity to study abroad while being a pre-med. This is something unique to Wabash and an experience that few other pre-meds across the country have the ability to do.

However, the stress of the MCAT never stops. Even though the pre-med track at Wabash ensures that all the prerequisite classes for the MCAT are taken by the time junior year is over, the ideas of not being ready and failing are never-ending. The MCAT is ideally taken at the end of your junior year, giving you enough time to enter the American Medical College Application Service or American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service application cycle, have interviews, and hopefully get accepted during your senior year. That is, of course, if your application is strong enough, more realistically, if your MCAT score is high enough.

On a medical school application, the score received on the MCAT is one of the key differentiators between applications. The grading of your first three years of college and potentially adding a gap year after your senior year, all due to a single test, is

The danger of doing nothing

way to say it, this overwhelmed feeling led to anger, and that anger constantly was pointed towards me. On the tennis court, in the classroom, or even with my friends, I was always frustrated with myself and completely disregarded anything I was doing well. It was terrible! It was self-sabotage at its finest, and I was left sulking and bullying myself the majority of the semester.

Things didn't change until I knew they had to. I felt I was going into a dark place and could no longer stand how I was treating myself. I realized I had made myself into my worst enemy. With this "enemy" being now viewed as my mind, I knew there were positive things I could do to go against it. Instead of laying in my bed at night for hours on TikTok, willingly punishing myself with a lack of sleep, I could put it down and close my eyes.

Now that I was feeling better about sleep, rather than napping during the day, I could go to the gym and work

a lot of pressure. Of course, professors and advisors say that a grade does not determine the worth or value of a student, but based on the acceptance rate of students with an MCAT score under 510 (78th percentile), medical schools disagree.

Even with all the prerequisites taken, the Association of American Medical Colleges recommends three to four months of studying to prepare for the MCAT. With juniors finishing the pre-requisites at the end of their second semester, this gives them about three to four weeks before they must take the MCAT, which obviously is much more of a time crunch.

The study materials for the MCAT are also not cheap. Students are encouraged to spend their money on MCAT-prep courses and other study materials, which can range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 at the high end. In the high-resource community that Wabash is in, there seems to be a lack of MCAT resources. Students are often given a practice test and information about services they can explore, which is very helpful, but students still feel lost.

An easy response is, "If a student does not feel he's prepared, then he has the freedom to take a gap year." While a gap year can benefit some students, providing an extra year's worth of studying and the ability to expand their experiences to many parts of the medical field, it can be harmful to others. A gap year for others means that the grace period on loans expires, having to find a job to start to pay back those loans while keeping up with all the necessary deadlines for that application cycle.

Wabash holds above a 90% acceptance rate into medical schools, so something is obviously working. Of course, the number of yearly applicants is small due to the size of Wabash, but a 90% acceptance rate to medical school, where the national acceptance rate is 41%, is extremely high.

Wabash's liberal arts education prepares for the science and critical thinking portion of the exam, making this percentage make a little more sense. A liberal arts college offers a different level of thinking and analysis, making it easier to form connections between two unlike ideas. So rather than stressing everyday about the statistics and how hard the MCAT supposedly is, we need to rely on the place that got us so far in this journey and the knowledge it has given us. Wabash was not portrayed as a school where we would have a 90% chance of getting a high score on the MCAT, but rather, a school where above 90% of the students that apply to medical school go on to be the future physicians of America.

LO-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A LO-FIVE THIS WEEK

NEW RECORD!

Lo-Five to the grumpy men across the country for their incessant whining about Taylor Swift's 54 seconds of air time during the Super Bowl broadcast. If you think 54 seconds is a long time, we've got some bad news for you...

AT LEAST KELCE DIDN'T PROPOSE

Lo-Five to the NFL scriptwriters for another Kansas City Super Bowl win. If I wanted to watch the same annoying team win every year, I'd just watch Chapel Sing

PUTTING THE 'SAINT' IN ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Lo-Five to Ash Wednesday for coinciding with Valentine's Day this year. Nothing takes away the sorrow of being alone on V-Day like being reminded of the mortality of human life.

'A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY'

Lo-five to Vladimir Putin for answering Tucker Carlson's simple interview question with a 30-minute lecture covering 700 years of Russian history. If he ever gets sick of being a tyrannical dictator, we hear the History department is always hiring.

'ALMS FOR THE POOR'

Lo-Five to the DePauw benefactor who made a \$150M anonymous donation to the University. In their defense, if we made a donation to DePauw, we'd want to be anonymous too.



Bennett Strain '26

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Throughout my time here at Wabash, one and a half years to be exact, I've had my fair share of ups and downs. The spring semester of my freshman year had to be the worst. I came back from winter break already feeling burnt out and immediately overwhelmed with all the obligations I had set myself to do. I know many of my fellow Wabash men hold similar schedules (many even more packed) and are much more accomplished at completing them.

For me, I just wasn't ready for it and lacked the motivation. With no better

Maternal mortality: Wabash's role

Some of the hospitals within the TMC contain "quaternary care centers, a designation granted to healthcare facilities that provide advanced levels of medicine which are highly specialized and not widely accessed." As a result, I was able to witness deeply complex prenatal surgical and critical care that people travel internationally to receive at the TMC.

One could assume that all those living right near such cutting-edge medical capabilities would have no problem accessing the staples of prenatal care, like prenatal vitamins, ultrasounds to track a baby's growth and testing for conditions like gestational diabetes (mothers can develop diabetes during pregnancy who have never had it before).

My assumption was glaringly wrong. Almost every other woman we saw who was going into labor had not seen a physician at any point during their pregnancy until delivery and had untreated preeclampsia, gestational diabetes and other conditions that turned a normal birth into a potentially life-threatening endeavor.

Don't misconstrue this as an affront to the hospitals we worked in; the staff and leadership provided excellent care and went the extra mile for all these patients who were dealt an impossible hand by a larger system. For mothers and babies, though, the ability to access care earlier would have prevented substantial damage from untreated gestational conditions. In some cases, it would have prevented their deaths.

Unfortunately, this issue is nowhere close to unique to the area we worked in. As conveyed by United States Vice President Kamala Harris, "Our nation is facing a maternal mortality crisis. Women in our nation are dying from pregnancy-related causes before, during and after childbirth at a higher rate than any other developed nation."

To me, that is appalling. Even more so is the fact is per NPR, "When compared to white women, Black women are more than twice as likely to experience severe pregnancy-related complications, and nearly three times as likely to die."

The maternal mortality crisis is uniquely difficult for Wabash students

to recognize. I was completely unaware of it until I placed myself, through the internship, into a delivery room with a mother suffering the price of this crisis. We are an all-male college located away from major medical centers, and as a result, our exposure to the health and pregnancies of women are limited. This, however, is no excuse when a part of our mission statement is to 'Live Humanely.'

Wabash Always Fights. For whom? We should be fighting for our mothers, sisters and every other woman who has been and inevitably will be left to fend for themselves alone against some of the most dangerous medical situations seen in healthcare.

And how? Though it seems a medical issue, there is more for the community to do to combat this issue other than working in the medical field. We can fight to improve transportation access, affordable housing and food insecurity for these women, all steps that make incredible strides in improving the health and safety of our mothers.

Wabash, who will you fight for tomorrow?



William Boswell '26

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Wabash Always Fights. In my fourth semester at Wabash, I heard our motto ring loudly many times during vibrant events like football games and Chapel Sing. Recently, though, I have stopped to wonder what it means. Who are we all fighting for?

Last summer, I was blessed to work under Wabash alumnus Dr. Sean Blackwell, '89, chairman of the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). While working under him, the primary hospitals we were based out of were located within the Texas Medical Center (TMC), the biggest medical complex in the world.

Textbook controversy



Augusto Kern Ghidini '26
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Books are, without a doubt, great resources for learning. They are an effective tool to enhance what students learn inside the classroom. However, this tool can sometimes be rather expensive. College students are normally in the final stage before they get a job and start making a living out of it, which means that any extra expenses during this process might be difficult to afford. Sometimes, depending on the required textbook, students may not find its online versions, meaning they have to pay an expensive price for the physical copy to enroll in a given class.

