





# News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT  
Germany

A man turned himself in and claimed responsibility for a brutal terrorist attack at a Christian gathering in Solingen, Germany that killed three people and wounded eight others. The attack was claimed by the Islamic State, and multiple arrests of individuals potentially connected to the attacker have been made. This latest terrorist attack comes during the buildup for elections in three east German states, and the leading party in those elections, Alternative for Germany (AfD) would be the first right-wing party since Nazism to have a candidate elected in a state-wide election in Germany. The candidate most likely to win his initial election is Bjorn Hocke, the head of the AfD branch in Thuringia, an east German state. Hocke, who is running on a platform of curbing both crime and immigration, is a controversial figure who has drawn criticism for knowingly using phrases triumphed by the SA, the Nazi's paramilitary wing, and promising that "the multicultural experiment will end" in Germany should he win his election. Although he will likely have neither the votes from the people or support from other parties with which to form a government should he win the election, Hocke currently leads by as much as nine points in the polls. His campaign could receive a boost after the terrorist attack in Solingen given the public outrage that naturally follows any attack of its nature. Hocke tweeted on X, "Do you really want to get used to this?" after the attack, angling for support amidst the fears of the public as he aims to take the reins of power.



COURTESY OF PBS

The man who claimed responsibility for the attack is detained on August 25, 2024 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Congo  
Mpox, erroneously referred to as "monkeypox," continues to plague the continent of Africa as governments there plead with wealthier nations to send aid and vaccines to stem the tide of the outbreak. The World Health Organization declared the mpox outbreak a global health emergency earlier this year after scientists in Congo discovered a new form of the virus. While Congo has been at the heart of the epidemic and experienced the worst of its casualties, cases of mpox are becoming increasingly common across the continent. Within the last week alone, nearly 4,000 new cases of mpox were reported, along with eighty-one deaths across Africa. Around 18% of all reported cases of mpox in Africa were reported in the last week. That is a startling jump, and humanitarian groups continue to pressure wealthier nations for more support. So far, around 380,000 doses of mpox vaccines have been pledged by partners like the United States and the European Union, but health experts monitoring the situation believe that number is only a fraction of the total number of vaccines that will be needed to end the outbreak in Congo, one of many nations battling the disease. While health agencies in Africa are doing their best to prevent the mpox's spread, cooperation and justice are needed from wealthier partners to avoid an even greater loss of life.



COURTESY OF AP

Empty vaccines of the Jynneos vaccine on August 29, 2022 at a vaccination site in New York City.

## Mexico

A proposed plan to overhaul the federal judiciary in Mexico sparked criticism from US and Canadian officials, uneasiness from international investors, and a drop in the peso's value last week. Earlier this week Mexico's president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, announced that relations with US and Canadian embassies would be put "on hold" in response to what he called an affront to Mexico's sovereignty. A left-wing president with plenty of support in the legislature but who was often stymied by the courts, Obrador introduced the plan just a few weeks before he will leave office on October 1, making way for his ally, president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, who also supports the reorganization. The overhaul would see all federal judges in Mexico, who in the current system can only be appointed after passing a series of tests to check their expertise, forced to step down and run in elections. The plan would allow the public to elect judges and strip away many of the existing requirements and tests for judges. In response to what critics are calling an authoritarian power-grab, federal judges in Mexico have gone on strike, demanding that legislators vote no to Obrador's plan. Time will tell if their attempts are to be successful; Obrador's party controls enough of one chamber of the legislature to pass the plan there and is only a few votes away from the same majority in the other chamber. International investors like Morgan Stanley are expressing their distaste for the move, fearing turmoil that could impact trade and raise prices. Obrador has just over a month to force his plan through, but if he cannot then it will be on Sheinbaum's shoulders to finish the last task on her predecessor's to-do list.

## Enriquez-Ornelas '08 begins as Director of Latino Partnerships

Continued from page 1

If not for La Alianza contacting Enriquez-Ornelas while he worked at Millikin University as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and served as Coordinator for the Global Studies and Spanish Education, it's possible he wouldn't have returned to Wabash.

"Initially, La Alianza reconnected and reached out to me when I was at Milliken," said Enriquez-Ornelas. "They started engaging in conversation with me and saying 'Hey, are you interested in coming back and coming to this event' or telling me about what they were doing and the leadership at the time. They introduced themselves to me and because I was only two hours away. I found ways to attend their Spring Festival and then the Chapel Talk I gave in 2022."

The importance of the moment is not lost on Enriquez-Ornelas. As the inaugural director, he is building from the ground up, while simultaneously defining what the initiative will entail.

"I think the Latino Partnership position is going to positively affect [by] helping us zone-in on what exactly we stand for as a club here at Wabash."

- Juan Calvillo '26

"I really want to make sure that whatever I do as the first director sets a foundation for future directors," said Enriquez-Ornelas.

Crawfordsville IN

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August 31, 2024

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featuring

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Malcolm X Institute

Wabash Rugby - Disc Golf Club - Fishing Team - Soccer Club

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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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# Media, misinformation and civility



Professor Chris Anderson

Reply to this opinion at andersoc@wabash.edu

As the end of the election nears and the start of the semester begins it is important to rethink how we talk politics. There is no doubt that group chats, living units and classrooms will be sharing the latest news and memes surrounding this election cycle. The quality of those conversations and their accuracy will be highly dependent on the media we consume and share. Understanding the relationship between media, campaigns and elections is of the utmost importance.

Elections are a selection process for a candidate and the policies they intend to pursue. Elections are not about picking a winner or beating the opposing party. Horse race journalism, the focus on who is in the lead at any given time in the election process, has played a role in shifting election narratives into something akin to a game. Delegate forecasting and poll numbers are regularly used as a points system to determine who is winning.

This gamification distills the election down to a singular metric that encourages seeing the election as a contest for political parties to win or lose. It creates a zero-sum framing of the election where for candidates and citizens there is no room for policy development, shifting ideas or common ground.

In general, who appeared on Jimmy Fallon or Stephen Colbert (in the streaming space: Adin Ross or Hassan Piker) is less important than the intended policies of candidates. While most media can be a place to learn about candidates, visiting campaign websites or watching dedicated political speeches will give you a stronger sense of what a candidate intends to do if elected.

While it may be fun to watch Jimmy Fallon tussle Donald Trump’s hair or watch Kamala Harris play True Confessions, these activities are for celebrities promoting movies, not public servants seeking your vote. They are designed by campaigns and networks to boost ratings and make candidates appear likable and authentic. Debates, campaign trail speeches and voting records are far better indicators of how these individuals would occupy the office of the president.

And let’s not forget to check sources and

the validity of sensational news as misinformation is rampant this semester. The proprietary and hidden algorithms of social media companies have been found to reward engagement and sometimes the truth is not as engaging as a lie. Many “bad actors” create sensational content that carries misinformation by either altering the context of content or outright fabricating material and attributing it to a candidate.

Those seeking to shift the election intentionally or sow chaos and doubt on the process more generally use sensational stories of dubious quality as a means of increasing their distribution. They also use chatbots, crowdsourced labor and artificial intelligence to increase the circulation of misinformation by creating fake engagement to get misinformation in front of real people. Both vice presidential candidates, JD Vance and Tim Walz, have been the victim of misinformation. In both instances, opposing party members continued to spread those stories even after they had become well-known bits of misinformation.

