

QPR training maxes out

EVAN BAKER '27
STAFF WRITER

Entering university, young adults are thrown into a situation unlike any they have likely faced before. Students face the difficulties of a new environment: they must make new friends, familiarize themselves with a new city, adapt to new athletic teams and coaches' expectations and adjust to living away from home, all while living with the constant pressure of maintaining strong academics to set themselves up for a successful future. Understandably, students face an unprecedented amount of stress, thus experiencing problems with mental health.

But how can Wabash students combat this overwhelming stress that many of them face? One way Wabash has supported its students' mental health is with the recent Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) programs.

“It’s more important to be safe than sorry.”

- Peer Health Educator
Andrew Weeks '27

Wabash Peer Health Educator and Phi Gamma Delta Mental Health Chair Andrew Weeks '27 and Student Development and Wellness Coordinator Tristen Myers have spearheaded the recent training in suicide prevention, and they have done so very successfully. This past month, Wabash recorded a record number of students who attended the QPR suicide prevention training session, far exceeding the program's original goal of training 50 students per semester.

“QPR is a three step intervention process to support those experiencing suicidal ideation,” said Myers. “QPR Gatekeeper training equips you with knowledge on how to check in on those around you [if] they are experiencing risk of suicide. This training empowers you to provide support [to your brothers] and remind [them] of the resources that are at hand.”

Additionally, the training guides you on how to approach your brother with sensitivity and compassion and persuade them to seek help from a professional.

“QPR is especially relevant to students of our age because the frontal lobe [of the brain responsible for thinking, emotions, judgment and decision-making] is not fully developed,” said Weeks. “We are still compulsive at this age.”

2024 ELECTION SPECIAL



2024 US Election: Final showdown

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
STAFF WRITER

An ever awaited day that comes every four years, Election Day, which falls on November 5 this year, will determine the next President of the United States. Seats in the Senate and the House are also up for grabs and look to be just as competitive, with the potential for official results to take days to verify. This feature is to show you which races to watch on Nov. 5. However, with most states coming with a level of certainty that the polls accurately represent them, all three of these races will come down to a few notable states.

2024 United States Presidential Election

The Presidential election is currently in a dead heat and will come down to just a few swing states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Biden won six of these seven states, but all of them by no more than three percentage points.

Arizona

Arizona polling data for this election shows it is leaning Republican. The combined polls have Arizona at a 1.7% lead for Trump. This was one of the closest states in 2020 when Biden won it by only 0.3 points. Trump has taken a lead over Harris in the last few months in the state. The 11 electoral votes that Arizona will carry will be critical for both campaigns in the race to 270 electoral votes.

Final Rating: Lean Republican

Georgia

The closest state in 2020, Biden only won Georgia by 11,779 votes (0.23%). Currently, the polls combined in Georgia give Trump a 1.5% lead – however, the state has been more open to electing Democrats in the past few years. If Harris wins, that would be a critical key for her, and Harris would most likely win if she held the state and its 16 electoral votes.

Final Rating: Lean Republican

Continued page B2

News around the world

OWEN VERMEULEN '27
STAFF WRITER

Georgia

On Sunday, October 27, the country of Georgia's electoral commission announced the final result for their 2024 election. The incumbent Georgian Dream Party won 54% of the vote – a result that has set numerous western powers into a panic. The Georgian Dream Party has been in power since 2012 and has passed legislation similar to that of Russia and China, censoring the media and curbing LGBTQ+ rights.

Opposing parties have since contested the results of the election citing election tampering. Western exit polls had four opposition parties that combined to win the election before the election commission declared the Georgian Dream Party the winner with a majority of parliament. There have been claims that poll observers were prevented from doing their job. These claims state that voters were not being marked properly – allowing some to go vote again, leading to numerous cases of ID numbers being used for election fraud. Georgia's prime minister has denied the allegations of election fraud as well as the idea that he was pro-Russia. If the election results are upheld, it is likely that Georgia will move even further away from joining NATO and align itself with Russia and China.

Spain

Spain was devastated by flash flooding this week. Ninety-five people in southeastern Spain died as a result of the flooding. The floods started on October 28, as a result of heavy rain. It's estimated that Spain got over a month's worth of rain in just 24 hours – marking some of the worst flooding Spain has seen in decades. The death toll is expected to rise with a number of people still missing and more rain forecasted over the next couple of days. Villages in Valencia were most affected by the flooding, with some villages being almost completely submerged by the waters. Most of the individuals that were reported dead were located in Valencia. The floods also hit Barx, Carcaixent, Chestre and Utiel. It has been determined that global warming has been making storms in the region more intense. Warmer air makes it so clouds are able to hold more water and the Mediterranean just hit its highest recorded temperature in history in August. It is difficult to say the extent of the damage thus far as rescuers are still in the process of reaching some of the areas affected by the flooding.

Israel

Israel has expanded its area of attack as it continues its pursuit of Hezbollah militants. On Wednesday, October 30, Israel began bombing Baalbek, a city in eastern Lebanon. Baalbek is just one of the few urban cities Israel has targeted, with Tyre and Sidon also coming under fire as well. Israel had issued warnings to civilians to leave Baalbek through three routes, causing a mass exodus of people trying to get away from the aerial bombardments. Ibrahim Bayan, a mayoral deputy in Baalbek, reported that Israel had dropped around a dozen aerial bombardments in and around the city. Israel was targeting fuel depots supplied by Iran they said belonged to Hezbollah. White House officials are trying to reach a temporary cease-fire agreement between Israel, Hezbollah and Hamas in Gaza. William J. Burns, the director of the C.I.A, is expected in Cairo to work on a proposal to help release hostages held in Gaza.

Football claims third shutout



See more on page A8

Soccer wins final home game



See more on page A7

Red Pack on to Conference



See more on page A7



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Wabash students participate in the Wabash Brothers Memorial Mental Health Mile on September 19, 2024.

PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25 & WILL DUNCAN '27

'Play the Gents' DJ duo goes international



Grant Roberts '26, one half of the DJ duo, gets into the music during a performance.



Play the Gents DJs on October 23, 2024 at the YAB Club in Florence, Italy.



Andres "Dre" Peralta '25 (right) lays down a track as Grant Roberts '26 looks on.

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

There are plenty of side hustlers out there on campus. You have the barbers, the photographers and then you have the most known group, the DJs. But for some on this campus, DJing is more than a side hustle. For Andres "Dre" Peralta '25 and Grant Roberts '26, it became a lifestyle. But their journeys were far from similar.

"I've been doing music for a while," said Peralta. "I drummed growing up and played trumpet in high school. For one of my birthdays, my mom randomly bought me some DJ equipment. When I got to college, I had access to free DJ software and just downloaded it all one day because why not? Every lunch, [me and my friends] would all sit on the main floor and I'd go and play for an hour. They'd just sit, and we'd eat and talk and then go to class."

From there he would jump onto the Wabash party scene, becoming known as the premiere Wabash College DJ around campus. But that did not stop others from perfecting their skills either.

"The main reason I got into DJing started with my childhood and just loving music," said Roberts. "Then coming to Wabash I wanted to find something that I loved."

That would lead him on to becoming a DJ in his own right. And as the new DJ on the scene, it was perhaps inevitable that Roberts would cross paths with Peralta.

"Everyone knew that Dre DJs every party usually," said Roberts. "I sat across from Dre in my class and Anthony Donahue '25 knew I had bought a board and was like, 'that's who you're going to have to beat out to DJ.' I was just laughing about it and never thought anything about it."

But both of them would eventually think a lot more about it, eventually making their own group. After combining forces, the two would need to find a name for them both. While thinking over what both brought them together, an idea struck them.

"We both represent Wabash, how about Play the Gents?" said Roberts. "We just thought of the Gentlemen's Rule and then just kept it like that."

Together they were a strong group. With their musical ability and strong connections, they would make a name for themselves after a video of them playing at the Indiana Univer-

sity chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha blew up to over 20,000 views. With their newfound success came an unlikely opportunity.

"This company randomly DM'd me on Instagram, it was called Florence Groove," said Roberts. "They DM'd me in July and were like, 'Hey, are you in Florence? Can you come DJ in Florence?' They were looking for study abroad kids to DJ these four nightclubs all in Italy."

At first the group was very skeptical, but as communication continued it seemed more and more like a perfect opportunity to take their skills to a new level.

"I just didn't think anything about it," said Roberts. "Then we randomly kept in touch, and I met one of the promoters and founders, and we just kept talking more about it. So we signed a contract, put the price together and the rest is history."

Over fall break the two would travel with photographer John Gilbert and perform at three nightclubs in Florence and one in Rome. Despite being a dream destination for any DJ, it was still a business trip.

"We would all wake up around like 11:00 or

12:00 a.m. and go hit a coffee shop and we'd stay there like seven, eight hours throughout the day," said Peralta. "So, for me, I was getting all the sets together, making sure all our USBs were formatted correctly and compiling all the music for the night."

Hours of preparation would eventually lead them to why they had come to Italy: the nightclubs.

"The clubs open at 12:00 a.m. so the sound-check is usually around 11:00 p.m., 11:30 p.m. and that's where you plug in your USBs," said Peralta. "They have boot speakers in the back so you can hear everything, so you get all your preferences. Then our sets wouldn't actually start until 1:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., and they would go all the way until 4:00 a.m. usually. And then we'd get back to the hotel, pass out and do it again the next day."

After four shows and four different nightclubs, the duo completed what they set out to do – a DJ experience like they had never had before. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came to an end and The Gentlemen took the next step in their DJ careers. But it does not stop there. Look out for the duo as they come back to Wabash searching for the next big gig they can get, and with some already in store.

Review: 'Venom: The Last Dance' triggers comic book déjà vu

BEN WALLACE '25
STAFF WRITER

The year of uninspired comic book movies drags on with "Venom: The Last Dance," which proves to be just as predictable as expected. Words like "cliché," "uninventive" and "sloppy" come quickly to mind for this installment.

The "Venom" franchise has always played into the standard tropes of modern comic book films. Predictably packed with quips and jokes, a formulaic hero's journey and a painfully underdeveloped villain, "The Last Dance" doesn't deviate from the tired formula. If anything, it doubles down on these familiar patterns, giving us another forgettable movie that feels all too familiar.

The movie opens with the introduction of the villain, Knull, but it's a lackluster start. We're given minimal insight into his character, and by the end, it's frustrating how little we know about him. On paper, Knull has the potential to be a fascinating antagonist, but he's wildly underutilized, leaving much of his depth unexplored and his presence disappointingly shallow.

We pick up with Venom and Eddie still on the run, last seen hiding out in Mexico after the events of the second movie. Pursued relentlessly by the U.S. military, who want to

capture and study them, their refuge is far from secure. Before long, they encounter a new threat: one of Knull's minions, a Xenophage. This creature has a unique ability to track Eddie whenever he transforms fully into Venom, adding a fresh layer of danger to their fugitive existence.

The rest of the plot plays out as a simple cat-and-mouse chase between Venom and the Xenophage. It's all very surface-level, with no real stakes to keep the tension high. Many scenes feel unnecessary, seemingly added just to pad the runtime rather than advance the story or develop the characters.

When the movie finally reaches its climax, it falls into the same trap as so many recent comic book films: a massive CGI overload with no real innovation or creative spark. Watching it was frustrating, to say the least. After the CGI spectacle, there's a brief, heartfelt moment between Eddie and Venom that genuinely makes you feel for the characters—only to be quickly undermined by a clumsy montage of scenes from all three "Venom" movies, set to Maroon 5's "Memories." The montage feels poorly executed and adds absolutely nothing to the story, leaving the audience on a disappointing note.

The lackluster plot was matched by equally lackluster performances. Surprisingly, even

Tom Hardy couldn't bring his usual energy; while he was solid in the first two films, here he feels a step below his potential. Whether due to weak writing or because he was there solely to get a paycheck, it's far from his best work. Juno Temple, best known as Keeley in "Ted Lasso," also misses the mark. It feels like she's so focused on nailing her American accent that she forgets to infuse her lines with any real emotion. The rest of the supporting cast doesn't fare much better, delivering subpar performances across the board.