On the other hand, I believe nothing beats old and traditional paper copies. Although we live in an increasingly digital world, I do not believe this is always something positive and healthy. Of course, there are benefits with the advancement and practicality of the Internet, but when it comes to effectively reading and learning, paper copies are still the best option, in my opinion.

First of all, too much screen time on electronic devices is not good for body function, as it disrupts sleep and strains vision. Furthermore, relying on electronic devices makes the students much more susceptible to distractions and consequently the loss of focus.

Therefore, I would say there are three alternatives I believe are the most adequate and efficient for the learning process of college students. First, professors can lend the books for the semester to their students. This is what happened during my Freshman Tutorial class, as we didn't have to buy a single book. By doing that, he not only helped us save money, but he also contributed to a more sustainable world, once other students can use the same books in the future, avoiding paper waste.

The second alternative I suggest is the professor posting on Canvas the assigned chapters of a textbook on Canvas to facilitate the printing process for students like me who enjoy reading paper copies. By doing that, the professor would help students not spend a lot of money and be better placed when reading online, which can sometimes be complicated, as college books are usually quite extensive, and scrolling online pages on the Internet is definitely not the same thing as leafing through the traditional pages. Finally, I also believe that Wabash could provide

more copies of the textbooks required by its professors. I have tried several times to find certain books for my courses in the library but have rarely succeeded.

With all these suggestions, the College would encourage students to spend more time studying in the library, creating a group learning environment, as students would have to share the book with others while studying. Besides that, it would also contribute to the development of healthier habits, as there would be a reduction in screen time, not to mention the affordability benefits: students would spend less money and learn more!



COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Usher plays it safe and delivers



Jonah Billups '25
Reply to this opinion at jabillup25@wabash.edu

I'm a big Usher fan, so I was excited about the halftime show, and it did not disappoint. I thought he chose some of his best songs to sing and his vocals were on point. It felt like I was watching a 2006 music video with the cast that he brought out with him. It is hard not to talk about Usher dancing and hugging Alicia Keys. That moment definitely captivated everyone in my room and locked into the halftime show.

Personally, if Alicia Keys was my wife that would've made me sick to my stomach. But at least it added an extra layer of excitement to the performance, keeping us all entertained until the end. The cast he brought out with him added to his performance and provided me with some laughs.

For example, I refuse to believe H.E.R. was actually playing that guitar. Unfortunately, she's not fooling anyone with that performance. Lil Jon was fun to hear again for the first time since the 2000s, he brought immense levels of energy to the performance as well. The wardrobe choices for the Super Bowl were at times very comedic, but I've never been known for my fashion so who am I to judge? I think the wardrobe choices did its job of catching my eye and keeping me focused on it.

Despite the ins and outs, the focus remained on the music, and when Usher took the mic in hand, his brilliance truly emerged. Nostalgia washed over me as the Usher delivered one hit after another. 'Yeah!' Absolutely. 'My Boo' Without a doubt. 'Confessions Pt. II?' Clearly, it was all there, making for an unforgettable performance.

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



If so, contact Haiden Diemer-McKinney at hmdiemer26@wabash.edu and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.

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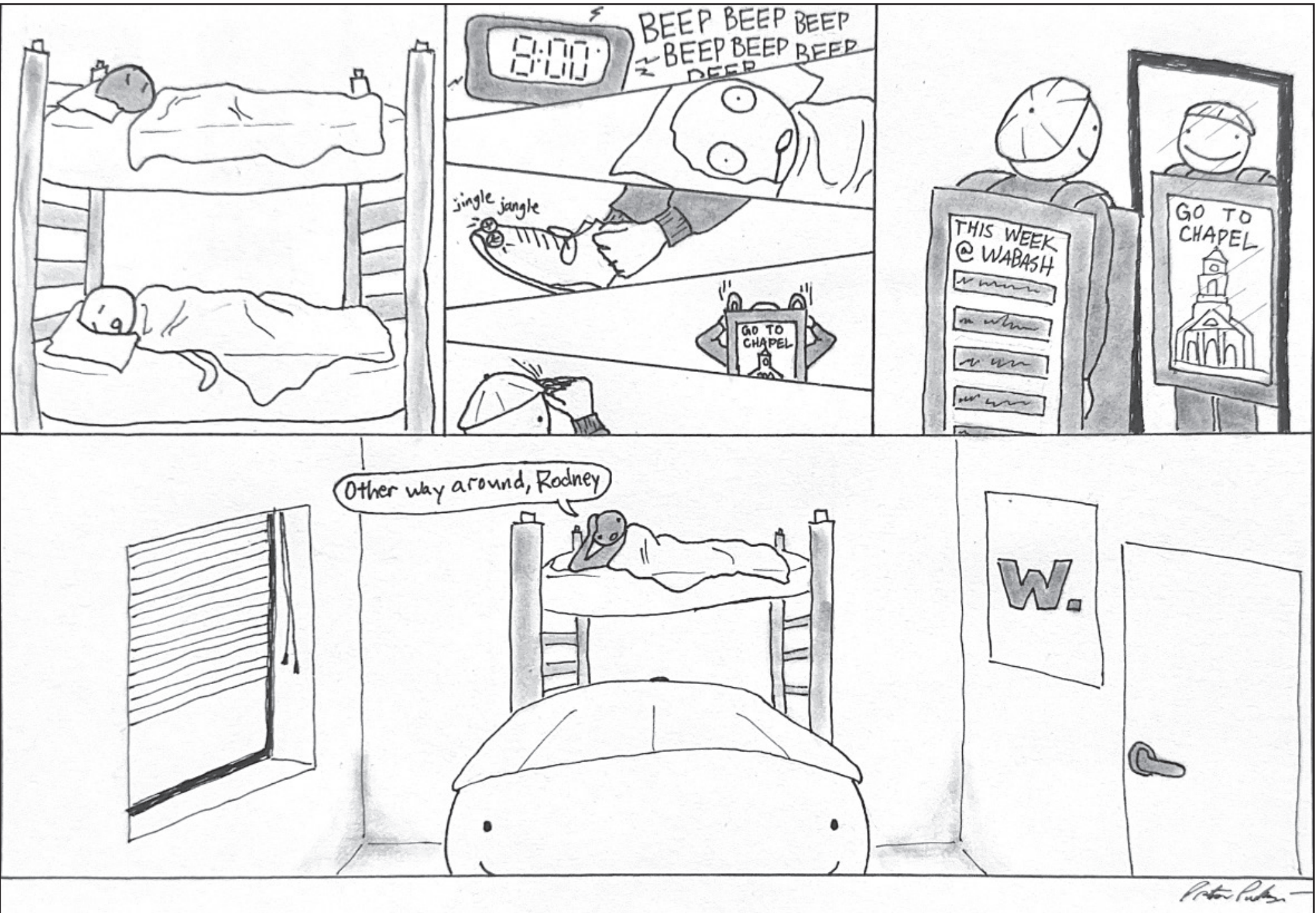
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Rodney Rhyne

Week #1: 'Fresh meat'



Comic by Preston Parker '26



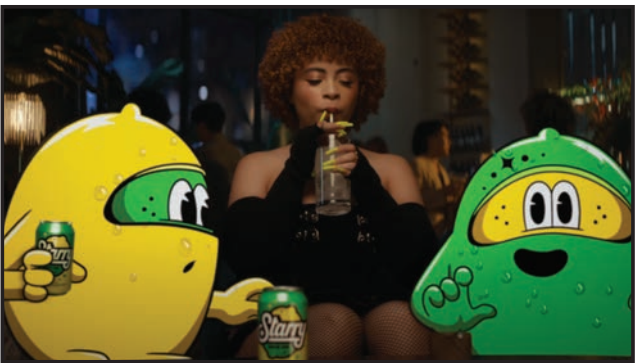
Wally’s Wall: Best Super Bowl commercials

The Prompt:

Who had the best commercial from Super Bowl Sunday?

Evan Furuness ’26

“Ice spice no doubt!!!!”



COURTESY OF VARIETY

Austin Jewell ’27

“One of the only commercials I remember is the Temu commercial, because I saw it like five times!”