Misinformation will continue to plague our elections, so it is best to develop better information hygiene. Try to consume news from reputable media outlets that focus on direct accounts and sourced factual analysis. If an article or piece of content is implicitly or explicitly telling you how to feel about the story it is more likely to be dubious. You should be interested in the facts, not someone’s take on the facts. It is not as easy as applying blanket approval to a network, newspaper or creator because multiple people are involved in writing for news sources.

You should read through varied viewpoints of the same event and be willing to shift when information reveals that a story is untrue. This also means you shouldn’t spread memes about things you know are false, no matter how much individual engagement you think you will get from a post or text. Long-term, you are hurting your credibility as a source of good memes and reliable information.

It is likely no surprise that as the director of Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse I encourage finding common ground and shared meaning. Understanding others’ perspectives and what values, experiences and beliefs lead to those perspectives is a path to better discourse. On campus, there is a renewed effort for civility, not just in politics, but across all societal divisions. We can support this effort through genuine attempts to understand one another, especially when we disagree.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## POP THE CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA

*Hi-Five to the brothers Ghallager for squashing a 15-year beef and reuniting their legendary band Oasis, much to the delight of 40-year-old women everywhere. Anyway, here's Wonderwall...*

## THANKS A LATTE

*Lo-Five to the Brew for closing early on Wednesday night. Lack of caffeine is the number one leading cause of typos in The Bachelor.*

## POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

*Hi-Five to the crew of a German warship who played “Imperial March” upon entering London. It's interesting that they're finally comfortable making grand shows of force and authority again...*

## RECIDIVIST WHO?

*Lo-Five to the Georgia mayor who was imprisoned for leaving a bottle of gin in a ditch for a state prison work crew. If Todd Barton '00 ever decides to hang it up, we've got his replacement locked down... literally.*

## ‘THE ART OF THE DEAL’

*Hi-Five to Delt for stealing Beta's door right off its hinges as leverage to get their die table back. Make sure your freshmen learn this business acumen by the time they give CIBE pitches next summer.*



### The Wabash Club of Indianapolis sponsors events and projects to support the College community.

**Here are just a few examples:**

- Community Service: W.A.B.A.S.H. Day
- Connection: Monthly After-Work Get-Togethers
- Education: Moot Court and Faculty-Alumni-Staff Symposium
- Fun: Bash Before the Bell and Mitchum Crock Golf Outing
- Recognition: Leadership Breakfast and Scholar-Athlete Award
- Support: Admissions and Career Services
- Welome: Back to School Bash and New Faculty Reception

 [instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://www.instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis)

## Wally’s wall: Wabash happenings

### The Prompt:

What are you excited about this semester? Which activities and clubs should underclassmen look into?

#### Evan Bone ’26

Underclassmen should join College Mentors for Kids. It’s a great opportunity to serve the community and make a genuine impact on the lives of children. We’re always looking to welcome more mentors!

#### Kade Honickel ’27

Definitely join the Disc Golf Club, as its an incredibly underrated but super fun sport that brings so many people together and has so much fun going around and seeing the amazing views that are not usually seen when playing normal golf.

#### John Mills ’27

As the torching summer days begin to pass, I can’t help but reminisce to when I was but a wee freshman with not a clue in the world. If not for the beauty of Wabash Rugby, I would not be the man I am today, and I would be doing myself and all of my brothers a disservice if I didn’t humbly extend an invitation to join us in our conquest for greatness.

#### Alexander Arruza ’26

This semester I’m excited to do a triple flip off the high dives with the legendary Chris Wiatr. Underclassmen should join the Disc Jockey (DJ) Club.

# Registering to vote at Wabash: 2024


Voter registration requirements vary by state. In order to register to vote online, you will most likely need to hold a valid state identification (driver’s license, etc.) for the district in which you would register.

To register by mail, you may be required to submit proof of residency in the form of a current utility bill, bank statement or government-issued document bearing your address.

**Register to vote online at indianavoters.com**

**Additional information at vote.org**

### How many days before the election is your mail in ballot due?



### Residency Rights of Students

College students may register to vote in one of two places:

1. Your address while attending school
2. Your address while not attending school.

If you wish to register in Montgomery County, contact Michael Lynn (lynnm@wabash.edu) to request proof of campus residency.

If you previously registered to vote in another location, you may need to contact that state/county to ensure you are removed from that district’s rolls.



# The Gentleman’s rule in Washington

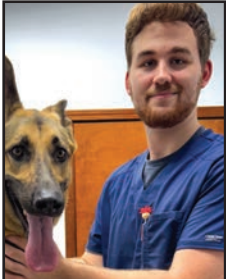


**Zachary Small**  
'25  
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Many Americans see Washington as a metaphorical (or literal) swamp, with Capitol Hill being the home to a variety of swamp monsters and certainly not a place where our beloved Gentleman’s Rule can survive. This perspective is not unwarranted; just watch any political debate from the past eight years or search any contentious politician’s name on X. You will see the ruthlessness with which politicians and their supporters treat those on the other side. Even in Congress itself, this summer, many Americans watched firsthand as two members of Congress tossed schoolground insults at each other in the House of Representatives. Trying to find any aspect of the Gentleman’s Rule on Capitol Hill was a daunting task, especially when our Representatives are using committee time to talk about each other’s eyelashes and spray tans. Going back a couple years, we all remember the plethora of nicknames former President Trump came up with for his opponent Hillary Clinton. Adding gas to this fire of devious behavior, many Americans probably do not hold lobbying and lobbyists in a positive light. Many think lobbyists are able to influence politicians to support and vote for policies that may not represent the best interests of their constituents. They are correct. However, lobbyists are not always a negative force in the Capital, as I’ll discuss. Understanding the underbelly of Washington is difficult not just due to the complexities, but also due to the lack of expression of true feelings by public figures. Although there are some “true believers,” most members of Congress are just people who happen to do Congress as a job. Being a congressional intern allowed me to see this first hand this summer, as I was able to walk past members of Congress unguarded and unaccompanied in the hall at work for the short couple of

months I was in Washington. My experience in those short couple months showed me that despite all of the challenges and road bumps, the Gentleman’s Rule is alive and thriving in Washington. Despite those few “true believers,” most of the people in Congress, no matter how outlandish they may act when the cameras are rolling, act in ways that satisfy the Gentleman’s Rule outside of their television appearances. I feel like the easiest way to demonstrate this is to explain another “rule” that I learned about from other Congressional Interns to determine virtuousness: the informal “elevator rule”. To explain simply, there are at least two elevators in every Congressional building; one is reserved for members of Congress and their company when they are in session, but are available for use by staffers and interns when they are out of session. The “elevator rule,” which most members of the U.S. House of Representatives abide by, is simply a yes/no question: Does a member of Congress let you ride in the elevator with them? Obviously this is more of an informal joke than a rule, but I think it is similar to our Gentleman’s Rule, as it serves as a simple litmus of character. Obviously, the “elevator rule” certainly has a lot more leeway in terms of ubiquitous participation than the Gentleman’s Rule (Congressmen, like everyone else, are sometimes in a rush or are busy). That being said, every Congressmen I interacted with followed the rule and let me ride with them. I rode the elevator with some people who I strongly disagree with politically and I did not think too highly of on a personal level, and they showed me that despite any difference politically or TV reputation to maintain, the status of the Gentleman’s Rule in Washington is alive and thriving. As for lobbying being a net negative, it might have some negative aspects, but they also sponsor a lot of events for congressional staffers and interns, like an annual pie reception and complimentary happy hours. Although I think of myself as moral, I am not one to judge the hand that lets me sample pie from across the country and gives me free drinks after work.

