

OPINION

How Stephen A. Smith ruined journalism

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A look back at the Gentlemen’s Classic before kickoff

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Under the hood of the Ray '28 administration



Student Body President Jackson Ray '28 speaks at the candidate debates on April 8 in Baxter hall.

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Jackson Ray '28 set out in his platform to make the Student Senate more impactful than it has been in years past. Following each spring election, the newly elected president appoints all committee chairmen, who play a critical role in shaping their committees' direction and influence on campus. These leaders help determine not only what their committees accomplish, but also how they engage with the broader student body. With a new group of chairmen stepping into these roles, the coming year is expected to bring both continuity and change. Many of the newly appointed chairmen are entering their positions with ambitious plans that build upon the work of previous years while expanding their committees' reach. Rather than introducing small adjustments, several leaders emphasized that their goals involve broader initiatives designed to address ongoing campus needs in more meaningful ways. "Often, issues with mental health are not because of

one event, but because of an accumulation of negative emotions, stress and experiences," said Mental Health Concerns Committee Chairman Aidan Pierce '27. "Addressing issues before they grow into a bigger problem is crucial. To achieve this goal, my team and I will work alongside living unit mental health chairmen to coordinate plans to identify and address the early warning signs of mental health crises." Pierce's focus reflects a larger trend among the new chairmen: a desire to be more proactive rather than reactive. By strengthening communication between committees and student groups, leaders hope to address concerns earlier and more effectively. This approach also underscores an emphasis on collaboration, with many committees looking to partner more closely with different areas of campus life. Student Life Chairman Kenton Chase '28 similarly aims to build on past successes while expanding the committee's role in improving everyday student experiences. "I want to scope out the things we have around cam-

pus that could use improvement with the help of the students and attack those things," said Chase. Student Life had a successful past year, hosting a casino night and a Top Golf trip that got hundreds of students out to enjoy the brotherhood that Wabash offers. However, this is not the only thing Student Life is planning to do over the next year. "I still plan to hold fun events, I think that I will put more focus specifically on advocating for the betterment of the lives of our students," said Chase. On the topic of events, there will certainly not be a shortage of them in the upcoming year through these committees. Nearly all committees plan to host more public events over the next year. "I want to see a lot of events done through this committee," said Intramural Committee Chairman Nicholas Kesler '27. "I will also be looking into adding a few tournaments on the

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Pre-Law Society carries on without advisor



Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Himself '85 speaks at Pre-Law Society callout meeting September 2.

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

It takes a hearty crew to sail without their captain, and this year that crew is the Wabash College Pre-Law Society. After over two decades of guiding Wabash men into vocations of the law, Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor Scott Himself '85 is on a year-long sabbatical. After his departure from the group's callout meeting this Wednesday, it is up to the Pre-Law Society's leadership cabinet to keep his momentum without his continued presence. "The Pre-Law Society's guidance of its members will stay the same," said Pre-Law Society president Elijah Wetzel '27 when asked how he plans to carry on. "Participate in our events so your understanding of the law and what makes a good lawyer increases, participate in Moot Court and make connections with lawyers who you can learn from. That's where we make our living, so to speak." Wetzel also confirmed that Himself will still act as a Pre-Law advisor to individual students and clarified that most of the Pre-law Society's semantic functions, such as scheduling visits, events, and the Moot Court competition are also already completed. However, there are other fronts where Himself's absence will be uniquely challenging. "I think an area in which our leadership faces a challenge with Professor Himself being gone is running the logistics of our events," said Wetzel. "We'll have to introduce our speakers, coordinate law admissions visits, get groups down to Maurer and McKinney law schools for

visits and try to engage a new class of freshmen over the course of the year so they're up to speed as sophomores." The Pre-Law Society leadership is confident in their abilities, but Himself's sabbatical is not the only new challenge for them to navigate. "We are managing not only the challenges of Himself's absence but also those of Jane Ann Himself and Pam Sacco," said secretary of the Pre-Law Society Sergio Meza '29. "Both have contributed greatly to the Pre-Law Society and have been recognized for their work by receiving the Richard O. Ristine Law Award, with Jane Ann Himself in 2012 and Pam Sacco in 2024. They have been the backbone of the Pre-Law Society." Despite these new challenges, the Pre-Law Society is looking forward to a year full of events at the same scope as previous years. This programming is available to students of every class, whether they are devoted to studying law or not. "In September, we have visits to Wabash from deans of admissions at both of the IU law schools, and we'll also do visits to both those schools in the Spring," said Wetzel. "Of course, we'll have a slate of various alumni speakers, as well as two panel discussions with current law students and two alumni with federal clerkship experience. Finally, I encourage all students, not just pre-law students, to participate in Moot Court in October. Moot Court is a quintessential liberal arts experience, and it's an exhilarating, real life test of many of the skills Wabash develops in us during regular coursework."

