

Wetzel '27 named next Editor-In-Chief of The Bachelor



COURTESY OF ELIJAH WETZEL '27

JAMES "JIMBO" WALLACE '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The opportunity to study abroad isn't something that all Wabash men get to experience, but students who have spent an entire semester learning on another continent know that while it is the experience of a lifetime, it can be tough getting back into the high-intensity environment of Wabash. For Elijah Wetzel '27, who has spent this semester studying at The University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland, his new role as the next Editor-in-Chief of *The Bachelor* shows that he is not taking the easy road coming back to Wabash.

Wetzel has been a part of *The Bachelor* for the entirety of his Wabash journey – he initially started as a staff writer before moving his way up to co-edit the Features section alongside his pledge brother Ty Murphy '27. He also gained some experience as the News Editor before he traveled across the pond for his study abroad experience.

"*The Bachelor* has been one of the most impactful aspects of my time at Wabash," said Wetzel. "I've been very lucky to have learned from a lot of capable and talented editors, but also some exceptional leaders. Having consistent guidance and mentorship from the editors in the class of 2025 and the current leadership of the paper has been invaluable."

But Wetzel has not spent all of his time focused on the student voice of Wabash College. Earlier this semester, Wetzel was elected the president of the Alpha Kappa Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha. He is also involved with the Public Health Organization, the Pre-Law Society and has previously served in the Student Senate. Wetzel also works on-campus in the registrar's office and as a consultant in the Writing Center.

"Wetzel is a fearless leader," said fellow brother of Lambda Chi Alpha

Zach Geleott '27. "He always goes above and beyond. If he has to write two articles a week, he would take care of it. Within the house, he has solidified himself as a leader from freshman year – he's not afraid to speak his mind."

As a religion major and political science and global health double minor, Wetzel currently plans to pursue law school following his time at Wabash. Following law school, Wetzel is also interested in pursuing religion or public health at graduate school.

"Elijah is a delightful person to work with," said Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor Scott Himself '85. "I'm blessed with having many very talented students – that said, Elijah stands out as a very strong writer about controversial issues in the law and involving poverty. He's energetic, eager to participate and when he does, he helps the class move forward."

Wetzel, as the next custodian of *The Bachelor*, will have his work cut out for him as he hopes to

continue the success of the newspaper. Notably, *The Bachelor* has been named back-to-back-to-back Division III Newspaper of the Year by the Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA), something that has never been accomplished in the history of the paper. The pressure will be on to continue this success in the world of student journalism in the state of Indiana.

It's important for the community of alumni, administration, students and faculty to have trust in the newspaper. Elijah is the sort of person that will allow us to continue to repose trust in *The Bachelor*."

- Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor Scott Himself '85

"The standard of success that has been set the last three years is our benchmark," said Wetzel. "I feel the pressure to set our team up to continue the high level of reporting that our readers are used to – I would love to make our three-peat a four-peat, that's the goal. But

success in ICPAs ultimately comes from creating the best issue we can every week, so in that sense it should be business as usual from one week to the next."

With plenty on his plate for the start of 2026, Wetzel will need to ensure prudent planning and acclimation back into *The Bachelor*, particularly as he begins to navigate the switch away from Type G elec-

trical outlets. He has a clear plan for success that is focused on building off of the success that *The Bachelor* has experienced in years past.

"I've been able to write for the student newspaper in Edinburgh and have written a fair amount about my study abroad experience, so sliding back into writing and editing won't be difficult," said Wetzel. "But I will have to recalibrate on how to construct an issue in our software and lead the team. I'm lucky to have Nathan Ellenberger '26 continuing as the Managing Editor – he's fantastic at what he does and will be a big help to me this upcoming spring. I'm excited to get back to work and continue the tradition of excellence we have within the office of *The Bachelor*."

As Wetzel prepares to take the reins of *The Bachelor*, his plans for continued excellence will make a lasting impact on the Wabash community. *The Bachelor* stands as an established and credible cornerstone between the intersection of free press and student involvement on campus.

"It's important for the community of alumni, administration, students and faculty to have trust in the newspaper," said Himself. "Elijah is the sort of person that will allow us to continue to repose trust in *The Bachelor*."



COURTESY OF ELIJAH WETZEL '27

Elijah Wetzel '27 poses atop Old Man Storr after a rainy ascent during a trip to the Isle of Skye on October 18, 2025.



COURTESY OF ELIJAH WETZEL '27

Wetzel in front of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis Hill when visiting Athens on December 6 and 7, 2025. The trip was supported by the Miller Family Fund.

Scarlet Masque back in the saddle

One man show, 'Boiler Room Six' set to premiere December 12 and 13



COURTESY OF ALEX SCHMIDT '27

Alex Schmidt in role as Fredrick Barrett in the one man show Boiler Room Six put on by the student run theater group Scarlet Masque

DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29
STAFF WRITER

This week, the Scarlet Masque from Wabash College's student theater group is putting "Boiler Room Six" on display, a gripping one-man show by playwright Tom Foreman. The production, starring Alex Schmidt '27 and directed by Xavier Cienfuegos '27, will be performed at 7 p.m. on December 12 and 13 in the Experimental Theater at the Fine Arts Center. Doors open both nights at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and no tickets are required.

"Boiler Room Six" tells the true story of Frederick

Barrett, a Titanic stoker who worked deep in the boiler rooms during the ship's voyage. Based on official testimony and surviving documents, the play highlights the overlooked heroism of the men below deck.

For Schmidt, who has performed in many Wabash productions since arriving on campus and has even worked behind the scenes in "1984", this show marks both a new challenge and a natural step in his artistic journey.

Schmidt says his passion for theater started immediately at Wabash.

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Indiana and national redistricting showdown

This week in regional news

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
STAFF WRITER

The past four months have been a constant debate over whether the Indiana State Legislature will redraw the congressional maps for the state. Over the past two weeks, the State Legislature has been in session to do just that. Here is what has been going at the State Capitol.

House Bill 1032, passed on Friday, December 5, 2025, in a largely party-line vote of 57-41. The legislation has since moved to the Indiana Senate, where its future remains uncertain despite clearing a committee vote.

State senators in Indiana advanced a proposal to redraw the state's congressional boundaries on Monday, December 8. However, it is not clear if it has the support to become law in a final vote expected later this week, even after months of pressure from President Donald Trump. The legislation was designed to favor GOP candidates in next year's midterm elections. Republicans control the State Senate, but many have been hesitant or openly opposed to mid-decade redistricting.

About a dozen State Senators have been threatened over their stance or refusal to declare support over the past several weeks. Numerous Republican State Senators have had their homes swatted by author-



COURTESY OF INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

Debate over redistricting has been prevalent since the start of the Braun administration, with both democrats and republicans in the state house speaking out against it.

ities, with multiple false calls to police being made on Senators Kyle Walker, Greg Walker, Greg Goode, Dan Dernulc, Rick Niemeyer and Spencer Deery have all been swatted. Senators Jean Leising and Andy Zay have been the target of bomb threats.

Still, the Senate's elections committee voted 6-3 to advance the measure, with one Republican and two Democratic lawmakers opposing it. The final vote of the whole chamber is expected on Thursday and could test Trump's typically iron grip on the Republican Party.

But Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray has warned there are "not enough votes to move that idea forward," as he said in November, when the first

special session was called off for lack of votes. Sixteen Senate Republicans have publicly come out in favor of a redraw — some more enthusiastically than others. Another 14 are against.

Indiana's Constitution requires a majority of the 50-member Senate to approve legislation. That means the 40-strong Republican supermajority must muster at least 26 votes to pass the bill if all 10 Democrats oppose. Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith can break a 25-25 tie.

In the current congressional maps, drawn in 2021, Republicans maintained a 7-2 GOP advantage. Democratic Rep. Frank Mrvan holds the first District in northwest Indiana, while Democratic Rep. André Carson holds the Seventh District in

Indianapolis.

The map, introduced just last Monday and passed by the Republican supermajority in the state House on Friday, would split the city of Indianapolis into four districts distributed across other Republican-leaning areas. It also groups the cities of East Chicago and Gary with a broad rural region.

Indiana is the latest state to attempt to redraw their congressional maps. The fight began when Republicans in Texas, the most populous Republican state, approved a rare mid-decade new congressional map aimed at flipping five House seats now occupied by Democrats. California, the most populous Democratic state, soon responded by initiating its own redistricting effort targeting five Republican-held districts. Other states, both Republican and Democratic, have followed suit or threatened to do so.

These redistricting changes will affect who controls the House after the 2026 midterms. Other states that have redrawn or are in the process of redrawing them are: Texas R+5, Missouri R+1, Ohio R+0-3, North Carolina R+1, Indiana R+2 and Florida R+1-5. Democrats have also redrawn the congressional maps in some of their states. California D+5 and Utah D+1.

