



STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CAMPAIGNS CONTINUE

Candidates provide comments following debates

McDonald '27 ticket

Q: How do you think the debate went for you and your cabinet?

A: While we did not get to discuss everything that we wanted, overall the debate was a success. We were able to dictate a majority of our priorities and strategies to improve Wabash life for all, encourage buy-in and hold more impactful and consistent events. We highlighted our qualifications and our understanding of what it takes to be a successful student executive.

Q: Going into the last week of the campaign, how confident are you? What are your plans to amplify your message in this last week?

A: We are extremely confident going into the last week of the election, not only in our chances of winning this election, but also in our abilities to efficiently lead the student body and Senate. We plan to amplify our message by continuing to visit living units around campus. Additionally we plan to utilize social media and poll different groups of students for their opinions regarding what they want to see for the future of Wabash.

Q: What do you want voters to remember about you and your platform before they vote?

A: We want the student body to remember that experience truly matters for these positions and the McDonald-Board cabinet has that experience. We have provided tangible and actionable innovative ideas to make campus better, improve communication between students and faculty and take an active approach to campus issues.



Ray '28 ticket

Q: How do you think the debate went for you and your cabinet?

A: I thought the debate went very well. I am proud of the way my cabinet performed, and their presentation of our policy points. Most importantly, however, I thought the debate gave our cabinet an excellent opportunity to display our leadership capacity, and how we hope to build a better Bash.

Q: Going into the last week of the campaign, how confident are you? What are your plans to amplify your message in this last week?

A: I am highly confident that our ticket has the momentum to win this election. The student body is looking for change in the executive, and we are the cabinet of change. However, the job is not done. I intend to keep making myself available and hearing what Wabash needs from us.

Q: What do you want voters to remember about you and your platform before they vote?

A: Wabash student government can, should and will be doing more than just managing the Senate under a Ray administration. I will make good on Wabash's trust in us by doing exactly what I have outlined in this campaign.

PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Admitted Student Weekend to bring over 150 prospective students to campus



A prospective student checks in for Admitted Student Weekend on March 21, 2025 in the Allen Center.

HUTCH NORRIS '27 STAFF WRITER

At institutions as small as Wabash, on-campus visit programs are the lifeblood of recruitment efforts. This weekend, the College will welcome over 150 prospective students to campus for the final visit program of the school year: Admitted Student Weekend. Student participation this weekend is fundamental to the success of the program in securing the last share of prospective students before deposits are due on May 1.

This is one of the last chances that many students and parents will have to be on campus before making their final college decision. This weekend is designed to make prospective students the most intimately familiar with campus as they can be before making this major life decision. Because of this, the Admissions Office designed the weekend to balance both academic and social exposure on campus. Students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with all three academic divisions in order to get a better idea of their academic future at Wabash.

"If there's someone walking around with a red lanyard, go out of your way for them," said Assistant Director of Admissions Connor Taylor '24. "The reason I came to Wabash was because of the people

here that made it feel like a home, that's not by happenstance. That's because people put in the effort. Show these families why we are proud of the brotherhood we have on campus."

"Be genuine in your conversations. That could be the reason that student comes to Wabash in the end."

- Assistant Director of Admissions Connor Taylor '24

Over the past two years, over 80% of students that attended Admitted Students Weekend enrolled at Wabash in the fall, so it is incredibly important that the student body provides the best possible experience for these students. Backyard Bash will be the prime opportunity to engage with prospects this weekend, in addition to fostering a positive environment throughout the rush process in fraternities.

"Admitted Student Weekend is the most important event for fraternities to rush prospective students before Ringing In," said FIJI Rush Chairman Paul Hawksworth '28. "Since a majority of recruits on campus during Admitted Student

Weekend end up coming to Wabash, a lot of the guys visiting campus are looking at fraternity life more seriously. It's important for us to make our fraternities somewhere where a guy can think of that house as their home for the next four years."

This is also one of the first times that many families will be on campus, so there is an added importance of fostering community with them as well. Taylor pointed out the additional pressure of minding P's and Q's when it comes to cleanliness.

"There's a difference between what a student thinks is clean and what someone's mom will think is clean," said Taylor. "We need to shoot for the 'mom standard' in everything that we do this weekend. Be genuine in your conversations. That could be the reason that student comes to Wabash in the end."

For this Admitted Students Weekend, the devil will be in the details. Due to the small size of Wabash, every young man the College hosts this weekend will dictate, in part, its future. Current students should remember to be themselves, and show the incoming class what it means to be a gentleman and what it means to have a good time here at Wabash.

Erwin Chemerinsky to receive Senior Peck Medal



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jeffery Rosen delivers his Peck Award reception speech at the 2025 Peck Dinner on April 17, 2025.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28 NEWS EDITOR

Each year the president of Wabash College chooses a premier legal scholar to honor with the David W. Peck Senior Medal for Eminence in Law. The Wabash Pre-law Society organizes the Peck Dinner and Lecture to present this award. This event offers students a chance to network with lawyers and learn more about relevant legal issues. This year the Senior Peck Medal is being presented to Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of California Berkeley Law School, the leading authority on First Amendment free speech.

"The president of the college [chooses the Senior Peck Medalist] based on a candidate's eminence in the law, but also whose skill and ability is particularly relevant to issues facing us today," said Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Himsel '85. "It seems like every day there are new free speech controversies out there. From late night show hosts being taken off the air, to law firms being denied access to federal courthouses because of the clients they represent, even efforts to modify the way we teach American history."

The Peck Dinner offers students not just the opportunity to educate themselves on relevant constitutional law topics, it also allows students to network with different alumni lawyers.

"The Peck Lecture is a perfect example that there are always more opportunities to learn from the best," said President of the Pre-Law Society, Chris Runyon '26. "The other main purpose of the Peck Lecture and Dinner is to allow students to meet and connect with Wabash alumni and

attorneys. One of the best parts of the dinner is to meet with attorneys who know what it's like to be in your shoes and can give great advice to help you further your career, even if it isn't the law."

This event is a very unique experience for an undergraduate institution and has played a major role in producing legal talent from Wabash.

"Wabash still produces a large number of first generation lawyers, first lawyers in their family, and that has been our tradition for a long time," said Himsel. "One of the ways that we compensate for that is by having [the Peck Dinner]. This type of event is very common in law schools. It's very uncommon in undergraduate institutions. The most important thing this does is allow current students to meet lawyers and learn more about what they actually do."

This event does act as a great way for pre-law students to network with lawyers, but this talk is meant for everyone. The opportunity to meet a leading scholar in any field is one to take advantage of.

"Dean Chemerinsky has not only argued in front of the United States Supreme Court, but he is one of the nation's leading authors on first amendment topics," said Runyon. "Even if students aren't interested in a career in the law, they still will have the opportunity to learn about an extremely pressing issue."

Whether you're planning to go to law school or not, the novelty of this event cannot be overstated. The opportunity to learn from a leading scholar in any field is something to take advantage of, especially in a liberal arts environment.

Artemis II continues voyage around the moon, two American planes shot down in Iran and more

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

Artemis II

After travelling deeper into space than any human has done before, NASA's Artemis II is heading home, wrapping up a lunar flyby that revealed the far side of the moon, never witnessed by the eyes of humanity until now. This mission is the second of the Artemis program and marks the first return to the moon by NASA in 51 years and is the beginning of the goal of establishing human presence on the moon. The group of four astronauts, Reid Wiseman Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen, launched in the Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System Rocket from Launch



COURTESY OF NASA
Artemis II captures an image of the moon with Earth in the background.

Complex 39B at Kennedy Space Center, Florida and completed their flyby to head home on Monday, April 6. The objective of the mission was to test the spacecraft with a crew onboard and provide data to inform future lunar landings. While flying behind the moon, the team was greeted to a total solar eclipse as the moon temporarily blocked the sun from their perspective. The trip shattered the distance record set by Apollo 13 in 1970 when the Orion Capsule reached a maximum distance of 252,756 miles from Earth. The astronauts also got the chance to name two freshly carved craters, one they named Integrity, and another they named Carroll, after commander Wiseman's wife who passed away from cancer in 2020. The Artemis II crew is set to return to Earth on Friday, April

News around the world

10, when they splash down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, California at approximately 8:07 p.m.

Iran

After two U.S. service members were shot out of the sky by Iranian air defenses, President Trump announced that both had been successfully rescued. It is the first time since 2003 in Iraq that an American warplane has been shot down by enemy combatants. The two were engaged over Iranian airspace and, after sustaining fire, ejected from their F15-E Strike Eagle fighter jet. One crewman was rescued almost immediately, but the other, who according to Trump is seriously wounded but is expected to make a full recovery, was stranded behind Iranian lines. The U.S. government stayed mum as a mission to rescue the soldier, who, according to Sen. Dave McCormick, despite his wounds had climbed to an elevation of 7,000 feet to avoid capture, developed. The Iranian government searched for the downed American and even broadcast a message on state television to civilians in the region where the plane was gunned down, requesting people to search for the airman and bring him into Iranian custody. To counteract their efforts, the CIA launched a misinformation campaign in Iran in which they communicated falsely that the servicemember had been rescued and was being transported out of Iran on the ground. In reality, a convoy of heavily armed planes res-



COURTESY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Two F15-E Strike Eagle jets were shot out of the sky by Iranian defenses.

cued the American some 48 hours after the initial crash. Though the mission was a success, U.S. forces had to blow up two transport planes that malfunctioned after they landed in Iran. Two Blackhawk helicopters also sustained Iranian fire. It is unknown at this time whether the helicopters' passengers sustained injuries or if the aircraft landed securely.

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Embattled HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is launching a podcast. The secretary, whose agency previously suspended the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the most significant weekly epidemiological report in the United States, declared that his podcast will

expose lies that the American public has been told about their health and what makes them sick. The podcast has been in development for months and will be a return to familiar territory for Kennedy, who rose to fame as a podcaster before President Trump promoted him to the highest health administration position in the country. Under Kennedy's leadership, cases of once eliminated diseases like measles and polio are on the rise. Kennedy's views have been characterized as "anti-vaxx," and he has weathered scrutiny in hearings before Congress. With a year and a half as HHS secretary under his belt, Kennedy will hope to quell worries that he is underqualified by presenting as a reassuring and knowledgeable leader.