COURTESY OF NEW YORK POST

Myles Bernat ’26

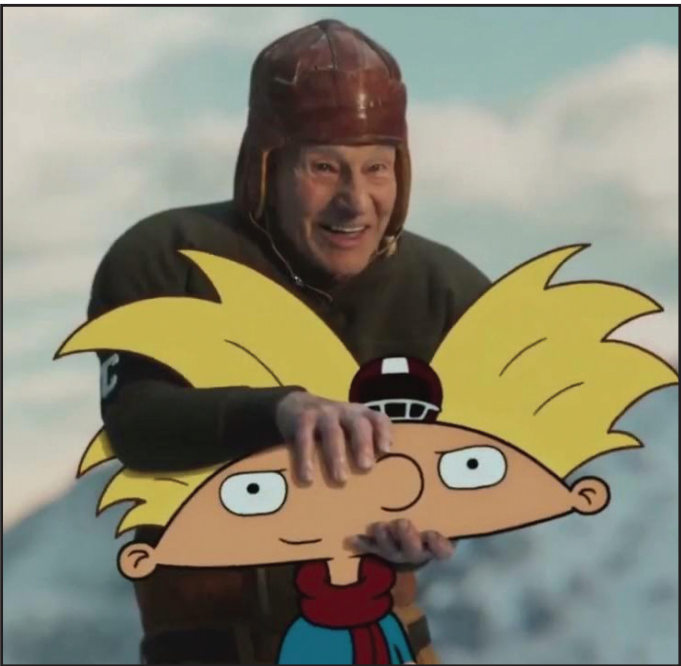
“Mountain Dew Baja Blast commercial with Aubrey Plaza and Nick Offerman. Quick transitions showing kept the audience captivated. The CGI was good, it didn’t look fake and it had some good bits in there too. Plus Aubrey Plaza and Nick Offerman are a great duo.”



COURTESY OF NERDIST

Noah Villalon ’26

“My favorite commercial during the Super Bowl was the one with Arnold and the person that played Charles Xavier. I thought it was funny because: one, it was still like football and he was dressed up like it was old-school football with the leather gear, and two, he threw Arnold, and he completely face-planted in the wall. It was funny to see cartoons and reminisce about it.”



COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

Neal Laymon ’25

“Hey y’all this is Ye and this is my commercial. And since we spent all the money on the commercial spot, we actually didn’t spend any money on the actual commercial. But the idea is I want you to go to YEEZY.com, Y-E-E-Z-Y .com, and imma write it at the bottom of the screen and I got some shoes and uh mmm... that’s it.”

Will Fremion ’27

“I liked the Kanye West commercial because he didn’t really care what anyone thought about it and how unorganized it was.”

Lucas Carpenter ’26

“Kanye Commercial — He did it differently. Super Bowl ads are expensive and you expect something in your face and high budget, but Kanye kept it simple, personal and made it reflective of himself.”



COURTESY OF TIKTOK

Maximus Rosa ’26

“The Nerds commercial was my favorite, because I had left to go get some stuff together for my house’s Super Bowl party. I came back and I’m going to sit on the couch and I just hear everyone say, “look Max, it’s you on the TV!” I turn around and it’s a big freakin’ Nerds monster, and that was just hilarious. I come back and everyone roasts me.”



COURTESY OF PEOPLE

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BASKETBALL

CONFERENCE COMES DOWN TO FINAL GAME FOR SECOND-STRAIGHT YEAR



VS.



Wabash to play Wooster for conferece crown on Saturday, February 17 at Chadwick Court

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Fans of Wabash basketball are likely to experience a strong sense of déjà vu if they have checked the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) men's basketball standings in recent weeks. Once again the Little Giants find themselves at the end of the season with a single opponent between themselves and winning the NCAC regular season — the same opponent they faced last season, Wooster's Fighting Scots.

On Saturday, February 17, the tied leaders of the NCAC, Wabash 16-8 (12-3 NCAC) and Wooster 16-8 (12-3 NCAC) will face-off at Chadwick Court to break the tie and decide the winner of the 2023-24 NCAC regular season.

Despite a weekend remaining in the regular season, the 2024 NCAC tournament is nearly set in stone. Out of the nine conference teams eight will be punching their tickets to the tournament. Hiram who stands at 0-15 in conference matchups has been eliminated from the running. Slight shifting in the standings is possible. But the makeup of the tournament will remain the same. The only guaranteed shift in the rankings will take place at



Vinny Buccilla '25 (right) scores a tough layup against Ohio Wesleyan University while Gavin Schippert '26 fights for position in the post. Wabash defeated OWU 90-76 on February 14, 2024 at Chadwick Court.

the top, where the tied Wabash and Wooster will have to split into first-place and second-place following their tiebreaking final game of the season.

How many times do two teams have to meet in high stakes

games, before they are officially rivals?

For the past three years, these two teams have been the match-up to watch. The two met in the final round of the 2022 NCAC Tournament, where Jack David-

son '23 and Company would win by a single point in overtime, before heading off to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals.

The following season the two teams found themselves competing for first place in the regular season in the final game of the season (the same situation that will be repeated on February 17). That game would end with a buzzer-beater three to give Wooster the victory.

Two weeks later the Scarlet and White returned the favor by winning the final round of the 2023 NCAC Tournament 81-80.

"They [Wooster] are the winningest Division III program since 2000," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "I'm really proud of the fact that we are now in their league, because it took a lot of work. And it took a long time. It brings me a lot of pride to know that we've had success against them because I know how good they've been."

Now these two basketball juggernauts will have a chance for another chapter in the iconic storyline they've forged over the past two seasons.

Early in the season, this matchup couldn't have looked more unlikely. Both teams limped out to a slow start in the conference season. The Fighting Scots suffered all three of their NCAC losses of the season in their first-five conference games. Meanwhile the Little Giants were just 3-6 in the conference two weeks into January.

Since midway through January, the two leaders have been untouchable, each knocking down Denison and Wittenberg, who held the top two spots in

the NCAC for most of the season.

The pair have met once so far during the season on January 6. Wabash handled the game with ease, as they trampled the Fighting Scots 78-64. However, since that contest, Wooster has been singularly focused on re-paying the Little Giants, as they have been on a 10-game winning streak.

Both teams enter the game off a win. Brumett's squad handled Ohio Wesleyan 90-76 at Chadwick Court on Wednesday, February 17. During the game the Little Giants were on their A-game. The 90-point night was season high for the team, who was led by Avery Beaver '24 who personally scored a career-high 24 points. This continues a scoring wave for the Little Giants, as they have averaged 83 points per game in their last four games.

At the same time, Wooster was polishing off Hiram 83-54. This blowout brought the Fighting Scots to an average win margin of 22.75 points over their past four games.

All this to say, Wooster and Wabash both appear to be at the very best they've been all season. They've both risen above early struggles and come out better than the rest of the conference.

"It brings me a lot of pride to know that we've had success against them [Wooster] because I know how good they've been."

-Coach Brumett

The most important game of the regular season will be held at Chadwick Court on February 17. Two teams will enter tied for first, one will exit as number one and the other will be second place. On top of the regular season title, this game will grant the winner the rights to host the NCAC Tournament at their home court, a major advantage for either team.

Any prediction for this game is practically worthless. Both teams have talented rosters that could show out for unmatchable performances. There's only one way to find out how it goes — show up to Chadwick Court on Saturday, February 3.

"We know how important it is to play here at Chadwick," said Brumett. "Obviously we were able to go on the road and do it last year, but it's not our preference. We'd like to take care of business on Saturday."

Wabash and Wooster player comparisons

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
SPORTS WRITER

Well folks, you are in for a doozy tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Chadwick Court. Your Little Giants will be hosting what amounts to a regular season conference championship game, of which the prize will be the ability to host the postseason tournament. Most expected the conference might end up looking like this, but none would have predicted that the Little Giants would be hovering a game above .500 at the same time that Wooster was 1-3 in the conference. Both teams have fought valiantly in what has been a fantastic conference slate in which 5 different teams have sat in first place.

For this contest specifically, you will see a confer-

ence best offense that scores just shy of 80 points per game in Wooster facing off against a defense that holds opponents to 65.1 points per game. The Fighting Scots maximize efficiency in scoring where as the Wabash take advantage of blocks and second chance buckets. Wooster relies on an experienced starting lineup while Wabash loves its young back-ups. Despite the stunning equality of capabilities, the difference between these two teams might just be the court advantage in Chadwick, the confirmed toughest home court in the conference. For your benefit, here is a comparison of the important stats for the impact players on both sides.