Kidnapping, World Cup, Honduras and more

News around the world

Over 300 students kidnapped in Nigeria

PHILIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

On November 21, armed gunmen and bandits abducted 303 students and 12 teachers from St. Mary's Catholic boarding school in the village of Papiri, Nigeria. Children as young as six years old were marched into remote bushland in northern Nigeria. Mass abduction for ransom is rampant in northern Nigeria where the region

is insecure and extremist insurgent groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP operate. The kidnapping was so vast that 50 children escaped without harm within a day of their being taken. On December 7, Nigerian authorities secured one hundred of the children and took them into custody for medical checkup before release to their families. As of December 10, 150 people still remain missing.

The incident has caused the president of Nigeria, Bola Tinubu, to declare a state of emergency and order the recruitment of an additional twenty thousand police officers. The goal is to prevent disasters like these in the more remote areas of Nigeria. One hopes they succeed in acquiring the approximately 150 remaining children and teachers in captivity.

World Cup sparks trade talks

The United States, Canada and Mexico are set to co-host this coming summer's FIFA World Cup. The reveal for teams and matchups took place on December 5, at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. The heads of government from Mexico and Canada—Claudia Sheinbaum and Mark Carney—attended the draw alongside President Donald J. Trump. 48 teams

total will be divided among 12 groups, making this the largest World Cup ever. 16 cities will hold matches. Immediately after the proceedings, however, the three heads of state held a rare meeting with zero staff in the vicinity or record of their talks. People close to them have said they focused on trade, specifically the continental trade agreement called CUSMA.

Interestingly, this is nothing new. Vladimir Putin utilized the games as a chance to meet world leaders in 2018. For the Qatar 2022 games, Gulf countries met with European and United States officials to discuss energy. While it may primarily be a sporting event, the World Cup and the prestige it entails also serves as an occasion for diplomacy and political discussion.

Honduras issues international warrant for former president

The attorney general of Honduras asked Interpol and international authorities to arrest former President Juan Orlando Hernández on December 8. This comes after President Donald J. Trump gave him a full and unconditional pardon on December 1. Hernández was sentenced to 45 years in prison in 2024 by the U.S.

Hernández was once credited as being a close ally of America in anti-narcotics operations. U.S. and Honduran forces have worked together to combat the drug trade. This, however, proved to be a façade. Federal prosecutors successfully showed Hernández had used his position to preserve certain traffickers from anti-drug operations,

facilitated cocaine trafficking and stymied prosecutorial efforts against drug lords.

This move from the current Honduran government reflects its attempt to root out the corruption that formerly marked it as well as assert its sovereignty against the U.S.

China hits \$1 trillion trade surplus

China's trade surplus has reached U.S. \$1.076 trillion after exports grew 5% and outstripped import growth by a factor of three, which has slipped. This is the largest in world history and comes in spite of combined pressure from tariffs and global growth slowing as a whole. China has tried to increase domestic consumption, how-

ever the command economy has still come up short in that effort while demand from Europe and Asia has only grown. There are a few potential pitfalls to these recent trends. The export-led economy means that any economic instability abroad becomes instability in house. Lacking domestic consumption, a poor real-es-

tate sector and shifting social-welfare challenges also mean that long-term growth may be unstable. Even though it has a population of 1.4 billion, China's rapid aging and low fertility make it susceptible to a collapse along these lines.

Scarlet Masque

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"I got involved as soon as I could by auditioning for 'Something Rotten!'" said Schmidt. "I did theater all throughout high school, and I knew this was a passion I wanted to pursue in and after college."

He has continued his passion, not just from his self interest but also by the community around him in the Wabash theater department. "What keeps me coming

that's worth it. I've met some of my closest friends through theater, like Carson [Wirtz] and Xavier [Cienfuegos]. Working with them just makes everything click."

Schmidt and director Xavier Cienfuegos discovered "Boiler Room Six" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the moment they saw it, they knew it belonged at Wabash. "Seeing the show at Fringe and the unique theatrical experience it created really spoke to us," said Schmidt. "We knew we needed to debut

Chris Board '27 did fantastic work on sound. Xavier is a phenomenal director, and Carson is one of the best stage managers anyone could ask for."

Schmidt admitted that his role has been harder in practice than in theory. "The hardest part is portraying different characters at the same time and distinguishing them from one another," said Schmidt. "Learning the lines was tough, but acting them out was a whole other issue."



COURTESY OF ALEX SCHMIDT '27

Scarlet Masque's production of Boiler Room Six will show on December 12 and 13 in the Experimental Theater in the Fine Arts Center.

back is the emotional relationship I have with the arts and how much they impact my life," said Schmidt. "Working with anyone in the Wabash theater department feels like being part of a family. Everyone cares and looks out for each other to put a show on stage."

His dedication appears in every production over the past two and a half years comes from both personal conviction and the people surrounding him. "Theater is a place to escape reality and enjoy the drama unfolding before you," said Schmidt. "If you can provide someone a message they carry forward, or give comedy to someone who's struggling,

this style of art at Wabash."

Schmidt preparing to portray Frederick Barrett required a lot of intense research. "We looked into documentaries and articles about stokers and how they worked on the Titanic," said Schmidt. "I read Barrett's testimony from the U.S. and U.K. hearings. I tried hard to encompass myself in his life and portray what he would've been going through."

While "Boiler Room Six" is a one-man show, Schmidt is quick to credit the team around him. "I wouldn't say I'm carrying the whole show," said Schmidt. "We have great guys working behind the scenes.

As for holding an audience's attention alone onstage, Schmidt focuses on immersion. "The most important thing is making the audience believe they're really there," said Schmidt. "If they can imagine themselves in the characters' positions on board the ship, then the show becomes believable for everyone."

"Boiler Room Six" invites Wabash students and the community to experience a powerful, historically grounded story of courage, sacrifice, and survival. All brought to life by one actor, one voice, and one extraordinary true story.

Staff of The Bachelor teach local middle schoolers about reporting campus news

In a partnership with College Mentors for Kids, editors of The Bachelor taught local middle schoolers about the work it takes to create a student newspaper and hosted a fun build-your-own newspaper activity on December 4, 2025, in Hays Hall.



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

'Stranger Things Season 5' starts off strong



COURTESY OF TMDB

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

After a two-year wait, "Stranger Things" returns with the first four episodes of its fifth and final season, an opening act that immediately signals the series is operating on its biggest emotional and narrative scale yet. If Season 4 widened the battlefield, Season 5 makes it personal. Every storyline is charged with the sense that the show is building toward an irreversible end, and these early chapters waste no time immersing viewers in a Hawkins that feels familiar on the surface but fundamentally fractured underneath.

The emotional anchor of these episodes is Will Byers (Noah Schnapp), whose connection to the Upside Down has evolved from mysterious link to psychological burden to full-blown impending crisis. Schnapp delivers the strongest performance of his run on the show, portraying a Will who is terrified, self-aware and unwilling to keep quiet anymore. His episodes-long struggle, trying to interpret the visions that now strike without warning, forms the narrative spine of this opening arc. The show finally treats Will not as the mystery, but as the protagonist forced to confront it. His scenes with Jonathan (Charlie Heaton) recapture the rawness of their earlier brotherly bond, while his interactions with Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) are heavy with unspoken fears and long overdue honesty.

Eleven enters Season 5 not as a scared teenager rebuilding her identity, but as someone fueled by a singu-

lar, burning purpose: killing Vecna (Jamie Campbell Bowler). The emotional losses of Season 4 have not weakened her, they have hardened her resolve. From the opening episode, the show makes it clear that Eleven has shifted from reactive to relentless. There is no hesitation, no wavering and every decision she makes is guided by the belief that she must be the one to finish this fight.

Rather than dwelling in confusion or fear, Eleven channels her trauma into a kind of fierce clarity. Brown plays her with a sharpened edge this season—her voice steadier, her posture tighter, her temper closer to the surface. She's not reckless, but she's noticeably more confrontational, pushing back when anyone suggests holding her back or buying time. The group's instinct to protect her only intensifies her determination. She refuses pity, refuses caution and refuses the idea that someone else could face Vecna in her place.