# The “feminization” of veterinary medicine



**Brayden Spurlock**  
'27  
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Many freshmen enter Wabash having chosen the popular pre-medicine route. Students may go on to apply for graduate school to become doctors and surgeons to better human medicine. However, it has come to my attention that we have not had many Wabash pre-medicine graduates apply for veterinary schools. Does a culture of toxic masculinity and the perceived femininity of veterinary medicine lead us to an answer for this decline? Or are Wabash men not aware of the opportunity? Regarding a culture of toxic masculinity, men can believe that they must enter a career field with prestige catering to the male occupation. With the increase in the number of women in the veterinary field, this perceived feminization may be what is driving men away as they may feel devalued in a culture of toxic masculinity. The field has been predominantly female in the US since 2009; this trend continues with 87.3% of current vet school applicants identifying as female, according to the American Animal Health Association. When choosing to pursue veterinary medicine, a love for animals and the compassionate portrayal of vets in television ads sparked my passion. But does the care and love shown in these mediums drive men away from this field? Men have been discouraged from pursuing this professional career, resulting in a lack of diversity. With the career not being perceived as “masculine,” the status of the profession in society continues to have men represent most applicants to and in programs of human medicine. Having worked for a male Doctor Veterinary Medicine (DVM) this past summer, I had the chance to express my passion for this potential career in the form of many hours in the clinic, as well as the love and compassion displayed by the doctor who established a nurturing culture in the workplace. What we are seeing is a need for the

normalization of enhanced compassion in the veterinary field required in men rather than perceiving these traits as “feminine” and unwelcome in a toxic masculine culture. I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Jessi Farris, DVM, MBA about the lack of Wabash men pursuing this career field. Dr. Farris also is Vice President of recruiting at Heartland Family Partners, the company that owns Crawfordsville Family Vet. Dr. Farris is married to Ken Farris ’12, also a DVM, and is a member of the Wabash Women’s Collective. Her and her husband have both discussed how more Wabash men should explore vet med as a career path and she was excited to hear about my interest. This conversation brought me to delve deeper into this trend to help revive the attractiveness of the veterinary profession for male applicants. Although salary has been a popular factor in male deviation from the field, we need to normalize a culture of pursuing careers based on a love for our animals and not based on financial attractiveness. The establishment of a culture judging career satisfaction less by objective criteria and more by subjective criteria with compassion and love shown to clients must be normalized in society. Although the perceived femininity of veterinary medicine has led to a decline in male vet school applicants, normalizing a culture that does not revolve around career attractiveness based on objective masculine norms. Normalizing subjectivity and loving relationships with clients seen in the veterinary field is what is needed to see an improvement with men moving away from a culture of desiring dominant autonomy regarding gender norms in the workforce. To normalize the caring images of veterinarians I used to see in children’s books and other media, but an increase in male role models who embody compassion towards animals and normalize wanting to demonstrate this empathy in the work setting. Men are capable of having this emotional capacity, and through the progressive breaking of gender stereotypes, we can change this idea in men of vet med being a “feminine” profession and normalize a new form of masculinity in the workplace that normalizes traditionally feminine traits and subjective criteria in career pursuits.

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If interested, contact [pcreynol25@wabash.edu](mailto:pcreynol25@wabash.edu)

# Finding yourself away from home



**Richard Ballentine**  
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While growing up, I never understood the desire to leave home. Home was where I escaped from the world, home was where I met friends who I now call brothers and home was always there for me. Before I left for Wabash, a family friend reminded me that I was fortunate to have an opportunity to attend college and that I could not waste this opportunity. Over time, I would come to realize that, in my case, remaining close to home was becoming an excuse to solely focus on academics and not work on myself in a holistic manner. During my sophomore year, I initiated a half-hearted attempt at studying abroad. However, I allowed a five-class schedule to become an excuse for not searching harder for a way to study abroad. By the time the application closed, I had already selected the school and courses I would take but decided that I lacked something. I used the excuse of not being fluent in the language, fear of missing out on something here at Wabash and fear of being away from my family to allow myself to explore a rare opportunity especially for those without abundant

financial resources. However, while speaking with Dr. Mikek after our class, my fears were slowly eroded away. Professor Mikek complimented my Spanish speaking skills and offered his advice and knowledge regarding studying abroad. First, Professor Mikek mentioned the possibility of an immersion course and delved into the financial aid options available here at the college. Second, Professor Mikek highlighted the inherent value gained by traveling, experiencing other cultures, and expanding your worldview while you are still young. While I was uncertain of my ability to study abroad due to financial limitations and an issue with my credits, I applied to a Spanish immersion course that would eventually lead to a 100-mile hike on El Camino de Santiago. Eventually, thanks to Professors Mikek and Hardy, Ms. Weir as well as the Off-Campus Study Committee I was able to receive the Rudolph Scholarship and study abroad in Granada, Spain. On the way to the airport, I felt a mixture of anxiety and excitement. On one hand, my hard work was finally paying off. I was going to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to walk through an ancient pilgrimage that attracts people from across the globe with a group of 15 great students, two amazing professors and one wonderful employee of the College. On the other hand, I felt a sense of anxiety as I would be thousands of miles away from home and this would be the first

time I flew on a plane. However, I was fortunate that my group remained light-hearted and took my mind off the stress of the flight. I spent the majority of the hike with our group from Wabash, but I was lucky to encounter some genuinely odd yet interesting people and to learn more about the people from Wabash. I met a man (assumed to be German, but never confirmed) who compared emotion to changes in the weather, a group of women from California who decided to undergo a pilgrimage because why not and a British father and his American daughter who loved nature to name a few. When I was spending time with our group from Wabash, I discovered that a shared adversity created common ground with men which allowed everyone to share stories of life’s highs and lows. When I was not walking with others, I found myself lost in thought. Thanks to the pain running from my feet to my back and with a little bit of Spanish coffee, I retreated into my mind. In short, I renewed my sense of gratitude for my life, but I also realized that I was not happy with who I am. This physical trial led to more confrontations with myself that made me recognize that I deserved more. I did not – and do not – deserve to be as harsh on myself as I have been for most of my life. Although I still have more work to do on myself, I was fortunate enough to receive this opportunity to start my work. Following the pilgrimage, I traveled

from Madrid to Granada by myself by train. After a much-needed week of rest, classes started and I met a group of wonderful students from across the United States. Ranging from a group of friends from Kansas who want to change the world, to a psychology student from Pennsylvania and a man from rural Oklahoma, my study abroad group and I explored Granada united by a desire to delve into the unknown. We visited ancient palaces, a nunnery that bakes superb cookies and experienced sunburn that I will remember for a lifetime. At the end of the month, my group exchanged goodbyes through smiles and teary eyes. After one trip across Spain on minimal sleep, a canceled flight in Canada and a surprise pickup from my little cousins at O’Hare airport, I arrived home. Upon returning home and to Wabash, I have come to realize how much I have changed: My fashion sense improved, my sense of self-worth increased and my ambition returned aflame and stronger than ever. At the end, I can say that I am grateful that I was encouraged to look outside of my comfort zone and grateful for the opportunities that I received. To any and all students that have ever considered studying abroad, I cannot implore you enough to at least sit down and be honest with yourself; if you do not at least consider pushing yourself out of your comfort zone you could be stuck wondering what could have been.