FIGHTING SCOTS

Jamir Billings, 5'10



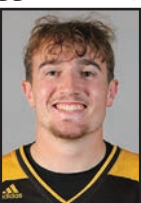
P/G - 8.1
FG% - 36.6%
FT% - 55.6%
REB/G - 5.4
A/G - 5.3
STL/G - 3.3

Ashton Price, 6'2



P/G - 16.2
FG% - 50.2%
3PT% - 39.6%
FT% - 82.9
REB/G - 2.1
A/G - 2.5

JJ Cline, 6'2



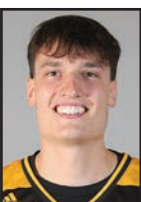
P/G - 8.2
FG% - 51.9%
3PT% - 41.7%
FT% - 66.7%
REB/G - 3.8
A/G - 2.2

Jaiden Cox-Holloway, 6'6



P/G - 7.2
FG% - 45.2%
3PT% - 39.2%
REB/G - 5.9
A/G - 1.4

Nick Everett, 6'8



P/G - 13.2
FG% - 77.4%
FT% - 65.5%
REB/G - 4.3
BLK/G - 0.6
PF/G - 3.4

LITTLE GIANTS

Vinny Buccilla '25, 6'3



P/G - 10.6
FG% - 43.1%
3PT% - 34.3%
FT% - 56.0%
REB/G - 3.0
A/G - 1.4
STL/G - 0.9

Avery Beaver '24, 6'2



P/G - 12.3
FG% - 45.6%
3PT% - 37.1%
FT% - 87.0%
REB/G - 2.8
A/G - 2.0

Sam Comer '24, 6'5



P/G - 11.0
FG% - 46.9%
3PT% - 46.2%
FT% - 64.1
REB/G - 5.8
A/G - 3.0

Ahmoni Jones '24, 6'4



P/G - 13.2
FG% - 39.7%
3PT% - 37.0%
FT% - 84.8%
REB/G - 6.4
A/G - 0.8

Noah Hupmann '25, 7'2



P/G - 3.3
FG% - 66.7%
FT% - 50.0%
REB/G - 4.9
BLK/G - 3.3
PF/G - 1.4



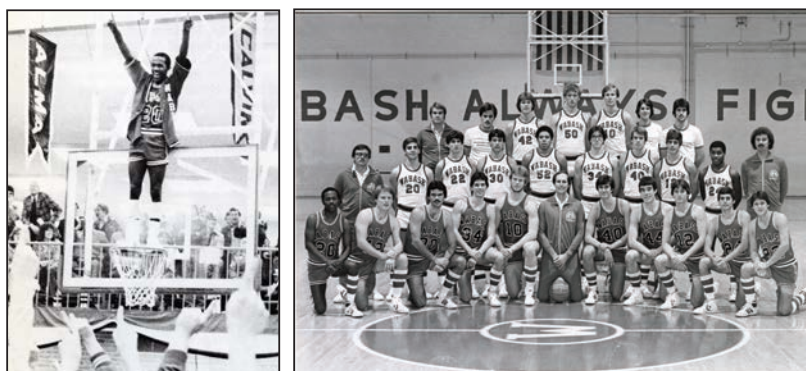
Ahmoni Jones '24 celebrates a win against Ohio Wesleyan University. Wabash defeated OWU 90-76 on February 14, 2024 at Chadwick Court.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

BASKETBALL 100 YEAR REWIND

1925

The 1925 basketball team (bottom left) was named the “Fourth Wonder Five” by fans. Under the leadership of Head Basketball Coach Pete Vaughn, the team played one of the most successful seasons in school history, finishing with an 18-1. Maurice W. Chadick class of 1925 (pictured right) was a member of the team and is the namesake of Chadwick Court.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

1997-98

The 1996-97 and 1997-98 basketball team won back-to-back Indiana Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships. Coach Petty (pictured left) extended his list of accolades, as he is the winningest basketball coach in Wabash history. In 1997 He was named District Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Petty was enshrined in the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Montgomery County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007.



(CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT)

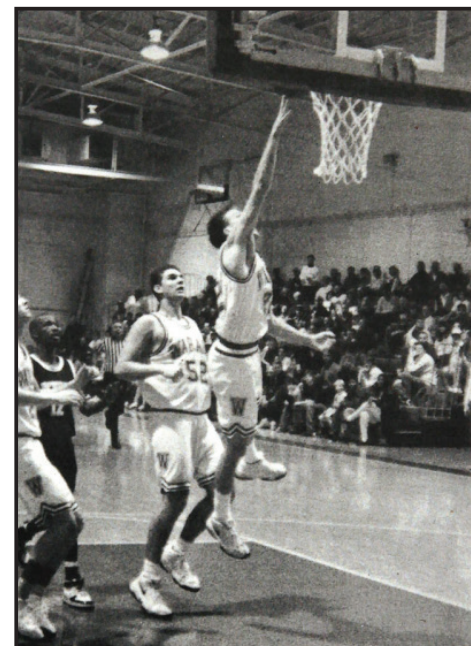
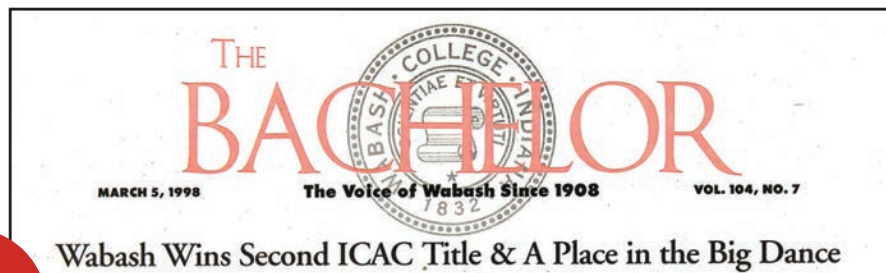
COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS, THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES, WILL DUNCAN '27



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

1982

The 1982 basketball team (pictured top left and bottom right) won the 1982 NCAA Division III Championship. They defeated Potsdam State 83-82 in the Championship round of the NCAA tournament. The team was able to reach a 24-4 record on the season. They are the only team who has accomplished this feat. They were coached by long-standing legend Coach Mac Petty (pictured top right). The hardwood floor in Chadwick Court was later named after Petty, who won NCAA DIII Coach of the Year that season.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

2022-23

The 2021-22 and 2022-23 basketball team won back-to-back North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament Championships. The 2021-22 team was able to win the NCAC regular season championship to host the tournament at Wabash for the first time. The team would advance to the semifinal round of the NCAA Division III for the first time since the '82 team. The next season the team would repeat their victory in the NCAC Tournament to capture their second ever NCAC title and the program’s fourth ever confernce title. Both teams were coached by Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brummett (pictured bottom right) who won NCAC Men’s Basketball Coach of the Year in 2022.

Embracing the cold in style

Wilson '24 and Ainabor '26 style the latest winter fashion



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Neutral"

K'TREN WILSON '24

"Neutral"

Neutral, cool, and earth tones somewhat define the winter for me. These tones typically evoke feelings of warmth or comfort which can be especially effective when the weather is particularly cold and gloomy. Of course, knit-fabric garments are especially popular this time of year as a little layering can go a long way when it really matters. This first look is inspired by these two "traditional" approaches to winter fashion with a largely fitted and monochromatic black base and the additional texture of the white-black, color-blocked cardigan. My favorite aspect of this look, though, is in the details of the brown of the boots tying in with the brow in the tortoise patterned cardigan buttons.

"Bold"

Contrary to the first, this look was a challenge to not use any neutral colors in the main components of the outfit. Instead, I sought to put together something bold utilizing colors we might shy away from this time of year. The result was a combination of a navy(ish) blue pair of trousers and a uniquely patterned multicolor sherpa jacket. Here, the texture and colors of the jacket shine as the focal points while being supported with an otherwise plain pant. The addition of the yellow bag is meant to bring out the hints of yellow in the jacket as well as to provide a good contrast for all of the shades of blue.