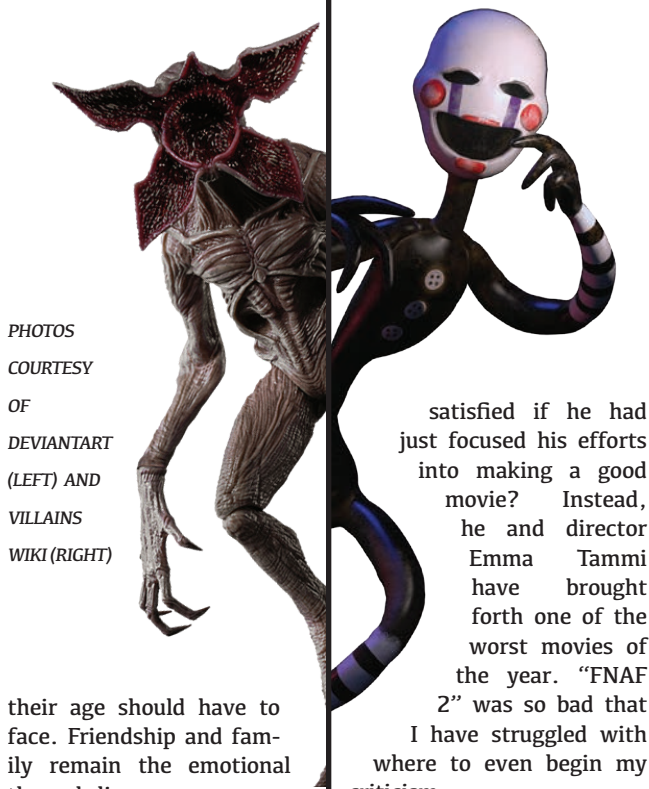
Structurally, the first four episodes juggle multiple clusters of characters, but the pacing is tighter than Season 4's globe-spanning sprawl. Hawkins, despite being partially destroyed, remains the heart of the story—its eerie quietness serving as a constant reminder of what was lost and what is still at stake. Mike (Finn Wolfhard), Dustin (Gaten Matarazzo) and Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin) spend much of these episodes trying to reconnect the pieces between Will's visions, Eleven's instability and the growing sense that the Upside Down is no longer a separate realm

but actively bleeding into reality. Their chemistry feels more mature, more grounded, yet still capable of the show's trademark heart.

Lucas, in particular, shines. His emotional depth, especially in scenes wrestling with survivor's guilt and the lingering loss of Max (Sadie Sink), adds weight to a group dynamic that has long depended on humor to soften its edges. McLaughlin plays Lucas as someone who wants desperately to be strong for the others while quietly unraveling himself.

Visually and tonally, these episodes push the show into its most horror-driven territory yet. The Upside Down's evolution is psychological; the show uses sound, silence and environmental distortion to build tension long before any creature appears on screen. Episode 2's house sequence feels like a spiritual successor to the Demogorgon-era suspense of Season 1, but with the stakes and trauma of four seasons layered on top.

Yet even with the increased darkness, the series never loses its sense of intimacy. The characters argue, break down, reconnect and hold onto each other in ways that remind the audience that "Stranger Things" was always a story about kids caught in something no one



PHOTOS
COURTESY
OF
DEVIANTART
(LEFT) AND
VILLAINS
WIKI (RIGHT)

their age should have to face. Friendship and family remain the emotional through-lines.

By the time Episode 4 closes, Season 5 has firmly established its priorities: character first and mythology second, but with both feeding off each other in ways the show hasn't achieved since its early seasons. These four episodes lay the groundwork for a finale defined not just by battles or powers, but by relationships: Will facing what he's feared for years, Eleven confronting what she was raised to be, and Hawkins preparing for whatever storm is still coming.

If these opening chapters prove anything, it is that "Stranger Things" is not interested in playing it safe. It wants to end not just big, but meaningful, and Season 5's first act makes that mission incredibly clear.

'Five Nights At Freddy's 2' clogs Hollywood's arteries

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

In the wake of last week's announcement that Netflix plans to buy the century-old studio Warner Bros. two things have happened. First, many have begun to wonder if the vocally anti-theater streaming service will pull all of Warner Brother's future films out of multiplexes and dump them into an endless ocean of content for people to stream while they play Clash Royale on their phone. Second, "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" ("FNAF 2") was released to the public, turned a massive profit and was adored by fans. As I write this now, it is hard to tell which of the two is more troubling for the future of the movies.

I saw the now-viral split between critics and fans on rotten tomatoes (13% for critics and 88% for audiences) coming as early as last year. In celebration of the original game's tenth anniversary, series creator (and the writer of this movie) Scott Cawthon did an interview with a YouTube named Dawko. When reflecting on the reception of the first movie, Cawthon stated his intentions to please the fans first. Similar sentiments have been echoed by other crew members during the film's press tour.

This attitude was a red flag. Would the fans not be



COURTESY OF TMDB

ing to the theater in-costume and buying Freddy Fazbear popcorn buckets flipped their lid when they saw that "Doug the Lawyer" made his return from the first film. That did not stop the filmmakers from interrupting a tense scene to show him off, giving him a corny "Yup, it's me!" line straight out of the MCU. Did his appearance lead to any payoff? Nope, but he still drank up screen time.

Despite the talent of the set designers, the film's world is inconsistent and baffling in scale. Characters are able to walk long distances very quickly, but clicking four buttons on a computer takes one character over fifteen minutes of in-universe time. Obtrusive plot holes like this are everywhere. How and why characters do what they do is either just because the plot needs them to, or is over-explained to the point of tedium. Just as incoherent as the characters is the logic of worldbuilding. The way that the ghost logic works is over-complicated, making some of the movie's scariest moments hard to follow.

On the topic of scary moments, it is clear that "FNAF 2" aims to be more of a horror movie than the first. Some frightening visuals and brutal kills were memorable, but Tammi's directing, much like the script, is held back by the need to reference the games. There is a particular sequence that had a strong setup, but quickly devolved into illogical silliness because rather than be its own thing, it had to play out like the video game.

Even if the sequence had a better presentation, there would still not be much actu-

al tension. In typical slasher fashion, it does not take any speculation skills to clock exactly which characters will live or die based on their introduction scene alone. Were these characters more developed, perhaps the audience would be more invested once they get picked off. Instead, their unsurprising deaths just feel like a waste of time.

To be fair, not everything was bad. While most of the performances were unengaging, Freddy Carter (while given very little to work with) brings an intimidating performance. Mathew Lillard and Skeet Ulrich also do a lot with a very small role, and it is neat to see the "Scream" alumnus share the screen again. The production design was creative, the lighting was functional and the animatronics themselves look realistic and fantastic.

The biggest surprise of the movie is definitely the sound design. Chris Welcker, who worked on this year's hit "Sinners", and Trevor Gates, notable for working on "Get Out", killed it with a haunting ambience, and legitimately frightening sound design for the animatronics themselves. Unless you have a home theater, it may be worth a trip to the theater just for their work alone, and I am not kidding.

Still, to appreciate their work, you must endure a case study for nearly everything wrong with the modern film industry. "FNAF 2" is a self-obsessed brand extension more concerned with showing you something that you recognize than making itself worth your time.

satisfied if he had just focused his efforts into making a good movie? Instead, he and director Emma Tammi have brought forth one of the worst movies of the year. "FNAF 2" was so bad that

I have struggled with where to even begin my criticism.

I suppose the agonizing script is at the heart of the movie's problems. Cawthon disregards continuity, character motivations, subtext and natural-sounding dialogue in favor of a story that acts more like a parade of things from the games. Incessant references to memes and easter eggs litter the plot. That would not be a problem on its own if they were unobtrusive, but the plot actually bends over backwards to make them work. A fan may understand them as a mere nod to the games, but for newcomers, they are confusing setups with no payoff.

Even some of the easter eggs and cameos themselves do not hit regardless of whether you are a fan or not. I doubt any of the folks com-

semble," said Cruz. "Maestro Maceda came in this semester very enthusiastic and ambitious, and though we did have to scale back a few of his expectations from the group, he has managed to maintain most of his goals for us as an ensemble and has managed to introduce the mariachi genre to members who haven't interacted with it."

"Ivan has changed the feeling of the band for what I would say is positive," said Phillips. "With Ivan he has helped raise the expectations for us to better ourselves and be more authentic towards the tradition of Mariachi."

With the semester coming to an end, involved members are excited about the future of the band and what it could bring to Wabash College and its students.

"I think that our ensemble has two goals when it comes to our performances," said

Cruz. "First, we hope to play the music for people that don't hear it often. Secondly, Mariachi music is extremely underplayed in our community, especially for the kind of demographics that make it up. So, we hope to reconnect people who might've grown up listening to this music back to their culture and their roots."

"What I would like to do moving forward is to solidify the repertoire," said Maceda. "I would also love to start performing in the Crawfordsville community. Hopefully, we will be able to get the authentic Mariachi suits to perform."

Maestro Maceda aims to accomplish these goals through student motivation.

"I hope that the current students realized after our first performance at the end of the semester that to play this type of music is fun, that

it brings them joy and that we share this passion with our listeners," said Maceda. "I hope this motivates them to keep up with the good work and to put a little bit of extra effort in arranging their schedules so they can practice even more."

The Mariachi band will have their first concert under the new director on December 14th in Salter Hall. This organization is growing fast and attracting students from all classes. The band has found success with freshmen even while they adjust to college life, and currently around 20% of the people involved in the band are from the class of 2029. With the new director and the interest of the nearby city, this organization aims to grow the impact they have not only in Wabash but in the Crawfordsville community.