US and Iran enter two-week ceasefire following tense six-week conflict

HUTCH NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

A two-week ceasefire was announced the evening of April 7 by President Donald Trump in a series of posts on Truth Social. This is a bilateral agreement exclusively between the United States and Iran, as strikes have continued by both Israel and Iran in the region after the ceasefire announcement on Wednesday.

As the globe entered the sixth week of the war in Iran, the death toll climbed to over 3,000 individuals across the Middle-East. Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) estimated that at least 1,616 civilians, including at least 244 children, have been killed by US and Israeli attacks, compared to only 1,219 military fatalities. This is the lowest estimate by a non-governmental organization (NGO), with others reporting over 6,000 Iranian deaths alone. Outside of the major players, over 1,500 individuals were killed in neighboring countries. The majority of those deaths were alleged Hezbollah fighters killed by Israel in

Lebanon, but included 102 women, 130 children and 57 health workers, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

The death toll for the U.S. and Israel has remained low. 15 U.S. soldiers were killed, 12 Israeli soldiers and 27 Israeli civilians. However, the long term consequences for the U.S. may ultimately outweigh any benefit of regime change within Iran. This threat stems from the ongoing oil shipment crisis in the Strait of Hormuz.

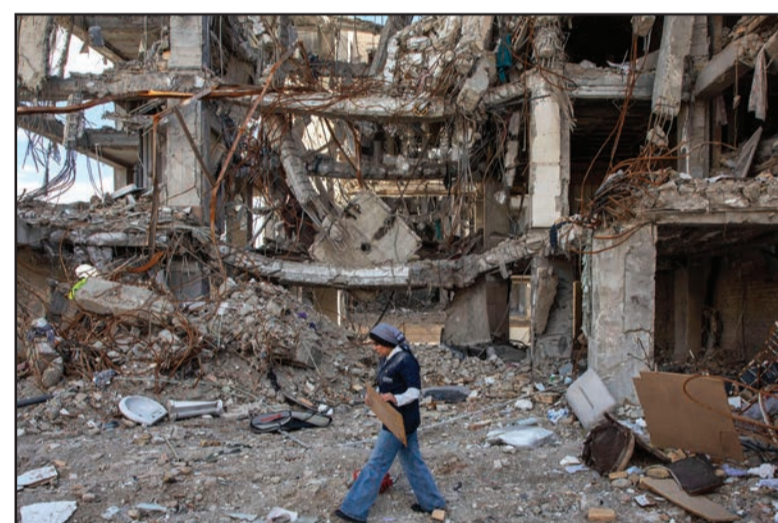
The immediate impacts of the shutdown have been obvious. Even after a 15% decline on Wednesday, April 8, the price of oil remained above \$90 a barrel. However, the long term consequences of the crisis are more difficult to isolate due to several compounding factors. The U.S. is certain to experience inflation, but not only due to the price of oil directly.

Following the complete shutdown of the Strait at the onset of the war, Iran has allowed certain tankers to pass through a narrow passageway near Larak Island. However, this does not come at a small cost. The Iranians have begun negotiating

with interested parties at the price of \$1 per barrel of oil, to be paid in either Chinese Yuan or stablecoins, a form of crypto currency pegged to the value of the U.S. dollar. This marked another step in the transition away from the U.S. dollar as the dominant exchange currency for the international oil market.

"Both in the oil industry and otherwise in the world, the U.S. dollar is not as strong as it used to be," said Professor of Economics Peter Mikek. "While reserves across the world were in dollars since the 70s, the composition has been changing. Some countries now have some Euros and Yuan, and maybe some other currencies, but less US dollars. The dollar is still dominant, but it's less dominant than it used to be."

As global demand for the U.S. dollar continues to fall, the price of imported goods will continue to climb. The dollar's value in relation to other international currencies will decrease and, consequently, lower purchasing power for the same goods abroad. Additionally, this will be problematic for the U.S.'s ballooning debt total.



COURTESY OF NBC
The U.S. and Iran reached an agreement for a two week ceasefire on April 7, 2026.

"All of the sudden, you can't finance your debt for your increasing money supply," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy Larry Busk. "If you started having to worry about a debt-to-GDP ratio, you would probably have to start conducting monetary policy differently."

This would mean the U.S. will likely have to reckon more serious-

ly with the extensive, inefficient spending policies in place now. This reckoning could look like cutting social programs that benefit impoverished Americans, or reigning in the subsidization of the private sector through the current contracting system in place. In any event, this will be the underlying embers which fuel the political flames for years to come.

Bears relocation progress slows, gas tax paused and more

Regional news

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
STAFF WRITER

Bears update

Any expectations of a quick decision on whether the Chicago Bears will pick an Indiana site for their new stadium have been discarded. While Indiana lawmakers pushed through a financing plan for a stadium in Hammond, Indiana before their session ended in February, the Bears are still talking with Illinois officials about a deal to stay on that side of the state line. The Bears own 326 acres of land on the site of the old Arlington International Racecourse. However, they are still seeking tax certainty from the Illinois General Assembly, which is scheduled to be in session through May 31. This bill would freeze property tax assessments on the sites of so-called "megaprojects" and instead allow developers to negotiate a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes with local governments.

The Indiana financing plan calls for capturing taxes from a new stadium development district, along with revenue from a 12% admissions tax on stadium events, a doubling of the current 5% hotel tax in Lake County — where Hammond is located — and a 1% food-and-beverage tax in both Lake and Porter counties. Indiana's plan would establish a Northwest Indiana Stadium Authority that would own the stadium. State officials say about \$1 billion in taxpayer money could go toward the stadium district.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said at the owners meeting that the Bears need to move forward with a replacement for their current home of Soldier Field along Chicago's Lake Michigan shore.

Election results

Democrats' high hopes of a flip were dashed in Georgia's special House race on Tuesday, but an overperformance in the red district plus a landslide win for liberals in a Supreme Court race in Wisconsin underscored the party's enduring momentum as the high-stakes midterm cycle ramps up.

Backed by President Trump, Republican Clay Fuller won the Peach State runoff to replace former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), the longtime Trump ally who quit the House in January amid a feud with the president. But Democrats notched a notable overperformance in the solidly GOP district, further fueling their winning streak ahead of the midterms. Over in the Badger State, Democratic-backed judicial candidate Chris Taylor easily won an open seat on the state Supreme Court, outperforming GOP-backed candidate Maria Lazar by about 20 percentage points, giving the liberal faction on the court a 5-2 edge.

Gas tax suspended

On Wednesday, Indiana Governor Mike Braun '76 signed an emergency declaration temporarily suspending the state's gas usage

tax. His announcement comes after weeks of steadily increasing fuel prices, during which Hoosiers awoke April 8 to find the cost of unleaded gasoline averaging \$4.14 per gallon, according to AAA's Gas Prices website. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) officials say prices could continue to rise for months as the Iran war lingers on, effectively closing off the Strait of Hormuz. While both the federal and state excise tax will remain in place, Braun touted his 30-day suspension of Indiana's 7% gas usage tax will save Hoosiers \$50 million over the next month, which could be extended, he said, if needed.

Indiana's gasoline prices ranked as the fifth most expensive state gas taxes in the country, according to data published in January by the (EIA). At the time, Hoosiers had to pay roughly 54 cents in total taxes and fees for every gallon of gasoline they bought. The cost includes a 36 cent excise tax along with a 17 to 18 cent state usage tax. Indiana's gasoline usage taxes can fluctuate, however. The rate is calculated, per the Indiana Department of Revenue, off the monthly average retail price per gallon of fuel, excluding its tax, multiplied by 7%. An earlier notice by the Indiana Department of Revenue had calculated the state's gasoline usage tax rate for April at 17 and two-tenths cents per gallon.



COURTESY OF WFYI
Indiana Governor Mike Braun '76 suspended the state gas tax to combat rising gas prices following the conflict in Iran.

WABASH SPHINX CLUB PRESENTS:

RALPH'S

MAY 1ST 5:00

ON THE MALL

MOTHER

THE SHAY 537, LOOSEY GOOSEY EXPERIENCE, JEREMIAH CLAYTON, DJ CLUB

PROCEEDS GO TO: INDIANA YOUTH GROUP

Rick Warner H'13: A truly loyal son

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A generation of Wabash men do not know Wabash without Associate Professor of History Rick Warner. Other professors have come and gone, but when Warner retires this May after 27 years at the College, Wabash's essence will be somewhat diminished, a little less tangible. A Wabash without him will take some getting used to.

Warner arrived in Crawfordsville in 1999 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History. A previous career as a chef taught him what he wanted from a place he lived and worked: humility, equality and a collective desire to work hard. He found that at Wabash, which he proudly calls "an O-line school."

"Our working-class, from-the-bottom-up culture is what really struck me and what continues to strike me," said Warner.

When a permanent position became available a couple of years later, he jumped at the opportunity. Since those early days, Warner has distinguished himself in many roles on and beyond campus. He chaired the history department for many years, served as Faculty Secretary, led the national World History Association as president, chaired the Off-Campus Study committee for years, advised numerous student organizations and has quite possibly advised more Wabash students over the past 25 years than anyone else. His accolades include the 2014 McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award, the Wabash Club of Indianapolis' 2026 Man of the Year award and honorary alumnus status.

When he got the call in 2019 from then-president of the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) Marc Nichols '92 that he would be named an honorary alumnus, Nichols told him that there was an interesting discussion on the board about bestowing alumni status on Warner. The point of contention? More than half of the NAWM board thought that Warner was already an alumnus. Such is the passion he has for Wabash and its students.

"His complete care for students is unique — he lifts students up when they are down; when students hurt, he hurts; if a student is missing from class, he will go and find them; and of course, he loves to feed the campus," said Dean of the College Todd McDorman.

Warner is beloved among students to a rare degree. His passion for Wabash's athletic teams is well-known, and students in his classes fondly recall watching "The Catch" from the 2001 Monon Bell Game on the first day of each new course. His culinary skills are also legendary on campus; he has spent untold hours forging community between students, faculty and staff through

his food. His love for Wabash and its ethos endears him to students.

"His Wabash spirit, and how much he loves Wabash is awesome, especially for a guy that didn't even go to Wabash," said Owen Peelle '28, who's had Warner in four courses. "I think that makes it even cooler that he's such a big fan of the school and the culture."