Record numbers push campus housing to maximum capacity

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

Wabash has continued its trend of admitting a large freshmen class that it has cultivated over the last few years. This year's freshmen class, while not as big as last year, is one of the biggest classes Wabash has ever admitted. As a result the student population is at an all time high, with 908 Wabash men on campus. Wabash growing in such turbulent times for higher education is cause for celebration, but it has caused some stress on the housing market. With students prepared to part with an arm, leg or lung to get into Martindale, the premium on independent housing is higher than ever. With Independent housing only representing 40% of all housing on campus, the onus has been on fraternities to meet their goals for rush. Many fraternities have been under constant pressure to reach rush goals set out by college administration. "I think the pressure is almost always the same," said President of the Interfraternity Council, Kyle Foster '27. "There's always that expectation. We need to be filling up fraternities fast and efficiently." Going hand-in-hand with



IFC treasurer Colton Cooper '28 slaps some burgers on the grill for Back 2 Bash event August 28.

increased pressure to meet rush numbers, there seems to be less interest in fraternities across the board. This has caused the perfect storm for a near housing crisis at Wabash College. "From my perspective, fresh-

men have been more interested in independent life than ever," said Phi Gamma Delta Rush Chair, Colton Cooper '28. "We would put on our rush events and get almost no numbers, and we heard from our freshmen that they were just

exhausted from orientation and were fine being in a dorm." One factor that has seemingly affected rush heavily this year is the stigma behind fraternities in today's culture. Fraternities have had to take greater care in com-

bating some of these stereotypes. "Obviously, parents are always nervous dropping their kid off at a fraternity," said Foster. "It's always good to have an alumni, teacher or parent there at these fraternities talking with them. I especially noticed when we had our faculty advisor there, they felt a lot better and if we just have more that these would be better spots for people to go." Rush chairs are asking for schedules to be changed to make it easier for new members to make the rounds during rush. "I think the time period when rush occurs needs to be changed or orientation needs to be less grueling," said Cooper. "I'll be honest I wouldn't want to come rush a fraternity after getting through a 12 hour day of being talked at nonstop." Still, proponents of rush are adamant at the benefits of the fraternity system and continue to push the importance of getting freshmen into houses outside of just hitting a number. "I think the fraternity system offers a lot," said Foster. "Your obviously engaging with guys in your living unit, but also the alumni who are constantly coming

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Big goals for Ray, committee chairs as year begins

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weekends and weekdays, depending on what the student body wants. The sports and activities of these tournaments will also reflect what the student body wants to play in.” This highlights another recurring theme among the new leadership: responsiveness. Committees to be more reflective of the wants and needs of the Student Body. “I hope this gets more participation from people we haven’t seen participate in intramural sports in years prior, and makes the experience better for everyone,” said Kesler. Another aspect of involvement comes from the new Chairmen themselves. “I am very passionate about academics as a whole and recognize the grey area that is AI policy campus-wide,” said Liam



PHOTO BY DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29

Student Senate meeting in the Goodrich Room in Lilly Library. The Senate meets weekly at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays. Fuller '28. “It is something I want to change so students feel more confident using AI in accordance with the Gentleman’s Rule.” As the new committee chairs settle into their roles, their shared emphasis on expansion, engagement, and responsiveness suggests a Student Senate that is aiming to take a more

active role on campus. Whether through events, advocacy, or policy initiatives, these leaders are working to ensure that their committees not only continue past successes but also adapt to the evolving needs of the student body.

Housing capacity pushed to the brink

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back and engaging with guys as well. I had a great internship this summer. I don’t think that would be possible, or even applied, if I wasn’t in a fraternity.” The pressure is still on for fraternities to fill up their houses with the constant threat of having independents moved in looming large. Fraternities have had

to seriously reevaluate how they look at rush, all the while keeping in mind the reason we want people to join fraternities. “We are looking to increase brotherhood involvement in our new member process,” said Cooper. “With more in house events and an emphasis on building skills that they need to be successful in college.”