Mariachi band enriches Wabash

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Wabash community take pride in the idea of being a global citizen. Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes, the mariachi band, presents Wabash students with the opportunity to expand their music knowledge and enjoy a unique display of talent. Mariachi originated in the 18th century in the Jalisco region in Mexico.

As of this semester, Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes has a director to take this organization to new horizons. Ivan Maceda serves as the new Mariachi Director and is an Adjunct Instructor of Music.

"My first semester at Wabash went by pretty fast. My first impressions were that Wabash College has a very nice and gentle community



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Los Pequeños Gigantes performs at Delta Tau Delta in 2024.

of students and staff," said Maceda. "Mariachi music depends on playing from memory and has been particularly challenging to cover as much as possible, both in depth and in quantity. However, I am more than satisfied with what we have been able to accomplish"

From the other side, students involved in the band are appreciative of Maceda. Both Alejandro Cruz '27 and Connor Phillips '28 praised Ivan's work.

"We couldn't have had a more knowledgeable and enthusiastic maestro working on building us up as an en-

'One More Time' review: an overproduced classic rock masterpiece



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

Twelve harmoniously layered vocal tracks of Aerosmith's lead singer Steven Tyler and hit artist Yungblud initially enthrall the audience with a nuanced weightiness and vivid vibrato in the opening of "My Only Angel," the first track of Aerosmith's and Yungblud's EP. In the 55th year of Aerosmith's reign in rock, a collaboration with Yungblud was unanticipated yet quickly met with eagerness from their global fanbases. "One More Time" reached the coveted number one spot in the UK's Top Albums Chart and rose to number nine on the Billboard 200 Chart.

The EP begins by debuting a punch-in-the-head opening with Steven Tyler's recognizable voice piercing through the track with a tasteful vigor. It is quickly followed by a funky lead guitar paired with classic rock drums. In the first verse, Tyler's vocals have a refined volatility that leave the listener satisfied yet yearning for more. When the main part plays, the listener is overwhelmed by a dominant chorus that is catchy, yet soulful enough to make one play the air guitar. Yungblud picks up the microphone in the second verse, showing off his gifted voice that he utilizes to follow in the footsteps of Stephen Tyler's performance. While the song has a modern feel, it still has that classic feel that resembles early Aerosmith.

The second song, "Problems," eases into a more upbeat rock tune that begins with a captivating guitar. After the drop, fans are met with the voice of Yungblud that does not disappoint. The song is similar to the previous, with a well-written and catchy chorus and exceptional charisma from both artists. After the first chorus plays, the song takes an unexpected turn to a wilder state, where Yungblud shifts from

"Problems" by mirroring the powerful opening of "My Only Angel" and dissolving into a moderate vibe in the verses. Yungblud's vocals remain prominent in the chorus, and Steven Tyler accompanies well. The two voices pair like grapes and cheese, with Tyler's voice having aged like a French wine and Yungblud's youthful and raspy voice shining through. "Wild Woman" has a slight country feel, which makes sense considering the artists just released a version featuring Lainey Wilson, a country artist. Within this track, the bass drums are impactful, and it is distinctive as a slower rock and roll song. "Wild Woman" is the perfect song to listen to in the car while driving into a major city late at night.

"A Thousand Days" is a less technical piece, and continues in the direction of slow-moving rock and roll. Some of the lyrics within this song protrude the music; Steven Tyler's delivery of "Now I need a little...answer" and Yungblud's conveyance of "Heaven's gonna burn down like you and me" are memorable. It also stands out as a song with exceptional audio production as the audio space captivates the listener.

Although the EP seems to progress to an increasingly less vibrant state, the final feature, "Back in the Saddle (2025 Mix)" concludes the collaboration with a solid ending. The new version showcases Yungblud's vocals, but the production is not necessarily A-tier. Although the EP is full of bright sounds, complex music, intriguing guitar riffs and upbeat drums, the substantial issue is the audio production itself. The listener can tell that the instruments are real, so what was the need for the intense overproduction? The audio engineers clearly used too many effects, including compression, EQ and panning,



COURTESY OF THE ROCK REVIVAL

Steven Tyler (left), Joe Perry (middle) and Yungblood (right) pose with their EP, "One More Time."

a relaxed tone to a passionate performance as the drums double in time. The song ultimately ends on the strongest note, with Yungblud pouring his heart out into the final stanza. "Wild Woman" follows

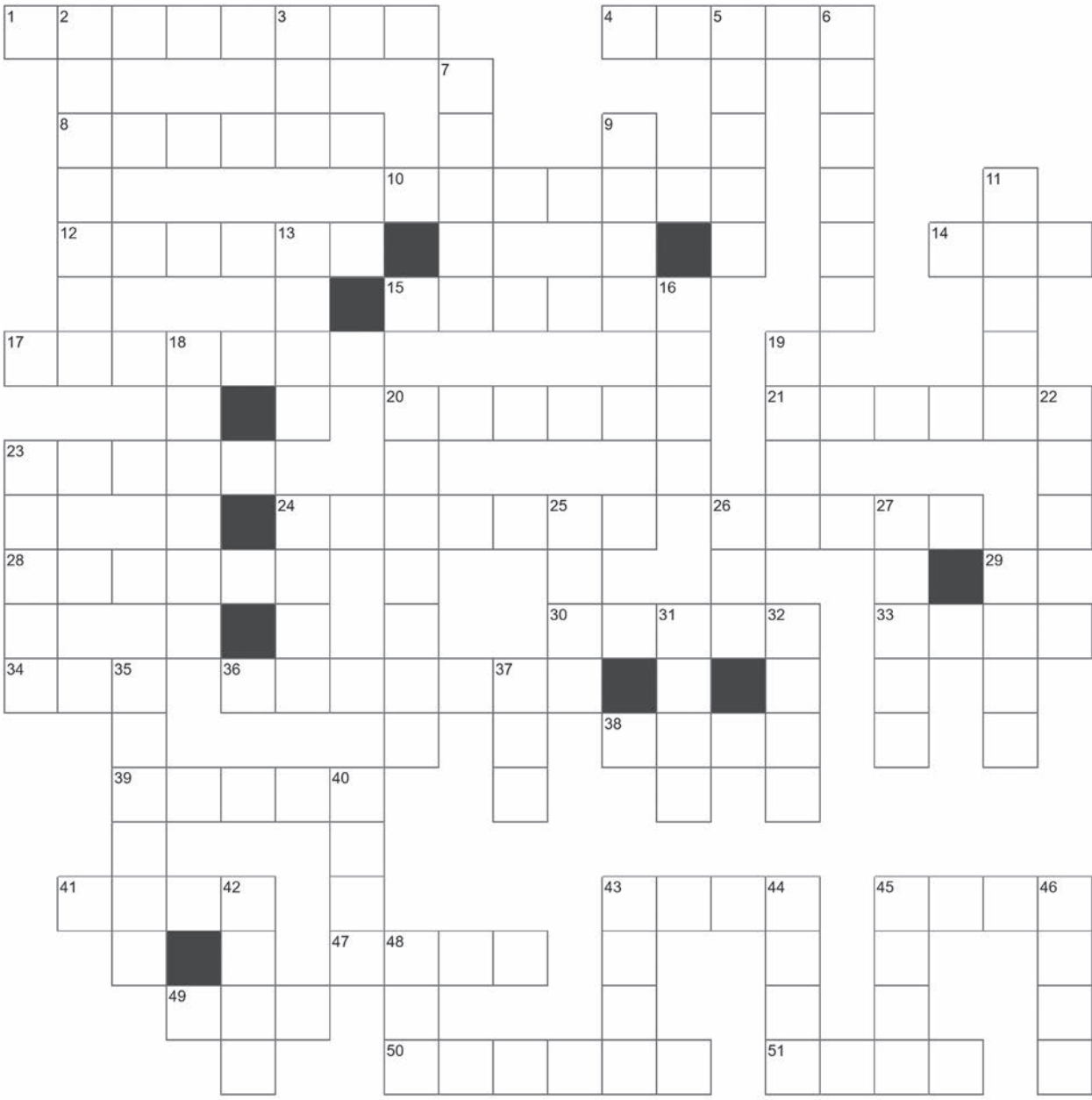
and at some portions of the EP there are indications of auto-tune used. Yes, it is understandable that Tyler's voice is not what it once was, but the overmixing of his vocals produced an off-putting result. For the most part, Yungblud's

FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS



'Christmas'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



Across

- 1. A decorative item hung on a tree branch
- 4. A grand Christmas meal with family and friends
- 8. A graceful reindeer
- 10. Having a joyful and celebratory Christmas spirit
- 12. Bright decorations on Christmas trees and homes
- 14. A common main course for Christmas dinner
- 15. The famous snowman with a corn cob pipe
- 17. Santa's entry point
- 20. Spice used in many Christmas cookies and treats
- 21. A hanging spike of frozen water, common in winter
- 23. _____ Nicholas, another name for Santa Claus
- 24. A miserly character from a famous Christmas story
- 26. A desired state of calm during Christmas