There were a few bright spots amidst the mediocrity. I enjoyed seeing the variety of symbiote creatures, and when Eddie got to ride a symbiote horse set to Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now," it was actually a fun moment. The humor and back-and-forth between Eddie and Venom had its moments too—not as sharp as in the first two films, but still good for a few chuckles.

Overall, "Venom: The Last Dance" feels like an underwhelming send-off for Eddie Brock and Venom. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone, but if you're a fan of the previous "Venom" movies, you might find this one somewhat enjoyable, though it's undeniably a step down from its predecessors.



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Ranking the top 10 Halloween candies

EVAN ZAMBRANO '26
GUEST WRITER

1. Snickers
You're not you when you're hungry, which is why Snickers is number one on this list. It's a filling snack with peanuts, caramel, nougat and a delicious chocolate coating. Snickers provide good protein, helping you maintain that winter bulk and keep your energy high while trick-or-treating.



2. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are the perfect way to get festive for Halloween. Whether you are handing out pumpkin-shaped peanut butter cups to trick-or-treaters or enjoying them yourself, Reese's are a great balance of chocolate and peanut butter, making Reese's a Halloween favorite.

3. Nerds Gummy Clusters
Nerds Gummy Clusters combine the crunchy texture of classic Nerds with a chewy gummy center, providing an excellent, sharable version of the Nerds rope. Their sweet and tangy flavor offers something for everyone, satisfying both sweet and sour cravings in one bite.



4. Twix
Whether you prefer left or right Twix (I prefer right Twix), we can all agree that the combination of cookies, caramel and chocolate creates a different taste from other chocolate bars. The fun-size Twix packs make them easy to hand out and a good size for sampling without filling up.

5. Haribo Gummies
Haribo Gummies include candies like Happy Colas, Goldbears/Goldbear Sours, and Happy Cherries. They also come in different flavors, like strawberry, lemon and orange, being moderately sweet. Their festive shapes, like bats and pumpkins, make them a perfect fit for Halloween.

6. Sour Patch Kids
Sour Patch Kids offer an unforgettable experience. They start sour and end sweet, making them fun for kids and adults to eat. The candy's chewy texture and bright colors make it popular, making your house a hit with trick-or-treaters.

7. Twizzlers
Twizzlers offer a fruity flavor that isn't unbearable, making them a light snack. They also boost your energy while pushing you through your trick-or-treating journey. Fun-size Twizzlers also come in a pack of two, making it easy to share with friends.

8. Skittles
Skittles offer trick-or-treaters a rainbow of options. They also come in flavors like Tropical, Sour and Wild Berry. The hard candy shell gives them a nice crunch, while the chewy inside offers a long-lasting treat.

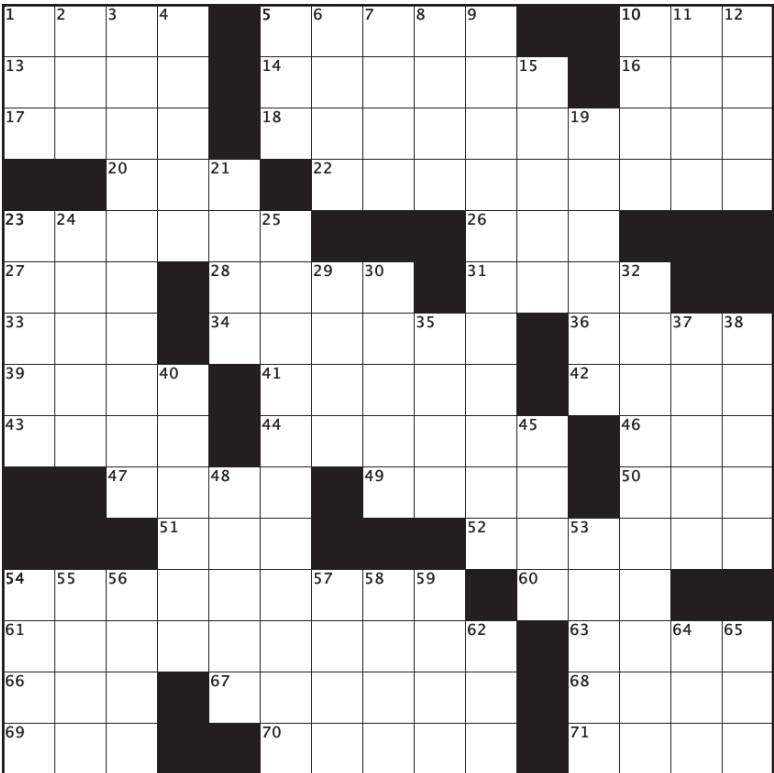
9. Airheads
Airheads are a classic, giving a stretchy, chewy texture that makes them fun to eat. Not to mention that they come in an array of flavors, ensuring you don't get the 2 of the same kind. Additionally, the thrill brought to you by the joy you gain from discovering the mystery flavor adds excitement to your trick-or-treating experience.

10. Sixlets
Sixlets are number 10 on this list for one reason: not because they were better than any other possible candies options, but because I wanted an open forum to hate on them. If you buy Sixlets to pass out on Halloween, you are tricking those poor children rather than giving them a treat. They're a rip-off of M&Ms but only come in a pack of six! Their chocolate flavor is dull and makes it the last candy to be eaten out of the bag.



'Left and Right'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



- Across**
- 1. List header
 - 5. French river to the English channel
 - 10. Like oysters on the half shell
 - 13. *What can be seen at the start of 3-, 9-, 25- or 32-Down, politically speaking
 - 14. Dearest principles
 - 16. Chicken ____ king
 - 17. Sicilian blower
 - 18. Kamala Harris, to Donald Trump... and vice versa
 - 20. Napoleon Dynamite's brother who was training to be a cage fighter
 - 22. Survey data
 - 23. Childlike angel
 - 26. Box-office success
 - 27. Charles with a famous rendition of "America The Beautiful"
 - 28. Disney trailer?
 - 31. Expert server, in tennis
 - 33. Beast with a rack
 - 34. Beachgoer's goal, perhaps
 - 36. Eye of ____ (part of a witch's brew)
 - 39. Satanic
 - 41. Decree
 - 42. WWII turning pt.
 - 43. Art ____
 - 44. Zapped
 - 46. Up on the latest trends
 - 47. Hindu deity whose name is two letters away from a candidate's
 - 49. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
 - 50. Woman's name that means "living one"
 - 51. Nov. follower
 - 52. Acted with pride?
 - 54. George Costanza's ailment in "The Hamptons"
 - 60. Often the only button on a desktop computer: Abbr.
 - 61. Certain bunk-mates
 - 63. Senate staffer
 - 66. Pledge of Allegiance ender
 - 67. Manage to get
 - 68. "Y'____?"
 - 69. Bread for a Reuben
 - 70. Dr. Scholl's rhyming specialty
 - 71. Henhouse output

- Down**
- 1. Unlikely Electoral College outcome
 - 2. Nov. preceder
 - 3. *Democrats wresting the nomination from Joe Biden, e.g.?
 - 4. Broadcast booth sign
 - 5. [their mistake, not mine]
 - 6. Effluvium
 - 7. Rickrolling, e.g.
 - 8. Some electoral graphics
 - 9. *Victim of a July 13 assassination attempt?
 - 10. Maze runners
 - 11. Medicinal plant
 - 12. Gulf and Trojan
 - 15. Zeno, for one
 - 19. Mean (to)
 - 21. Lassie's litter
 - 23. Band that can take you "Higher"
 - 24. Split in two
 - 25. *Fashion pieces for Tim Walz and Doug Emhoff?
 - 29. Ctrl+Z
 - 30. One of a clown's pair
 - 32. *Something fishy within the GOP?
 - 35. Luke-____
 - 37. Give up, as a right
 - 38. Worked at a keyboard
 - 40. Pre-concert process
 - 45. Remove from one's transcript
 - 48. Brainy bunch
 - 53. Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
 - 54. "The Lion King" villain
 - 55. Sacrosanct
 - 56. Render a verdict
 - 57. Choir section
 - 58. Announcer's cry at a soccer match
 - 59. View from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
 - 62. Symbols for at. no.
 - 64. Man's best friend, it's said
 - 65. Disgusted remarks



Scan for solution!

Pickleball earns 'Golden Pickle' in first-annual DePauw match

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
STAFF WRITER

Wabash students are always on the lookout for ways to compete with DePauw. The Monon Bell game is by far the most significant and electric clash between the bitter rivals, but, over the years, other annual competitions have formed like the Monon Keg, for their respective rugby teams. On October 26, 2024 a newcomer emerged on the scene, The Pickle Palooza.

President of the Wabash Pickleball Club Eli Arnold '26 and Vice President Drew Rathbun '26, have put in a lot of work since they took over in the spring semester of 2024. They have put together several events on campus to drive engagement, such as pickleball tournaments and a pairing with the Sphinx Club for a TGIF combined with a Pickleball Club event. But they were not satisfied. After their rapid emergence, the ambitious leadership group wanted to expand their horizons by connecting with different campuses. An obvious first target was none other than the School Down South.

"Last semester, we were focused on getting people engaged," said Rathbun. "After it started to gain some traction, we got bored over the summer and we tried to see what we can do with this. And this was our first goal."

After agreeing with the students at DePauw on a set date for the Pickle Palooza, Arnold and Co. hosted tryouts to assemble the best pickleball talent Wabash had to offer. The end goal being to bring home the illustrious Golden Pickle. They picked up two players Caiden Jeffries '27 and Colton Cooper '28, to play alongside Arnold and Rathbun.

The format for the competition would consist of two games of doubles and four games of singles, and each game would be a best of three sets. The first two sets would

be played to 11, but if the first two sets are split, they would play the final set to seven points.

After the rules were set, on the fateful Saturday afternoon of October 26, DePauw's pickleball team rolled into town. While Wabash was comfortable sporting a four-man line-up, the Dannies bused in eight players, so each of their players only had to play one game. Plenty of spectators arrived to show their support for their respective teams. However, the bad blood and trash talk seen in most other Wabash vs DePauw matchups was scarce in this competition.

"I would say there were a lot more DePauw students there because they brought more players," said Arnold. "We had some Wabash guys there. And some parents and families as well. It was a good atmosphere, it was respectful and it was a good time."

"It was honestly a lot friendlier than I was expecting," said Rathbun. "It kind of threw me off, but it was all good spirits. And we all took a picture afterward."

Although it was friendly, Wabash got the better of DePauw in both doubles matches, winning in two sets in both games. Then Arnold started single play winning in dramatic fashion splitting the first two sets and just barely inching out a win in the third set 7-5. Rathbun would dominate the second match winning 11-0 and 11-1, sealing the win for Wabash with a 4-0 start. However, in the third single, DePauw managed to take a match from Wabash ruining the clean sweep, but the fourth and final game capped off the day with Wabash delivering another dominant performance.

"We definitely played the highest level of pickleball against them," said Arnold. "It was a high level of competition, and we definitely executed correctly."

This dominant 5-1 showing secured the win in the inaugural Pickle Palooza for the



COURTESY OF @WABASHPICKLEBALL ON INSTAGRAM

The Wabash pickleball club poses with the trophy from the DePauw match, dubbed the "Golden Pickle," on October 26, 2024 on the Wabash tennis courts in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Little Giants, and allowed them the privilege of hoisting the Golden Pickle. Now, the DePauw Pickleball Club will have to wait until next year to face off again in Greencastle.

"I've been waiting my whole life for the Golden Pickle," said Rathbun. "It filled a hole in my heart that had been missing, and I don't intend on losing it while I'm here. Hopefully, we can build up the Pickleball Club so we can hold on to the Golden Pickle because it doesn't belong down south."

But DePauw isn't the only cross-campus event in their future. The club plans to continue its success playing other schools like Concordia University, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois. With the increasing attention towards these cross-campus events, the team hopes to garner further support in the future as they work to grow the game and contribute to a positive campus culture.