PHOTO BY DANIEL TKACHUK '29

Members of each of the fraternities coming together for a picture after the conclusion of Fraterniy Day.

Iran devastated by bombings as U.S. struggles with oil supply

Updates on the war in Iran as the conflict enters its eighth month

PHILLIP BARRE '30
STAFF WRITER

The war involving the United States and Iran has been going on for months, but there still isn’t a clear answer to the biggest question: where does it go from here? What mainly started as a conflict over Iran’s military and nuclear capabilities has grown into something much bigger. Oil prices, shipping, diplomacy and the security of other countries in the Middle East have all become part of the story. Looking back over the summer, it is difficult to say that the two sides are much closer to a permanent solution. Iran has taken major military and economic losses, but its government is still in power and continues to resist pressure. The United States, meanwhile, has to consider the cost of continuing the conflict and the possibility that it could spread even further. The Strait of Hormuz has also become a major part of the situation. The waterway is an important route for global oil shipments, so any major disruption there can have effects far outside the Middle East. Reuters has described the situation as a “costly stalemate,” with Iran facing heavy economic pressure

while still being able to challenge the United States and its allies. Right now, it doesn’t look like there is an easy way to end the conflict. There have been efforts to get the United States and Iran back toward negotiations, with countries including Pakistan and Oman playing roles in diplomacy. But the biggest disagreements between the two sides are still there. Iran’s nuclear program remains a major issue. So do sanctions, security concerns and the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. That is part of what makes the war so difficult to predict. There isn’t one event that would necessarily bring everything to an end. Even after taking serious losses, Iran has continued to resist pressure. The United States has its own problems to consider. Keeping a military operation going for a long period costs money and puts American service members at risk. The longer the conflict continues, the greater the chance that another country in the region could get pulled in. At this point, the conflict has become less about one side simply defeating the other and more about how long each government is willing to keep dealing with the pressure.

One of the more surprising parts of the conflict has been the gap between military action and an actual political solution. It might seem like major military strikes would automatically push a country toward negotiations. That hasn’t happened in a straightforward way here. Iran has suffered serious damage, but that has not meant that its government is suddenly willing to accept everything Washington wants. The Strait of Hormuz has also become much more important than it might have seemed at the beginning of the war. It is one of the world’s major oil shipping routes. If ships have trouble getting through, the effects can spread quickly. Oil prices can rise, shipping can become more expensive and eventually those increases can reach people who have nothing to do with the conflict. So while the fighting is happening thousands of miles away for most Americans, parts of it can still show up in everyday life. The countries around Iran have been put in a difficult position. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have close security relationships with the United States. At the same time, they are neighbors of Iran and would be among the first countries affected if the war expanded. Because of that, many governments in the region have had to think carefully about how involved they want to become. A larger regional war could put oil facilities, military bases and shipping routes at risk. Even countries that aren’t directly fighting could end up dealing with the economic consequences. Diplomacy has become important for the same reason. Countries such as Pakistan and Oman have worked to keep communication and negotiations possible between the two sides. The conflict could also change how countries in the region think about their own security. If governments



COURTESY OF PBS

Iran tried to rebuild during cease fires with the U.S. Recent cease fires have fallen through.

feel that their current alliances aren’t enough to protect them during a major conflict, they may start looking for other partners or new security arrangements. For Americans, one of the easiest ways to notice the effects of the war is through the economy. Oil prices have been affected by concerns about the fighting and the possibility of problems in the Strait of Hormuz. Higher fuel prices don’t just affect people when they fill up their cars. Transportation costs can increase too, which can eventually affect the prices of other products. That also makes the war a political issue at home. The 2026 midterm elections are approaching, and voters are already paying attention to the cost of living. A conflict overseas can feel very different to someone watching it on the news than it does to someone paying more for gas every week. Public opinion about the war is divided as well. A Reuters/Ipsos poll found that only about a third of Americans approved of the war, while a majority expected gasoline prices to get worse. That could make the conflict an issue for candidates during the midterms. Politicians will have to