One of Warner's fondest memories of Wabash was his initiation into the Sphinx Club. The group's president had asked him to come to the Chapel one evening to quiz the Rhynes on Wabash's history, but when Warner showed up — books in tow — he was shocked to learn that the quiz had only been a ruse to get him to his own initiation. He's donned a pot ever since.



Rick Warner H'13 (left) helps a student cook (right). Cooking is one of the many passions Warner has shared with the Wabash community.

"Professor Warner has made an incredible contribution not only to Wabash College, but also to the Sphinx Club," said Sphinx Club president Carac Johnson '27. "Since his initiation as a professor, he has provided his time, talent and treasure to each event that the Sphinx Club holds on our campus. His commitment to the student body and the Sphinx Club has been tremendous, and we could not be more thankful to have his presence on our campus."

Warner fits right into the Sphinx Club, often in ways that even other honorary members do not.

"I think it is safe to say that he is the only professor that I've ever had a conversation with about keeping their shirt on at campus events!" said McDorman.

Warner has also embodied a spirit of open discussion on campus and the humility required to enter into conversations with people of different backgrounds. In a time when that skill is in low supply in public spaces, Warner's willingness to engage everyone equally shines.

"I've learned that we can have conversations, and I don't think that's true in a lot of the world, unfortunately," said Warner. "But I think that here it's okay to have conversations with guys that may have different backgrounds. And so I've really approached it that way."

Though he won't be present on campus as a professor, Warner will still be engaged on campus and the wider Crawfordsville community. He'll continue to research the con-

nection between food and history, his specialty, and he'll remain involved with health services on campus by regularly educating students on substance abuse. And of course, he will be decked out in his Sphinx Club pot come football season.

"He's just a true believer in Wabash and the community that it takes to keep a place like this going," said Professor of Religion and Stephen S. Bowen Professor of the Liberal Arts Derek Nelson '99, a longtime friend of Warner's. "He'll find new ways to continue that, but we also will have to do more in his absence."

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

ANTONY SANTAGATA '29
STAFF WRITER

After 19 years at Wabash College, Pam Sacco, the Academic Administrative Coordinator (AAC) for Division III and Baxter Hall, will be retiring. Sacco has worked for the economics, education studies, history, political science and psychology departments, while also greatly supporting the PPE program and Pre-Law Society.

"She has revolutionized the AAC position, and she has done it because she takes ownership," said Associate Professor of Political Science, Pre-Law Advisor and Stephenson Fellow Scott Himsel '85. "When she has something to do, you never have to worry about it getting done. She will take such ownership of it that she will make it better."

"Pam's one of those people that you might not always see on the front stage, but she's behind it all," said Elijah Wetzel '27, President of the Pre-Law Society. "Whether it's organizing speakers, coordinating transportation or just getting the food when we invite speakers in, she has a hand in everything, and without her we wouldn't be able to conduct the same programming."

Sacco's impact runs deep; she played an integral role in growing the Peck Lecture and Dinner, an on-campus event hosted by the Pre-Law Society. With over a hundred people participating in this event each year, it can be extremely difficult to pull off logistically, especially considering that many alumni come in from out of town. Sacco has made this process far easier for all involved.

"I collaborate with the speaker's assistant, lodging and travel, help Professor Himsel figure out timelines for emails and get drivers," said Sacco. "I do all the behind-the-scenes stuff, making sure everything flows smoothly and helping solve whatever comes up."

"She is always out ahead, proactively asking if our guest speaker can be interviewed by *The Bachelor*, or if the event can be recorded for people who can't get here due to a scheduling conflict," said Himsel. "She always thinks ahead on things like that, and the list goes on and on and on."

After spending 19 years at Wabash, there will be much that Sacco will miss about this place. While she might understandably not miss all the work, she will miss many of the people and unique Wabash traditions.

"I have loved working with the other AAC's on campus. We are a good group, and we try to be each other's backup and support system," said Sacco. "It has been nice to see how our group has evolved and grown, and it has been good. I am going to miss it when I retire."

Outside of all the great people Sacco will miss, she will also miss all the excitement that surrounds this campus.

"There are things that happen here that I will miss, like 'Chapel Sing', which I love. It is fun to go watch everybody," said Sacco. "I also like the beginning of classes when school starts again. It is such a different energy on campus, and it is so much fun to have students back again."

Sacco's absence next year will absolutely be one that is felt heavily, and it will deeply impact Division III, Baxter Hall, the Pre-Law Society and the greater Wabash College community.

"It's a retirement we're going to feel very strongly," said Himsel. "By the same token, much like she takes ownership of things while she's here, she is hard at work documenting her work for the next person, so they'll know what to do and have a lot of guidance on how to do it."

We will miss Sacco deeply, and we wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Cristian Cantu: Champion of challenges

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28
STAFF WRITER

Wabash is a place where people from all over the country and the world come together to grow and be challenged. In many ways, Cristian Cantu '26 is a good example of seeing challenges as opportunities for improvement. As a rhetoric major and English minor, he has showcased a great passion for learning. Taking English as a second language growing up and majoring in the two intricate methods of the language at a place like Wabash is a key expression of his commitment to hard work. Participating in organizations like the Sphinx Club and Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) in addition to his active role in La Alianza also showcase his varied interests and his ability to be in and around campus.

"I am privileged to say that I have had many battles and

many successes on this beautiful campus," said Cantu. "My biggest battle was understanding the different roles I was meant to play as a college student compared to what I thought I was going to be."

In his time Crawfordsville, Cantu has gained many life lessons.

"Learning different skills and taking on different responsibilities was a challenge I enjoyed overcoming," said Cantu. "With that, I consider my biggest win to be the countless connections I've been blessed to create across campus and with our alumni. Being able to enjoy a meal at any fraternity or have a personal connection with at least one staff member in every building has been a beautiful thing to experience."

Cantu learned a lot at Wabash, but his biggest battle came when he least expected it.

"During my first college summer, I worked as a camp counselor in North Carolina," said Cantu. "I had just finished my first year of college and felt unstoppable. I arrived Sunday night. By Monday afternoon I was in the E.R. with a broken clavicle, collarbone and shoulder. What was meant to be a summer filled with adventure and spontaneity turned into a summer of reflection and adaptability. I stuck through with it and made sure I took it as a lesson to persevere rather than an excuse to go home. That summer I floated on the lake, rock climbed, hiked and did many more things I wasn't going to be able to do. I learned that no broken bones, no surgery, nothing is more powerful than the mind."

Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric Chris Anderson has spent a lot of

time with Cantu through WDPD.

"I was recommended to meet Cantu as he was not a Fellow and had not taken RHE-280, the standard path for WDPD Fellows," said Anderson. "Upon meeting him I found him to be charming with a strong understanding of his environment. He possesses the instincts of a facilitator by skillfully reading the room around him, and making people feel welcome and appreciated."

Anderson also stated that Cantu's abilities were a special tool for the organization.

"Cantu was part of the reason WDPD held its first deliberation entirely in Spanish," said Anderson. "I trusted him to represent the organization and connect with the community on behalf of WDPD and the college. He is a stellar representative. His work in the community with the soccer program and his internship with the Mayor Barton's office are small examples of the quiet hard work to improve community and build connections he does everyday."

Watching Cantu's growth as a person means understanding the struggles and victories that he collected along the way.

"Cris has a clear vision of his path and what it will take to get there," said Anderson. "I have watched him struggle across his coursework as things got difficult and worked hard to identify the struggle and then address it to reach his goals."

After Wabash, Cantu is set with a position at The Annex Group, a construction company in Fishers. Here he will continue his pattern of extracting meaningful life lessons from demanding work.



COURTESY OF PAM SACCO

Pam Sacco (back row, second from right) poses with the academic administrative coordinators of Wabash College.

Play Ball!



Ushering in a new era for Wabash Baseball on Birdzell Field. Cheers to JoAnn and John Birdzell '61!

instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis

Thundercat 'Distracted' album review: Consistently groovy



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

EVAN BONE '26
OPINION EDITOR

Bass virtuoso and eccentric personality: Thundercat returns to his typical, groovy form with his new album "Distracted." Thundercat is most known for his thick basslines and beloved collaborations with other artists; from working with Kendrick Lamar to Michael McDonald, Thundercat has been able to blend his personality and musicianship with the talents of others. "Distracted" continues Thundercat's seamless collaborations, colorful personality and addictive grooves.

On the opening track "Candlelight" Thundercat calls out to a lover or a friend to not let their light dim. This opener sees Thundercat using a candlelight as a metaphor for a relationship; he employs metaphors throughout the album to convey the complexity of relationships. The lyrics are delivered a bit flatly, but the instrumental is engaging. Drums grow sporadic as the track goes on while the video game sounding keys impress in the second half. It's an opener that didn't originally blow me away, but upon repeated listens the technical ability of the musicians involved becomes more apparent and impressive.

The next five tracks host prominent features with Tame Impala, Mac Miller, A\$AP Rocky and Lil Yachty being the headliners. Like usual, Thundercat makes the most of these featured artists by matching and elevating their style. "No

More Lies" featuring Tame Impala is fast paced and catchy especially the chorus which sees both artists working in tandem. While I personally wanted a bit more of a psychedelic tinge to this song, it is undoubtedly a successful mix of each artists' styles. "She Knows Too Much" is a stand-out song to me as Thundercat amplifies Mac Miller's personality-filled verse with a sick bassline and solo on keys to wrap the track up. "I Did This to Myself" featuring Lil Yachty has a bassline that never fails to make my head bob up and down. "Funny Friends" with A\$AP Rocky is a shorter song, but its production is enveloping and the heartfelt lyrics about true friendship are wholesome and relatable. These four songs in a row make for an enthralling first half of the album.

Following that run of big-time features, the album slows down a bit. "What is Left to Say" reminds me of the Bee Gees with its powerfully sung chorus, beautiful vocalizations and harmonies. "Walking on the Moon" uses outer space as a metaphor for euphoric feelings of love which is matched by the futuristic instrumental. Many of the songs on this second half of the album are quality, but they don't blow me away. Thundercat's songwriting is solid throughout, but he finds his niche when he leans into his sense of humor and distinct personality. The numerous "Star Wars" allusions on "Anakin Learns His Fate" help Thundercat explain his strug-

gle with dark thoughts in a tumultuous relationship. "Great Americans" has some observational humor that old fans of Thundercat should be familiar with; his personality shines through with his "meow" adlibs and his pleas for his lover or friend to return his coat before they leave him.