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

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Defense against the dark art of trolling



Antonio Grandinetti '28,
Edward Thomas '28 and
Benny Torres '28

Reply to this opinion at agrandi28@wabash.edu, edthomas28@wabash.edu or brtorres28@wabash.edu

“Some people want to watch the world burn, and for some, that’s the ultimate goal of trolling.” This quote is from the famous troll, Weev, in the movie *Troll Inc.*, which explores the darker sides of online interactions and examines the evolution of trolling from a simple prank to a form of online bullying.

Why does trolling occur? Most of the time, it is a call for attention, with trolls using provocative comments for their own sort of satisfaction. What just starts as a simple joke could quickly turn into complete harassment due to the anonymous nature of the internet. Apps like X and YikYak have become a hive for such people to troll and harass others. The anonymity allows the user to hide behind fake names, which ends up fueling the aggressive behavior without any consequences for the attacker.

College students are major victims in how much trolling negatively affects their mental health, academic performances and participation in social activities. Anonymous platforms like YikYak let users post about the targeted individual without accountability; this results in targeted harassment due to appearance, beliefs or lifestyle.

In 2019, Erik Black et al. published an article in *Computers in Human Behavior* that listed a very clear connection between exposure to online harassment and the increased symptoms of depression and anxiety among college students. Victims of trolling normally have higher levels of stress, low academic motivation and poor concentration that hurt their grades and campus engagement. Serious cases could include a student refraining from classes or cutting down on social events for fear of harassment; such acts engrave long-lasting marks

in their college experience and well-being.

According to Penn State News Literacy Initiative’s “Trolling the News in an Attention Economy,” “Internet algorithms reward engagement, whether negative or positive, so the disinformation proliferates despite the journalist’s attempts to reveal the story’s truth.” The algorithm plays a key role in feeding more and recurring content that will affect the user emotionally, because we respond more to posts that evoke strong emotions. Staying away from negative posts are crucial to prevent your feed from being caught in this cycle.

The main point we present in the defense against trolling is as simple as it comes: stay away from social media platforms where you are certain trolling occurs. The two main examples are X and YikYak. To help avoid these apps you can go out and attend events around the campus, exercise at the gym to reduce any sort of stress, go out with friends and make connections around the campus. These are ways to make your day much more productive.

Clearly, trolling has been a huge issue online and will continue to be but you can take these steps to avoid it. Trolling shows how people can easily misuse the internet and take advantage of the anonymous nature to hurt others. As long as some people just “want to watch the world burn,” trolling will remain as one of the absolutely worst things on the internet.

Editors note: This piece is part of the third series of opinions created as part of Professor Jeffery Drury’s Freshman Tutorial class.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

“WHO IS THAT GUY”

Lo-five to whoever designed the statue of Dwyane Wade for the Miami Heat. After the reveal, Wade asked, “Who is that guy?” Now, Wade’s career accolades add up to 3x NBA Championships, 1x Finals MVP, 13x All-Star Appearances, 1 Olympic Gold Medal and 1x statue that looks nothing like him.

FREEEE BIRD, YEAH

Hi-five to Freddie Freeman for leading the Dodgers in the World Series with a five-game home run streak. Who would have expected that, in a series with Shohei Ohtani and Aaron Judge, the big hitter would be Freddie Freeman?

A LOSING BETT

Lo-five to the two guys who got kicked out of game four of the World Series in the first inning after trying to steal Mookie Betts’ glove. To make matters worse, they were banned and had to give up their game five tickets. Hi-five to the Yankees for promising the tickets to local cancer patients.

NEXT STOP, THE TRUMP DUMP!

Hi-or-lo-five to Donald Trump for blessing both parties with endless comedy material by Donning an orange safty vest and driving a Trump themed garbage truck at a rally. In 2024, performace art is alive and well.

VICTORY IS DIL-LICIOUS

Hi-five to the pickleball club for organizing a valiant defense of Wabash’s honor both in-person and virtually. In the words of the late Kobe Bryant, “Leave everything on the court. Leave the game better than you found it. And when it comes time for you to leave, leave a legend.”



‘The scariest time of the year’

Comic by Drake
Green '28

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HILLSBORO, INDIANA

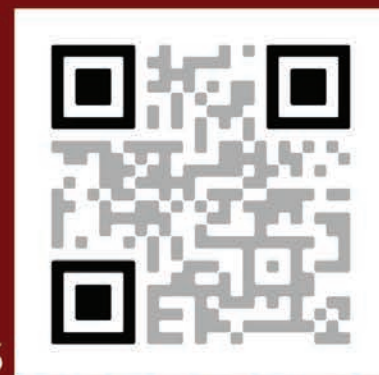
DIAL
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MURDER
BY FREDERICK KNOTT

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McCormick and Braun '76 weigh in on key topics



Jennifer McCormick (D)

COURTESY OF @MCCORMICKFROVERNOR ON YOUTUBE

In exclusive interviews with The Bachelor, the Indiana gubernatorial candidates weighed in on issues relevant to Wabash students



Sen. Mike Braun '76 (R)

COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

"I've heard that question from a lot of young people. Having been an educator, I was around young people my entire life and I'm a mom of a 26-year-old. We've traveled the state, done a lot of listening and what I'm hearing that's on the mind of so many is that next step of, 'Can I get a job?' And not just any job, but a good paying job. There's a lot of concern about housing — not just the availability, but the access of it — because even rent is extremely high.

Young people are voicing concern about health care, and honestly, a lot of concern about the direction in which Indiana is going. From the young people I've talked to, they embrace education. They like that well-educated and healthy quality of life, but they also understand the power of diversity and inclusion, and they just are not liking the direction in which Indiana is going.

I've made it clear to them that I agree with them 100%, but it's [an issue of] leadership. You have to bring back common sense and a balance to the State House."

How will your term as governor help support college students preparing to enter the workforce?

"Being a scrappy entrepreneur who ran a little business for nearly 20 years before it scaled into a regional and national company, you have to really make sure that when it comes to education, you're being honest with parents and students.

I want to make sure that there's a lot of information and a lot of transparency on the high demand, high wage jobs. Two-thirds of them are most likely going to need nothing more than really good skills and trades preparation. But when you go to a place like Wabash or one of our other great colleges or universities, you need to make sure you're getting a degree, especially if you want to live in Indiana, where there's actually a demand for it. We generally produce an adequate number of degrees, but the one we under-produce is a STEM degree, which pays some of the highest wages and salaries of any out there. You have to remember:

If somebody's wanting to stay in-state and you're doing too many of a degree that does not have an underlying job for it, you just consciously shipped a kid out of state. That is how we pour extra income into the state and [produce] a GDP that can grow faster than what we've got."

"We're already doing it. I'm not waiting until after the election. I've made it clear since the beginning of the campaign that this is about bipartisanship and this is about finding common ground to make those initial steps. We have had a great response from Republicans and Democrats and Independents and even some Libertarians. When we've had events, we've opened our tent and welcomed everyone. It really has been refreshing, from what we're hearing from a lot of people across those 92 counties. We are all Hoosiers in the end. We're all better if we're together.

Having been a school administrator, a local superintendent, a teacher and then state superintendent, I am well aware that there's no room for rhetoric that causes division, because unfortunately, there are a lot of people out there who feed off of that, and it creates even more extremism. It's about our actions. It's about our messaging. It's about our willingness to truly mean what we say and bring people together. I have been clear since day one: We're going to do this together.

There is no room for divisiveness, and I'm saddened that my opponent continues to use rhetoric that is divisive — so much so that we have the Ku Klux Klan in two towns right now. It doesn't happen by accident. The rhetoric has to be toned down. There's no room for hate. I know we're not going to agree with everything. I understand that. I know we're all going to have our differences, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. It's how we approach it and how we treat each other, just making sure we're being good listeners. But it doesn't start after an election. It started yesterday."

What will you do as governor to help unite the people of Indiana and bring an end to divisive politics?

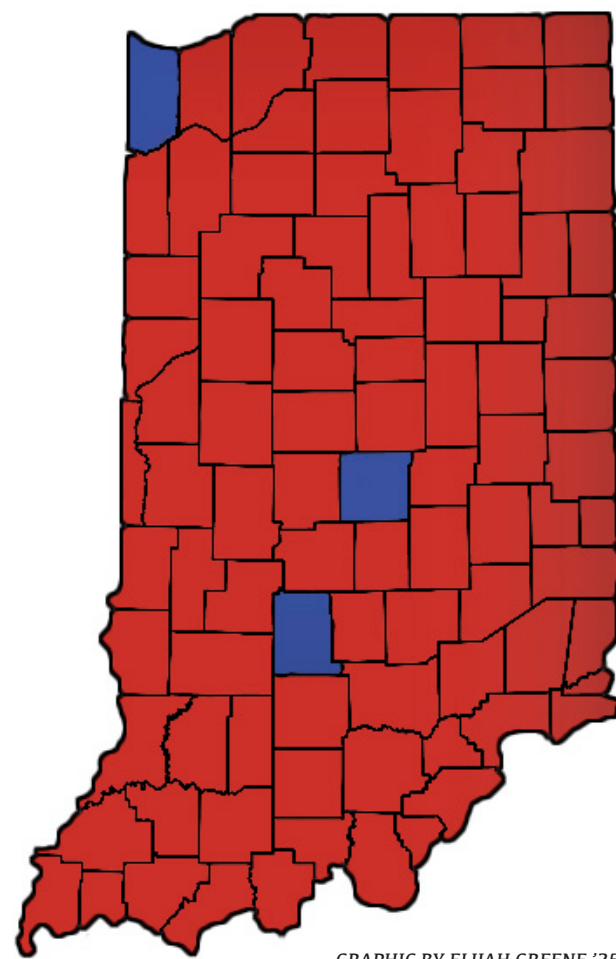
"Some divisive issues are a wrestling match on a national basis. When it comes to a state, you can't escape them, but state government is going to be a lot more focused on practical issues like education, workforce and high healthcare costs. Now energy, electricity with chip factories, battery plants and data centers. There's such a demand for it. Just two years ago, it was a flat demand. We don't have water evenly dispersed across the state — that's another key resource. Issues, like affordable housing, child care and rural broadband are all things that hopefully won't keep your focus on the more divisive ones. You can't escape them.

When it comes to the protests that have been circling around the country, that's on a very international issue.

Are we making the right moves in the Middle East and, more broadly, are we getting entangled in too many foreign escapades? We have to be the leader of the free world, we just have to make sure that we're not paying all the bills. We're borrowing a trillion dollars every six months, and it was annually when I came in six years ago.

At the place where you'd want it to be working well and efficiently, I think we produced poor results. We borrowed a lot of money from our kids and grandkids, and my focus is going to be not encroaching on our own Hoosier context in state government. I feel really good about how to make sure that we're engaged in the issues, [so we] don't have that stuff coming in to impact us, so it distinguishes Indiana as a place where people want to move, where kids want to come back to and one that is talked about the same vein as places like Texas, Florida or Tennessee."

2020 Indiana gubernatorial election results



GRAPHIC BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

"I think young men and young women share a lot of their future concerns. But I also think — for young men who are paying attention to what's going on with women's reproductive freedoms — they have to be asking themselves, 'What freedoms are next?' So many of them are supportive of their sisters and their significant others and family and friends, and when they see that happening, [they ask] what role they play.

I think a lot of young men are trying to figure where that goes and what that looks like. I have a 26-year-old son, and at some point he's family planning, he's into that career space and the biggest issue for a lot of young people I talk to is making sure we all have a great quality of place, regardless of male or female.

Everybody deserves a good quality of place and making sure everybody has equal and equitable access to good jobs and housing that is fair and making sure that we are embracing a state that is one that people want to come here, be here, live here, play here, love here. That's the state you all deserve. I don't think it's necessarily dependent upon male or female. It's more so about Hoosiers."

What aspect of your platform do you believe will be most impactful to young men?