- 28. The four-week count down to Christmas Day
- 30. One of Santa's female reindeer
- 33. A fruit found in traditional Christmas pudding
- 34. A popular evergreen tree used for Christmas
- 36. Kris _____, another name for Santa
- 38. To prepare festive Christmas treats like cookies
- 39. They jingle merrily during the Christmas season
- 41. A Christmas _____, like 'Jingle Bells'
- 43. Santa Claus is coming to _____
- 45. Festive headwear, like Santa's red one
- 47. To cover a Christmas gift in decorative paper
- 49. A common Christmas gift for children
- 50. A very fast reindeer
- 51. Where many go for Christmas presents

Down

- 2. The most famous reindeer of all
- 3. The night before Christmas Day
- 5. Heavenly messenger often topping a Christmas tree
- 6. Shiny, metallic strips used to decorate Christmas trees
- 7. To express happy excitement during Christmas
- 9. A present exchanged during Christmas celebrations
- 11. A traditional Christmas song, often sung in groups
- 13. Decorated with presents beneath
- 16. Material for knitting warm Christmas scarves
- 18. Baby Jesus' humble bed in Bethlehem
- 19. A common evergreen tree seen in winter
- 20. A decorative string of greenery
- 22. Santa's magical helper in the work shop
- 23. Warm winter accessory
- 24. A shining symbol of ten placed atop a

- Christmas tree
- 25. To present something to someone, a Christmas tradition
- 26. A sweet dessert
- 27. A reindeer known for love, at Christmas
- 29. Falling on the winter solstice
- 31. A common abbreviation for Christmas
- 32. Another word for Christmas, from French
- 35. Decorative strip used for wrapping Christmas gifts
- 37. A Yule _____ is a traditional Christmas dessert
- 40. White precipitation that often falls at Christmas
- 42. Soft, radiant light from Christmas decorations
- 43. Old english meaning time, Yule _____
- 44. Often roasted by an open fire at Christmas
- 45. A ring of light, often seen on Christmas angels
- 46. To perform Christmas carols with your voice
- 48. A prominent color of Christmas, like Rudolph's nose

Scan for answers!



"Walking around this campus at night with a new fallen snow, I always fall in love with it all over again."
—Bill Placher '70



instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis



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

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

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

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Make your mother proud
and be a gentleman



Editor-in-Chief

James Wallace '26

Reply to this opinion at
jpwallac26@wabash.edu

“How many pages is your student handbook? Damn, that’s a lot of rules! We only have one rule at Wabash.”

I remember my first winter break after the Fall semester of my freshmen year well. After a few days resting and getting my feet back under myself following a grueling finals week, I went out to eat with some of my hometown friends, and everyone asked each other about how the semester had been, what we had done and how we enjoyed our new endeavors.

When they asked about my experiences at that “all-boys school out in the middle of Indiana” we all made jokes about how weird Wabash seemed to outsiders. But as strange as Wabash was, I had learned to appreciate and be proud of the traditions that define the halls at our institution.

Pridefully, I recounted my incredible experience at this strange place in Crawfordsville. I talked about my experience as a pledge for the Psi Chapter of my fraternity (“No dude, it’s not a frat”), getting my ‘W’ at Chapel Sing and the heart-breaking defeat at the 128th Monon Bell Classic. But what I was perhaps most proud of was the Gentleman’s Rule – the link between the enormous freedoms we enjoy as students with the responsibility that allows such freedoms. While other schools have detailed student handbooks, a Wabash man is “...expected to conduct himself at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman and a responsible citizen.”

I thought it was admirable to be attending a college in which administrators fade into the background as responsible student leaders guide the student body through traditions – and even today I still think this is admirable. There is a reason that the Gentleman’s Rule is one of the oldest traditions at our great institution.

But all too often a small minority of students on campus violate this sacred ideal. In my four years at Wabash, I have witnessed vandalism of property and acts of physical violence that have sent fellow Wabash men to the hospital. I’ve seen Wabash men shout the heinous things that they would do to a visiting basketball player’s mother, sister or girlfriend – by name, no less. I’ve seen Rainbow Road trashed enough times to where it’s been expected that The Bachelor will have at least one hot-button topic to write about in October.

Acts like these by just a few Wabash “men” give the College’s administration the justification they would need to permanently suspend the Gentleman’s Rule, install cameras and rule with an

iron fist. The loss of the Gentleman’s Rule would destroy the very fabric of what makes Wabash a special place – it would remove the freedom and responsibility entrusted to us by the administration that enables us to prepare ourselves for the real world.

Now I would argue that it is an exaggeration to even think that today our administration might just think of changing the Gentleman’s Rule...why would they? Most of our school’s administration has deep ties to Wabash – many were students or have been long-time faculty members. They have the experience to know that the Gentleman’s Rule works in the long run, so they have no reason to doubt it will continue to work.

But if we sit passively and allow these incidents to continue on our campus without stepping up, we will have demonstrated that we don’t have the responsibility that earns our freedom. Someday a line may be crossed, and students’ abilities to control their own freedoms may be suspended. Why should we wait for someone to unravel the very fabric of our campus when instead we can step up and take action as students?

Take the vandalism that occurred at Phi Kappa Psi this past week as an example. I think healthy and fun rivalries between fraternities are a great part of our campus culture. I like going head-to-head with fellow fraternity men at events such as PanHel, but putting down the gloves to unite against our common enemy down south when they visit our campus.

But in what world is it gentlemanly to vandalize and trash someone else’s home? It doesn’t matter whether or not this was a targeted attack, and I don’t know the extenuating circumstances of why this happened, but I know it is a clear violation of acting as a responsible citizen and a gentleman. Imagine how it looks for a high school senior, in the process of selecting where he will live for the next four years, to visit a campus in which there is seemingly no respect between the men of this institution.

Now what would have happened if the offenders had asked themselves a critical question just before they took decisive action: Is what I am about to do representative of how my parents raised me, a good and responsible citizen and a gentleman of Wabash? I likely wouldn’t be writing this article.

This is not unique to just this recent situation. I’m a fan of making memories, doing some dumb things and making a few questionable decisions (in a responsible way, of course). There is no better time to do so than before you get a job and start a family. But I’ve seen enough “men” act in ungentlemanly ways – enough that every semester it seems like a few students cause a stir.

So I leave my fellow Wabash men with a charge: Instead of letting this pattern of continual violations occur, hold yourself and each other more accountable to the Gentleman’s Rule. Ask yourself if your mother would be proud of what you are about to do. Ask yourself if the actions you plan to take may affect your career in 20 years. And of course, ask yourself if you are being a gentleman.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

AMERICA’S TEAM

Hi-Five to the Indiana Hoosiers for winning their first head-to-head Big Ten Championship since 1945. The Hoosiers beat all the allegations, secured the top seed for the playoffs and hopefully shamed Ryan Day into taking the shoe polish out of his beard.

THE ACHILLES CURSE

Lo-Five to the achilles tendon for having the ability to break. Sincerely, the state of Indiana.

A LESSER EVIL

Hi-Five to the Texans for knocking the Chiefs out of playoff contention. Even though we’ve been spared seeing Mahomes between the hashes, we still have to bear the endless stream of State Farm ads.

DRY HOUSE

Hi-Five to everyone that behaved themselves during Scarlet Honors Weekend. Everyone appreciates your moderation and abstinence...right?

BETTER THAN CABLE?

Lo-Five to Netflix for all but securing the rights to the entire Warner Bros catalogue. Antitrust concerns aside, our measuring stick between slop TV and quality productions has completely disappeared.

The problem with the college
football playoffs



Will Duncan '27

Reply to this opinion at
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Over the weekend, the 2025 College Football Playoff Committee finalized the first-ever twelve-team playoff bracket. When this new structure was first announced, I was genuinely excited. A top-twelve-team format, with the top four teams receiving byes and eight others battling it out just for the chance to go and fight another powerhouse. This sounded like a dream scenario for college football fans. However, after watching the complete dumpster fire that Selection Sunday was, I can confidently say that the committee screwed the pooch. If this is the direction that the playoff committee continues to move in, college football is going to be headed down a deep, dark rabbit hole.

On the surface, the committee’s logic seems straightforward, the best four teams in the nation get byes. Makes sense. Yet, my problem lies within the process of how the other eight teams are chosen. The problem to me is simple; the inconsistency of how the committee views conference championships. Take the SEC Championship for example. Georgia annihilated Alabama, and held them to a single touchdown the entire game.

Most fans watching that game, including myself, assumed that game would be the last meaningful snap Alabama played this season... until the committee stepped in. Despite a more than decisive defeat, and three total losses, Alabama still managed to be saved by the bell and sneak their way in. If conference championship losses aren’t even being considered, then what exactly are we doing? On the flip side, the committee

seemed more than happy to give Tulane and James Madison their automatic bids for winning their respective conference championships in what many would consider “cupcake schedules”. So which is it? If strength-of-record is your saving grace to allow Alabama into the tournament, then those metrics shouldn’t be ignored for Tulane and James Madison just because you win the Sunbelt or the AAC.