"Distracted" ends on a subtle and stripped back note. The instrumental is quiet and spacious with some deep keyboard notes being played as Thundercat delivers his final verse of the album. This final verse sees Thundercat try to calm down, take care of himself, express his tiredness and ultimately end with the line, "Maybe I should start an OnlyFans and show some feet"; this ends the album on a light note. But clearly Thundercat is using his humor to get a grip on his struggles with purpose and emotional stability.

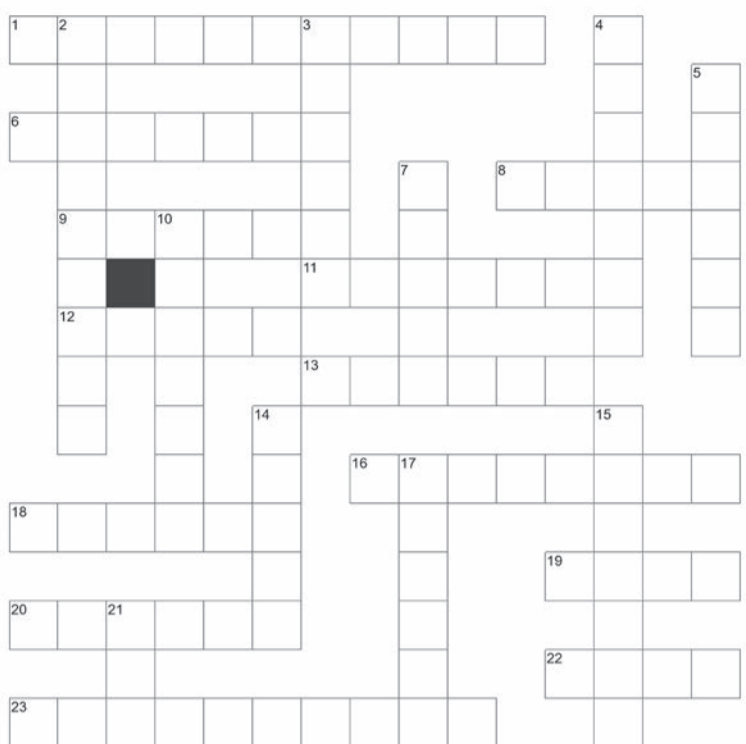
Thundercat hit the mark again with his newest album. "Distracted" is consistent in quality and varied in its tone making for a dynamic listen. I only wish that Thundercat took a couple more chances on this record. The second half of the album can be a bit of a lull with the more simplistic and subdued production, and the closer, while introspective, is a bit disappointing with its stripped back instrumental. I continue to be charmed by Thundercat's songwriting and blown away by his talents as a musician, but after many listens I yearn for more from this album.

**FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS**



'The Masters'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



Across

- 1. Prize awarded to the Masters champion
- 6. Southern state where Augusta National is located
- 8. Month the Masters Tournament is typically held
- 9. Golfer's assistant at Augusta National
- 11. Georgia city hosting the Masters Tournament
- 12. Two strokes under par
- 13. Sand hazard on the course
- 16. Record six-time Masters champion, Jack _____
- 18. One stroke under par
- 19. Contest held the day before the Masters begins
- 20. Term for a Masters spectator
- 22. Golden _____, the famous 12th hole
- 23. Famous three-hole stretch at Augusta National

Down

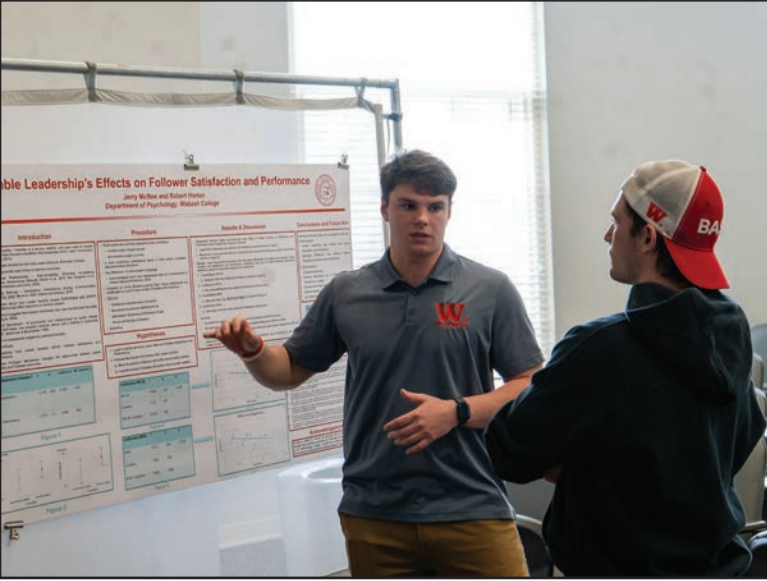
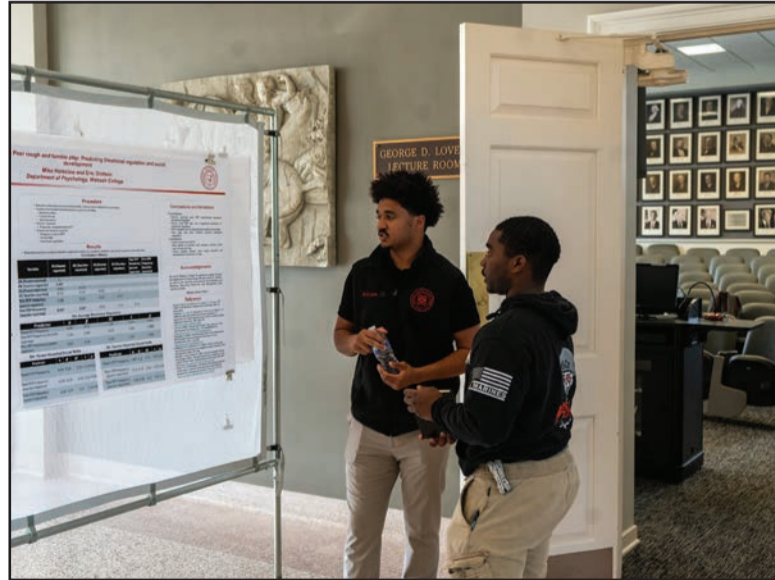
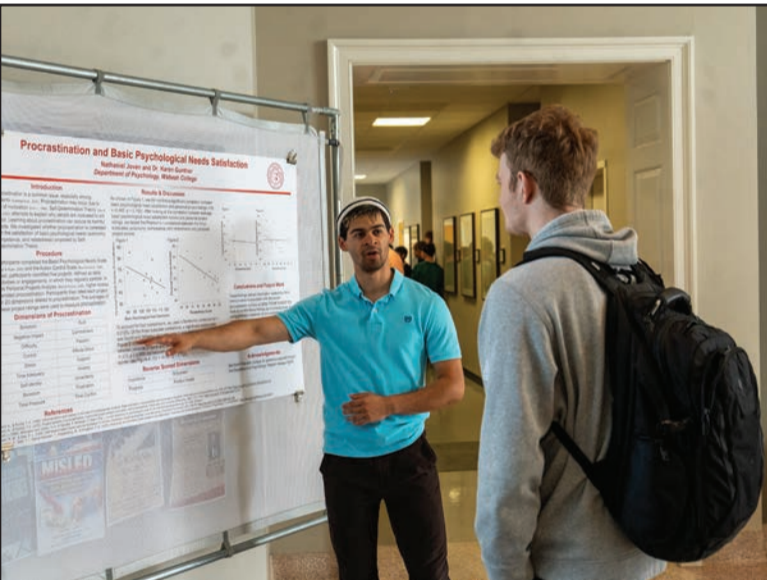
- 2. Water hazard near the 12th hole at Augusta
- 3. Flowering shrub synonymous with Augusta National
- 4. Manicured grass leading to the green
- 5. Four-time Masters winner, Arnold _____
- 7. Ben _____, inaugurated the Champions Dinner
- 10. Name of the 11th hole at Augusta
- 14. Putting surface at Augusta National
- 15. Golfer who hit the 'shot heard 'round the world'
- 17. To be a guest at The Masters you must have an _____
- 21. Where golfers start each hole at Augusta

Scan for answers!



Psychology Senior Capstone presentations

Wabash College senior psychology majors presented their Senior Capstone projects on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 in Baxter Hall.



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

'The Super Mario Galaxy Movie' is just noise



COURTESY OF TMDB

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

With the ferocity that critics have lambasted "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," one would think that it heralds the end of cinema. It does not, but it is also a galaxy away from living up to the other animated kids movies that it will eventually sit next to on a streaming app. Despite the scope and adventure that the source material promises, the film can barely offer anything besides easter eggs and noise.

Based on (but not limited to) Nintendo's 2007 hit "Super Mario Galaxy," "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" follows up the franchise's cinematic return in 2023. Where that movie took creative liberties to transition Mario to the big screen, this one barely even tries. Without major character arcs, thematic significance or even an ounce of subtlety, Mario and the gang are once again transported to a new environment to save a princess from evil Koopa forces. There is little else that can be said about the plot.

A common argument for the film's simplicity posits that an adaptation should match the simplicity of its source material. Well for one I would seriously argue that the game has more narrative depth. For another, why even adapt to a more story-driven medium if not to take full advantage of the narrative potential? I am far from the first person to cite "The Lego Movie" and "Paddington," as examples of kids' movies that take simple source material in a new, cinematic direction. This point is especially relevant when you could

walk your family across the theater's hall and watch "Project Hail Mary" instead.

Matching the vapid story is an equally-shallow cast of new characters. The best of the bunch is Yoshi, a dinosaur who cannot talk and doesn't need character drama to be endearing. And then there are Bowser Jr. and Princess Rosalina, both characters that even the film's defenders have complained lack screen time. There are also a few surprise characters who I will not identify in this article (even though the film's official social media accounts anti-climactically did); just know that they are also one-note.

Visually, the movie is all over the place. The fight scenes rapidly dance around intricate sets, but their objective is indistinct. Despite their energy, these sequences are just as hollow as the story and characters. The colors are nicely balanced, but the lighting never really gives those colors intention. There is a crippling lack of interesting shots for a movie that adapts a game with beautiful panache. This leads to the film being optically unmemorable. The character designs are very good, but that praise is more owed to Nintendo's games than the film itself.