"I think the thing that is most unique about our country is freedom and opportunity. That's the agenda I'm running on, and I think we had more of it back when I was at Wabash than we've got now. We've grown a federal government that I think the founders would be astounded at. It's staffed with career politicians, and on the other side of the aisle, they acknowledge it honestly. Our side is flat-footed and a lot of times accommodates it. States have to be especially careful that they don't buy into it. You've got several states that do, and people are moving out of them. I want to make sure that, for folks choosing to invest four years at Wabash like I did, this is a place that's going to embrace those basic ideas and look at how different the size of government was back then and how much less it encroached upon our daily lives. I'd be really worried about that in this day and age, because it's at the breaking point. When you now have federal government at 25% of our GDP and it's never been more than 20 outside of a war and you've got one side of the aisle that wants to give us more of that and another side of the aisle that has not even made its own point of view understandable and that doesn't want to engage, you ought to be looking to leaders who are going to be embracing limited government, freedom and opportunity and especially not borrowing money from our kids and grandkids."

"Wabash is a great college. The students who are admitted into Wabash are really good students, they're getting an excellent education and we rely on them to have a voice in the future of our state. It is smart, it is responsible and we rely on that. At this point, for individuals to either choose not to vote — which is their voice — or not to do their homework on voting is, in my opinion, not acceptable.

There is a responsibility in doing your homework. Both candidates have websites set up. Mine is mccormickforgov.com. It's been well-covered at the state level, and I've gotten a lot of national coverage as well. There's a lot of information out there, and they just need to take the time to be informed and then go inform others. I would encourage people to go learn, but also to understand that responsibility and how they play into our future. If they can vote, part of that is not just voting for themselves, but it's voting for the generation behind them, and the generation behind them and those who can't vote right now.

It's not just about today, it's about eight years down the road. If you're 20 years old, and you add eight, there's a lot that's going to change in that time period. This is their chance to weigh in and make sure they have a voice. I just really encourage those who haven't decided yet that there's still time to do their homework. Reach out if they have questions, but do their due diligence and exercise that right to vote.

What is your message to undecided voters at Wabash?

If you're wanting someone who has built his credibility in the real world, moved back to my hometown, had to survival-mode build a company into a regional and then national one, who certainly signed the front side of a paycheck for 37 years, my opponents definitely have not been that.

When you're called the most effective freshman senator of any over the last six years and more effective than some of the senators, you have to roll on after two or three decades in arenas like healthcare, education and agriculture, that's a lot of experience.

I'm a big believer in term limits at the federal level, along with a balanced-budget amendment. I'm a lifelong Hoosier. I think I know what our state is about. We're all blessed to either be here, getting educated or building businesses, raising families. I just want to take us to those new horizons that put us out there as a place that people want to move back to and come to, and I think that'd be a good reason to vote for me as opposed to my two opponents.

2024 US Election: Final showdown

Likely: More than 5% lead

Lean: 1-5% lead

Tilt: Less than 1% lead

Continued from page A1

Michigan
While Michigan and its 15 electoral votes used to be a stronger part of the “Blue Wall” before the 2016 election, Trump shattered the once-strong Democratic region and shifted the state’s rural areas to the right, like in other nearby states. President Biden carried this state by a margin of 2.78%, flipping it into his column in 2020. The combined polling has this state at a very close 0.5% for Harris. To win, Harris almost certainly needs this state in her column.
Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

North Carolina
With all the polls combined, Trump holds a 1.0% lead on Harris. Biden lost North Carolina by 1.34%, showing that there is a good chance that North Carolina will be among the closest states in this year’s presidential election.
Final Rating: Lean Republican

Nevada
Nevada has voted for Democrats on the presidential level since 2008. Both Clinton and Biden carried the state by 2.4%, but combined polling has given Harris only a 0.3% lead over Trump. While only having six electoral votes, Nevada can still play a large part in who wins the election and show a general direction as to who the winner might be.
Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

Pennsylvania
The keystone state may very well be the keys to the white house for the next president. It is among one of the “Blue Wall” states that Trump flipped and shifted to the right in 2016. Its 19 Electoral votes are the largest number of the swing states. The combined polling gives Trump a 0.1% lead in the state. It may very well take days if not even a week to know the results. President Biden won his home state of Pennsylvania by 1.18%, but the race has

narrowed up in the past few weeks.
Final Rating: Tilt Republican

Wisconsin
Finally, Wisconsin, the state with the closest race of the “Blue Wall” states in 2020 – in which President Biden won the Badger state by only 0.77% in 2020. The combined polling only gives Vice President Harris a 0.5% lead in the state, with it, like many other states, narrowing up in the past couple of weeks. 538, which creates aggregates of national polls, has Harris with a 51% chance of winning and Trump with a 49% chance of winning, making it a toss-up until election day.
Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

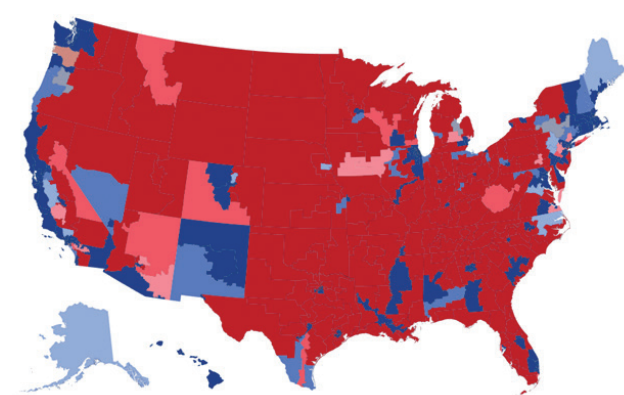
2024 United States Senate Race
51 Republicans to 49 Democrats (Republicans +2) This year’s Senate map is the roughest for Democrats, as they have to defend incumbents in two states that Trump won in 2020,

each by a large margin. The two states that Trump won that Democrats are defending their incumbents in are Ohio and Montana. The polling has Republicans gaining two seats to 51 from 49, which gives them control no matter who the vice president is. Here are the six top races to watch.

Michigan
Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D) seeks to hold for the Democrats. Rep. Slotkin faces former Congressman Mike Rogers (R), who hopes to flip the seat for the Republicans. Most sources give this race a slight lead for Slotkin, with combined polling giving her a 3.3% lead. The state is expected to be among the closest in the election on the presidential level, so voters should pay attention to see if it translates into this race.
Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Montana
Long-term incumbent Senator Jon Tester (D) is fighting for his political life this year. Going against newcomer Tim Sheehy (R), Tester has represented the seat in the Senate since 2007 but looks likely to be unseated in a run for his fourth term. Some of the reasons behind his lack of momentum are likely because it is a presidential cycle, with crossover support dying out in the past few years. Trump is on track to match or outperform his 2020 margin of 16.4%, which is likely to drag Tester to lose.
Final Rating: Likely Republican (Flip)

Ohio
Like Tester, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D) is in the toughest battle in



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28 USING YAPMS
A map of predicted outcomes for the 2024 House of Representatives Elections.

his career. Brown faces Businessman Bernie Moreno (R) – who polls have behind at 0.6%. This seat will almost certainly be the closest in the Senate elections. Democrats must hold this seat to even have a chance at keeping the Senate.
Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

Pennsylvania
Incumbent Senator Bob Casey (D) is pitted against David McCormick (R), who worked in the George W. Bush administration. Casey is seeking his fourth term. The primary concern for Casey is that Trump may drag down his margins in the Presidential race. Despite this, Casey has held a strong lead in polls.
Final Rating: Lean Democrat

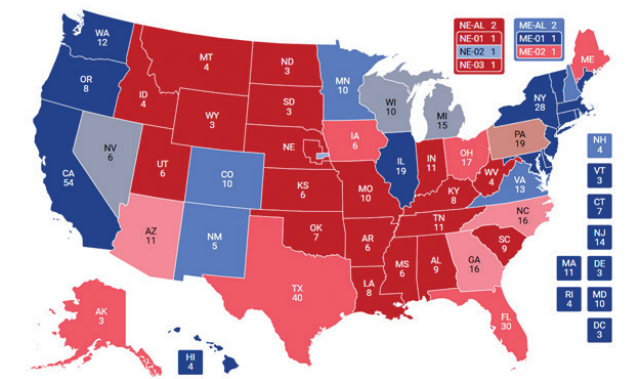
Texas
Incumbent Senator Ted Cruz (R) is in a close election – similar to 2018. He is facing off against Congressman Colin Allred (D). The combined polling shows Cruz has a 3.4% lead in the state. Texas is the one potential pick-up that Democrats have a good chance in, and if Allred can flip, it would be a significant win for Senate Democrats.
Final Rating: Lean Republican

Wisconsin
Incumbent Senator Tammy Baldwin (D) holds a tight lead over Eric Hovde (R). The seat is a must-win for Democrats if they want to retain control of the Senate. The combined polling gives Baldwin a 0.9 lead over Hovde. The polls have tightened in this state in the past few weeks, making it a state to watch.
Final Rating: Lean Democrat

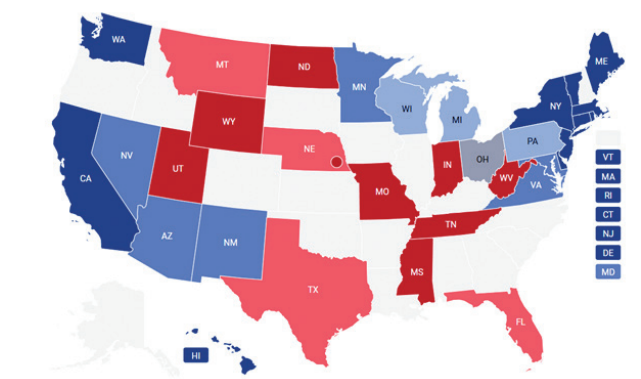
2024 United States House of Representatives Race
House: 219 Democrats to 216 Republicans (Democrats+7)

This year’s House election results are among the closest in recent history, with every forecast not giving a clear winner. It is a coin toss as to who may win. The polling shows that Democrats will narrowly flip control of the House in their favor. If either party wins control with a 1-3 seat majority, they will have a long term ahead of them as just a few dissenting votes could kill a bill.

- Races to watch**
Alaska: AK- AL Lean (D)
Arizona: AZ-1 Lean (R), AZ-6 Lean (R)
California: CA-13 Lean (D: Flip) CA-22 Lean (R) CA-27 Tilt (D: Flip) CA-41 Lean (R) CA-45 Lean Tilt (R) CA-47 Lean (D)
Colorado: CO-8 Lean (D)
Iowa: IA-1 Lean (R) IA-3 Lean (R)
Maine: ME-2 Lean (D)
Michigan: MI-7 lean (R: Flip) MI-8 Tilt (D) MI-10 Lean (R)
Montana: MT-1 Likely (R)
North Carolina: NC-1 Lean (D)
Nebraska: NE-2 Lean (D: Flip)
New Jersey: NJ-7 Lean (R)
New Mexico: NM-2 Likely (D)
New York: NY-4 Lean (D: Flip) NY-17 Lean (R) NY-18 Likely (D) NY-19 Tilt (D: Flip) NY-22 Likely (D: Flip)
Oregon: OR-5 Tilt (D: Flip)
Pennsylvania: PA-7 Lean (D) PA-8 Lean (D) PA-10 Lean (R) PA-17 Lean (D)
Virginia: VA-2 Lean (R) VA-7 Lean (D)
Washington: WA-3 Tilt (R: Flip)



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28 USING YAPMS
A map of predicted outcomes for the 2024 Presidential Election.



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28 USING YAPMS
A map of predicted outcomes for the 2024 Senate Elections.

Can we trust polls’ predictive powers?

Ahead of the 2024 Presidential Election, many Americans are left wondering if they should pay attention to polling

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER
Ask anyone for their 2024 Presidential election prediction and, regardless of who they think or hope might win, you’re likely to hear one thing: it will be close. And if we take a look at the polls, that claim is backed up. ABC News’s website FiveThirtyEight, which collects and aggregates polling data from across the country, currently has Harris leading narrowly with 48.1% compared to Trump’s 46.7%. But how reliable are the polls and predictive models we see so often on the news, social media and headlines? The answer is complicated.

“But the emergence of the 24-hour cycle really created a necessity for larger corporations and any news outlet in general to have a constant source of content and polls for people to watch.”