According to ESPN, there were seven teams with higher Strength of Records than both of them. That includes the most notable team to be snubbed this year, Notre Dame, who finished 10-2 with their only losses being to Texas A&M and Miami by a total margin of four points. At some point, it starts to feel like a close loss to an elite team is punished just as heavily as a blowout from their head-to-head metric.

Ultimately, my main complaint is simple: the selection logic contradicts itself, and as a result, we have extremely one-sided first-round matchups. In a playoff structure that’s supposed to show the “best of the best”, why is Ole Miss favored by 17.5 points? Why is Oregon favored by 21.5? If the committee wants watchable, competitive playoff games, the selection process needs to be changed. And while I’m on the topic, Elite Eight games should not be played at neutral sites. If the top four teams earned a bye, why not give them an actual reward like home-field advantage? If the committee wants to protect the integrity of the sport, and give fans games they’ll actually want to watch, they have to rethink their values.

Conference titles, strength-of-record, head-to-head results—it’s all just dependent on which team you talk about and it feels like the reasoning for why they got in shifts every time. The standard needs to be consistent and transparent, but until then, this expanded playoff picture won’t live up to its true potential.

Inciting change: Preserving
tradition



Carac Johnson
'27

Reply to this opinion at
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When I was a high school senior, I vividly remember the stress and worry that I had in selecting a college to attend for the next four years of my life. I had heard a lot about Wabash College and many of the same sentiments from those I asked contained similar words: “brotherhood,” “leadership,” “tradition.” One issue with Wabash stood out to me, which was the distance away from my hometown of Evansville, which is exactly three hours south of Crawfordsville. In July 2022, I visited for a football recruitment event, figuring that would be the one time that I visited. However, as more events presented themselves, I came back.

But why did I come back? Why would I want to be three hours away from a place I had called home for 18 years? It felt like home. It felt like home because the Wabash men that I had met on my visits shared their experiences with me and told me how they “made Wabash theirs.” I questioned what they meant by that, but now, it is something that resonates with me.

Gentlemen, we enter a pivotal time at Wabash College. Many things have changed. There is going to be a new building (soon I hope), a change from where we normally ate and came together for events, such as Midnight Munch. We have new people in administrative roles, people with different ideas and goals, but we still work together with them. Many things have changed, and they will continue to. But still, there is one thing that underlines each change we could make at a place like Wabash: tradition. I, along with each and every

one of you, have the ability to do the same as those before us. This college is ours to make it. Wabash is a student-led campus that allows us to do so. Sure, we didn’t win the Bell game, and sure, not everything will go our way, but that doesn’t mean we should sit idly by. However, it’s tradition to say “Wabash Always Fights,” and “Always Means Always.” Fight to change this place the way you, I and we want to make it.

You don’t appreciate the attendance at sporting events? You don’t like the absence of people at Thursday Chapel Talks? It’s tradition to be present at these, and time for each of us to change. We must change the culture of remaining stagnant and having a fixed mindset towards this place and instead rise to the occasion and have a growth mindset. Each and every one of us has the ability to make this college ours and make the changes that WE would like to see here.

I have entered an entirely different form of leadership as the new Sphinx Club President. I believe that leadership is not a single person required to execute a function of hierarchical status but instead, I believe that it is best exemplified through a relational and collaborative process. We are all leaders in our own ways, no matter who or what you are affiliated with. I want to incite a change on this campus, one that allows for the formation of new relationships that drive results and pushes Wabash College to reach its fullest potential.

I invite any of you, especially if you read all the way through, to meet with me if you would like; I am always open to conversation. I walk amongst you all, always readily available. If you want to find me, I will usually be in the library or Hays. If you need another indicator, you’ll find me donning a sweet arm sling, too.

Let’s incite a change, always preserving tradition as we have done since 1832. Let’s do it together.

Yippee ki yay, Wabash



John Schnerre '26

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“Die Hard”, a movie which has generated 37 years worth of knock offs and heated debate: Is it a Christmas movie? Having recently viewed the film with the express purpose of finalizing the answer on this issue, I can give a resounding yes. Naysayers will argue for ages about the “non-Christmas plot-line” of the movie, but it seems to me that these are the types of oily urchins who celebrate Christmas in the fashion of Ebenezer Scrooge—with a bowl of gruel and a meager fire. In what follows, I will give the clear reasoning behind my diagnosis by following the audible, visual and the thematic elements of the film. Welcome to the party pal.

The first music in the movie’s soundtrack sounds as John McClane exits his flight in Los Angeles, a subtle hint of jingle bells. Though this musical cue might seem minor, it is an important statement from the first audible note that the movie is connected with the holiday. A few minutes later, while Argyle drives John through the avenues of the city toward Nakatomi Plaza, he plays “Christmas in Hollis,” adding a second holiday reminder within the first five minutes of the movie. As the action intensifies, and the Run-D.M.C. tune has faded into an ancient memory, Sergeant Al Powell hums a Christmas tune before being awakened by a body flying through his windshield. This minor detail during the film’s rising action is an intentional decision to help audience members recall Christmas, even in the chaos. Later, as the LAPD try to infiltrate Nakatomi Plaza, Theo the hacker quotes the famous Christmas story, “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” with the same result. Hans Gruber, the big bad, does the same when saying, “It’s Christmas, Theo. It’s the time of miracles. So be of good cheer.” Theo responds later by saying, “Merry Christmas!” as the vault of bearer bonds opens.

Even the dialogue between the two most disgusting and villainous characters in the film remind us that it is the holiday season. Finally, when John has triumphed and takes his wife, Holly (notice the holiday name) home to their family, the Christmas classic “Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow” plays in the background. Thus, the movie is bookended by Christmas music, further solidifying it in holiday lore. These audible clues throughout the soundtrack, in addition to various Scrooge references, remind viewers of the true nature of the film’s ties to Christmas. These details are not coincidental, but reflect the purpose of the movie.

The visual evidence of Christmas can be seen at all times during the movie as John and other characters interact with environments full of holiday decorations, the most frequent being the

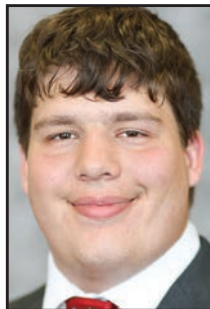
large Christmas tree in Nakatomi Plaza; however, Christmas can more clearly be seen when it takes center stage in a scene, as with John’s satirical use of a Santa Claus hat and the “HO-HO-HO” on the deceased Tony Vreski’s sweater. This scene reminds viewers that, even in the midst of high-paced action, the protagonist is taking time to spread Christmas cheer. Later on, as Hans checks the roof for explosives, graffiti can be seen across the wall, reading “Merry Christmas.” This small detail at one of the more tense points of the plot reminds audience members of the seasonal backdrop. At the very climax of the movie, right before John is about to confront Hans, the camera pans to a mail package station containing Christmas gifts and mistletoe tape. This tape reappears when John reveals the hidden weapon behind his back and finally defeats his enemy. Even as Hans stares in shock, audience members can’t help but reflect on the mystery of Christmas with the help of these visual aids. This list of visible ties to Christmas throughout the film’s exposition, rising action and climax enforce the Christmas theme of the film by creating a background of holiday color, decoration and cheer.

The major themes in “Die Hard” ring out with a resounding Christmas and Christian spirit. The overarching story of John’s fight to save his wife and be with his family emphasizes the importance of being with our loved ones during this holiday season. John’s struggles throughout the plot are nothing short of hellish, and besides his motivation as a New York cop, he is clearly motivated by his love of family. This pure courage and self-sacrifice for one’s family is reminiscent of one who came to earth on Christmas to save “his family,” the Church. This thematic decision is not an accidental point by the directors; it is a clearly placed emphasis on family and perseverance during the holidays. The healing of the rift between John and Holly through their trials further reflects holiday spirit and the need for forgiveness. More broadly, this tension and resolution reminds us of the Christian belief that Christ came to heal all rifts between differing peoples. Days like Christmas are fulfilling when we look upon our fellow man and forgive.

Finally, the ultimate struggle between pure evil, Hans Gruber, and selfless good, John McClane, is the central theme in the movie. It is no coincidence that Hans’s death was caused by a fall, following the pattern of another liar who fell from much higher to do evil on earth. This theme illustrates the fact that Christ’s incarnation on earth at Christmas and his eventual Passion and death won the eternal fight of good and evil, sanctifying mankind.

Many people who argue about the movie “Die Hard” do so as a joke. This response comes from the secularization of Christmas. As we gather together this Christmas season, let us not forget the true meaning behind the holiday. When watching movies that demonstrate love, forgiveness and self sacrifice—remember the ultimate example of each of these virtues—be thankful that He came to save us, even if it wasn’t through the elevator shafts.