"Best of both"

For this look, I wanted to mix both of my previous approaches into one because in a perfect world, one doesn't have to choose between neutrals and color. I was still interested in using a color that is not typically associated with winter, but I also wanted to maintain a sense of warmth. This led to the selection of an oversized, burnt-orange, knit turtleneck, because I thought it would be fun to prove that orange isn't just for the fall. For the rest of the look, I returned to the old-faithful black and white combination. The use of layering, texture and color seemed to work perfectly for the weather here in Crawfordsville and (shockingly) proved to be one of my favorites from this shoot.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Formal streetwear"

PRECIOUS AINABOR '26

"Formal streetwear"

Winter lets me rock my favorite denim combos – they might not be the preferred choice for super cold days, but denim shines when the chill is just right. Whether it's a dark or light wash, denim is always a win. Personally, I'm all about that light-wash denim life. This look comes from my love for street style combined with a hint of formality. The mix of denim jacket, jeans and my revamped denim cross bag (DIY style!) brings that street-cool touch. Throw in a dress shirt and tie, and voilà – it's a formal streetwear fusion. The suede hue of my Adidas adimatic shoes adds a versatile touch for various occasions. Warm for the cold, but party-ready – this outfit has you covered in style.

"Stay relaxed"

With the weather's inconsistency, choosing a more relaxing outfit over bulkier clothing is always an option. That was my inspiration for this fit. Wrap yourself in laid-back vibes with this easygoing outfit. No need for stiff denim or heavy jackets – opt for a relaxed sweater that's effortlessly cool. Picture yourself in this chill sweater – it's like the comfort and satisfaction of watching Formula 1 but in a fashion context. Embrace the oversized silhouette trend this winter, because bigger is definitely better. Baggy pants? Believe it or not, they can be flattering and add a touch of casual cool to your look. This outfit is all about a relaxing, warm feel that keeps you cozy. Just remember, dress wisely according to the weather and always stay stylish.

"Athleisure"

This outfit has a laid-back athleisure aesthetic. It's your best bet if you want to exude the unstoppable energy and dynamic flair of athletes with a matching fit that fuses performance and style. Just like leg day, you should never skip out on good track pants. I love them for their cozy feeling, insulation, and sportiness for outdoor activities. The matching hue of the sweatshirt and the pants gives the outfit its aesthetics. For me, these are perfect for days when I don't want to dress up too much but want to stay cozy and active.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Bold"



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Stay relaxed"



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Athleisure"



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

"Best of both"

'Vultures' review: Chaotic art imitates chaotic life



COURTESY OF NPR

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25
STAFF WRITER

Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, released his 13th studio album, “Vultures 1,” on February 10, 2024, nearly 900 days after his previous LP, “Donda.” This album is a collaboration with frequent featuring artist and melodic rap specialist, Ty Dolla \$ign. The project contains 16 tracks totaling 56 minutes, all previewed at two listening parties held days before the album’s release. This release is the first of their intended “Vultures” album trilogy set to release, with “Vultures 2” expected to drop in March and “Vultures 3” in April. Sonically, Ye and Ty rely heavily on a house music approach in this album. As a result, this makes the album much more fun-sounding and more adaptive to what hip-hop sounds like today. Lyrically however, the album is relatively surface-level and lacks the introspection that Kanye has always been known for. The main theme that pops up in almost every song is relationships with women and his sexualization of them. The album cover of his new wife, Bianca Censori, highlights this theme perhaps better than the lyrics.

As for my opinion of the album, I will start with the positives. Many of the songs are flat-out hits. “CARNIVAL” shot up to number one on Spotify and Apple Music already for a reason, mainly due to its anthemic production and great vocals across the board, not to mention a sweet sample of “Hell of a Life” from “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy” halfway through.

Other notable hard-hitting bangers from the album are “HOODRAT” and “PAPERWORK.” “HOODRAT” is just extraordinarily catchy and juxtaposes melodic rap singing from both Ye and Ty with a grungier Yeezus-esque couple of verses and production from Ye. “PAPERWORK” includes another crazy electric guitar sample and an awesome feature from Quavo.

**FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS**



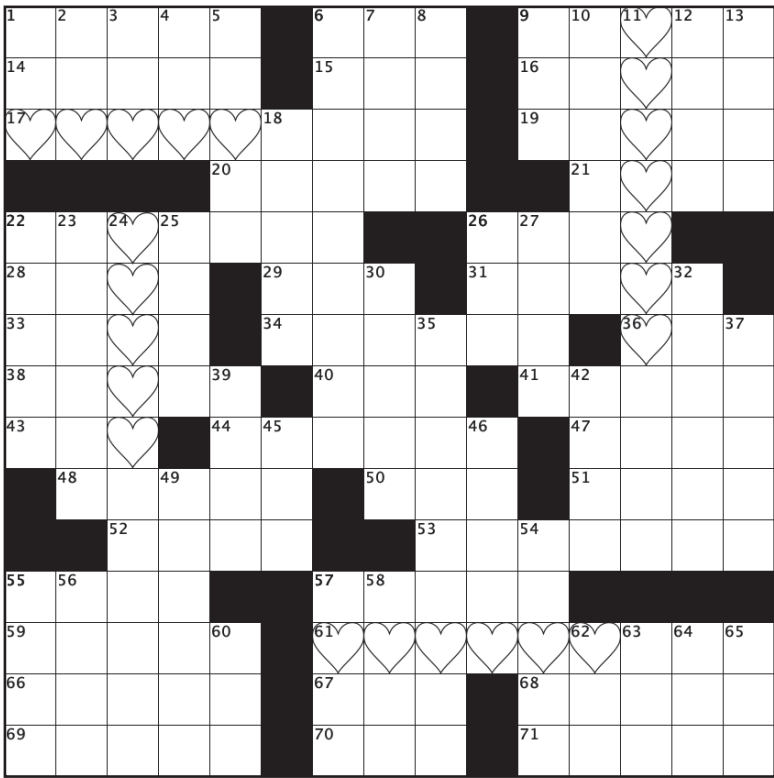
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'My sweet'

Crossword by
Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

- 1. Hanging open
- 6. Aspiring lawyer's hurdle
- 9. Family men, informally
- 14. Under the surface
- 15. Messenger molecule
- 16. "Honest!"
- 17. Put it sweetly
- 19. Who "says," in a classic game
- 20. Some language exams
- 21. Deet
- 22. Stuck (to)
- 26. "Star ____"
- 28. Put one's foot down?
- 29. Letters in a Jackson 5 hit
- 31. Stalin's predecessor
- 33. Bowling alley
- 34. Ill intention
- 36. Catch a few Zs
- 38. Insurance employee
- 40. Catch, as a crook
- 41. Ring one's neck?
- 43. I am milk?
- 44. Center-to-perimeter line
- 47. Famed Loch
- 48. Painkiller acronym

- 50. Speed meas.
- 51. Brews from bags
- 52. Islamic community
- 53. Ashes, e.g.
- 55. Nursery rhyme trio
- 57. Graduation garment
- 59. Bracelet locale
- 61. Resident of a "sweet" on Drury Lane
- 66. Favor
- 67. I, to Caesar
- 68. Swedes' neighbors
- 69. Work dough
- 70. Preceder of X or Con
- 71. Am

Down

- 1. "____ for Alibi" (Grafton novel)
- 2. Bearded ruminant
- 3. Director Lee of "Life of Pi"
- 4. Tiny fried rice morsel
- 5. 404, e.g.
- 6. Fiber optic transmission, e.g.
- 7. Type A
- 8. Bubonic plague carriers
- 9. Scoreboard abbr.
- 10. No longer sleeping
- 11. Ingredient in some seasonal sweet treats
- 12. Soothing gel
- 13. Harmonize
- 18. Coffee bar offering
- 22. Place holder?
- 23. Year of the ____ (2024, e.g.)
- 24. Sweet-smelling flower
- 25. Biblical garden
- 26. "No Scrubs" group
- 27. Gear needed for fishing or filming
- 30. Certain insurance filing
- 32. Bahamian port
- 35. 48-Across, e.g.
- 37. Entourage
- 39. Salon selection
- 42. Opposed
- 45. Colgate tube letters
- 46. Spot for knickknacks
- 49. Earhart of aviation fame
- 54. River around the Île de la Cité
- 55. Zorro accessory
- 56. Aware of
- 57. Urban pollution
- 58. Jingle
- 60. Superintendent's deg.
- 62. Lumos countercharm, in the Potterverse
- 63. Hosp. scan
- 64. Donkey
- 65. Gross, minus all other expenses



Scan for solution!