“Have pollsters overcorrected from prior years? Maybe, maybe not. We won’t know until the election.”
- Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman

Additionally, sample polling has some inherent flaws that, no matter how well the study is conducted, still affect the results. One is marginal error, which is a statistical calculation that assesses how much random sampling error exists in a given survey. Basically, it’s a formula that takes into account the fact that a sample of 1,000 people is not going to perfectly represent the views of the whole population from which those 1,000 people were selected. The larger the sample size is, the less margin of error exists.
Another flaw with polls is where the sample is drawn

from. This is an especially important point in a country of roughly 330 million people where certain geographical areas and institutions are skewed toward one political ideology.
“If you wanted to measure how the American population as a whole was going to vote and all you did was poll college students at all the giant universities, you’d have a giant sample,” said Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman. “There would be a tiny margin of error, but those college students aren’t representative of the whole population of voters.”
Polls can also have demographic issues, like weighting. A sample, even a diverse one, is unlikely to accurately reflect every demographic in a population. Some groups will be overrepresented and others underrepresented. Weighting allows survey collectors to adjust the edges of their data and address imbalances to more accurately reflect the whole population. Weighting is common practice in polls, but it is by no means perfect.
“One thing we discovered in the 2016 election was that, with all the weighting of the poll results being done, pollsters weren’t weighing educational



Voters fill out their ballots during the 2020 election. Similar to 2016, voters didn’t behave exactly like national polls had predicted.

attainment, and that turned out to be a really strong indicator of how people, especially white people, voted in the election,” said Gelbman. “Some people argue that had pollsters made those adjustments, they might have been able to anticipate more how the election eventually turned out.”
Even if national polls were perfect, they still wouldn’t tell us with certainty who will win the election. The reality of our electoral system is that the winner of this year’s election will likely carry more of the “swing states” than

their opponent. A candidate may be up in national opinion polls, but if they lose important battleground states, our electoral college system might just crush their dreams of the White House.
So, are the polls this year accurate? As well as polls can be, but when a race is this tight, it’s basically impossible to be confident about a winner.
“Have pollsters overcorrected from prior years?” asked Gelbman. “Maybe, maybe not. We won’t know until the election. Since the start of polling, there have been years where the polls

are dead on, and some years where they’re way off.”
“Honestly, from my perspective, I think polls are great, but they’re not the ballots being cast,” said Govekar. “Polls should be used as a way to gauge where the majority of people are at.”
So, ultimately, forget the polls and just get out and vote! In a tight race like this one, you never know if your vote will make a difference. And as a reminder, if you vote on Election Day in Montgomery County you are invited to participate in PSC-211’s exit poll.

Phillips '28 serves as page for Indiana delegation at Democratic National Convention



COURTESY OF CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
Connor Phillips '28 holds up political signs at the Democratic National Convention in late August 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.

JAKE WEBER '25
STAFF WRITER

When Connor Phillips '28 began his freshman year at Wabash, he missed most of his freshmen orientation period. Instead, he was in attendance for the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Illinois. This path began in June of 2022, when 15-year-old Phillips began his first term as City Council liaison with the Portage Youth Commission. Later serving as chair of the Youth Commission, Phillips learned the value of skills such as strong communication leading to positive results.

"It felt good to leave an impact on the

youth of Portage," said Phillips. "To have a voice that mattered."

Phillips, who intends to major in political science, furthered his work in politics during the 2022 midterm elections in his home city of Portage, Indiana, when he was 16-years-old. Phillips spent time as a volunteer for local and state representatives in his district. Last year, Phillips interned in the office of Portage Mayor Austin Bonta, working directly with Bonta and other council members in assisting with their campaigns.

With a wide breadth of prior experience under his belt, Phillips eventually found himself in the process for

nomination as a page from Indiana's delegation to the DNC. At the DNC, a page carries out support roles for their delegation, including passing out credentials and acting as resources for delegates who need help getting things done at the convention. Pages are not voting delegates which are elected as part of the primary race; rather they are selected by party leadership out of the list of people who complete applications.

Attending the DNC was an experience which was years in the making, requiring Phillips to use dedication and enthusiasm to get him there.

"It was amazing just to be a couple hundred feet from the sitting president, seeing the people that you've only ever seen on TV or only ever heard about in stories," said Phillips. "Actually seeing them speak live was really cool. You need to see these speakers up close in action and see how they operate as politicians because each politician is different in charisma and character and in how and what they say."

Phillips was inspired and left the DNC with a fervent passion for his party and its message. While he was not officially part of the delegate tally that nom-

inated Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as the Democratic ticket, Phillips still walked away learning important lessons when it comes to young people in politics.

"The biggest thing when it comes to politics is just being engaged," said Phillips. "There aren't many people out there under 25 or 35 that are really active and involved in politics. If we want to become more engaged, we as a generation have to stand up. No matter what side you're on — Democrat, Republican or Independent — stand up and advocate for what you believe in."



COURTESY OF CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
Connor Phillips '28 stands next to chair of the Democratic Party Jamie Harrison at the Democratic National Convention in late August 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.

What's on the ballot in Indiana?

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
MANAGING EDITOR

When Indiana voters go to the polls on Tuesday, November 5, most of the ballot will appear as expected. Of course, you'll be asked to make your pick for the next President of the United States. If you've been anywhere near a TV or cell phone for the last six months, you know what to expect. You might even have done some research into the candidates for the gubernatorial race: Senator Mike Braun '76 and Jennifer McCormick.

As you near the end of the list, however, some unexpected questions begin to pop up — questions you likely haven't thought about one way or another.

In the interest of voter education, let's break down some of these ballot boxes.

Indiana Remove Superintendent of Public Instruction from Gubernatorial Line of Succession Amendment (2024)

This ballot measure might be shocking at first, especially if you support public education. Why prevent the Superintendent of Public Instruction from potentially assuming the role of governor, even if the position is seventh in line?

The answer is simple: That position no longer exists.

The role was created by Indiana's original state constitution as an elected office. In January 2021, the office was abolished and replaced with a governor-appointed Secretary of Education.

(Fun fact: The first three state superintendents were from Crawfordsville, second of whom was Wabash's own Caleb Mills. Jennifer McCormick, who held the office at the time of its abolition, is currently running for governor of Indiana.)

This amendment unanimously passed the General Assembly with support from Republicans and Democrats. The switch, however, did not account for the removal of the position from the line of succession laid out in the constitution, which can only happen by a popular vote. By voting "yes," you'd just be helping Indiana legislators do some housekeeping work.

Indiana Supreme Court

Indiana Supreme Court justices serve for at least two years after being appointed by the governor, then they must face a retention vote at the first subsequent general election. If retained, they will serve for 10 years before they must face retention again. Three such justices (out of five total) stand for retention on this year's ballot:

Derek Molter

Molter was appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb (R) in 2022. Recently, Molter authored an opinion (22S-PL-338) upholding Indiana's near-total abortion ban and finding abortion to not be an "inalienable right." The decision found women have the right to an abortion to save their lives or avoid serious health risks, but that the General Assembly was within its rights to set narrow regulations.

Mark S. Massa

Massa was initially appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels (R) in 2012 and retained in 2014. One of his most well-known opinions upheld a law restricting who can run for a political party in an election. The case concerned the U.S. Senate bid of egg farmer John Rust, whose voting record did not satisfy the requirement to run on the Republican ticket. "A party... has an indispensable interest in protecting itself against 'unaffiliated' people," the opinion said, "but states also have a legitimate interest in safeguarding parties from forced inclusion of unwanted members and candidates."

Loretta H. Rush

Rush was also appointed by Daniels in 2012 and retained in 2014. One of her most high-profile opinions backed Holcomb in his dispute with legislative leaders over special session powers. As the opinion explains, "The General Assembly enacted a law that allows it to call itself into emergency session, which the Governor challenges as unconstitutionally co-opting a purely executive function."

Indiana Court of Appeals 1st District: Peter R. Foley

Foley spent four years as an officer with the Indiana State Police before deciding to become a lawyer. He previously served as a deputy prosecutor and judge in Madison County.

Indiana Court of Appeals 4th District: Rudolph Pyle III

Pyle's legal career started in his family's law firm, representing individuals and small businesses in civil matters. He became a judge in Morgan County in 2014.

Of course, there will be many other races on your ballot, depending on where you live. For more information about what will be on your ballot — no matter where you live — ballotpedia.org is a great resource. Just enter the address where you're registered to vote, and you can get a sample ballot in seconds, complete with links to voting records, endorsements and more.

The data is in: Civic engagement at Wabash

NATE PLAKE '25
GUEST WRITER

As a political science major, I have been fortunate enough to study politics during a pivotal election year. My research focuses mainly on the motivations behind student protest at Wabash, but my findings and analysis are relevant to understanding the political identities and motivations of Wabash students. To conduct my research, I surveyed 31 Wabash upperclassmen students, which revealed larger trends concerning potential obstacles to voter participation, consumption of political news and previous voter involvement.

One of my first relevant findings concerning voter participation in elections is the level of extracurricular involvement at Wabash. While my data may be skewed by potential increased fraternity survey participation, over 50% of respondents answered that they were involved with eight or more hours of extracurricular activities. This increased involvement in extracurriculars might impact the ability of Wabash students to drive to their local polling stations if they are Indiana residents. This may not be so much of an issue for out-of-state students, because they would likely mail in their vote anyway.

Another relevant data point addressed how often the participants kept up with political news. Forty-five percent of participants stated that they only sparsely checked political news, while around 39% of participants checked once a week. This data could be slightly skewed due to participants wanting to be perceived as more politically responsible, but the data insinuates that Wabash students may not be as informed as they could be regarding the national political climate. This may also contribute to the national trend of political polarization. Wabash students being uninformed regarding candidates' policies and past political actions may instead lead to voting based on non-political motivations.

When looking at which methods participants used to view their political news, they were able to select multiple options: the two most popular being mainstream media — like MSNBC, CNN or FOX — and social media. Both were selected by around 60% of participants. It is important to emphasize how influential social media is to this election cycle, as many campaigns utilize social media sites in an attempt to reach young voters.

While selected by only 23% of participants, it is interesting to note that podcasts and streaming are a niche, but increasingly popular, way to keep up with political news. Since both Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have appeared on podcasts such as "The Joe Rogan Experience" and "Call Her Daddy," respectively, during this campaign cycle, it is worth noting their increasing influence, especially among young voters.

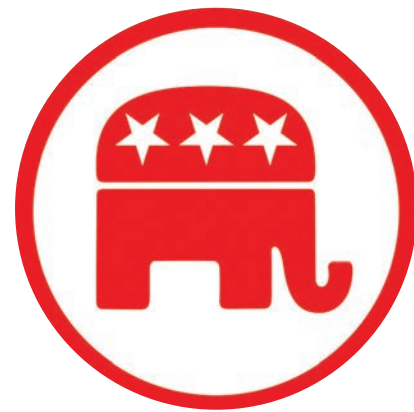
One more interesting piece of data from my research is that 45% of survey participants had not participated in any voting process prior to this election, meaning that many of the students here at the College may be taking their first large political action as a citizen this year. Wabash actively promotes being a good citizen through the statement of the Gentleman's Rule and it is important to use your time as a college student to practice what it is like to be a responsible citizen for life after graduation. Colleges provide an environment that allows you to experiment in your engagement with organizations, like clubs and fraternities, and to experiment with your perspective on the world and your level of political participation.

As a final note, I would ask my fellow Wabash students to remain civil and to be mindful of their fellow students during election week regardless of the election outcome. All of us have homework to work on, despite the election, and the loss of a candidate could be a cause of concern regarding mental health. Look out for your fellow Wabash brothers regardless of who they voted for and remember that gloating only hurts those already in silence. Let's get excited for this opportunity to practice the Gentleman's Rule and go out and vote this Tuesday!

Dueling opinions: Who will win the presidential election?



or



Forward

Nicholas Green '27

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It is undeniable that the Harris campaign has been an eleventh-hour affair. She began campaigning in August, a mere 96 days before the election. Yet in this short time, Kamala Harris has convinced me of her strength as a candidate. She has given me hope for our country. That country, the future we will all be graduating into, is on the ballot November 5.