I am positive that any fan of the games will enjoy their time with this movie for the easter eggs and references alone, but is that really all we ask out of the theater anymore? While I think that the lion's share of the negative criticism is a bit hyperbolic, I empathize with the general ennui that critics feel about this kind of filmmaking. Being an adaptation, being animated and being for kids are not excuses for turning the silver screen into a slideshow of things you recognize from other places. I would not even mind the film's shallowness if it had at least tried something new, but it felt so comfortable with its inevitable multi-million dollar profit that it never tried.

**FINAL VERDICT:
1.5/5 WALLYS**



HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

DON'T MESS WITH "WOPPENHEIMER"

Lo-Five to Pooh Shiesty for kidnapping Gucci Mane and holding him at gunpoint. Gucci's beat the case three times now, so I don't think the guy who made "Back in Blood" stands a chance.

WHAT DID HE SAY??

Lo-Five to Donald Trump for threatening to "end a civilization". Someone please take grandpa's phone away from him.

"HELLO, FRIENDS!"

Hi-Five to Augusta National Golf Club for hosting the annual Masters Tournament this week. We all wish Grub Hollow could make pimento cheese sandwiches like Augusta does.

THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS

Hi-Five to the Michigian Wolverines men's basketball team for winning the national championship. The Big East and SEC can go suck it; the Big 10 is back on top baby!

YES 'CERS!

Hi-Five to Tyrese Haliburton for playing 5 on 5 for the first time since last June. We miss you pookie!

Are you tired of winning?



Connor Phillips '28

Reply to this opinion at caphilli28@wabash.edu

On the campaign trail, President Donald Trump now famously proclaimed, "You're going to win so much, you may even get tired of winning." I say that if this is what winning looks like, then I am damn tired of it.

Donald Trump won the presidency on the promise of putting "America First." To me, this means focusing his administration's efforts and policies solely on the United States and not getting involved in other nations' problems. Trump said much the same on the campaign trail: "I'm not going to start a war. I'm going to stop wars." President Trump has since stomped on that promise. We are now involved in a foreign war with Iran, one that was not provoked by an attack upon this country or our allies, for that matter. We launched this war against Iran without a clear reason or plan. "Operation Epic Fury" has resulted in hundreds of American service members being injured and at least 13 being killed. Along with this, U.S. air bases and billions of dollars' worth of equipment have been destroyed or abandoned. This war has been far from a total victory as the President had hoped. In fact, the only thing "epic" about this operation is the damage done to this nation.

This operation took out Iran's leader but did not bring down the regime as was hoped by President Trump. This past month has been a back-and-forth of continued fighting on both sides. President Trump on Tuesday sent out a message that said: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again." Is that the rhetoric of someone who does not want to get into a new war? Is threatening genocide against another nation putting America first?

Now with a cease-fire, there is still a chance that we will get involved in another forever war. This is because the deal is just for a two-week ceasefire. We might be right back where we started in two weeks. More Americans may die in a conflict that we were dragged into by Israel. A war that this president promised that we would not get involved in. And now we are expected to take the cost of the war both in aid and in soldiers. And all of this for what? So we can pay trillions of

tax dollars for a never-ending war while the top .01% Americans exploit another country just to make themselves richer? That's not putting "America First" because it screws the other 99.99% of the population, including you and me.

Speaking of putting Americans last, let's look at how the economy and markets are doing. Well, the Dow Jones isn't at 50,000 points anymore, which was the most important accomplishment of this administration, according to former Attorney General Pam Bondi. It has dropped nearly 10% in the last month. This means that, on average, Americans lost \$15,000 in their 401(k)s over the last month. The average American certainly is not winning here. This large drop has been spurred on by the war in Iran.

Another field that more closely impacts us is gas. Recently, I drove to the greatest gas station on earth to fuel up, Valero. In one day, gas spiked up \$0.35 per gallon. It was over four dollars for the first time in years. I was stunned by this because President Trump has highlighted just how cheap gas is under his leadership. Considering the fact that dozens of our oil fields have been bombed, I highly doubt this will just be a "temporary spike" as President Trump claims. This will last for months if not years. Since many major U.S. oil fields have been bombed in the region.

To further my point, the Strait of Hormuz's impacts have resulted in one of the largest global disruptions ever — not just oil, but also what we need to make food. Fertilizer has suffered a large shortage since the start of the war. People are now, on average, paying 35% more for it. You will feel this the next time you go to buy something grown on a farm. Food and many other products transported through the Strait will see prices spike. Even though the Strait is now open, it was closed for so long that it will take months or a year to recover.

You are paying for this war. A war we were promised not to get involved in. A war that the United States has no right in being this involved in. Americans have and will continue to pay the ultimate price for this war. I am writing this piece to remind everyone of the promises this administration made to you. Since then, our President has shattered these promises and has betrayed you. Winning is not just how high the stock market is, but rather how the average American is faring. Now the average person will be greatly impacted at the pump or at the store. That's not winning, that's losing.

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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.

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

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Success is like the color blue



Evan Rauwolf '28

Reply to this opinion at ecrauwl28@wabash.edu

Imagine for a moment that you're back at your freshman Ringing-In ceremony. Shortly before ringing you in, President Feller steps up to the podium and outlines the goal of a Wabash education - that being to "obtain the color blue". "Wabash College prepares young men to be the bluest, more than any other university..." he says. While pursuing your four-year degree at Wabash, you keep this comment in the back of your mind.

Fast forward to a distant future where your class reunites for old times' sake. Everyone gathers around a table and starts discussing how they have obtained or have been the most "blue" since graduation. For some, it was sapphire airplanes, automobiles, jewelry, diamonds or dashed lines on a Benjamin. For others, it was intricately crafted portraits the color of the sea. For others still, it was azure trophies, accolades, objects, thoughts, emotions, relationships or a combination thereof. After everyone finishes sharing the trials they've faced and the challenges they've overcome, a question still remains - who has actually obtained "the color blue" the most?

When posed this way, the concept of success becomes a lot clearer. It is immediately obvious that there is no perfect definition. There is no ruler or straightedge that tells you how successful a person has become, nor is there a basis that compares different types of success to others. I assert now that the person who has actually obtained the color blue is the person who has most enjoyed their pursuit of it.

I offer a hypothetical. List any

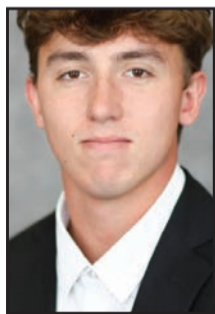
dreams, accomplishments and items you would like to obtain within your time on earth. I will then place a button in front of you and extend you an offer. If you push this button, you will instantly obtain everything on your list, and you will become deeply, profoundly unhappy. Ask yourself honestly, would you push the button? Why or why not?

Success should not be viewed as a worthy object, regarded as such because few people hold the keys. Success is characterized by a journey to the top of the mountain and a struggle that makes that journey worthwhile. Would you be successful if everything you've ever wanted was given to you, and there was no sacrifice? Would you truly obtain it if everything you've dreamt came true, but you've lost your soul? These are questions that the world has attempted to answer since its beginning. I recommend that you reflect on a reasonable answer.

"There is no ruler or straightedge that tells you how successful a person has become, nor is there a basis that compares different types of success to others."

So what then do we make of this, Little Giants? Am I saying that all greatness and measure of accomplishment is void? Absolutely not. When gazing on the fields of this world and something particularly navy catches your eye - go after it! Nobody else is looking at what strikes you, and no one cares about it as deeply as you do. As you weave your way through lilacs and thornbushes, you will forge a path most meaningful because it's your very own. All I ask is that you try not to lose your way and that you never get greedy. I hope that every once in a while, you look back at your progress, just to be amazed at how far you've come.

Be emotional



Francisco Bibian '27

Reply to this opinion at fabibian27@wabash.edu

As a junior, I have gotten the pleasure of experiencing the chaos of Wabash. I have experienced the ups and downs, the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. These experiences have taught me a lot about resilience and self-awareness. As a man, it's easy to show joy when you ace a test or when the 10/10 you've been texting finally agrees to come for a weekend. However, at least for me and what I have seen from some of my brothers on campus, the lows are often kept inside and not shared openly. The struggle of a busy week that feels like there is no end in sight or the crushing feeling that your state school friends are having more fun at college than you can be overwhelming. It is easier for us men to keep those feelings inside and let them build up over time. I can vouch and say I did exactly this.

I was in the hardest semester of my life and dealing with many problems outside of school as well. I sat in my room and rotted away, feeling isolated and unsure of how to cope. Then one day, I decided to use one of the greatest resources on this campus: the free Counseling Center. I let all the emotions out and worked through why and where every single one was coming from. This process helped me understand myself better and gave me tools to manage my feelings. I began making it a habit to go regularly, so I would never reach that low again. Every week I sat down and talked about what my struggles were that week which became a vital part of my mental health routine.

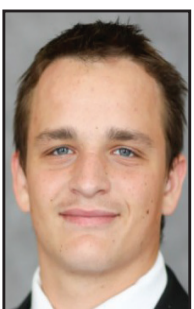
I say all these words because as I look around every year, I see brothers strugg-

gle. Occasionally, they may acknowledge it but prefer not to engage in an extended discussion about the matter. This reluctance can make it harder to find support when it's most needed, especially when brothers feel isolated and unsure how to ask for help. I cannot urge people enough that expressing your emotions, whether good or bad, will make your life more fulfilling. Being alive is being emotional; it is being vulnerable. Don't feel the need to put this barrier up because you fear what others might think of you.

I regret not using the Counseling Center sooner. A quote from the late Brian Jacques in his book *Redwall* says, "Tears are only water, and flowers, trees and fruit cannot grow without water." This quote for me became very real after I began to speak and express my emotions. When you are finally able to both feel and let out these emotions, there is a sense of relief that I think most people underestimate. This feeling is more empowering than you may think. It allows one to feel like they have control over their lives instead of the constant fear of not knowing what is next in life.