'Coming Home' review: Cash-in on Super Bowl hype lacks staying power



COURTESY OF VULTURE

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

If you tune into any pop culture news, there is a man that I’m sure you have heard a lot about, because I myself have been hearing a lot about him – the iconic R&B singer himself, Usher. He has performed the Super Bowl LVIII halftime show and somehow got married to longtime partner Jennifer Goicoechea all in the same day. What a lot of us heard a lot less about is his new album “Coming Home,” released on February 9. I was skeptical at first, thinking that this album was just a chance to take advantage of the spike in streaming numbers he would inevitably experience after the Super Bowl. After giving it a listen, I found there was definitely some truth to this suspicion. For instance, I consider the 20-track album just a little too long to fully keep listeners attention, especially since some of the songs feel rushed. However, I was quite pleased with the quality of much of the record. The album starts off strong with one of the highlights coming from the second song, “Good Good,” which mixes Usher’s and Summer Walker’s amazing vocals with a well-implemented twist of 21 Savage rapping. The good con-

tinues in a faster-paced song with Usher and The-Dream titled “Cold Blooded,” as well as the love song “Kissing Strangers.” But after “Ruin”, another well-produced entry with a feature from Pheelz, the album seems to take a turn. The album starts to become repetitive and almost boring, failing to keep my attention past the first few seconds of each track. Songs like “I Love U” and “Luckiest Man” are great examples of Usher’s vocal powers, but are way too similar to gain much interest from me. At this point also, an album that started so feature-heavy completely turns into solos by USHER, failing to properly keep up the hype of features that would be maintained if they were more spread out on the album.

However, it does end on a high note with a great, upbeat remix of a Jungkook song, “Standing Next to You.” Overall, the album starts the first half off very strongly, giving us a taste of Usher’s vocal talents and reminding us why he is one of the most enduring artists of his era. However, the second half of “Coming Home” is too repetitive to be notable past the tenth song, excluding the memorable finale. It is also worth noting that “Coming Home” gives us a good taste of USHER’s sound mixed with more modern beats by contemporary producers. For the most part, the album is worth at least a run through, especially for R&B fans, but probably will not be getting any second listens from me.

**FINAL VERDICT:
3/5 WALLYS**



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Visiting Artist Series: Bringing culture to campus

ZACH GELEOTT '27
STAFF WRITER

If you happened to check your Outlook the past couple of weeks, then you have likely seen the emails about the Visiting Artist Series and its most recent performance last Thursday night – The Doubleclicks. Now if you’re anything like me, you might be wondering what exactly the Visiting Artist Series is. How do they go about selecting the artists? What can we expect from the series in the future?

“The Visiting Artist Series is a fund that allows small and large artists to come to campus and perform a concert, as well as some kind of educational initiative that opens cultural opportunities for both campus and the community,” said Julia Phipps, the academic administrative coordinator for the Fine Arts Cen-

ter. “We bring in anything from musicians to comedians, magicians, dance groups and even music and chamber ensembles.”

The Visiting Artist Series typically hosts two performances each semester, frequently featuring artists from various genres and disciplines. Last semester, the series welcomed two renowned artists to campus: Carrie Newcomer, a folk singer-songwriter and author, and Kristina Wong, a comedian and Pulitzer Prize finalist. Both performances drew considerable attendance, with Carrie Newcomer’s show nearly selling out and Kristina Wong attracting over 100 attendees.

This semester’s Visiting Artist Series kicked off last Thursday night when the series presented The Doubleclicks, a Billboard-charting folk-pop mu-

sic duo. The second show of the semester will be on March 21, when the series will bring the band 9 Horses to Salter Hall.

The artists are chosen by a committee of various faculty members, each of whom serve for two years. Their first year on the committee is spent planning for the upcoming school year. This year’s planning committee is led by Professor Heidi Winters Vogel. The committee is currently reaching out to talent and booking agents to find artists for the 2024-25 school year.

“The only limit is our imagination, and, well, our budget,” said Professor Derek Mong, a member of the planning committee and chair of the English department. “Working on the committee is a positive experience.”

“The planning committee always tries to pick something that they think is interesting,” Phipps said. “It’s also important that they find something the students will like, and that we haven’t had in a while.”

During their second year, faculty become part of the implementation sub-committee.

“The way implementation works is that each faculty member who is on this committee takes on a selected artist as their event,” said Phipps. From there, the faculty will arrange the artist’s accommodations for their time on campus.

A typical trip for artists coming to the College starts with an overnight stay in one of Trippet Hall’s guest suites. The following day, the College hosts either a lunch talk, workshop or private lunch event with students.



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Chamber jazz group 9 Horses will come to campus on March 21, 2024 as part of the Visiting Artist Series.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Carrie Newcomer performed as part of the Visiting Artist Series on September 27, 2023 in Salter Hall. While she was on campus, Newcomer guest-taught in music classes and had a private lunch with music students.

“That’s something I love to set up,” explained Phipps. “It’s an opportunity for students to talk about what it is to be a performing artist and live that life. The students that attend are always able to walk away with something impactful.”

For the artists’ meals, Phipps believes that showcasing the culinary delights of Crawfordsville adds an extra dimension to the artists’ experience, fostering a deeper connection to the area’s culture and community.

“If they’re only here for one day, I like to give them some of Crawfordsville’s best food so that they can get a taste of the area that they’re living in for the day,” said Phipps.

“[The Visiting Artist Series] is an opportunity to bring culturally enriching experiences from across the country to our small campus,” said Mong.

Looking ahead, Phipps is excited for the future of the Visiting Artist Series and hopes that more students can come and experience such a unique opportunity.

“If students have any artists that they’re interested in having come to Wabash, don’t be afraid to contact the Fine Arts Center, and I can deliver it to the committee,” said Phipps. “The point of the Visiting Artist Series is for it to be more than a concert and more than an event. It’s supposed to be a time for you to connect with this artist in a way that you wouldn’t be able to if you just went and saw their concert.”

Cousin Rick's Pick Three

College basketball is heating up

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST

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

With the NFL Season now complete, football gambling has officially gone into hibernation until August. Fear not though; as when February soon comes to a close, sports gambling will be blessed with perhaps its second greatest opportunity, March Madness.

Sadly, strict attention to football has left our coverage of the college basketball season incomplete. So before filling out your bracket or betting on Purdue to be crowned national champions, here’s some headlines from this season to consider.

Indiana State, Butler will likely serve as IU’s replacements in March and could wreak havoc on brackets

For this season’s Cinderella candidate, we need to look no further than Terre Haute. Returning many players from a strong campaign last year, Indiana State has made light work of the Missouri Valley (apart from an uncharacteristic and embarrassing loss to Illinois State). The Sycamores play a dangerous style, spacing the floor with all five players capable of shooting the three effectively. Come March, all it will take is for ISU to get hot and some 5 or 6 seed could find themselves in an unfavorable position. Butler, on the other hand, has not played nearly as consistently, but their transfer-loaded roster could have a March similar to Kansas State last year. Butler has proven they can go toe-to-toe with the Big East’s best and have recently begun to find ways to gut out close wins in a conference where there’s hardly any nights off.

Don’t Sleep on the SEC

It seems as though in recent years, the SEC has morphed its basketball identity into something similar to the Big Ten: a night in, night out rock fight that allows the committee a number of quality teams to choose from. Coming into the year, Tennessee and Kentucky positioned themselves as front-runners, but Alabama and Auburn have quickly added themselves to the race. As proverbial giant killers, Florida, Ole Miss and Mississippi State have all found themselves capable of wreaking havoc. Lastly, South Carolina has surprised everyone and found themselves at the top of the conference. Whether these teams can shake the negative aspect of the “Big Ten stigma” still remains a question to be determined.

The field remains open, but UConn, Purdue present best cases to be crowned national champion

Purdue remains an unsurprising entry to this list, returning most of their lineup as well as their National Player of the Year, but the jury was out on UConn to start the year, unsure if they were able to maintain their postseason success after losing some key players. Nevertheless, while the tournament field lacks truly separated teams at the top, the Huskies and Boilermakers find themselves the front-runners. Similarly, UConn and Purdue are two of the three teams that hold both a top 10 offensive standing and a top 20 defensive standing, a common trait held by national championship winning teams. The other team? Arizona.