## Wabash Always Laughs, but at whom?

Less Chris Powell,  
More Amy Silverberg

CP wows, Amy hits an iceberg

TOM OPPMAN '25  
GUEST WRITER

Wabash kicked off its student life activities for the semester with Wabash Always Laughs, a comedy event and the debut of the Donahue-Billups slate of campus-life-reviving activities. Two very different comedians took the stage last Saturday: actor and writer Chris Powell and USC creative writing professor Dr. Amy Silverberg. Both entertainers had lively sets, each with their fair share of raunchy material, but I left Ball Theatre on Saturday night with very different impressions. I'll cut to the chase: I didn't like Chris Powell's set. I'll talk about my gripes with the subject material, but at the end of the night, it came down to vibes. I think that the difference in the two performers, and especially the difference in the audience reaction to them, reflects some worries I have about Wabash.

Anyone who was in Ball on Saturday knew that CP's brand of humor was pure depravity. He started strong by telling a story about laughing at amputees. It only got better from there as he explained why he should be allowed to ogle at breastfeeding women in the airport. Mixed throughout were a few more healthy doses of veiled homophobia, ableism and not liking his wife. The worst was the misogyny. "Women" was not a word in this man's vocabulary: "b\*\*\*es" seemed to suit him fine.

Silverberg, on the other hand, was immediately charming. She did have a rocky start – I guess we'll never be free from the gratuitous "visiting performer mispronounces Wabash" bit. She recovered though. Her comedy was witty, it was personal and it didn't rely on shock factor alone to get a reaction. She also made it clear she could tell a dirty joke or two as well, after sitting through all 80 minutes of the opening act. Was it a 10/10 set? Probably not. But the vibes were better. Silverberg's comedy felt like it was performed for an audience of Wabash students – Powell's comedy felt like it was performed for a bunch of men.

What I worry about is that CP seemed to find his audience a little too well in Wabash. I didn't like how it felt like he had us pegged, like he knew exactly what we wanted to hear. Is the idea of sexualizing a breastfeeding mother in public really that funny? I mean seriously, do Wabash men



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRINNELL COLLEGE

**Writer and comedian Amy Silverberg has numerous credits, including as Professor of Writing at the University of Southern California.**

really interact with so few women that we think they're that one dimensional? I don't mean that as a dig fellas, I'm just saying I genuinely think CP would've bombed in front of an audience of women. Silverberg certainly got that treatment in front of our audience of men, although perhaps the idea of a woman who is comfortable talking about sex was just too disturbing.

Credit where credit is due, I thought Powell had some good bits. He was a good physical comedian, and I think with some heavy edits, I wouldn't have found his set so uncomfortable. I understand that comedy is subjective. It's fine if I don't find someone as entertaining as my peers, or if my palate for controversial topics is a bit more sensitive than somebody else's. It might be worthwhile, though, to consider the effect, cognitive or social, of entertaining such casual use of grating, disrespectful language towards women. Wabash is supposed to be a place where we help each other consider what manliness means in practice: I bet many Wabash men would put caring for women high on that list. It's important to live that at all times, not just when there's a woman sitting next to you.

I'll say once more that, as always, comedy is subjective. I liked Silverberg's vibe, and Powell's vibe wasn't for me. If you feel differently, let's talk about it. That's what Wabash is all about.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIBE .COM

**Chris Powell is a stand-up comic in addition to his acting career, appearing in shows like "Empire," "Detroit" and "Love Life."**

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

When I heard that Chris Powell and Amy Silverberg, two comedians whose names I recognized, would be coming for Wabash Always Laughs, I couldn't wait to get my tickets. If anything, I was much more excited to hear Silverberg, who tears it up on Comedy Central. But at the end I was loving Powell's set and disappointed by Silverberg's.

The highlight of the night, Chris Powell, was probably cancelable, but frankly riotous. He definitely toed the line with some jokes and was unafraid to have a laugh at anyone's expense, including his own. There's plenty to say about how long and sometimes unfocused Powell was, yet I think he made up for it with jokes that had the audience equal parts aghast and gasping for air. It felt like Powell was trying to engage with the audience. For better or for worse, Powell's humor was unforgettable.

### TOM'S VERDICT:



### ETHAN'S VERDICT:



## 'Midwest Princess' carries positive vibes, but drops everything else

PRESTON REYNOLDS '25  
OPINION EDITOR

Kayleigh Ros Amstutz, stage name "Chappell Roan," topped the charts in June of 2024 with her 2023 album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess." At the time of writing, she's beating Morgan Wallen, Billie Eilish, Zach Bryan and Charli XCX on the Billboard 200. Unsurprisingly, only Taylor Swift has her beat at the number one spot.

Roan's performance at Lollapalooza allegedly hit record-setting crowd numbers, a representation of her growing popularity throughout the year. "Midwest Princess" has grown from sleeper hit to genuine phenomenon, which, combined with follow-up singles such as "Good Luck, Babe!" and an opening spot touring with Olivia Rodrigo, has stunned many observers.

Like Rodrigo, Roan has gained fame primarily through the digital sphere. TikTok and other social media outlets have been filled with infectious snippets from Roan's breakout album.

Yet, as someone who has taken pride in staying far from TikTok, it was strange to hear a breakout artist that sounded so familiarly upbeat.

Listening to Roan, I can't help but be reminded of the childhood sounds of the "Princess[es] of Pop," cemented in my mind by the 2007 line, "It's Britney B\*tch", or the omnipresent Katy Perry. As one of the older members of Gen Z, Roan's experience with early 2000s pop is surely not unlike our own.

And, like Roan, these artists, looping endlessly through car radios of the early 2000s, were unabashedly sexual both lyrically and performatively.

However, this is a different breed of pop than what we saw in the early 2000s. While Perry's 2008, "I Kissed a Girl" sparked moral panic over coyly referencing two girls kissing, Roan does not hold back.

Nearly every song on "Midwest Princess" centers on Roan's lesbianism and "Good Luck, Babe!" does the same. It is surreal to hear the classic breakup or love song through an explicitly queer lens, especially from a fellow Midwesterner.

And, unlike many of the pop songs of the early 2000s, Roan tells a more coherent and specific story through her songs. "Pink Pony Club" and "Naked in Manhattan," the eleventh and twelfth tracks of her album respectively, meet suitable levels of grooviness while still providing the listener with an undeniably queer experience.

The companion single, "Good Luck, Babe!," currently sitting at 508 million



COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

streams on Spotify, greets the listener with a beat that I can't help but compare to Daryl Hall and John Oates' 1984 song "Out of Touch."

Both pieces address a disconnected lover, ending with a fade-out repeating a line – "You're out of touch" and "You'd have to stop the world." Both have an almost mystical ability to rhythmically shift my body from side to side.

Roan's techno-pop sound is reminiscent of the same beats contemporary to Hall and Oates. Just as the latter topped the charts with their last Billboard No. 1 single, the former now utilizes the same synthetic beats and drums to woo the hearts of millions, including myself.

In spite of my praise, I am reluctant to fully board the Roan-Train. Aside from standout tracks such as "Pink Pony Club," "HOT TO GO!" and "Femininomenon" (Lines from which my pledge brother has gleefully parroted from TikTok), many of the tracks from "Midwest Princess" are forgettable.

The synthpop melodies which Roan plays strongly in some places, fall incredibly flat

at other points. And while the nostalgic influence of early 2000s pop is palpable, that does not mean it is good.

"Coffee" and "Kaleidoscope," the fourth and tenth tracks, should be more palatable to my depressing and slow indie tastes. Yet

they fail to leave an impact. They share many similarities with Roan's 2017 "School Nights" EP, which failed to garner as much interest. If an album cannot consistently deliver, it does not creatively survive.