So, I urge anybody reading this to use the counseling services, or if you're more comfortable, sit down with a brother and ask him to help you navigate what might be going on with your life. Support is available, and reaching out is a sign of strength, not weakness. As the late Chuck Norris said, "Strength without discipline is weakness. True power is control." Try to become more disciplined in managing your emotions, just as you are disciplined in going to the gym to impress that girl. Because having the power to control and understand that sadness that will inevitably come over you is much more powerful than hitting that new PR in the weight room.

The fiction of “illegal” people



William Cunningham '29
Reply to this opinion at wmcunnin29@wabash.edu

Immigration debates in the U.S. are shaped by language. One term dominates: “illegal.” Used by politicians and the media, “illegal” refers to people without legal authorization. This label powerfully positions individuals as existing outside the law. However, from a human rights perspective, this is a misleading framework. Laws or practices can be illegal and unjust, but people themselves cannot be. When politicians apply the term “illegal” to humans, they describe a policy-created status, not a personal condition. Understanding this distinction is essential: immigration systems must respect both law and migrants’ fundamental rights.

Nicholas De Genova, an American anthropologist, argues that migrants themselves are not responsible for the condition of being considered illegal, but rather it is created by the immigration laws themselves. Governments establish rules determining who can cross borders, work and reside in their country. When those rules change, it restricts those once considered legal and makes them undocumented. Because of this, illegality is less about individual’s actions and more about legal systems that classify certain behavior as criminal. Immigration systems, therefore, do not just regulate migration; they actively are the cause of both inclusion and exclusion of certain immigrants.

The consequences of classifying immigrants as illegal are very significant. When migrants are classified this way, they often lose protections that many “legal” residents take for granted. Workers without proper documents may face dangerous conditions or stolen wages, but are not able to report these abuses as it would lead them straight to deportation. Some undocumented families even avoid hospitals, schools or other services out of fear of authorities. As a result, some communities are pushed into the shadows, unable to experience many freedoms of the United States. These negative outcomes demonstrate how immigration laws do not just regulate who comes in through the borders, but it also shapes the everyday life for millions of migrants who live and work in a country without formal paperwork within it. Research highlights as well that immigration status is not based solely on official documents but also on social perception. Sociologists René Flores and Ariela Schachter

have found that migrants are often presumed to be “illegal” based on cues like language or accent and perceived ethnicity. In their studies, individuals were more likely to label someone undocumented if they spoke Spanish or appeared Latino. Even without any information about their legal status, these migrants were called illegal by many individuals, and these findings highlight how enforcing immigration policies can intertwine with racial stereotypes, making the law susceptible to being used just because of social suspicions.

Some people say in critique of this perspective that every state has the right to regulate its borders and enforce laws on immigration. They state that without clear rules governing entry to their society, their governments would struggle to maintain a sense of economic stability and national security. This concern reflects a very important principle: sovereign states do have the legitimate power to manage who migrates into their country and determine the conditions under which people may or may not enter.

However, even acknowledging the authority these states have, that does not mean these governments should accept a system marginalizing millions of people. When used correctly, immigration policies can be used to enforce rules while still respecting fundamental human rights. Governments can pursue reforms to aid these marginalized peoples, expanding the ways to achieve legal status, strengthening labor protections and ensuring access to essential services like healthcare, even for those who have not yet reached documented immigration status. Policies like these would help the U.S. recognize that migrants, “legal or illegal,” are a core piece in the social and economic sphere in which they live.

The broad issue at hand is a sense of belonging for immigrants. Modern economies, especially in the United States, rely heavily on migrant labor in several industries. Yet these migrant-dependent societies often treat them as outsiders who do not fully belong. When these people are labeled as “illegal,” it reinforces a contradiction: a contradiction suggesting that the presence of these migrants is both necessary and illegitimate at the same time.

If we are to believe that fundamental human rights are universal, then they can not just stop at borders or depend on legal papers. Immigration laws are always going to exist, and politicians will always be contentious on their beliefs about immigration. However, recognizing that “illegality” is not what a migrant is, but is instead a legal category, is crucial for building fair and equal immigration systems that respect all migrants with human dignity.

Student government: Budgets or building



Chayce Howell '27
Reply to this opinion at cjhowell27@wabash.edu

The Bachelor, in partnership with Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, launched this recurring column to reflect how students are thinking about campus life, current events and the broader world. Each week, a small group of randomly selected Wabash students gathers for a facilitated conversation. Participants are not quoted by name. That choice allows space for honest reflection without fear of judgment. Rather than offering conclusions or arguments, the column captures how students are making sense of complex issues in real time.

This week’s conversation focused on student government, a structure that most students interact with indirectly but rely on regularly.

At the core of the conversation, participants viewed student government as both necessary and valuable. Many echoed descriptions they had heard likening it to a form of self-governance. One participant called the senate “the backbone of the student body,” while another framed it more practically: “budget, the school gives us so much money, and it’s the senate’s responsibility to allocate it.”

That emphasis on funding came up repeatedly. Students recognized the role Senate plays in supporting clubs, organizations and campus events. Through that lens, student government contributes to a broader sense of belonging by enabling different groups to exist and thrive. At the same time, that understanding felt incomplete.

Several participants admitted uncertainty about what the student government does beyond allocating money. “Is there another layer than allocating the budget?” one student asked — a question that lingered throughout the discussion.

As a result, many felt that student government was not visible. Participants described student government, and its leadership, as not being present enough in everyday campus life. “They could be more effective being more open faced,” one student said. Others repeated that sentiment, noting that they rarely see or interact with student leaders outside of formal settings.

This lack of visibility contributed to a broader perception that involvement in student government can feel closed off. While Senate meetings are open, students described them as difficult to engage with. “It is a hard system to break into, even though they say everybody is welcome, it is an unappealing invitation,” one participant said.

For many, the issue is not access,

but motivation. “It also plays as a title,” one participant said, adding that leaders “don’t go above and beyond.” Students suggested that roles within student government can sometimes function more as titles rather than as active responsibilities.

At the same time, participants struggled to define what “more” would actually look like.

“I feel like they should be doing more, but I don’t know what else they should be doing,” one participant said. Another added, “I haven’t heard any problems, but I also haven’t seen much of them.”

That tension revealed a central challenge. Student government seems to be functioning in its most basic role, but its impact is not always visible or clearly understood. As the conversation turned toward improvements, students emphasized engagement over structure.

Rather than focusing solely on policy or decision-making, participants suggested that student government could play a larger role in shaping campus culture. “We need more events that invite everybody,” one student said. Another added that leaders “should get creative making many people want to go.”

These ideas pointed toward a more outward-facing model of leadership, one that prioritizes connection as much as coordination. Students repeatedly returned to the idea that presence matters. To them, invitations and personal interaction were just as important as budgets and meetings. That emphasis carried into how students think about elections.

When discussing what influences their vote, participants highlighted personal connection as a key factor. “I vote based on who I know,” one student admitted. Others stressed the importance of leaders building relationships across campus. The president, participants suggested, should “build 1 on 1 personal connections with students.”

Experience for candidates produced mixed reactions. Some students argued that less experienced candidates might bring fresh perspectives and new ideas. Others valued experience at Wabash more broadly, not necessarily within student government itself, but as a sign of engagement and understanding of campus life. Despite that disagreement, one point remained consistent: students want leaders who are open to change and willing to engage directly with the community they represent.

Participants described a system that is both functional and incomplete. It allocates resources, supports organizations and maintains a structure of student representation. At the same time, it struggles with visibility and its broader purpose. The central question remained unresolved. Is student government simply the group that manages the budget, or should it serve as the primary voice and connector for the student body?

Poetry from Wallies



Opinion Editor, Evan Bone '26
Reply to this poem at ecbone26@wabash.edu

‘Ode to the Tree Bench’

I never once thought of how I would miss you until you were destroyed without notice. Our solitary bench, you encircled a sturdy tree; all you have left is a yellow ghost haunting your grass. Soon, the sullied grass will grow lush.

You lifted graduates, consoled freshmen, coddled rough days, captured readers.

I remember how you hung with me during long Wabash summers. Your ring of shaded safety wrapped around my shoulders. You lent your ear during lunch-time breaks, straightened my back as I read Whitman, Fitzgerald, my first drafts, and texts from people away from our hollow campus. Your canopy swayed, leaflets letting in light, as I sat at your base taking in a moment, a pause, in a fleeting harvest month.

It’s a March evening. I walk to your waning grave. The sun descends behind brick buildings. I look over your resting place and follow your phantom trunk to the tip-top of where you would be; instead, I find the sky, a weave of clouds and light caught in between dreamy day and impending night. Campus lamps switch on, bright wisps in the pink and blue twilight. I release my muscles in The Mall grass — breathe in the moisture from the blades against my skin. Your dirt hands cradle me.

Your presence was an embrace. Your absence reminds me to observe and bask.

Another building crushes fields, daisies and reeds. Why can’t we build more benches around trees?

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Volleyball misses MCVL tournament with loss to Wittenberg

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash volleyball team fought tooth and nail to the very end of the regular season, but it was not enough to make the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) conference tournament as the team dropped the penultimate match to Wittenberg on Friday, April 3, at Chadwick Court. Despite the loss, the Little Giants had a fitting send off to the program's sole senior, Patrick Volk '26, the night before in a game against Mount St. Joseph.

Prior to the game on Thursday night against the Lions from Mount St. Joseph University, Volk was recognized for his career in the scarlet and white. In his four years, he racked up a total of 637 kills, placing him third on the all-time kills list. Conveniently enough, Volk found himself to be a centerpiece of the Wabash offense against the Lions. He totaled up a team-high 13 kills as the Little Giants cruised to a 3-0 win (25-17, 25-14, 25-17). The team controlled the match from the service line and at the net, hitting an impressive 35.1% while piling up 11

aces and seven blocks.

"Senior night was a special night for a number of reasons," said Volk. "It was a way to celebrate all the time and work I've put into the sport, and it was great getting to celebrate my career with my family and teammates."

"It was a really brutal way to end the season, but how else would you want to go out? We played super hard against a really tough team. It's hard to see the positives in a loss, but we have so much to be proud of."

- Chris Board '27

The season teetered on every point Friday night as the team fought to keep its postseason hopes alive against the Wittenberg Tigers.

Wabash seized control late in the opening set, building a 23-20 lead behind kills from Volk and Shad Wilson '27. The Little Giant lead then slipped

away, however, as Wittenberg rattled off five straight points to claim the first set thanks to two service aces and multiple Wabash errors.