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Lacrosse dominates Earlham 13-1 in home opener

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
SPORTS WRITER

The Little Giants cruised their way to a 13-1 victory over the Earlham College Quakers in the season home opener on Fischer Field. The two teams squared off in their second annual military appreciation game, in which Wabash dominated their opponent in almost every facet of the game on February 14.

Time of possession was a huge difference in this game. The Quakers were running a passive zone defense that did little to pressure the Little Giants' offense. Due to the lack of on-ball pressure Wabash was able to move around the zone until they found an open shooter or cutter.

To give credit where credit is due, the Earlham defense did limit Wabash's dodging game, forcing them to make the right pass and shoot from distance. On the other side the young defensive core of the Little Giants hounded the opposing offense all game long. Quinn Shefferly '27, Bryce Poling '26 and Lucas Cunningham '26, made sure that the opposing attackmen felt the Valentine's Day spirit. They were up close and personal all game. There was not only pressure in the half field, but the rides for Wabash also wreaked havoc on their opposition's clearing game. The stout defense only allowed a measly 14 shot attempts and



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27
Lacrosse celebrated Military Appreciation Day at their first game against Earlham College, which was held on February 14, 2024 at Fischer Field.

one goal that came early in the fourth quarter.

A player that helped keep the foot on the gas for the Little Giants, Luka DiFilippo '25 won the first 11 straight faceoffs of the game, and he finished with a 13-16 day. He dominated the faceoffs so much the opponents were forced to place two long poles on the faceoff lineup to give them any chance of winning a faceoff.

Although 13 points is a strong start for this Wabash team, they found themselves below their usual efficiency. Wabash took 48-total shot attempts this game, several of which were

high quality looks. Wabash left a lot of points on the field with their struggles to get shots on goal especially with such great feeds and shot quality. There is a huge bright side of this less than ideal scoring output, once the shooting comes around for this offense it could be scary opposing teams.

The team has a number of positive takeaways that they can draw from this contest. Firstly, when you have four freshmen score their first collegiate goals of their careers, you can't help but get excited about the potential moving forward from this offense. One particular fresh-

man was an X-factor for the offense, Christian Dybedock '27 took over the game. Dybedock notched two goals paired with three assists, a monstrous performance from the freshman.

"I got to give it up to my guys," said Dybedock. "I just do my job, and they made my job a lot easier today. My goals came from good passes and my assists were to guys who put themselves in positions to score."

Dybedock has already stepped into a huge role this season as the primary X attackman.

"It's been stressful as a freshman," said Dybedock. "Being that our team is so young, we have no choice but to just get thrown into the fire. But going against these great defenders in practice makes the games seem easier."

"Being that our team is so young, we have no choice but to just get thrown into the fire."

-Christian Dybedock '27

Other key players for this game on offense were Team Captain, Artie Rodgers '24, who facilitated the offense with four assists, Quinn Fitzgerald with

three goals, who had a underwhelming performance for his standards taking 20 shots to reach his first of many hat-tricks this season, and last but definitely not least, Jake Pippen, who put three in the back of the net, added one assist, and caused two turnovers on the ride.

In the cage for the Little Giants stood Colin Krekeler '27. Krekeler snagged three saves, while only giving up one goal in junk time.

"Stepping into this role as a freshman is a great honor," said Krekeler "I feel very blessed and honored to represent this college as a student athlete. Part of being a Wabash man is the ability to be put under pressure yet still succeed under those conditions. I'm ready for the competition and I'm ready to step up to whatever comes my way."

All around a solid performance from the Little Giants, who have a lot of room to keep building on to this upcoming season.

Next up on the agenda, the team will hit the road on Saturday, February 17 to play Muskingum University at a neutral venue in Cincinnati, Ohio. The following Wednesday, February 21 Wabash will square off against the Ravens at Anderson University.

Three track athletes go to Kenyon for NCAC heptathlon

AIDEN SALPIETRA '27
SPORTS WRITER

After a great start to the season, the Wabash track & field team are coming up on the first opportunity to exercise their skills for points towards the North Coast Athletics Conference (NCAC) Indoor Championships. The Little Giants will be traveling to Kenyon College to compete in the NCAC Multi-Events Meet on February 17-18.

"The multi-event meet is a two-day event, with seven total events. So day one, you have the 60-meter dash, the long jump, the high jump, and the shot put. Day two, we'll have the 60-meter hurdles, the pole vault, then the 1000-meter," said Multi-Event Coach Emile Conde.

Wabash will bring three athletes to the multi-event meet this year, Landon Miller '24, Nate Joven '26, and Owen Smith '27. Miller is the only athlete returning from last year to the multi-event meet. Jake Oostman '25, an All-Conference indoor and outdoor athlete will not participate due to a recent knee surgery. Joven and Smith are both new to the multi-event, but Coach Conde feels confident they will perform well and bring home points for the team. In the past, Wabash has gotten the upper hand by bringing several athletes, while most schools bring one or even zero.

"As a team, we have always emphasized 'getting your point' and I think this mindset is especially exaggerated for the heptathlon," said Joven. If the three of us competing in the heptathlon this weekend can start off this year's indoor conference competition by executing to the best of our abilities across seven events, this will be a successful weekend."

The multi-event meet is set up in a very beneficial way for the Little Giants. It takes place a week before the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships, giving Wabash an advantage going into the indoor championship. "The good thing about our conference is that the multi-event championship is the weekend before the actual conference meet, and it counts towards the rest of the conference, so whatever we score in this meet will count towards the total of the conference as well", says Conde.

The scoring in the multi-event is different from that of a regular track meet. The scoring in a multi-event meet isn't based on placing, it's a point system, so the athletes are competing against the clock, the tape, and the bar. The team with the most cumulative points at the end of the meet wins, so the athletes must focus on maximizing every event as the more points they receive, the more points get carried over. "When we're ahead, it helps with momentum because our guys have already got us some points and we're already ahead, and that helps us motivate the rest of the guys", said Conde.

"The high jump and the pole vault, I always start low and then we'll work our way up. You'd rather have some points than zero points, because when you have zero points it can take you from third to last. You have to be smart and strategic about it", says Conde.

The multi-event team looks to put the Little Giants in a good position heading into the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships on February 23-24.

The trials of transferring

Rich Brooks '26 finds fresh and familiar experiences with basketball



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23
Rich Brooks '26 throws down a poster jam over a Hiram player in the Little Giants' game against the Hiram Terriers on January 13, 2024 at Chadwick Court.

MISCHA DZUBAY '25
STAFF WRITER

As Wabash continues its fight to make it to the NCAA tournament, guard Rich Brooks '26 is playing a pivotal role despite not being on the starting lineup. Brooks is a sophomore from South Bend, but this is only his first year as a Little Giant. Despite being heavily recruited out of highschool to come to Wabash, Brooks played basketball for a year at Iowa Western Community College before transferring. At Wabash, he has made a name for himself as one of the best sixth-men in the division, but making the transition has pushed him in new ways.

"Three years ago he was at the top of our recruiting list coming out of high school, and because of this, we have had some very high expectations of him," Brumett said. "In the end though, we feel very happy and fortunate—and I think he feels the same— to get back together with him."

Brooks transferred to Wabash because he didn't feel like his last school was home. So, he made the brave decision to move to Wabash for a fresh start.

"As I was considering where to go, Coach Brumett and Coach Sullivan reached back out to me," said Brooks. "This gesture showed me how much they believed in me and told me that Wabash was where I really

wanted to be. Basketball isn't forever, and I knew coming to Wabash would also build me up off the court and propel me to become the man I want to be."

Since coming to the College his biggest challenge has been adjusting to the academic rigor of Wabash.

"At my last school, classes were all online so it took me a while to get into the swing of things, but once I got into a routine, everything else got a lot easier."

While everything off the court has changed and Brooks is continuing to grow more comfortable in his new setting, basketball continues as it always had. Brooks knew that just because he moved to a Division III college, he would have to keep putting in the work to be the best player he can be.