In less than a week, we will determine the America that we will have to live, work and raise children in. Kamala Harris gives me hope for that future. I do not fear the country she will create, and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our society.

In the past three months, Harris has performed remarkably well. She has secured record-breaking levels of funding and has risen to challenge Trump in every swing state in that short period of time. Her stances on economic reform, reproductive rights and domestic security have won her popularity and enthusiasm that far surpasses the support shown for her predecessor, President Biden. The vice president matched the notoriously aggressive Donald Trump in debate back in September and has conducted herself with composure throughout her entire campaign trail.

With substantially less time than other candidates in the race, Kamala Harris fought her way to the front of this presidential race. Almost every election tracking website is calling the race too close to call, which is a testament to the strength and legitimacy of Harris' support. Win or lose, Kamala Harris has managed an immensely impressive campaign for president.

The issue that won me over on Harris has been her outspoken support for LGBTQ+ rights. She officiated gay marriages in California as district attorney and has expanded access to gender-affirming care as vice president. She has sued states to protect gender-affirming care as a part of the Biden Administration; in addition, she will likely maintain the "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation" executive order enacted by President Biden.

This executive order extends the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* to federal laws pertaining to healthcare, education and housing, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in these areas. Her poli-

cies on this front are clearly more than horse-race talking points.

As someone with numerous friends in the LGBTQ+ community, I am excited to support an outspoken ally. Homophobia, transphobia and other forms of bigotry have become unfortunately pervasive within America and Kamala Harris is the only candidate in this race that seems to be doing anything about it. I do not want to graduate into a country that gives executive license to bigotry.

I am also excited by the policies proposed by the vice president. Campaign promises are one thing, but Harris has shown herself to be a capable politician. As district attorney, she defended environmental legislation. She championed infrastructure reform as a senator and continued to support the cause as Vice President. She has put her weight behind Biden's infrastructure bill and cast the tie-breaking vote to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which has already lowered prescription drug costs and allocated funds to address our worsening climate. She worked to pass the CHIPS and Science Act, which will help the United States remain economically and scientifically competitive. She has discussed her intent to cut taxes for those making less than \$400,000 dollars a year on numerous occasions.

The consistency in her political actions gives me confidence in her ability to perform as president. When I look at her resume, I see a candidate who has consistently addressed the issues I am most concerned with. I do not want to graduate into a society that still denies the reality of climate change, or the shifting economic needs of the 21st century. The policies endorsed by Harris give me hope for the future of America.

If you've read this entire opinion, I thank you. Even if you vehemently disagree with literally everything I have said, taking the time to engage with an alternate viewpoint is commendable. Our slogan urges us to think critically as Wabash men, and by engaging with this piece you have fulfilled that component of our creed.

Now I ask you to do the other parts. Go vote on November 5. We all have a stake in the country we are graduating into, so I urge you to let your voice be known, even if it differs from mine. Act responsibly by doing your civic duty. Lead effectively by getting your brothers to do the same. Live humanely by respecting the views of those around you, even if they differ heavily from your own. We are all brothers of Wabash, and we are all Americans. Do right by our college and country next Tuesday by choosing to lead us forward.

The writing on the wall

Isaac Grannis '26

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If you want to skip the rest of this article, here is what you need to know going into next week:

- Watch the Blue Wall: Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania are the races to watch.
- Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia are mostly safe for Trump.
- The national polls mean very little, pay attention to swing state polls.

I base my predictions on polls, early voting statistics and prediction markets, in that order of importance. Given the tightness of the race, with Real Clear Polling's (RCP) national poll average at +0.4 Trump and Nate Silver's aggregate at +1.1 Harris, polls have limited utility. The margin of error and herding – where polls converge to avoid being outliers – obscure any potential advantages a candidate may have.

Early voting data, while imperfect, offers a view into year-over-year changes, voter enthusiasm and demographic shifts. By analyzing early vote methods, return rates and demographics, we can get a rough picture of the electorate's leanings.

Prediction markets are my least relied-upon metric, not due to unreliability, but because they reflect the same information available to everyone. Markets show how many people are confident enough to put money behind their predictions, but don't provide new data. I aim to justify my predictions through analysis rather than relying on market odds, even if I'm not drastically out of step with them.

Looking at key battleground states, Nevada is a telling case. Despite aggregate polls from Silver and RCP indicating a near-tie, early voting data paints a different picture. With 80-90% of voting done via early voting, the predictive power of this data is significant. Republican ballot returns are on par with 2020, but Democratic returns are down around 20-30%, giving Republicans a 5.2% lead. Democrats are consistently underperforming in historically reliable counties and vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots more broadly. The Republicans' lead is expected to shrink somewhat, but unless Democrats reverse this trend rapidly, they face an uphill battle come Election Day. I'd put Trump's chances in Nevada at 85%, higher than the 65% prediction markets suggest.

Arizona also leans towards Trump. Aggregate polls show a 2.3-2.5 point lead for Trump, and early voting data reveals an 8% increase in Republican votes versus a 3% decline for Democrats. This shift is

significant, and Trump's lead has remained steady since mid-September. I'd give Trump an 80% chance in Arizona, slightly higher than the 70% prediction markets indicate.

In Georgia, Trump's lead in aggregate polls is 1.9-2.4 points. Early voting data shows a 10.3% shift towards Republicans, driven primarily by a decline in Democratic VBM margins. While it's possible these voters will show up on election day, Trump's chances in Georgia look strong at 75%, in line with prediction markets. Further, there is a noticeable decline in Black participation since 2020, with the gap currently sitting at around 13% fewer than white voters versus 2020's 6.9%.

Pennsylvania's aggregate polls show a 0.4-0.7 point lead for Trump, with Republicans enjoying a 16% advantage in early votes relative to 2020. This is largely due to decreased Democrat returns. Further, the Republican ballot return rate is only increasing – and while initially, low Democrat ballot returns could be chalked up to slow processing in Philadelphia, request rates from the urban center have remained lower than average, further decreasing the potential size of their buffer going into Election Day. I give Trump a 55% chance, slightly lower than current markets.

Wisconsin and Michigan are less clear-cut, with only county-level data available. While returns from traditionally Republican counties seem higher than Democrat ones, the data is too vague to make a confident call – and polls show 0.2-0.3 & 0.5-0.9 leads for Harris in each state respectively.

While one cannot escape the fact that this is very much a "unicorn" year, and perhaps may make any normal methods of prediction less reliable, I think stepping back paints a clearer picture: Democrats seem relatively less enthusiastic to vote for Harris than Republicans for Trump. (Independents have outvoted Democrats on several days in separate states – which is unheard of.) While "negative" motivations, or voting "against" a party rather than for another, increasingly drives American voters, it isn't everything – and I don't think it's a stretch to say that the Harris campaign has relied on her ability to be "not Trump" much more than the inverse. I suspect that the error made this year has been not overestimating likely Trump voters but overestimating likely Harris voters.

So what should we expect on election night? The numbers suggest Trump will hold Arizona, Nevada and Georgia, securing 268 electoral votes. This makes the "Blue Wall" – Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania – the decisive battleground, as Trump needs just one to reach 270. Pennsylvania appears to be trending his way, though Harris could still offset Republican advantages with strong independent support. This is a stressful time for many of us, and the clamoring going into Election Day will only get louder. Hopefully, I've given you enough information, so you know what to listen to: Watch the Wall, ignore the noise and remember that neither Trump nor Harris will be there for you – but your brothers will.

The art of the loss

Professor of Political Science
Shamira Gelbman

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One of the most memorable things I read as a young political science student many years ago was political scientist Adam Przeworski's assertion in his 1991 book, *Democracy and the Market*, that "democracy is a system in which parties lose elections."

I was struck by this statement at the time because it felt so obvious that democratic elections are competitive events that invariably have losers – and yet so counter-

cultural to draw attention to this fact. We don't normally define football as a sport in which teams lose games. (Let alone, as Dr. Przeworski does with democracy, use that definition to wonder why athletes nevertheless commit themselves to it.) We tend to focus on the positive when describing all sorts of competitive endeavors – how to earn points, how to gain ground, how to win.

And when it comes to democracy, we usually envision elections in favor-

able and optimistic terms – for example, as an opportunity for everyday people to express their views and influence government officials to work on their behalf.

"Democracy is a system in which parties lose elections" hits differently now than it did back when I first read it. Democrats and Republicans disagreed on a range of issues and polarization was already on the rise at the turn of the century, to be sure. But the divisions were not nearly as stark and the "middle ground" where compromise could be forged was not nearly as elusive as it has become.

Republicans and Democrats didn't seem to hate each other so much as they disagreed, and their disagreement didn't feel so fundamental – it

was moreover means than ends, more about differences over how to achieve shared goals than conflict about the goals themselves.

And so, the prospect of losing an election back then didn't feel as dire. You'd win some and you'd lose some, but you could live with some loss and work across the aisle to keep things running.

Losing elections is harder to stomach in today's era of negative partisanship and existential crisis. Negative partisanship means that your support for a party or candidate has more to do with your disdain for the opposing party than any positive feelings towards your own.

Survey research shows that negative partisanship has become widespread. According to the Pew

Research Center, while only about 20% of Democrats and Republicans held "very unfavorable" views of the other party back then. More than 50% now say they view the other party very unfavorably.

Feeling so negatively towards one's political opponents makes it hard to resign oneself to the possibility of losing to them, hard to imagine finding common ground for compromise and hard to imagine living for four years with them in charge.

Adding to negative partisanship is the sense many have nowadays that the opposing party is not merely "very unfavorable," but actually dangerous to the viability of the United States and its democratic form of government. From this standpoint, losing an election feels intolerable.

In this context, the idea that "democracy is a system in which parties lose elections" becomes especially important. It's a reminder that the right to participate in the upcoming election – whether through voting, campaigning, or even just following along and discussing it with friends and family – comes with the responsibility to respect the process and outcome even when it doesn't go your way.

Being a responsible citizen means acknowledging that losing elections, as much as it may hurt, is essential to a healthy democratic system. And it means acting accordingly, even – and especially – when tempers are running high.



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The impartial wally as a gentlemanly experiment



Nicholas Snow
BKT Assistant Professor of Economics

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but for others as well. Therefore, when we act, we are likely to respond to the responses of our fellows because we desire to be in accord with them.

This tends to create what proper or just action is. For example, if I get stuck in traffic and then proceed to rant and rave to my friends, while this is important to me, it might be seen as a little bit over-the-top by my friends.

Their reactions are likely to let me know that my actions need to be tempered. At the same time, my response to their apathy may make them think “hmm he seems to really care about this, maybe I should show more concern back next time.”

Smith uses a musical analogy as an explanation. This sympathetic back-and-forth will never create exact harmony but it will move us to concord with one another.

This is a powerful tool but is limited in a real way. The power of sympathy will tend to work best the more local we are. We have spheres of sympathy, with sympathy working best in our more intimate orders rather than in our extended orders.

We will care most about our family and friends. The further out we go the less power sympathy will hold. The Gentleman’s Rule seems to work at an extremely small college like Wabash but would be very difficult to gain traction at a large university like Indiana University.

A small community will have less strangers, your reputation is easier to monitor, etc. So, while this concept is far from a panacea, it is still a powerful example of self-governance in action. Just and proper behavior should not be dictated from “men of the system” dictating from outside and on high but rather it is learned through the interaction of many individuals through this dance of sympathy.

Editors note: Excerpts from this come from a blog post on adamsmithworks.org published on August 29, 2024 entitled “A Gentlemanly Experiment in the “Loose, Vague, and Indeterminate.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ONLINE LIBRARY OF LIBERTY

Adam Smith (1723-1790) was a leading figure in the “Scottish Enlightenment” pioneering theories of political economy.

Basketball has done it all — can they do it again?

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

With three-straight North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament championships to their name, as well as two of the last three regular season championships, the Little Giants have set the gold standard for success. Multiple players from previous seasons and Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett are inevitably headed for the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. Now they face the question: what do you do when you've accomplished everything you set out to do? Their answer – do it again.