Wabash's response was immediate, though. After starting the second set a little slow by trailing 2-8, the Little Giants clawed back, point by point. Christopher Board's '27 serve ignited the run, and after grinding through 11 ties, Wabash found its moment with the set tied at 22 points a piece. An ace by Board, a kill by Volk and a block by Wilson and Jaden Greenwell '29 closed out the second set 25-22, tying the game at 1-1.

The third set became a test of endurance as it had 25 ties and 13 lead changes. Neither side relented. Bawibawi Thang '27 delivered in the pressure-packed moments down the stretch. With the set tied at 33, Wabash found the strength to break through, escaping with a 35-33 victory to take a 2-1 lead.

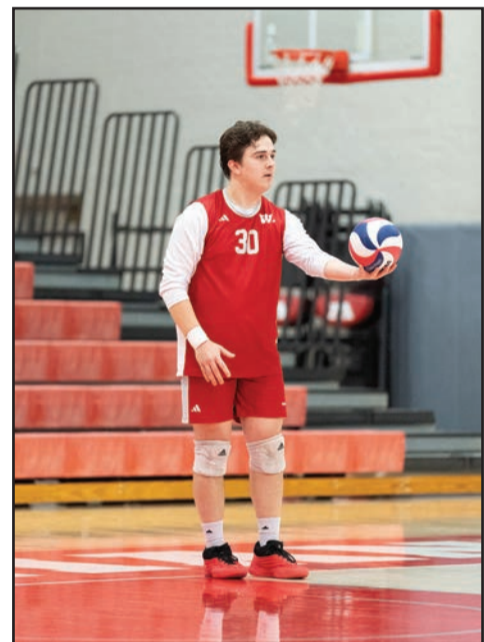
Wittenberg surged in the fourth set, however, using a decisive run in the closing moments to force a fifth set. In the final set of the night, the Tigers struck early, building a 10-5 lead. Wabash answered by getting the deficit to two points, but the Tigers pushed through and ultimately won the fifth set 15-11 and the match 3-2.

"It was a really brutal way to end the season, but how else would you want to go out," said Board. "We played super hard against a really tough team. It's hard to see the positives in a loss, but we have so much to be proud of."

Thang led all Wabash hitters with 26 kills, nine digs and a 34.7% hitting percentage. Volk added 18 kills on a 36.4% attack percentage while Greenwell contributed 12 kills and six block assists. Wilson finished with nine kills, and setter Matthew Stitle '28 orchestrated the offense with 63 assists and 15 digs. Piotr Wolan '28 added 14 digs as Wabash totaled 70 kills, 69 assists, 58 digs, 18 service aces and nine team blocks in their final match of the season.



Jaden Greenwell '29 hits a cross-court shot against Trine University at Chadwick Court.



Chris Board '27 prepares to serve against Trine University at Chadwick Court.



Patrick Volk '26 (third from right) gets recognized on Senior Day on Thursday, April 2, at Chadwick Court.

Baseball snaps seven-game losing streak, drops doubleheader to No. 1 Denison at home

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

Wabash baseball came away with a mixed week of results in North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play. Against Oberlin College on Friday, April 3, the Little Giants broke a seven-game losing streak after splitting a doubleheader, but their doubleheader against No. 1 Denison University at Goodrich Ballpark on Wednesday, April 8, proved to be much more difficult as the team lost both games.

On Wednesday, April 8, Wabash faced a formidable opponent in the Denison Big Red, a team that came into the doubleheader tout-

ing a 19-1 record and sitting atop the national rankings as the best team in the country. Denison proved to be dominant as it beat Wabash 10-0 in seven innings in the first game and 27-4 in seven innings in the second game (both games ended via mercy rule).

"It's no secret that Denison is a good opponent," said Ben Henke '26. "They are every year. They're well-coached, they don't beat themselves, they're talented, but you have to go out and just play. The game of baseball doesn't change based on who you're playing."

The first game against Oberlin on April 3 quickly turned into a slugfest. Oberlin grabbed a 2-0 lead on two solo home runs in the first inning before Wabash answered with a dominant seven-run second inning. Caleb Ellspermann's '26 sacrifice fly gave Wabash its first scoring opportunity before Ben Henke '26 contributed with a three-run double. The inning was capped with a Will Wallace '28 RBI double and a Jimmy Hawksworth '28 two-run single to give the Little Giants a 7-2 lead.

"Offensively, we found our stride a little bit," said Henke. "It was good to see some guys who had been struggling find some barrels and others who have been consistent to stay consistent."

Wabash continued to control the game after Hawksworth contributed an RBI double in the fourth inning. Wallace increased the Little

Giant lead to 14-8 with a grand slam in the seventh inning. Oberlin chipped away at the score in the last couple of innings, but it was not enough as Wabash finished the first game of the doubleheader with a 14-11 victory, earning its first NCAC win of the season and snapping a seven-game losing streak.

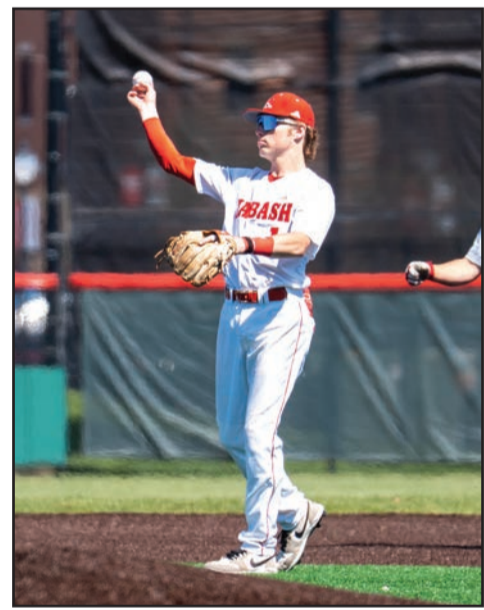
"It's a game of ebbs and flows, but controlling what we can control at the plate is only going to increase our chances of winning ballgames," said Henke.

The second game of the day appeared to be heading in the same direction as the first. In the first inning, Henke brought Ellspermann home before Will McKinzie '26 added a sacrifice fly. Aidan Ramsey '29 then tripled, bringing Hawksworth in to score in the second inning. By the end of the second inning, Wabash had a 6-0 lead. Oberlin, however, did not back down, answering with a home run and a handful of single runs to tie the game 6-6. The game ended up going to a 10th inning where Oberlin scored with the bases loaded to hand the Little Giants a 6-7 loss.

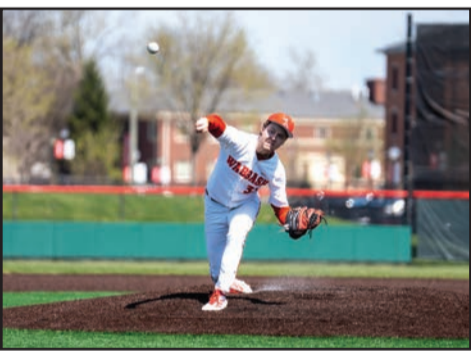
"I really believe that we are figuring it out and are going to turn this thing around," said Ramsey.

The Little Giants will return to the diamond on Saturday, April 11, at Goodrich Ballpark where they will take on Ohio Wesleyan University in a doubleheader with the first game set to start at 12 p.m. EST.

"It's going to be a breath of fresh air to finally have some home games," said Henke. "We're excited to get the opportunity to sleep in our own beds, wake up and walk over to the field and play. We are going to have some fun with it."



Jimmy Hawksworth '28 throws a ball back to the mound in a game against No. 1 Denison University on Wednesday, April 8, at Goodrich Ballpark.



Connor Lambert '26 throws a pitch in a game against No. 1 Denison University on Wednesday, April 8, at Goodrich Ballpark.

This week in sports

WILL DUNCAN '27
PHOTO EDITOR

The Little Giant athletic teams had a busy weekend with the golf team traveling to Illinois and both the tennis and lacrosse teams playing DePauw at home.

Golf

The Wabash golf team competed in the Illinois Wesleyan Invitational at Weibring Golf Club and Ironwood Golf Course in Normal, Illinois on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4. After a slow start on Friday, the team climbed four spots on the leaderboard Saturday to finish tied for 24th place, at 46-over par in the 36-hole tournament.

Liam McAllister '26 fired off rounds of 77 and 76 (10-over par total) to finish tied for 78th out of the 255-person field. Finn Carteaux '29 followed up McAllister with rounds of 74 and 80 (11-over par total), finishing tied for 90th. He led the team in birdies for the weekend with five. Leo Dellinger '29 rounded out the top three scorers for the Little Giants as he turned in rounds of 77 and 79 (13-over par total) to finish tied for 110th. Illinois Wesleyan University, the No. 9

team in the country and the host team, won the tournament with a team score of 6-over par.

Wabash will tee it up next in the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Club in Edinburgh, Indiana on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12.

Tennis

On Friday, April 3, the tennis team took on No. 32 DePauw University in a conference matchup, and the rivalry delivered another intense and thrilling chapter. After mounting an impressive comeback after being down 0-2 early on, the Little Giants ultimately fell 3-4 to the Tigers.

DePauw claimed the edge in doubles by winning two of the three matches. Wabash's only doubles victory came from the duo of Murilo Guarniari '28 and Edmon Neto '29, who posted a 7-6 (7-3) triumph over their opponents in the black and gold. The fate of the match came down to singles play. After impressive wins from Neto, Guarniari, Vittorio Bona '27 and Tharakesh Ashokar '26, the result rested on the number three singles match. Augusto Ghidini '26 narrowly fell to DePauw's Paul Castleman to seal the win for the Tigers.

Wabash will continue conference play on Saturday, April 11, at Oberlin College with the first serve going up at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Lacrosse

The lacrosse team also had a bout with DePauw on Saturday, April 4, at Fischer Field. Wabash came out of the gates struggling, falling behind 1-8 within the first 15 minutes of play. From there, it was a steep uphill climb that ended in defeat.

Sam Santiago '26 led the attempted resurgence with a hat trick of goals, and Zach McMichael '29 and Jake Phippen '26 both added goals of their own to cut into the Tiger lead. However, after another late-game run by DePauw, the school from down south won the game 14-5. The Little Giants' large number of turnovers is ultimately where the Tigers capitalized as DePauw won the turnover battle 30-17.