Roan seems to shine brightest when her tracks accelerate in tempo, mixing triumph with anguish. When her projects resemble the more recent watered down dark pop that came out of quarantine, I just lose the vibes.

With that said, it takes a special kind of luck and skill to top the charts. And, unlike some of the other TikTok hits in my recent memory, I believe Roan deserves fame.

However, this does not mean that she makes amazing music. Her alt-pop projects of the late 2010s are disappointing and the inconsistency of quality on "Midwest Princess" brings it down quite a bit.

Yet no matter how much my contrarian brain wants to dislike her energy, a certain spiritual connection to Roan's vibe continues to make me hit the play button. I do not think she lives up to all the hype, but I am interested to see how her music may improve in the future.

There is a sense of nostalgia and joy I feel listening to Roan's music, but it does not reach the finish line. While "Midwest Princess" and "Good Luck, Babe!" propose a more ecstatic melancholy than heard post-COVID-19, they are just good, not great.

However, I cannot in good conscience bemoan the mission and energy of Chappell Roan. Roan won my approval in a 2023 interview with The Luna Collective, "Prepare yourself to be silly and don't take it so seriously. Express yourself and allow yourself to feel goofy and fun."

I can get behind that message.

## FINAL VERDICT: 3/5 WALLYS





# 'Alien: Romulus'

## A chest-bursting thriller



COURTESY OF BEDFORD PLAYHOUSE

**BEN WALLACE '25**  
STAFF WRITER

"Alien: Romulus" is a cinematic adrenaline rush, breathing new life into Ridley Scott's iconic "Alien" franchise. This latest installment strikes the perfect balance between honoring the classic terror of the original and injecting fresh, innovative twists reminiscent of "Prometheus." It's everything longtime fans have been craving—and more.

Cailee Spaeny, who made a strong impression with her breakout role as Priscilla Presley in the 2023 biopic "Priscilla," continues to shine with another standout performance. Over the past year, she has emerged as a rising star, also appearing in Alex Garland's "Civil War." Her portrayal of Rain in "Alien: Romulus" is further proof that Spaeny is a talent to watch closely in the years ahead.

The story begins on Calpamos, a planet never seen in the series. Although some might find the beginning a bit slow, it's necessary to help newcomers get up to speed if this is their first "Alien" film. In terms of world-building, "Alien: Romulus" sets a strong example, immersing you in the world's depths and revealing every facet of life on the planet.

Spaeny's character, Rain, is approached by her friends with a request to use her synthetic,

Andy, to board and loot an abandoned ship orbiting Calpamos. Andy would be a valuable asset, as his synthetic nature allows him to bypass all the ship's door locks. He quickly becomes a fan favorite, with his humor and charisma fitting perfectly into the film. Andy's relatability also brings a fresh interpretation to the androids, or "synthetics," adding a new layer to their portrayal in the franchise.

Once aboard the ship, the action kicks off, delivering exactly what fans have been waiting for: Facehuggers and Xenomorphs. The introduction of the Facehuggers is absolutely gripping. Even if you're familiar with other "Alien" films and know what's coming, you can't help but tense up every time these creatures appear on screen. Facehuggers are a crucial element of "Alien" lore, as they implant embryos into other beings, leading to the creation of Xenomorphs.

In every "Alien" film, you can always count on one thing: a chest-burster scene, where a Xenomorph first appears in its infant form, bursting out of a character's chest. The chest-burster scene in the original "Alien" is often considered one of the film's best moments, with its practical effects standing the test of time. In "Alien: Romulus", the chest-burster scene is just as gruesome and horrifying as fans could hope for, offering a fresh and intense take on this iconic moment that we've seen before.

To add to the edge of this movie, composer Benjamin Wallfisch cooked up an incredible and piercing score. Wallfisch, who is known for his work on "It" and "It: Chap-

ter Two," is no stranger to creating heart-pounding scores for intense horror movies. The score in this film cuts to the bone and escalates the tension throughout. Its eerie tones set a chilling atmosphere, making the film feel more like sci-fi horror rather than just a straightforward sci-fi movie.

Along with the score, director Fede Alvarez brings his visual flair to make every scene in the film. With a track record that includes the critically acclaimed "Don't Breathe" and the 2013 reboot of "Evil Dead," Alvarez demonstrates once again his mastery of the horror genre. "Alien: Romulus" continues this tradition, emerging as a standout example of horror cinema within the franchise. It ranks among the scariest entries in the series, delivering a chilling experience that solidifies Alvarez's reputation for creating genuinely frightening films.

Alvarez also delivers stunning visuals throughout. Whether it's an intense close-up of the Xenomorph or a sweeping panoramic shot of the solar system, every scene in "Alien: Romulus" is meticulously crafted and beautifully shot. The attention to detail and composition enhances the film's atmosphere, making each frame as visually captivating as it is immersive.

Overall, I consider this one of the standout installments in the franchise, making it well worth a trip to the theaters. The opportunity to see the Xenomorph on the big screen alone is a compelling reason to catch this film in theaters. If you're a fan of science fiction or any alien film, this installment is worth your time.

FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS



# 'Vultures 2': Beating a dead bird



COURTESY OF BILLBOARD

**RYAN PAPANDRIA '25**  
STAFF WRITER

How do you follow up the worst, most uninspired album of your career? According to Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, you make one even worse and less inspired. "Vultures 2" is the sequel album to "Vultures 1", released five months after its first announced release date. This album again is in collaboration with Ty Dolla \$ign and under the artist name of their music group ¥\$. Back in my "Vultures 1" review, I gave the album some credit, but still considered it Ye's worst album. "Vultures 2" now holds that title.

Let's start with the botched rollout. This album dropped out of the blue on Saturday, August 3 after a tracklist randomly appeared three days prior on yeezy.com. Upon its release, the mixing was horrendous, there were mumble lyrics in multiple songs, and the album was almost unlistenable with the number of junky samples and adlibs, not to mention the content of the lyricism was no better than its predecessor.

Furthermore, "Vultures 2" has received SIX UPDATES since its initial release. This "living/breathing album" concept is not new to Ye, as one of his most critically acclaimed albums, "The Life of Pablo", received several updates following its initial release. Vultures 2 never reached anywhere near the artistry of "TLOP," though.

Aside from the updates, Ye and his team were so entrenched in having a No. 1 album that they

dropped a whopping five different digital deluxe albums, promising more updates and providing one extra song for five dollars. They have gone as far as including unreleased demos that diehard Ye fans obsess over after low-quality snippets leak. Keep in mind that Ye is not signed to a label, so his team has free reign to do this. Ironically, the efforts were not enough to hold off Taylor Swift's "Tortured Poet's Department," as she took the No. 1 spot for the 16th week and snapped Ye's 12-album, 20-year run of No. 1 records.

So now that we have some backstory, we can talk about the album.

First, the positives. There are some highs on the album, but not much. One exception is the intro track, "Slide." I love the eerie melody and the drums that kick in halfway through. From start to finish, the song wows with a catchy hook from Ty, a Ye verse that sounds like he is just having fun, a mesmerizing outro and Charlie Wilson vocals. "Fried" is a "Carnival" wannabe that still works with the hard kicks and samples in the background. Finally, "My Soul" is my favorite song

on this album. Originating back in 2020, it is super catchy and feels authentic with its subject matter. Ty Dolla \$ign sings about prisoners in California being held for longer sentences to fight forest fires. He also speaks about missing his brother who currently is in prison, and he even has a feature at the end. This track is one of the two artists' best collaborations to date.