"It's kind of the same, to be honest," said Brooks. "At my old school I had to grind to get playing time, and here I have to grind to show the coaches that I can fit in on the team."

Brooks quickly got into the swing of things on the court, delivering an impressive 24-point performance in a challenging game against Illinois College early in the season. Four games later in an away match against Oberlin, Brooks led the team in scoring with 20 points, and five games after that, he led the team again with 17 points

against Washington University in St. Louis. Additionally, Brooks has been co-lead scorer in two other matches with 17 points and 18 points against Wittenburg and Hiram respectively.

"He's an offensive weapon and is extremely resilient," Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett said. "[Brooks] doesn't let things get to him, he has really good energy and just maintains it. We'll bust his chops a little bit about some things defensively, but he just takes it and will even bust his own chops."

Brooks is currently averaging 11.2 points per game, the second highest on the team and he is determined to simply do what he can for the team. He is playing his role incredibly well as a sophomore and putting up serious numbers in the process.

"At my old school I had to grind to get playing time, and here I have to grind to show the coaches that I can fit in on the team."

-Rich Brooks '26

In order to reach a starting position, Brooks will need to turn his high-scoring games into a consistent expectation. He's shown that he can put up the numbers, but in order to make the transition from a role player to a starter, he needs to increase his frequency.

Brooks is just in his sophomore year, so he has a lot more to give and time to grow. He will continue to be a main contributor and one of the faces of the program for the foreseeable future.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Rich Brooks '26 at the Little Giants' game against the Wooster Fighting Scots on January 6, 2024 in Wooster, Ohio.

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Volleyball meets first conference opponents

The ins and outs of the MCVL and why Wabash volleyball isn't part of the NCAC

NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

Volleyball got its first look at conference opponents, as they began tackling a long list of opposing teams that are lined up on the schedule. Playing five matches across five days, Wabash volleyball has had a busy week. On Tuesday February 13th, the Little Giants returned to Chadwick to face off against the Trinity Christian College Trojans. Wabash lost the match three sets to none against an impressive team.

Over the weekend of February 9 to 10, Wabash went 3-1 at the Illinois Wesleyan Invitational. Two freshmen performed extremely well during the matches. Outside hitter Bawibawi Thang '27 matched the Wabash record for kills in a three-set match (set by Jackson Leeper '23 in 2023) with the 18 kills he earned against Edgewood College. Christopher Board '27, the libero, set the school record for number of digs in a three-set match with his 19 digs in the same victory against Edgewood.

The Little Giants also notably beat the tournament hosts, Illinois Wesleyan University, before finding its third win of the weekend against Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Unfortunately, the Little Giants fell to conference opponent Adrian College in four sets. Luckily, that match does not count toward conference play, but it does give an insight about how Wabash might stack up within its conference this season.

Observant readers may notice that Adrian is not a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference in which Wabash competes. This raises the obvious question—why not?

Within the North Coast Atlantic Conference (NCAC), only



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bawibawi Thang '27 fights for a contested shot in the Wabash game against Trinity College on February 13, 2024 at Chadwick Court.

three schools have men's volleyball teams sanctioned by the NCAA. Those schools being Hiram, Wabash and Wittenberg. While Denison and Wooster offer volleyball club options for men who wish to play the sport in a lesser capacity, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan and DePauw do not have any official representation of the sport on campus.

Instead, the Little Giants play in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League. The MCVL was founded in 2014 making it the eighth NCAA Division III volleyball conference. Since its inception the conference has seen many teams come and go. Men's volleyball, a somewhat newly sanctioned sport, has seen new conferences pop up frequently in

recent years. Many teams have consequently bounced around conferences as new ones formed that better aligned with their schools' locations.

When the Little Giants first stepped onto the intercollegiate scene in 2020, they joined, along with Baldwin Wallace University and Wittenberg (who themselves had previously left and were then readmitted to), the MCVL. Since the 2020 season, the teams within the conference have remained stable. The only change being the addition of Calvin University for the 2024 season.

In the postseason, the MCVL teams compete to place among the top four of the conference to qualify for the conference tournament. The winner of the

tournament then advances to compete in the NCAA Division three national tournament for a chance to be crowned the national champion. As noted earlier, the Little Giants' loss to conference opponent Adrian does not contribute to the conference's tournament rankings even though it was a match between members of the same conference. This is because the Scarlet and White will play Adrian again in the postseason when matches against conference opponents do count towards the tournament rankings.

For the 2024 conference tournament, the three front-running teams are Baldwin Wallace, Mount Union and Wittenberg. Baldwin Wallace won last year's conference tournament and re-

turns the core of its dominant roster. The Yellow Jackets currently have a 5-4 record and are nationally ranked number 18 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Mount Union were seeded second behind Baldwin Wallace in the MCVL coaches' preseason poll. The Raiders are 4-4 after playing against several nationally ranked teams. Mount Union competed in the conference championship last season as the number one seed but fell to Baldwin Wallace.

Wittenberg, tied for second in the preseason poll, also competed in the conference tournament last year. The Tigers have jumped up to a record of 6-5, winning their past five matches in a row. Wabash and Wittenberg will face off for the first time this season on Saturday, February 17th at the Columbus Convention Center in Ohio.

Last year, Trine took the fourth spot in the tournament. But this season, both Adrian and Wabash are hoping to earn themselves a spot in this year's conference tournament. Adrian did defeat Wabash at the Illinois Wesleyan Invitational, but they have also recorded losses against both Illinois Wesleyan and Concordia University of Chicago, teams that Wabash has beaten.

The team has had struggles in the past. But now, Wabash has its foot in the door. For the first time, teams in the conference ought to be wary of a competitive Wabash volleyball team. In the face of well-established programs across the conference, the team will have a chance to show how far they have come as a program.



PHOTO BY ETHAN WALLACE '25

Blake Discher II '26 hits a slice shot in the Little Giants' game against Manchester University on February 10, 2024 at Collett Tennis Center.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

A lively crowd turned out to support the Little Giants tennis team for their home opener at Collett Tennis Center. The team's deep roster was able to shine in both matches of the weekend double-header, as the reserves took over and defeated Capital University and Manchester University on February 10.

Despite playing two mediocre opponents, the team was excited to be back on their home courts. With Collett's surprisingly excellent acoustics on their side, the team and fans gathered to watch, cheering on the Little Giants to the first two wins of the spring season.

"The energy from the team was good, but it usually is," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "It is always great to have a little extra student support there. I remember that there was a guy waving a shirt around. That was a new sight for me. I haven't seen that in all my years."

Wabash soundly defeated Capital 9-0 and Manchester 8-1. At doubles-1 Ethan Koeneman '26 and Rafael Rin '27 were the

only two members of the regular starting unit to play. Blake Discher II '26 and Sam Dziadosz '27 were 4-0 on the day, each winning two singles matches and the two doubles matches that they played as a team. The team's only loss during either match came at 5-singles against Manchester, when Nathan Brackney '27 lost 11-9 in a third-set tiebreaker.

"As a team, we were hyped," said Discher. "The energy on the courts was incredible and we got some sweet wins. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season and keeping the momentum going into our next matches."

While Capital and Manchester are likely the worst two teams on the Little Giants' schedule for the season, the match was a good opportunity for the team to show off one of its biggest strengths. The long and talented list of reserves for the team will be a vital asset for Wabash in a sport where playing four matches in a single day is common. The roster depth also allows the team to take advantage of competitive practices, so that the players are prepared for high stakes scenarios during match-

es.

"I think the roster depth is great for the team because it creates a level of competition for the guys who play on the starting six lineup," said Eric Tien '27. "It's great for practice too since we have such a deep lineup. It also allows more experience for players if our coach decides to rest a couple main guys even when playing tough teams"

"I think the roster depth is great for the team because it creates a level of competition for the guys who play on the starting six lineup."

- Eric Tien '27

With these wins in hand, the tennis team moves to 2-2 on the season. Their next match, on February 17, will be against the formidable Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

Swimming & Diving NCAC Championships



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT OLMSTEAD

Keane Albright '25 performs a dive on Day 1 of the 2024 NCAC Swimming & Diving Championships, which is scheduled from February 14, 2024 to February 17, 2024 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.



Scan for the full story

Learn about the swimming & diving team's performance over the first-two days of the NCAC Championships at bachelor.wabash.edu