The team returned to Fischer Field on Wednesday, April 8, to take on the Denison Big Red in another conference game. Wabash struggled out of the gate as the Big Red jumped out to a 14-0 lead. Despite an increase in physicality and intensity, Wabash could not overcome the deficit and lost 4-19.

The team will travel to Gambier, Ohio on Saturday, April 11, to take on Kenyon College at 1 p.m. EST.



Grayson McCallum '29 (right) celebrates with Will Sorg '27 (left) after scoring a goal in a game against Denison on Wednesday, April 8, at Fischer Field.

Track and field hosts Huntsman Family Invitational despite deluge of rain

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

A steady rain fell on the Huntsman Track at Little Giant Stadium on Saturday, April 4, but Wabash showed no signs of slowing down. Battling slick conditions and a persistent rainfall, the Little Giants delivered a deep and determined performance at the Huntsman Family Invitational, recording 32 top-five finishes in a non-scoring meet that tested both talent and toughness.

The weather may have dampened the track, but it did not cool off Quinn Sholar '26. The veteran thrower turned in one of the most dominant performances of the day, capturing victories in both the discus and shot put while adding a runner-up finish in the hammer throw. Sholar launched the discus 44.22 meters and topped the field in the shot put with a mark of 15.38 meters. His second-place hammer throw of 53.72 meters not only showcased his consistency but also marked a new personal best, continuing his strong outdoor season. Sholar's performance was good enough to earn him North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Outdoor Field Athlete of the Week honors for the second consecutive week.

Sholar wasn't the only man leading the throwing group. Lane Brockman '26 added a fourth-place finish in the hammer throw with a toss of 49.36 meters while Evan Furuness '26 contributed with a fifth-place effort in the same event as well as a third-place finish in the discus with a hurl of 39.83 meters. The group's depth was evident — despite the challenging conditions — as wet surfaces often complicate footing and technique in throwing events.

The field events continued to be a point of strength. In the pole vault, Nate Joven '26 led the way with a second-place clearance of 4.09 meters while Hugh Ford '28, Ricky Sand-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The seniors of the track and field program were honored prior to the Huntsman Family Invitational on Saturday, April 4, at Little Giant Stadium.

ers '29 and Ryan Adams '26 all placed within the top five. Morgyn Clark '28 also made an impact in the high jump, finishing second at 1.87 meters, and Kannon Chase '26 followed him up with a fourth-place result. In the javelin, Ricardo Juarez '28 delivered a strong throw of 41.79 meters to take second while Jesse Herrera '26 finished fifth.

“It’s our staff’s job to get the rest of the guys to be a little tougher when the weather isn’t the best. They are built for it; we just need to pull it out of them.”

- Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan H'11

On the track, Brock DeBello '29 proved to be unfazed by the rain, sprinting to victory in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.88 seconds. His perfor-

mance highlighted Wabash's ability to adapt and compete at a high level regardless of conditions. Clark added to the event with a fifth-place finish, crossing the line in 52.88 seconds.

Distance events also saw strong results for the Little Giants, particularly in the 1,500 meters where Wabash dominated the field. David Adesanya '27 led the charge with a first-place finish in 4:04.98. He was followed closely by teammates Sam Carpenter '29 (third), Tyler Kerzee '29 (fourth) and Angel Perez '27 (fifth). The pack running strategy paid off, even as the rain made pacing more difficult.

“Although we are competing against each other, we also realize that we are teammates, so we try to help each other out,” said Adesanya. “Since we train together daily, we know each other’s racing style and try to push the other person’s limit.”

Wabash secured addition-

al victories in the 800-meter run and the triple jump. Sam Vaught '29 claimed the 800 title in 1:55.34 while Sly Williams '26 soared to a winning mark of 13.72 meters in the triple jump. Mike Holsclaw '26 added a second-place finish in the event, and Sawyer Lewis '28 contributed a fifth-place effort in the 800.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

(From L to R) Angel Perez '27, Sam Vaught '29 and Austin Jewell '27 run during the Huntsman Family Invitational on Saturday, April 4, at Little Giant Stadium.

The kills king: Bawibawi Thang '27

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

If you attend a Wabash volleyball match, you can't miss Bawibawi Thang '27 because of his insane vertical jump and his ability to rack up kills. Hailing from Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, Thang didn't pursue volleyball until later in life as his first passion was football. It wasn't until an untimely injury that Thang looked for a change of pace.

“I played football in high school, but then I tore my meniscus,” said Thang. “My parents said that maybe football wasn't my sport. So then every Sunday at church, I would go to play basketball, but everybody else would play volleyball. I got bored playing basketball, asked if I could play volleyball with the older guys and then they let me play because I was tall.”

After that first game, Thang caught the volleyball bug. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Thang and his friends ignored the social distancing rules and played consistently throughout the week at the local park, giving him the important repetitions to refine his craft. Those friends then recommended him to try out for the Academy Volleyball Club team in Indianapolis. Thang easily earned a spot on the team, and his passion for the game continued to get bigger.

It wasn't until his senior year in high school, however, that he wanted to pursue a collegiate career. The reason behind his desire to play at the next level was not stereotypical. Thang

values his ethnicity as a member of the Chin community — a community composed of a collection of 50 distinct Tibeto-Burman tribes native to the Chin State in Myanmar, northeast India and Bangladesh.

“There are not a lot of Chin people that get to have the opportunity like me with my height and size,” said Thang. “Chin people are relatively short, so I'm an outlier in my community. So I wanted to take the talents that God gave me and further my career in college.”

Initially, Thang wasn't interested in Wabash because he was being recruited by Division I schools like Ball State and Ohio State.

“But then in my 17 and 18 year-old seasons, I plateaued,” said Thang. “I didn't spend as much time as I should have with the fundamentals. I was good at attacking, but I wasn't really good at the other fundamentals

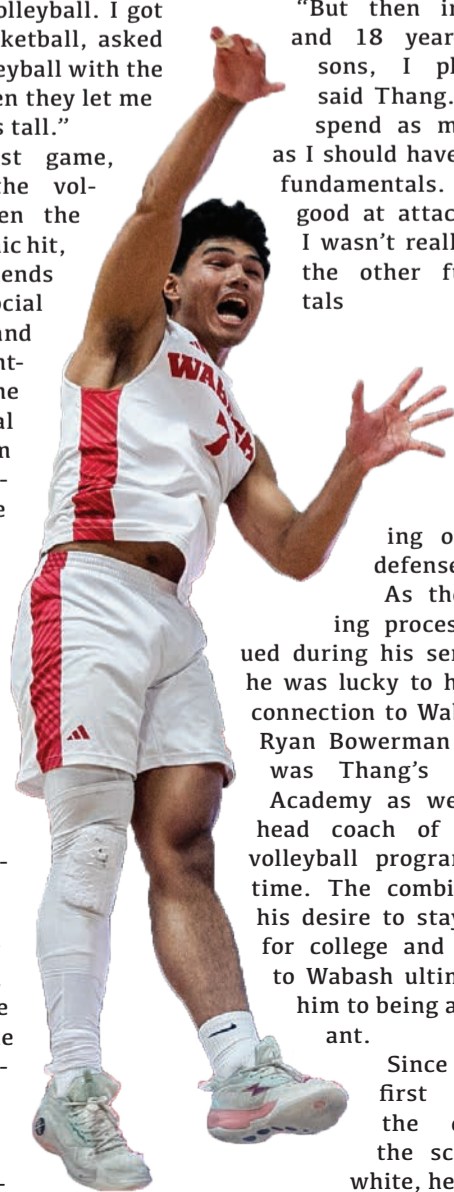


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bawibawi Thang '27 attempts his powerful topspin jump serve during a match against Franklin College on February 10, 2026, at Chadwick Court.

of passing or playing defense.”

As the recruiting process continued during his senior year, he was lucky to have a big connection to Wabash with Ryan Bowerman '11, who was Thang's coach at Academy as well as the head coach of Wabash's volleyball program at the time. The combination of his desire to stay in state for college and his links to Wabash ultimately led him to being a Little Giant.

Since Thang's first day on the court in the scarlet and white, he has made a massive impression, especial-

ly with his competitive nature. Patrick Volk '26, Thang's teammate and companion on the opposite pin, says that his ambitious and driven nature is what sets him apart on the floor.

“If anyone gets an advantage on him during practice or in games, Bawibawi is gonna fire right back and try to take back that advantage twice over,” said Volk. “It's what makes him such a good player. He won't let the people around him outwork him.”

Thang's determination has led to him totaling 869 kills in just three seasons, placing him in the top spot on the all-time kills list in Wabash volleyball history.

“Him becoming the all-time kills leader was just a matter of time,” said Volk. “That lead is only going to be harder to overcome for future players after next year.”

“I'm grateful for it [the all-time kills record], and I want to give a lot of thanks to my teammates because I would not have

been able to do it by myself,” said Thang. “But for me, I have bigger goals, not just for myself, but for our team. When the conference season rolls around, our goal is to be in the top four teams so that we have a chance to win a conference championship.”

“Chin people are relatively short, so I'm an outlier in my community. So I wanted to take the talents that God gave me and further my career in college.”

- Bawibawi Thang '27

The team has come a long way in Thang's three years as a Little Giant, and this past season marked the closest the team has been to achieving that goal. It's safe to say, though, that Thang has been a crucial piece of getting the team to perform at such a high level.

Meanwhile, the hurdles group showed resilience on the rain-slick track as Owen Smith '27 led the way with a second-place finish in the 400 hurdles. Sanders and Alec Saidian '29 also contributed top-five finishes.

Wabash's success extended into the relays, where both the 4x100 and 4x400 teams earned runner-up finishes. Despite wet batons and tricky exchanges, the quartets executed cleanly and competitively, capping off a well-rounded team effort.

“I was impressed with how the majority of the team handled the weather,” said Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan H'11. “It's our staff's job to get the rest of the guys to be a little tougher when the weather isn't the best. They are built for it; we just need to pull it out of them.”

Even in less-than-ideal conditions, the Little Giants demonstrated depth, composure and grit. The rain may have defined the atmosphere, but it was Wabash's consistency across events that defined the meet. With momentum building, the team now turns its focus to the next meet at Greenville University on Saturday, April 11, where they'll look to carry forward the same energy.

CUTOUT PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25