So now for the problems I have with this album. There are a fair amount of forgettable songs like "Forever," "Dead" and "Husband." "Field Trip" sounds absolutely horrific. The melody is garbage, Don Toliver's screeching vocals hurt my ears and Kodak Black is just not good. "530" as a song would be perfect if he removed the mumble at the end, but in the album, it should not even be included since it feels so out of place. "Bomb" has a cool beat, but I am not interested in hearing an 11-and-6-year-old try to rap for three minutes. River is great once Ye's part begins, but I cannot stand Young Thug's intro, it just takes away from the closest we get to an artistic moment from ¥\$. Finally, "Sky City," a song that originated and leaked in CD quality back in 2018, allegedly has an AI verse by Ye. The song itself is beautiful, but the leaked version from six years ago is the only version that is even listenable because of the AI. There's way more wrong, but that's a good start.

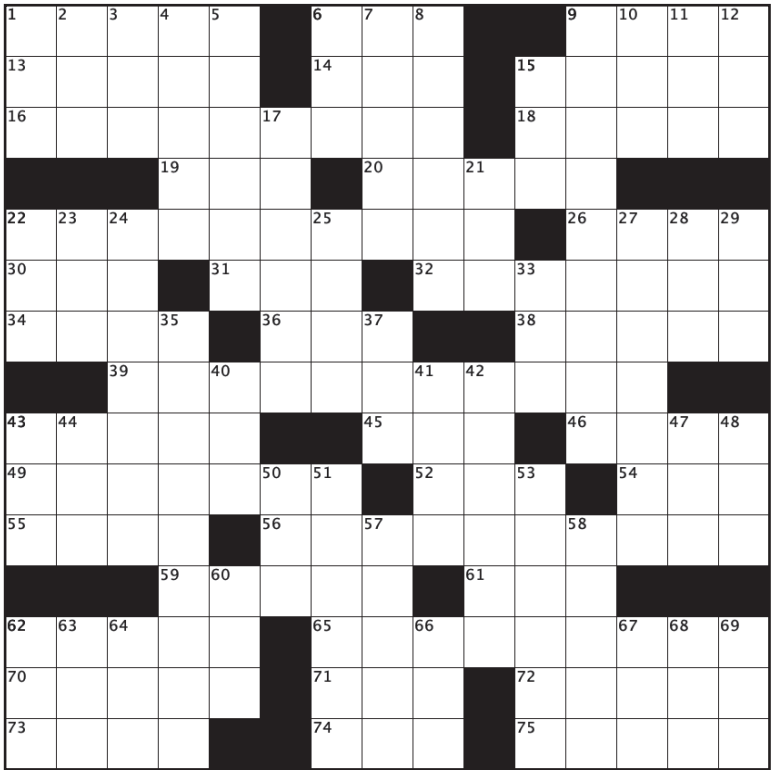
Overall, this album again shows that Ye has no direction and needs to rethink carefully how he will proceed in his music career going further. His reputation for carefully producing quality records is quickly becoming tarnished by the "Vultures" series (if he even cares about that anymore).

FINAL VERDICT:  
1/5 WALLYS



# 'Sssss...'

Crossword by  
Logan Weilbaker '25



**Across**

- 1. Precipice
- 6. Four-time prez
- 9. "Do no \_\_\_\_" (Hippocratic principle)
- 13. Jury members
- 14. \_\_\_\_ Jima
- 15. "Green" energy type
- 16. On base?
- 18. Works with winter wears
- 19. Ideology
- 20. Spooky
- 22. \*Burlesssssque show accessssssory
- 26. A trendy form of it involves goats
- 30. Throne, so to speak
- 31. Pub order
- 32. Swimming in it
- 34. Take one's ex out of a photo, maybe
- 36. North Pole toymaker
- 38. Agronomists' samples
- 39. \*Sssix-man sssketch comedy group
- 43. "Meno" author
- 45. Boy's name in a Johnny Cash song
- 46. Pharaoh's river
- 49. Unwinds
- 52. Ques. response
- 54. Rower's need
- 55. "Simon \_\_\_\_."
- 56. \*Euphemism in a Sssir Mix-a-Lot sssong
- 59. Puget or Pamlico
- 61. Certain seasonal drink
- 62. Committee head
- 65. Keeper of keys
- 70. Just sort of like... you know?
- 71. "Nightmare" street of film
- 72. Latin for "in itself"
- 73. Academic acronym that sometimes includes "A"
- 74. Some N.F.L. linemen
- 75. \*Ssslithering hissssssser found at the endsss of the ssstarred cluesss

**Down**

- 1. CD predecessors
- 2. Leave no crumbs, in slang
- 3. "CSI" evidence, often
- 4. "Capeesh?"
- 5. 1 Kings prophet
- 6. Word at the end of un film
- 7. Dork
- 8. Roping sessions
- 9. Type of suite for sweethearts
- 10. "\_\_\_\_ Baba and the 40 Thieves"
- 11. Fink
- 12. Miss, after marriage
- 15. Slalom down a slope
- 17. Folded breakfast food
- 21. Uncooked, as carrots
- 22. TV censor, briefly
- 23. Musical aptitude, so to speak
- 24. Deviation from the norm
- 25. Count (on)
- 27. Two cents worth
- 28. Hair product
- 29. Billboard messages
- 33. Fire pit residue
- 35. Metal in bananas
- 37. Camera rate, for short
- 40. Lumos countercharm, in the Potterverse
- 41. Chinese currency
- 42. One paying a flat fee?
- 43. Breaks one's own record, for short
- 44. Grassy expanse
- 47. Little boy
- 48. Geologic period
- 50. Big bird of the outback
- 51. Paired, as Bluetooth
- 53. Baskin-Robbins units
- 57. X-rated
- 58. "Candy is Dandy" poet Nash
- 60. Mine find
- 62. Store known for its long receipts
- 63. Tam or beanie
- 64. Step in making whisky
- 66. Txt
- 67. Retirement acct.
- 68. Pose
- 69. Formerly named



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Coach Neispodziany accepts head position at DePauw  
Baseball’s fall schedule delayed by departure of pitching coach

ETHAN WALLACE ’25  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wabash baseball team will delay their fall practice schedule by one week, due to the loss of coach Jordan Neispodziany. Neispodziany, who was named the team’s associate head coach in July, left Wabash to accept the role of head baseball coach at DePauw. The move was announced by the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) on Tuesday, August 27.

While at Wabash, Neispodziany served as both pitching coach and recruiting coordinator. A 2013 graduate of DePauw, Neispodziany got his start in coaching as a volunteer assistant coach of the Tigers under Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin ’03. Neispodziany followed Martin to

Wabash in 2018, when Martin became the Little Giants’ head coach.

Along with opening a spot for a new pitching coach, Neispodziany’s departure impacted the fall calendar.

“Our goal is to be done [with fall training] by fall break,” said Martin. “We were originally scheduled to start on August 25. But with the news of Coach Neispodziany accepting the job at DePauw, I pushed it back in order to give me some time to focus on finding the next coach.”

Apart from the delay, fall training will continue as planned with the small change that Assistant Coach Caleb Fenimore will take on the responsibility of organizing pitchers until a replacement is hired.

Neispodziany’s departure was not a surprise to the Little Giants’ coaching staff, so the hunt for the next pitching coach and recruiting coordinator was well underway.