AI: Killer of creativity



Brady Reeves '29

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Of all of the things that a student at Wabash is guaranteed to do, two of them are reading and writing. Unfortunately, with the development of technology these have become lost arts. Reading shouldn’t be something that you dread to do because you need to. You should want to read a book. Reading for pleasure has been dwindling down in society recently because of the number of alternatives to reading.

AI is one of the biggest killers for reading. Often students will use summaries from ChatGPT and SparkNotes to avoid having to read. Reading broadens people’s perspectives and their ability to develop stronger writing skills. It also expands your vocabulary. By using AI, you lose these benefits, and you are stuck with useless knowledge. The most important part of reading a novel is the life lessons learned, or the knowledge gained over a period of time. After reading for a while the knowledge sticks with you and resonates with the reader for a longer time. The summaries from the AI tools lose the heart that the writers use in their stories. Often students miss out on the dramatic buildups to climaxes or plot twists. There is a lack of an “aha” moment with the usage of AI. It tends to hold back on the emphasis on the major moments. If you use these consistently you could rely on them for all of your creative endeavors.

Expression is the most important thing that makes us human and AI tools are stripping us of this unique attribute that is the reason that we are as advanced as we are.

Writing is one of the most important skills someone could have. Each person has their own writing styles and that’s what makes each indi-

vidual unique. If you spend some time reading certain authors, you will notice the differences in types of writings. Whether it’s adding more clauses to a statement or using extreme description to describe the most common objects: everyone has their own writing style. With certain writers you can recognize this. For example, the author, David Foster Wallace often uses extreme detail to describe settings. This allows the readers to maintain their engagement and imagine themselves in the exact place that he is describing. The ability to describe anything in depth has been lost in recent generations.

Excellent writing has been replaced with AI garbage. Almost anyone can tell whether or not a paper has been written using AI. Using AI can knock you out of this institution. For what? Because you were too tired to sit down and type for a few hours. Every day I hear of new cases of someone getting in trouble for using AI. It hurts me to hear because it’s so easy to catch. There is always a lack of soul in the paper. The soul of a paper is where you find the passion and love for the work. That never shows up. It feels hollow and unreadable. Writing is you. If you replace the uniqueness of your writing, you replace yourself. Maintain who you are as a writer and refuse to succumb to the trend of taking the easy way out. The entirety of our history knowledge is because people learned how to write. If we lose this ability, we will lose our history and our ability to keep it.

AI is the killer of creativity. Maintain our way of keeping our records of ourselves. Keep a sense of accountability and drop this dangerous habit. This habit can get you booted from the school. Is it really worth your college career to save an hour or two? It is not worth it. It’s never worth it. Be a part of history by staying unique. Time is money, so spend it on the right things. How you do one thing is how you do everything. Do everything right. If you use a summary tool one time, then you’ll get lazy and use it more times. If you do the same for writing, you will use it to write more papers for you until you get caught. The easiest way to not get caught using AI, is to not use it. Stay unique. Stay you.

‘The Final Stretch’

by Drake Green '28

Me Finishing Dead Week



Finals Week



Wally’s Wall: How do you get through finals week?

Ryan Frazier '26

I try to take some extra time for myself. Dead week and finals can be one of the most stressful times, so I make sure to take care of myself first.

Nicholas Green '27

Powered by Red Bull (and the support of my brothers but like 70/30 split)

Sean Bledsoe '26

Buying out the Brew.

Evan Bone '26

I am sure to take smart, effective breaks. Go on little walks when I am feeling exhausted. Play some video games for a quick victory. Talk to friends to let loose. Then get back to work.

Noah Mintie '29

Keep out of my bedroom. Bedrooms are for sleeping, and when I try to work in the same place that I sleep, I’m less productive. If I work in the various study spots around campus, I also get to pass by my Wabash brothers in transit, which is always a pleasure.



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INDIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY



Wrestling trounces Trine on Senior Night 49-0, competes at Little State

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College wrestling team delivered a statement weekend, shutting out Trine University 49-0 on Senior Night before adding seven top-eight finishes at Saturday's Indiana Little State Wrestling Tournament. Across two days, the Little Giants showcased not only their veteran leadership, but also the depth of a roster rapidly rounding into form.

The dual on Friday, December 5, at Chadwick Court opened with a celebration of seniors James Day '26 (a two-time All-American), Andrew "The Machine" Ross '26 and Rylan Hendricks '26—and the team responded by delivering one of its most dominant performances in years. Wabash (1-1) recorded five pins, two technical falls, and three major decisions while holding Trine (0-2) winless across the ten weight classes.

The Little Giants wasted no time establishing control. At 125 lbs., Andrew Punzalan '27 brought the crowd to its feet with a fall in just 1:10. Day followed with a 17-2 tech fall at 133 lbs., piling up takedowns



Michael Taheny '29 takes down his opponent from Trine University in the dual meet on December 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

and near-falls to build an 11-0 lead. Big bonus-point wins continued to roll in as Mason Weyant '28 secured a late pin at 141 lbs., Branson Weaver '29 added a first-period fall

at 149 lbs. and Ross delivered a commanding pin in 4:17 at 157 lbs.

From the middleweights to the upper lineup, Wabash kept its momentum. Cooper

McCloy '28 earned a 6-0 decision at 165 lbs., Jaylen Young '28 added a 13-2 major at 174 lbs. and the final three bouts pushed the margin to 49-0.

Michael Taheny '29 dominated with an 18-3 tech fall at 184 lbs., Spencer Watson '28 added a 16-3 major at 197 lbs. and Maximus Forrester '29 closed the sweep with an 8-0 shutout at heavyweight.

"This performance helped many of our guys trust their offense and commit to getting to their scores," said Day. "This is something we plan on building on throughout the season, and I am excited to see the team showcase these adjustments at North Central."

Wabash carried that energy into the Indiana Little State Tournament on Saturday, December 6. The Little Giants made their presence felt, highlighted by Zach Huckaby's '28 184 lbs. championship victory over teammate and top seed, Taheny. The team added podium finishes from Isaac Ash '29 (third at 125 lbs.), Carson Fettig '28 (fourth at 149 lbs.), Spencer Watson '28 (fifth at 197 lbs.), Branson Weaver '29 (eighth at 149 lbs.) and Elorm Nevis '27 (seventh at 174 lbs.).

Wabash returns to action on Saturday, December 13, at the North Central College Invitational in Naperville, Illinois.



James Day '26 attempts to gain control over his opponent from Trine University in the dual meet on December 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



Andrew Ross '26 holds an arm lock on his opponent from Trine University in the dual meet on December 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

Swimming and Diving drops dual meet to DePauw, training to pick up over winter break before NCAC

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

The annual dual meet between the Wabash and DePauw swimming and diving programs has been nothing short of electrifying in recent years, but on Friday, December 5, the Tigers bested the Little Giants at the Charles P. Erdmann Natatorium in Greencastle by a final total 193-106.

Mason Gilliam '28 dominated the distance events as he won the 500-yard and 1,000-yard freestyles with times of 4:50.46 and 10:02.48. Ryan West '28 also snagged two individual victories in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:59.17 and the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.85 seconds. Zach Baty '29 finished on the podium in the 100-yard backstroke in third place with a time of 56.08 seconds.

"There are nine weeks left in our season. For almost half of those nine weeks, we are on a break from school. This gives us a huge opportunity to make the conscious effort to focus and find ways to improve."

- Head Swimming and Diving Coach William Bernhardt

In the 200-yard backstroke, the men in scarlet and white swept the podium. Nicholas Plumb '27 completed the swim in 1:59.06 to take first place. West finished in second place, clocking a time of 2:01.61, and Baty finished in third place, re-

cording a time of 2:02.98.

The two wins by Gilliam, two wins by West and the win by Plumb were the only five individual wins that the Little Gi-

"...we remembered that we can make any pool our home pool as long as we have the largest deck presence of any team."

- Dane Market '26

ants secured in the meet.

Plumb concluded the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:02.09 to finish third. Quinn Sweeney '27 snagged a second place finish in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:48.10, and he also took a third place finish in the 100-yard freestyle by turning in a time of 48.26 seconds. Lew Sams '29 grabbed two second place finishes in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke events with times of 1:00.11 and 2:12.75.

When Sams, Sweeney, West and John Allen '26 teamed up for the 200-yard medley relay, the group put together a time of 1:37.34 to finish in third place.

In the diving portion of the dual meet, Michael Cruzado '27 earned 140.45 points in the one-meter dive event, and Liam Fuller '28 earned 136.60 points in the three-meter dive. Both divers finished third in their respective events.

The result against DePauw was not what the Little Giants were looking for, but Head Swimming and Diving Coach William Bernhardt was proud of the way his athletes competed and handled themselves.