Despite graduating top-level players in the class of 2024, Wabash basketball enters the season projected to finish third by the NCAC Preseason Coaches Poll. With five positions to fill, the Scarlet & White have returning players with unrivaled experience as well as room for new standouts.

“We're really proud of what we've accomplished,” said Brumett. “We believe in how we got here. [This season] it's different guys, but it's their opportunity to win their championship.”

At the guard positions, the Little Giants have some of their best talent in Randy Kelley '26 and Josh Whack '26, both of whom played extensively in the previous two seasons. Vinny Buccilla '25 returns as the leading scorer from the previous season, having averaged 10.5 points per game (ppg). Buccilla, as the lone remaining player from the 2022 trip to the NCAA Division III Final Four, will be the natural leader for the roster.

“When I was in my first couple years here, the older guys really showed me how to work hard and how to truly appreciate being a part of this program,” said Buccilla. “[I] definitely want to make this year the best one yet and be the best leader I can be for the rest of the guys.”

The forward positions will have the most room for new faces this season. One player fans should expect to see is Rich Brooks '26, who transferred to Wabash last year. Despite still trying to find his role on the team during the season, Brooks was fifth in both total scoring and points per game. He showed an ability to take over a game, and with a breakout season this year, could be the dominant force Wabash needs to make another playoff run.

Nate Matelic '27 found his place as a valuable 6-feet 7-inch role player in his freshman season and will be looking to follow up that performance as an early sub.

Two electric big men will handle the work in the paint this season. Gavin Shippert '26 and Noah Hupmann '25 both played extensively in the previous season. Each brings a



Vinny Buccilla '25 (top) knocks down a three in front of a home crowd during the Little Giants' 2024 North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament run. Below the team holds the banner after winning the title. It was the third-straight conference tournament championship basketball won.

unique defensive presence. Shippert is a model for consistency and physical play against other big men who started in both of the last two seasons. At 7 feet 2 inches, Hupmann is a walking highlight reel. After recording a staggering, conference-leading 74 blocks in the 2023-2024 season, Hupmann will continue to see his role expand, especially as his offensive numbers swell.

Early in the season these two will likely start at the four and five spots until a clear favorite for power forward emerges. Then both should expect to split minutes and start depending on what the opponent brings. With two excellent but different centers on the roster, Brumett will have substantial versatility to choose from.

“I am very confident in this team's ability to get the job done,” said Buccilla. “We have guys that have been around the program and

know what it takes to win a championship. Coach [Brumett] has been preaching to us about bringing the fight to whatever the challenge may be. That will get us to the places we want to get to.”

“With our tough non-conference schedule, we are really just seeing how we stack up against some of the other top teams in the country,” said Buccilla. “Being able to go play Heidelberg and Trine for our first couple games definitely will help us see where we are at for the rest of the season. It's going to bring a different challenge each time and we have to be ready for that.”

Before the conference schedule, the Scarlet & White will have a stacked slate of other teams to get through. Their season opens against Heidelberg University and Trine University on November 8 and November 9 will be a step into the deep end of the schedule.

After that, facing Washington

University in St. Louis will be as difficult as ever. But the price of winning the NCAC is in the pre-conference preparation.

“It's been a lot [of work] to put the schedule together,” said Bru-

mett. “It's really challenging. There's some times where I think I might be a little crazy, but I think our guys want those kinds of games ... And I have always felt that once we've got the program to where we could compete at the top of the NCAC, whether it's Wooster or Wittenberg or Denison ... you can't go on the road in January and February and win games like that without having played. You don't want to lose. But... a lot of putting the schedule together is really about trying to get these guys ready to play on the road at Wooster.”

In the conference, a wildly thrilling race to March is waiting to play out. As the three-peating kings of the conference, the Little Giants will have plenty of enemies from the first tip-off.

Wooster, who faced Wabash in all three of the previous NCAC championships, will run on revenge this year. Picked first in the coaches poll, they will return multiple conference-leading players and have – no doubt – had their sights set on Wabash since before the semester began.

Similarly, Dension – picked second – has had high hopes foiled by Brumett & Co. for three years running. They will return almost all of their leaders from last season for a looming threat that everyone in the NCAC will have to answer to.

One spot behind Wabash in the poll, Wittenberg has been a stumbling block for Wabash in past seasons. With promising young stars coming back with experience, they are the fourth team in the conference that could win the NCAC without making anyone blink.

Other than that, Oberlin, DePauw, Ohio Wesleyan, Oberlin, Kenyon and even Hiram – in their last season in the NCAC – will be sufficient on the court to peel wins away from contenders and possibly pull off crown-busting upsets.

“It's going to be difficult,” said Brumett. “My expectation is we're going to find a way.”



Little Giants win first dual meet in home waters

SAM SANTIAGO '26
STAFF WRITER

A back-to-back schedule of dual meets continued the Little Giants' start to the swimming & diving season. With tough competition and close scores, Wabash came out with two out of three wins in these dual meets.

“Of course it can be mentally challenging, facing a team in back to back meets can be difficult and intimidating,” said Connor Craig '25. “But at the end of the day, we've trust our training and know we're getting put into situations in which we can handle.”

The Little Giants' swimming & diving team took a trip down to Terre Haute, Indiana on October 25 to compete in their first dual meet of the 2024-25 season against the Fightin' Engineers of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It was a Friday night that saw The Little Giants win several events. But in the end, they couldn't rally as a team to reach the overall win. They lost 160-137 to host Rose-Hulman.

Distance swimmer Mason Gilliam '28 took home two individual wins in the distance events. Gilliam scored a victory in the 1000-yard freestyle with a first place time of 9:54.59 and won the 500-yard freestyle with a final time in 4:50.90.

Ryan West '28 and Barrett Smith '26 took home 1st and 2nd place in the 100-yard backstroke with West coming out on top with a time of 54.15 while Smith took home 2nd with a time of 56.11.

Quinn Sweeney '27 won the 200-yard butterfly with a time of



Wabash swimming & diving host a double-dual meet against Albion College and Centre College on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Class of 1954 Natatorium.

1:58.92 and Craig won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.38.

It was a competitive meet throughout the whole night and the momentum continued as the Little Giants faced Albion College and Centre College on Saturday for the team's first home meet at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

The Little Giants came out victorious with a dominant score of 230-56 against Albion College but the main show was against Centre College, it was a duel that went down to the last relay race The Lit-

tle Giants needed a first place and third place finish in the race to get the win and beat Centre.

To start the meet off, Wabash won the 200-yard medley relay. West, Justice Wenz '25, Brody Page '27, and Craig combined to finish in 1:40.28. Sweeney '27 scored an individual victory in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:46.46. Ethan Johns '25 won the 100-yard freestyle with a speedy time of 48.44.

The various wins in multiple events for Wabash allowed for an

exciting last relay race which had the possibility of determining the Little Giants as the winner of the dual meet. In the last relay race of the meet, Wabash needed a first and third place finish to capture the overall team win.

The Wabash relay of Johns, Sweeney, Daniel Streeter '27, and Craig got the necessary win in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a first-place combined time of 1:28.02.

Then to bring home the meet win, John Allen '26, Nicholas

Hakimian '25, Grayson Goff '28 and Brock Schall '27 finished the race in third place with a time of 1:30.44.

“It was a moment I was ready for,” said Schall. “I knew it was going to be a close race and I knew my teammates were counting on me to finish the race. So, I turned my brain off and let the adrenaline and training do the rest of the work.”

“I knew it was going to be a close race and I knew my teammates were counting on me to finish the race. So, I turned my brain off and let the adrenaline and training do the rest of the work.”

-Brock Schall '27

The final score of the meet was Wabash 151, Centre College 148.

It was a huge win for the Little Giants and they look to continue this momentum before the North Coast Athletic Conference meets start.

The team travels for meets on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2 as they compete in the Western Michigan Invite. Friday's competition takes place at Hope College, while Saturday's competition will be hosted at Kalamazoo College.



COURTESY OF TYLER CURNUTT

From left to right, Will Neubauer '25, Justin Santiago '25, Jacob Sitzman '25 and Brayden Curnutt '25 are the veteran runners on the Wabash cross country team who will lead the charge into the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships.

Four seniors lead Red Pack into NCAC Championships

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Pack is ready to take on the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships. As a sport, cross country provides one of the most unique conference championships in all of college athletics.

Unlike football or basketball, winning the NCAC doesn't come from beating opponents one at a time. From summer training through August, September and October, the months of preparation culminate in one day, where every step of the season has to add up to a final score.

The NCAC Championships will take place on Sunday, November 3 at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Four Little Giants, Brayden Curnutt '25, Justin Santiago '25, Will Neubauer '25 and Jacob Sitzman '25 are ready to tackle their senior conference meet with a chance to pin their legacy as one of the most experienced and talented teams in the historic Red Pack program.

The transition from high school to collegiate cross country is a major jump, and every runner had to find their own way forward. Following the process-oriented instruction of Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary, the four seniors gradually made their way into the core of the team.

"Freshman year, you're doing all the workouts and you're on the team and you're not really contributing that much – or it feels like that," said Sitzman. "Then you go to the next year. Maybe we contributed a little more, and then the next year, even more. And now all of us here are integral parts of the team. So it's that slow progress."

"We took very different journeys to where we're at right now," said Santiago. "We've all developed really well over the course of our years here. And a lot of that is Coach McCreary, his focus on development and belief in us as a class."

From the beginning, these seniors have also been students of those who came before.

"I can contribute a lot of my success ... to that senior class that was here when I was a freshman," said Curnutt. "We all can attest to this too, that everyone had a really good relationship with all of them. And the way that they went about their work, either on the track, on the cross country course and then outside of that too – they showed us the ropes of what it means to be a Wabash man and be a member of

the Red Pack."

The team culture is something that was given to these four and something they hope to give down to those who come after.

"[We have] little traditions, we do a Halloween run every year, where we give each other Halloween costumes and we go run down Main Street," said Neubauer. "Or we do a Christmas run. Keeping those traditions alive and well on the team is a huge part of keeping that culture where it should be."

Months of preparation will be settled in a 30-minute race on November 3. The NCAC meet will be brutal, but fair. Every day of preparation for four years has put Curnutt, Neubauer, Santiago and Sitzman in the position to go out and succeed.

Once again the NCAC competition will be fierce with no clear favorite emerging ahead of the meet. In the Pre-Conference Championship Coaches Poll, the Red Pack was picked to finish fourth, but they hope to outperform projections for the second-straight season. To do this, each of the four seniors will need to hit their goal for the race.

"Whether we're picked first or fourth, again – we saw that happen last year – we've got to run the race," said McCreary. "It's an 8,000-meter race on a tough course, and at the end of the day it comes down to who's going to be competitive and composed. And I would take our guys every day of the week over anyone else in the conference."

Curnutt, who has led the team for the entire season hopes to take home the gold finish individually, while helping steer to a repeat as NCAC champions.

"I've kind of caught myself thinking this week, what can I do to get an individual conference championship," said Curnutt. "We all want to individually succeed, but I think the entire team understands that the Red Pack comes first."

Sitzman and Neubauer have been close together in almost every meet, and will be pushing for two top-10 finishes and all-conference honors.

Santiago, recovering from an injury, will be ready to race. As the fifth-place runner on the team, his goal is to shorten the gap and finish as low as he can.

"I might go in there having run once or twice beforehand in the prior month," said Santiago. "But I'm still very focused on the team, and I just have to believe in the biking

and the swimming I've done to try to stay in shape. If we're going to try to win ... the top 25 is where we need our number five guy to be. It's going to be hard to say until I get on the line healthy."

Alongside the four seniors, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 will hope to finish within the top-10 as the usual second man on the team.

"We all want to individually succeed, but I think the entire team understands that the Red Pack comes first."

-Brayden Curnutt '25

If each member of the team executes, they will have a strong shot of winning the meet, but following the culture of the program, the four value the process over the result.

"It's easy to say that a good team is going to win the meet," said Neubauer. "But I think what Coach McCreary has instilled in us is that a good team meet for us is that we leave it all out there."