“I had anticipated that this might happen,” said Martin. “So, I had started some conversations prior to him being offered the job, so I wanted to not be caught on my heels if he were to get the job. I had a pretty good short list. We had interviews already this week, and I feel like we are really close to making a hire. My goal is to be as quick as possible. In the best case scenario, the new pitching coach is on board by this weekend’s practice.”

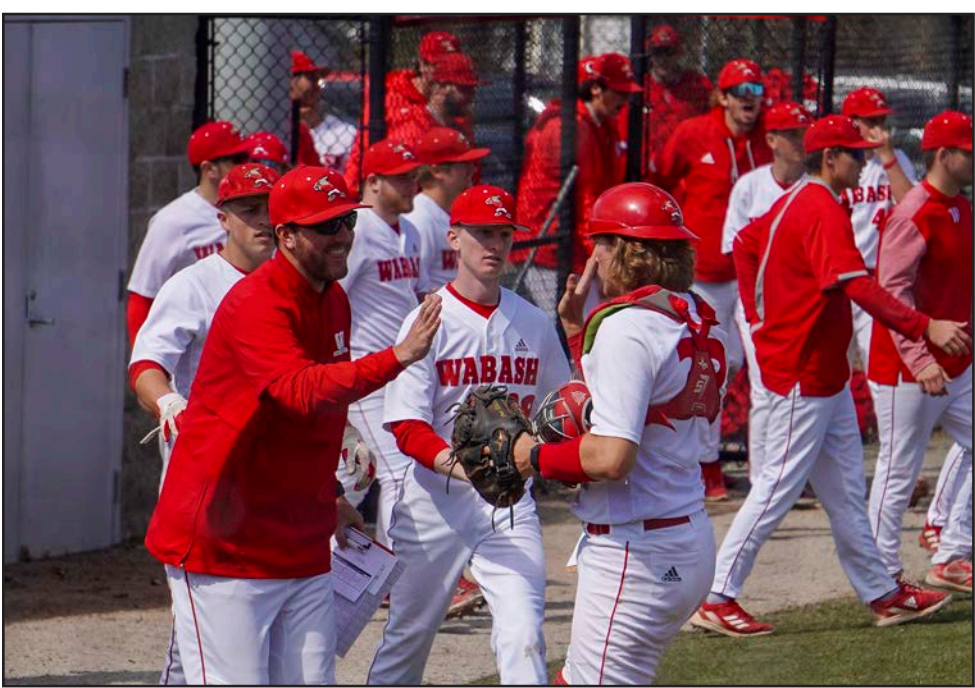


PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE ’23

Former Associate Head Baseball Coach Jordan Neispodziany celebrates with Liam Patton ’23 in the Little Giants’ hoe game against Ohio Wesleyan University on March 3, 2023 at Goodrich Ballpark.

Promoting balance between the field and the classroom

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY ’26  
STAFF WRITER

As the Spanish Department Chair, Professor V. Daniel Rogers is already dedicated to helping students succeed at Wabash. On top of his academic responsibility, Rogers is stepping into the role of Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) this year with the goal of integrating academics and athletics for our student-athletes to thrive both in the classroom and on the field.

“The FAR is an NCAA-mandated position and reports to President Feller,” said Rogers. “The most important job of the FAR is to work with the athletic department and the academic side of the College to ensure that students are safe and successful.”

Rogers has worked closely with Assistant Athletic Director Allison Manwell on logistics like eligibility and travel. And already in the early stages, Manwell believes Rogers has done his due diligence to earn this position.

“Dr. Rogers has been excited about the role as a big athletics fan and a big supporter of our coaches,” said Manwell. “He’s brought a good presence to our staff meetings and has attended compliance meetings to introduce himself



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN ’27

Spanish Department Chair V. Daniel Rogers holds his Faculty Athletic Representative certification.

to our teams. He will be leading baseball’s immersion trip to the Dominican Republic this Thanksgiving Break and I know he has more immersion travel in mind. He and I plan to tag-team a trip or two in the near future.”

Rogers has always held a passion for sports, but across his multiple years working at the college, he’s embraced how Wabash stands by its culture of academics and athletics working together. And it’s this very culture that helps develop students to make an impact in the real world.

“It’s important to make sure our culture is maintained,” said Rogers. “We are helping guys to take

the lessons and experiences in both the academic and athletic fields to become really effective leaders and successful graduates.”

Not only has Rogers enjoyed building relationships with his students, but he’s gained a newfound respect for athletes who deeply value their education. As the new Faculty Athletic Representative, Rogers will continue supporting students who have the resilience to pursue their academic experience as much as they pursue their sport.

McRoberts: What can we learn from the football preseason coaches’ poll?

NOAH MCROBERTS ’25  
STAFF WRITER

NCAA Division I has already kicked off gameplay in its first year of wacky conferences and 12-team playoffs, but the NCAC has yet to receive its shake-up with the upcoming addition of John Carroll and loss of Hiram. In the meantime, the NCAC coaches have been at work prepping for the season and have voted on the preseason rankings, predicting the conference standings.

Predictably, Kenyon, Hiram and Oberlin round out the bottom of the list at seventh, eighth and ninth respectively. Oberlin has only won two conference games in the last four years, and they were both against the Terriers. Kenyon hasn’t won three conference games since Allegheny left the conference, so these are natural choices for the bottom.

However, the top four choices add a bit more intrigue. The Dannies took first place handily with six of the nine available first-place votes, with each of the others going to Wabash, Wittenberg and Denison, who are second, third and fourth respectively.

This led to a total of 77 points for DePauw, 68 for Wabash, 61 for Wittenberg and 59 for Denison. Winning the chip three years in a row, DePauw was a shoo-in for first place as they return seven first-team all-conference players.

A mild surprise is Wabash’s placement at number two on the list. After a tough season of losing two conference games by a combined touchdown, the Little Giants couldn’t pick up once last Bell Game

for a host of graduating seniors. Every single skill position graduated its starters: Liam Thompson ’24 at QB, Donovan Snyder ’24 and Cade Campbell ’24 at HB, Penn Stoller ’24 at TE, alongside Cooper Sullivan ’24 and Derek Allen Jr. ’24 at WR. Compound that with the loss of All-DIII caliber speed threat in Connor Grimes ’26, and you have an offense that has only faced the bottom-three teams in the third quarter of blowouts.

On the other hand, the Wallies return a developing defense that proved tough down the stretch, which is heavily aided with defensive linemen Steven Thomas ’25 and Will Olive ’25, exercising the last of available COVID-19 fifth-year eligibility. What has been an offense-heavy team since 2020 might find itself in some low-scoring contests, especially under the new command of Associate Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert ’98.

Coming in at third, the Big Red find themselves in a similarly tough spot in their attack. Every single player who touched the ball with regularity last season has graduated, including the Marshawn Lynch-styled Trey Fabrocini, who was a Second-Team All-Region placement two years in a row. Quarterback Jimmy Stines and all three top receivers join him in the Denison alumni catalog after graduation. However unlike Wabash, their defense took a similar hit, losing both of their leading tacklers in addition to best pass rusher and defensive back. So, for better or worse – probably worse – last year’s runner-ups will

have an entirely-fresh look in 2024.

Unfortunately for Wittenberg, the graduation plague must have hit every red team in the conference, as they graduated each of their top seven receivers and three top rushers. This is in addition to a whopping nine significant defensive contributors. These major losses for 2-4 explain the close ratings between each of them, with Wittenberg only placing two points behind Denison. Though with DePauw returning a significant number of senior stars, it is a surprise that they didn’t take unanimous votes.