A member of the Wabash Swimming and Diving team treads water in a dual meet against Rose-Hulman on October 24, 2025, in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

"Leading up to the meet we talked about our attitude and controlling what we can control," said Bernhardt. "I thought we did a marvelous job of focusing on us and bringing the same energy we have for every meet this year. Overall, I was proud of how they handled a tough loss. We will grow and get better as a result of this meet."

"No matter how much preparation you do, it's always intimidating to swim at your rival's school in a facility you're not comfortable with," said Dane Market '26. "It took about halfway through the meet before our team started

to feel like us again, but once we started cheering and having fun with our races, we remembered that we can make any pool our home pool as long as we have the largest deck presence of any team."

The good news for the team is that they have plenty of time for training before the NCAC Championships in February, especially with their Florida trip in January.

"We're approaching our annual training trip now, which is really when the pedal hits the metal," said Market. "We're going into this conference meet with something to prove and ready to show everyone the

results of our continued efforts this season behind the scenes."

"The nice part about this portion of our season is that we don't have any meets to focus on," said Bernhardt. "From now until January 16, we can simply focus on training and finding ways to raise our level of competitiveness. There are nine weeks left in our season. For almost half of those nine weeks, we are on a break from school. This gives us a huge opportunity to make the conscious effort to focus and find ways to improve."

Basketball beats Oberlin, folds to Kalamazoo

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

Wabash basketball relied on hot shooting, timely defense, and a stellar performance from Rich Brooks '26 to earn an 82-78 overtime win over Oberlin on December 3 at Chadwick Court. The victory marked the Little Giants' first North Coast Athletic Conference win of the season and showcased the team's resilience after surrendering an early second-half lead.

The Little Giants controlled much of the first half, hitting nine three-pointers and stretching their advantage to 11 when Brooks hammered home a dunk with 1:47 left before halftime. Oberlin trimmed the deficit to six points at the break with the score sitting at 35-29 in favor of the men in scarlet and white, but the Yeomen wasted little time flipping the script coming out of the locker room. Oberlin strung together their best offensive stretch of the day, outscoring Wabash 21-7 to seize a 54-44 lead behind Milun Micanovic's physical play inside and Adam Navarre's downhill attacks.

Oberlin's dominance in the paint, where it outscored Wabash 38-18, put the Little Giants in a difficult position. But Wabash countered the mismatch by leaning heavily on its perimeter game. Brooks, Deric Cannady '29 and Luke Ellspermann '29 kept the Little Giants within striking distance as the three-pointers continued to fall. Wabash finished with 16 triples on 43.2% shooting from deep, a number that ultimately separated the two teams.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Rich Brooks '26 goes up for a layup against Kalamazoo on December 10, at Chadwick Court.

his space, the senior drilled a contested three point shot with one second remaining, sending Chadwick Court into chaos. Though Wabash stole the ensuing inbound, the horn sounded before another shot could be attempted.

Brooks carried that momentum into overtime, scoring the first Wabash points of the period at the free-throw line. He then jumped a passing lane for a steal that set up an Ellspermann layup. A clutch Keegan Manowitz '27 three capped the surge as Wabash closed the game on a 10-4 overtime run.

Brooks led the Little Giants with 25 points, shooting 8/10 from the field and 5/7 from three. Cannady added 14 points, while Ellspermann tallied 13 points and six assists.

"It [winning a close game] shows the 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality," said

It was a back-and-forth affair to start the game as neither Wabash nor Kalamazoo wanted the lead, but the Little Giants came alive mid-way through the first half to create a three possession lead.

Towards the end of the first-half, the Little Giants went on a 9-2 run, started by an Ellspermann three-pointer and a Nate Matelic '27 layup. Brooks decided to take over in the final two minutes by making a layup, jumpshot and three-pointer.

Brooks picked up where he left off after the Oberlin game as he finished the first half leading the team with 13 points. Ellspermann reached the double-digit point mark in the first half, securing 11 points.

Coming out of the half, Ellsperman and Cannady tacked on six quick points to give the Little Giants a 16-point lead. Despite the large deficit, the Hornets came roaring back thanks to a 24-6 run over the span of seven minutes and 21 seconds to take a 62-60 lead with 10:01 left in the game.

Every single time Wabash made a basket coming down the stretch, Kalamazoo responded. The Little Giants had a chance to seal the game away as Ellspermann headed to the free throw line with a one-and-one opportunity and a 84-83 lead. Ellspermann missed the front end, and as a Coonor Kouki snagged the rebound for the Hornets, he was fouled. Kouki went to the free throw line with a one-and-one opportunity and made both free throws to secure the comeback win.

Brooks finished the game as the leading scorer for Wabash with 20 points, shooting 8/16 from the field while getting four rebounds. Ellspermann added 17 points, six rebounds and five assists. Colton Stowers '29 and Matelic both added 12 points.

The Little Giants will travel to John Carroll for its third NCAC game of the season on Saturday, December 13, to take on the Blue Streaks. Tip-off is scheduled for 2:05 p.m. EST.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Luke Ellspermann '29 drives down the baseline against Kalamazoo on December 10, at Chadwick Court.

As the clock wound under six minutes, Wabash began tightening up defensively, contesting drives and forcing the Yeomen into tougher shots, making the deficit shrink. A late pick-and-roll finish by Gavin Schippert '26 and crucial ball movement on the perimeter kept Wabash within a possession entering the final minute.

Trailing 69-72 with 16 seconds left, Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett drew up the final play. After a series of passes around the arc, the ball found Brooks on the top of the key. With a defender crowding

Brumett. "It gives them their own example of how to win a game when things are going our way."

"I think to beat Kalamazoo, we need to get back to playing our brand of basketball," said Brooks. "We need to limit the amount of turnovers and make sure to get back on defense."

The Little Giants returned home on Wednesday, December 10, to play the Kalamazoo Hornets, and although Wabash dominated the end of the first half, they allowed a 16 point lead to slip from their fingertips in the second half to lose 84-85.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Keegan Manowitz '27 loads up a three-point shot against Kalamazoo on December 10, at Chadwick Court.

NCAC basketball check-in

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

Action on the hardwood is back and better than ever, but games between North Coast Athletic Conference teams are few and far between. The basketball power rankings will have to wait until January, but that doesn't mean that we can't look at where each team is at. Let's check in on our NCAC teams, see their overall records and inspect who each team has beaten and lost to.



Wittenberg Tigers
Overall Record: (7-1)
NCAC Record: (2-0)
Winning Percentage: 87.5%
Streak: Won 7 Straight

Wins: Baldwin Wallace, Wilmington, Adrian, Capital, Marietta, Ohio Wesleyan, John Carroll
Losses: Otterbein



John Carroll Blue Streaks
Overall Record: (5-1)
NCAC Record: (0-1)
Winning Percentage: 83.3%
Streak: Lost 1

Wins: Olivet, Heidelberg, Mount St. Joseph, Transylvania, Saint Vincent
Losses: Wittenberg



DePauw Tigers
Overall Record: (6-2)
NCAC Record: (1-0)
Winning Percentage: 75%
Streak: Won 2 Straight

Wins: Loras, Anderson, Greenville, Franklin, Wabash, Kenyon
Losses: Dubuque, Elmhurst



Denison Big Red
Overall Record: (5-2)
NCAC Record: (1-0)
Winning Percentage: 71.4%
Streak: Won 3 Straight

Wins: No. 8 Calvin, Alma, Otterbein, Adrian, Oberlin
Losses: Carnegie Mellon, Capital



Wabash Little Giants
Overall Record: (4-3)
NCAC Record: (1-1)
Winning Percentage: 66.7%
Streak: Lost 1

Wins: Hanover, Rose-Hulman, Franklin, Oberlin
Losses: No. 4 WashU, DePauw, Kalamazoo



Kenyon Owls
Overall Record: (4-3)
NCAC Record: (0-0)
Winning Percentage: 57.1%
Streak: Lost 1

Wins: Bethany, Baldwin Wallace, Albion, Bluffton
Losses: Capital, No. 18 Illinois Wesleyan, DePauw



Oberlin Yeomen
Overall Record: (5-5)
NCAC Record: (0-3)
Winning Percentage: 50.0%
Streak: Lost 3 Straight

Wins: Beloit, Medgar Evers, Sarah Lawrence, Allegheny, Waynesburg
Losses: Adrian, California Lutheran, Wooster, Wabash, Denison



Wooster Fighting Scots
Overall Record: (3-4)
NCAC Record: (1-0)
Winning Percentage: 42.9%
Streak: Lost 1

Wins: SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Brockport, Oberlin
Losses: Hartford, Western Connecticut State, No. 12 Mount Union, Penn State Altoona



Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops
Overall Record: (3-5)
NCAC Record: (0-1)
Winning Percentage: 37.5%
Streak: Lost 2 Straight

Wins: Alma, Heidelberg, Capital
Losses: No. 8 Calvin, Olivet, Ohio Northern, Wittenberg, Hope

*Rankings as of December 7, 2025 from from D3hoops.com.
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