Soccer fights for a spot in conference tourney

ETHAN COOK '28
STAFF WRITER

The conference schedule can be a tough road, one which the Little Giants have followed almost to the end. On Tuesday, October 29, Wabash soccer played their final home game of the 2024 season. In the game, the Little Giants claimed a necessary victory over Wittenberg University by a final score of 2-1. After falling to Kenyon on Saturday, October 26, they needed to win this game in order to stay in the hunt for a coveted fourth seed in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC).

The pressure of their season being on the line was not enough to make the Little Giants crumble. The playoff spot is still not theirs, but they are not out of the race just yet.

"This win was huge because it means we are not out," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "If we tie or lose this game [Wittenberg], mathematically, we are out."

While the win over Wittenberg was absolutely necessary, so is a win on Saturday, November 2 at Oberlin. On top of needing another victory, there are other pieces that must fall into place for the Little Giants to get into the post-season. Wabash needs nothing short of a miracle in order for their season to continue.

"We need to win out," said Keller. "We need Ohio Wesleyan to beat DePauw and we need Wooster to defeat or draw with DePauw."

Despite a turbulent season that is now a long shot to continue into the playoffs, the Little Giants have improved greatly from last year. Now they look to carry those strides that they have taken into next season.

"We have improved in pretty much every single category," said Keller. "In terms of wins, losses and stats. We are a better team than we were last year and we just hit the 10-win mark, which is not easy to do in college."

This year has seen improvements for Wabash, not just as a team, but for the individual players as well. Goalkeeper Fernando Ramos '25 has saved 49 shots on

the goal, an uptick from his 46 last season. However, he has not only improved statistically.

"My biggest improvement has been my mentality," said Ramos. "I think my mentality and leadership has improved greatly over the last three years."

Niall Gavin '26 is another player who has gotten vastly better since last season. He has earned a starting spot on the team this year after only playing in four games and starting none last year and is making the most of his opportunity.

"In terms of wins, losses and stats. We are a better team than we were last year and we just hit the 10-win mark, which is not easy to do in college."

-Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller

"I did not see many minutes as a sophomore," said Gavin. "I think I have improved by just learning from the other guys and when Coach [Keller] gives you your chance, you have got to step up and take it."

The importance of the 2024 campaign and keeping it alive is not lost on anyone on the team, especially not the seniors. They have stepped up and embraced their roles as seniors on the team, looking forward to the future while remembering the past.

"This season has meant the world to me," said Ramos. "The memories, I cannot describe it honestly and it's something that I am going to hold in my heart forever."

The 2024 campaign has been one full of improvements for the Little Giants, almost across the board. A team that finished 6-7-4 last season has now hit the 10-win mark. Now, with playoff aspirations still alive, they turn towards Oberlin with winning being an absolute necessity.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jose Escalante '26 posts up against a Wittenberg player as he waits for a pass to fall into his possession on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at Fischer Field.



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Little Giants hand out third shutout of 2024

10 sacks tie single-game record and pave the way for historic season

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

It seems like the Little Giants have a new way to make history every week this season. The Wabash football team continued its dominant run in conference play with a decisive 38-0 shutout victory over Kenyon College on October 26 for its third shutout of the year.

This is the first season since 2014 that the Scarlet & White have recorded three shutouts in the same year.

Over the last three games, the Little Giants have only allowed seven points, with Saturday's game showcasing an unstoppable defense that racked up 10 sacks, tying a school record for the most in a single game. This win advances Wabash to 6-1 on the season and keeps them unbeaten in conference play at 5-0.

The Little Giants defense remained gap sound, only allowing 11 rush yards to Kenyon and forcing the Owl offense to rely on the passing game. In the first quarter, defensive lineman Jordan Cree '27 blocked a field goal which was scooped up and taken to the house by cornerback Avery Epstein '25.

This scoop and score is the third defensive touchdown the team has put on the board this season. Additionally, the 10 sacks on the day matched records set in 2001, 2004 and 2006 for the most in a single game. The tenacity and aggressiveness of the defense is proving to be one of the strongest units in the conference and in recent school history.

"Our guys are in attack mode all the time," said Associate Head Football Coach & Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert '98. "We're doing a great job of the things we emphasize; taking the ball away, preventing explosive plays, being great on first down, being great in the red zone and sometimes scoring the ball ourselves."

"We try to put our guys in predicaments where it's natural for them to be uncomfortable and be

tired, so in the game time in the fourth quarter, we still expect them to do their job very well at a high level," said Defensive Line Coach Marcus Adams. "We don't expect a drop off from our group, so if we trust you enough to play, you better go in there and do your job."

What's more impressive is the defensive line operates with an eight-man rotation throughout the entirety of their games, ensuring everyone gets their share in the sack party.

"Of all the positions on the football team, they play more people than any other position, yet their position just had a re-

cord-setting day for a school that's had football for over a century," said Gilbert.

Offensively, Wabash pounded the ball early and fooled the Kenyon defense with a few delayed handoffs. One of these draw plays resulted in a touchdown by Xavier Tyler '26, while Cole Dickerson '28 found his way into the endzone with an explosive run late in the third quarter.

Receiver TJ Alexander '26 helped extend the Little Giant lead to 21 when he took an end-around reverse play to the house. Alexander has displayed patience before making his way into the main receiver rotation, but with

W. 38  0



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Dakota Johnson '28 (left) and RJ Tolbert '26 (right) celebrate Tolbert's sack in the Little Giants' game against Kenyon on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

"Our guys are in attack mode all the time."

-Associate Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Avery Epstein '25 returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown in the Little Giants' game against Kenyon on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

18 receptions, 259 yards and two touchdowns on the year, he is becoming a key component to the offensive air attack.

"Waiting my turn the first couple years was a challenge for sure, but it was good for me because I learned a lot just from watching," said Alexander.

"The receivers are a collective group that are all developing nicely," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. "They're incredibly hard workers, study film, they're knowledgeable and I think we're going to see them continue hitting big plays down the stretch."

Although the team has been dominant in the past three weeks, they now face its toughest chal-

lenges yet in the final three matchups of the season, which starts with welcoming Denison University to Crawfordsville this weekend. Although the Big Red are 6-3 on the year, their three losses have come to nationally-ranked opponents, one being the School Down South. Knowing the Little Giants are in for a back-and-forth battle that will last all four quarters, the team will continue operating its fast-paced offense and will out-work Denison when adversity hits.

"The ability to go fast is such an advantage for us and will always be part of the offense," said Morel. "We're going to have that in the plan and will need to bring our A-game."

"We [must] have that same level of focus and intentionality at the end of the game as we do in the beginning," said Gilbert. "Then there's got to be a level of resolve and hunger that gets you over the top in the tight game with confidence and great focus. Someone's going to break down somewhere. It's not going to be us."

Wabash seeks to remain unbeaten in North Coast Athletic Conference play on Saturday, October 30 when they clash with the Big Red at Little Giant Stadium.

WABASH		KENYON	
199 PASSING YARDS	83 RUSHING YARDS	80 PASSING YARDS	11 RUSHING YARDS
282 TOTAL OFFENSE		91 TOTAL OFFENSE	

Veterans hold the line through season highs and lows

O-line serves as the backbone of offensive success through conference season

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR

As Wabash football marches past the halfway mark of their North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) campaign, the Little Giants have been one of the highest-producing offenses in the conference, riding exemplary performances of running back Xavier Tyler '26. But, behind Tyler's 103.1 yards per game and 722 rushing yards (both leading the NCAC), stand five reasons for Wabash's success running and passing the ball: their offensive line.

On every football team, the offensive line is the cornerstone of offensive success. Their ability to block on both running and passing plays allows skill players to achieve statistical greatness, week in and week out.

Offensive linemen typically have no stats. They are the team's silent guardians, blocking unselfishly to give their team the best chance of scoring.

This season, Wabash's line of Kanon Kelley '25, Enrique Ruiz '25, Cameron Ford '25, Quinn Sholar '26 and Jax Bower '27 drive the second-best offense in the NCAC. A veteran crew with four upperclassmen and three returning starters, these Little Giants bring experience to this year's offense, commanding the line of scrimmage against their opponents.

Their stellar play this season has already earned them D3football.com's "Team of the Week" honors for their standout performance against the College of Wooster on October 5, 2024. With 577 total yards of offense against Wooster and a scorching 334 yards on the ground, the Little Giants' offensive line certainly packs a potent punch.

"I would say that this group specifically comes with a lot of maturity," said Ford. "We don't have the explosive offense that we've had in the past. With that, you have to rely on the offensive



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
The Wabash offensive line squares off against the opposing defensive line in the Little Giants' game against St. Norbert College on September 7, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

line a little more to get things going. If we're going to win games, if we're going to dominate, then it's going to run through us first."

And run through them it has. One of the major stories of this season for Wabash has been the loss of senior quarterback Blake White '25 to injury and the introduction of Brand Campbell '27 into the starting position. With no experience playing at the collegiate level, Campbell needed all the help he could get from his experienced linemen while acclimating to the speed of the game.

"Early on, the goal was to take as much load off of Brand as possible," said Ford. "That comes in two forms. Firstly, we don't want him running too much and getting too free, because that's where a lot of those late hits can come. But secondly, a lot of it came through the calls that we gave: protection calls, flipping plays and switching plays."

To alleviate the pressure from Campbell, many of the typical audible calls or pressure adjustments that Wabash quarterbacks

typically make at the line of scrimmage were made by the linemen, not by Campbell. Head Football Coach Don Morel was able to lean on his linemen to mobilize the Little Giants offense, keeping it running smoothly during Campbell's transition to starting QB.

"These are highly intelligent guys whose hobby is that they love offensive line play," said Morel. "They take incredible pride in their technique and scheme, and with a young quarterback back there, he doesn't need to worry about the protection of those guys up front."

"[The line] helped a lot. They made me feel comfortable back there and took control of blitz checks to take the pressure off me," said Campbell. "I've had all the time in the world to throw the ball. It helps a lot when you have one of the best o-lines in the country blocking for you."

Along with their second-to-none knowledge of the Wabash offense, these linemen also bring an aggressive attitude and physical play to the table on gameday.

They take specific pleasure in bringing the physicality to their opponents, setting the tone for the game they want to play, especially in the run game.

"I feel like, between the five of us, fun comes with physicality," said Kelley. "This year especially, we really put emphasis on that. I think being able to run the ball is fun for all of us."

Part of the success that Wabash has seen in the run game has come from slower developing plays where linemen pull from their initial positions and block out in open space, creating lanes for running backs to cut off, which make big holes for big plays.

"[The coaches] are getting us in open space," said Ruiz. "They're allowing us to pull, being able to get to the second level easier and more efficiently. This allows for us to play looser. And, we can get to the linebackers in the secondary level, while making the holes for our guys."

"These guys are work horses, but they're also race horses," said Assistant Football Coach Olmy Ol-

mstead '03. "I've got fast, agile guys that I can get in space to give us an advantage."

Playing on the line is a unique skill. To perform well as a unit, there has to be perfect communication and understanding between all five players, bordering on telepathy. Each member needs to know exactly what the others are doing at any given moment. This sort of connection cannot only be bred on the field, but developed off it as well.

"Something I believe that helps us as a unit off the field is that we know how to leave football at football and actually be interested in what each of us have going on in our personal lives," said Sholar. "And that gives me even more of a reason to play for the person to the right of me. I feel like that translates to the field as well."

"Off the field, we try to keep things not as serious," said Bower. "We're joking around with each other, and building up rapport. Falling into that has helped us know what each other is thinking on the field, so that we can work together a lot better."

Playing offensive line is the only position in all of sports where the primary goal is the protection of another player. It is a one-of-one experience, requiring a special blend of physical strength, quickness, high football IQ and teamwork that is unparalleled in almost any other discipline. To do it well takes hours of practice, film study and camaraderie. The Wabash offensive line does it great.

"I think it's pretty obvious that [DePauw] is ranked pretty high right now," said Kelley. "But we always say that the Little Giants will be on top at the end. I fully have faith in that. And we're going to [win the Bell] with the five of us here."