With a lot of big hits to the top teams, perhaps Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan can pull off a few upsets this year. Returning almost every starter, Wooster could push up a spot or two with some significant development. They stuck with Wabash and Denison last year, though they were trounced by OWU and DePauw. A bit of a wildcard, Wooster doesn’t have much to lose, and they carry some hope. The Battling Bishops return from a mixed bag of a season with a good chunk of contributors remaining, and they kept it close with the likes of Wittenberg and Denison, so a top-three finish isn’t out of the question.

All told, DePauw is a major favorite for the conference, the bottom three are practically locked in, and 2-6 is up for grabs as we find ourselves with a fresh season on the horizon with a lot of fresh faces on the gridiron.

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NCAC Preseason Coaches’ Poll		First-place votes	Total Points
1.	DePauw University	6	77
2.	Wabash College	1	68
3.	Wittenberg University	1	61
4.	Denison University	1	59
5.	Ohio Wesleyan University	0	49
6.	The College of Wooster	0	34
7.	Kenyon College	0	26
8.	Hiram College	0	16
9.	Oberlin College	0	15

GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE ’25 AND ELIJAH GREENE ’25



# Newfound depth sets stage for electric soccer season

**ETHAN WALLACE '25**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Soccer fans, put your hands together for the end of August and the start of another long-awaited season on the pitch. Wabash's favorite 11-man, goal-scoring squad is set to kick off their season on September 2 against Principia University in St. Louis, Missouri.

This season promises another slate of wildly exciting matches for the Little Giants. Picked fourth in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) preseason coaches poll, the soccer team is in a solid spot to earn their berth to the NCAC tournament at the end of the season. That's not to say it will be easy. DePauw shared the fourth-place pick, meaning the winner of the annual rivalry could take home tickets to the NCAC tournament along with bragging rights this season.

The Little Giants are fresh off an offseason of doubled efforts, after missing the playoffs in 2023. Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller and his team were disappointed with how Wabash performed in close matches last season, using that to fuel growth in the offseason.

"[We want] to continue what we started building the day after our last game of last year," said Keller. "These guys were really motivated. We made some personnel changes on the team, added some great leaders, named some really good team captains and had a great offseason. These guys were the most fit coming into preseason that I've seen since I've been at Wabash."

**"[We want] to continue what we started building the day after our last game of last year."**

-Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller

Wabash took the field together for a scrimmage against the Marian University reserves on Saturday, August 24. The team showed off incredible depth across the board with a special focus on the promising class of 2028. The Scarlet & White tallied five goals in the three 30-minute periods, while Ramos kept the net empty. The newfound depth will be a huge asset to the team, as a long season inevitably turns out an injury or two that shakes up any roster.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
**Jose Escalante '26 keeps possession against a Marian defender in the Little Giants' preseason scrimmage against the Marian University reserve team on August 24, 2024 at Fischer Field.**

"It [depth] is a combination of some guys that weren't in the mix last year working their tail off to put themselves in a better position to be considered to be on the field," said Keller. "And then there are some freshmen and sophomores from last year that played a ton who are now

a year older, a year more mature, year more experienced— plus an influx of freshmen that were ready to compete from day one. You'll see some familiar faces and some new faces in the lineup."

On the offensive end, the young strikers of last season will return with another year of experience under their belts. The entire front half of the team is back and ready for more attacks, more shots, more goals.

Jose Escalante '26 who each recorded five goals and three assists in 2023 to form the core of the offense. Wabash will need their best scorers to come through in big moments if they want to come out on top.

season. In the net, Wabash's gritty keeper Fernando Ramos '25 will return for his senior campaign. Last year Ramos was sensational, starting in all 17 games and recording 46 saves.

**"I want more and I think the other guys do too. You can see it in every practice. We have a stronger depth and everyone is fighting for their spot, which makes everyone around better."**

-Jose Escalante '26

"I am never satisfied with what I did last year," said Escalante. "I want more and I think the other guys do too. You can see it in every practice. We have a stronger depth and everyone is fighting for their spot, which makes everyone around better."

The Little Giants defense will look different this season with room for new players to make an impact. At the end of the 2023 season, Wabash soccer graduated the veteran trio of Hugo Garcia '24, Collin Johnson '24 and Jackson Grabill '24, who served as the backbone of the defense throughout the season. The team brings back Myles Bernat '26, who started every game last year, Emilio Paez '25 who started in 15 games last season, and Evan Miller '26 who joined the starting 11 in the later half of the

"Despite losing some important players in the backline, we have a strong core all throughout," said Ramos. "Our backline has lots of depth and talent. I wouldn't say that I'll necessarily have to be the backbone [of the defense], but I will work to keep the net at zero and our talented backline organized."

After facing Principia, Keller and his crew will have four and a half weeks to get ready for conference play, which will begin in Greencastle, IN when Wabash and DePauw meet on October 9. Wabash hasn't lost to DePauw in three straight seasons. The lights will be brighter when these two teams face off.

## The Bachelor's 2024 projected soccer starters



GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE '25 AND ELIJAH GREENE '25

# Fall athletics welcome home class of 2028

Promising freshmen athletes paint hopeful picture of future athletics

**NICK WANGLER '27**  
STAFF WRITER

The welcoming students, knowledgeable coaching staff and beautiful campus are all attractions that bring young student-athletes to Wabash. It can sometimes be a hard pitch to get athletes on campus but once they are here, most quickly realize that Wabash is their home. Recruiting numbers have taken a leap in recent years.

This year Wabash athletics welcomed about 190 varsity student athletes to campus this fall, and the freshmen are eager to make an impact. These athletes are fairly spread out around all varsity sports here at the College. Coaches at Wabash do a tremendous job of getting prospective students on campus and from there the school starts to sell itself.

To get familiar with the new faces on the teams this fall, here are some recruiting numbers for fall sports this coming year.

Football leads all sports here on campus in recruiting numbers and has in recent

years. This year the staff brought in around 70 athletes this fall, and this number is relatively normal for them.

"I believe this is our strongest recruiting class in years, especially on defense," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. This is high praise from coach Morel, so the future of the program seems to be shining.

The soccer team welcomed 11 athletes who seemed to have a chip on their shoulder. These additions spread across every position with several athletes who could make their way onto the starting roster.

"The class has added a spark, and some serious depth to every position," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "You should look for some freshman to be on the field right away."

The tennis team only added five freshmen to this year's team, but they began to recruit nationwide and even worldwide with their new additions. These new student-athletes are from Po-

land, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. The different experiences of tennis could help the team blend well come this fall season.

"All five stood out in the recruiting process as great additions to the brotherhood at Wabash," said Head Coach Daniel Bickett. "I expect each player to provide their own unique contribution to the program."

The Little Giant's golf team added their own seven recruits, two of which being international, to the roster this fall and there have been promising signs already. Two freshmen have made the travel roster to their first tournament at Transylvania University. It is difficult to make an impact on a team your freshman year in general, but doing it in the first two weeks is quite impressive.

A big emphasis here at Wabash is recruiting men who have good character and can fit into the brotherhood. Being at Wabash is a great opportunity, and coaches recruiting players to be here is

special.

"I believe that a key part of my role as a coach is to bring great young men to Wabash and get them a Wabash College education and experi-

ence," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21.

This fall, look out for new contributors on the field or court. The freshman student-athlete class is one of

the biggest in the past years, so the future of Wabash athletics looks to only be trending upward.



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