talk about foreign policy while also answering questions about prices, government spending and the economy. There is also a larger argument happening over America’s role in the world. Some Americans see military action against Iran as necessary, while others question whether the United States should be involved in another long conflict in the Middle East. There isn’t a clear answer yet. Iran is dealing with serious economic and military pressure, but it has continued to resist. The United States has the ability to keep applying pressure, but doing so indefinitely comes with its own risks. Both sides have reasons to negotiate. At the same time, neither wants to be seen as giving up. That leaves the war in an uncomfortable middle ground. The fighting and military pressure have not produced a clear winner, but the possibility of diplomacy hasn’t disappeared either. For now, the conflict remains somewhere between military confrontation and negotiation, with the consequences reaching well beyond Iran and the United States.



COURTESY OF PBS

Iran’s infrastructure has been devastated by constant bombardment by U.S. military forces.

President Trump renames Lake Ontario, Iceland denies EU, Finland downplays Russian threat

News around the world

JOSEPH BOGGS '30
STAFF WRITER

One Lake, Two Names

Amidst growing trade tensions between Canada and the United States, President Trump signed into order the renaming of Lake Ontario to Lake America. This comes after the most recent trade negotiations collapsed, ending with the U.S. imposing a new 50% tariff on Canadian goods. Google and its mapping service, Google Maps, has since been updated to display Lake America to their U.S. based users. Users in Canada will continue to see Lake Ontario while users outside of the U.S. and Canada will see both. According to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Apple and its own service, Apple Maps, has been contacted by the administration about the change. “The president has reached out to Apple directly”, said Burgum. “I’m sure we may be seeing that change coming up soon.” As of Sept. 1, Apple Maps still reads Lake Ontario and the tech company has yet to comment on the matter. Furthering the dispute, Ontario

Premier Doug Ford had a large sign installed on the Canadian shoreline of the lake that brands the message: “Lake Ontario. Now and Always.” This action is in line with the comments of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. “Things must be called by their name, and this lake is called Lake Ontario — today and forever,” said Carney. Furthermore, Carney announced Canada’s intention to impose a “dollar for dollar” counter-tariff on American goods next month.

Iceland To Deny EU

The results of an Icelandic referendum over the resumption of accession talks with the EU came back 52.8% opposed. The results reflect the reluctance of the small country to becoming a member of the European Union (EU). Many Icelandic citizens remain skeptical and in question of the benefits of an EU membership.

This comes as a defeat for the Icelandic government and the European Union. Without membership, Iceland remains without a vote on the rules imposed by the European Economic Area

(EEA), of which they are a member. Additionally, the Icelandic government sought the introduction of the euro as a solution to Iceland’s growing economic pains. The majority of the opposition feared the impact of the membership on Iceland’s fishing industry, the economic powerhouse of the country. The possibility of losing control over fishing quotas and being forced to open Icelandic waters to foreign nationals meant to many the loss of Iceland’s primary economic commodity. This concern alone swayed many, despite the EU indicating willingness to compromise.

Finland Downplays Russia Fears

Finnish president Alexander Stubb downplays the possibility of a Russian attack on NATO. “We have a deterrent — and this deterrent is stronger than that of any other military power anywhere in the world”, said Stubb. “It makes no sense for any power in the world to test the resolve of this [NATO] alliance.” These comments come in the wake of rumors suggesting a



COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

President Trump signed an order to rename Lake Ontario to Lake of America amidst rising tensions with Canadian government.

Russian mobilization to the Finnish-Russian border. In a press briefing from the Kremlin, a Russian spokesperson declared these suggestions to be false, stating them to be “fabricated stories” intentionally conceived to confuse and destabilize Russian forces. Meanwhile, Stubb stated that Russia simply lacks the forces to put up a front against another European Country.

The Finnish president similarly discredited the idea of Russia escalating to the use of nuclear weapons. Stubb recalled meeting with the Chinese foreign minister and inquiring about the subject, to which the foreign minister responded, “We will never allow that to happen.” According to Stubb, this is an effective deterrent.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF COUCH GUY SPORTS

KALEB FABER '27
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again! Get ready to draft your team, set your lineups, scan the waiver wire at 3 a.m. and send terrible trades to all your teammates. Fantasy football season is here, and there are many things you can do to improve your chances at winning your championship — and avoiding those punishments.

Draft wise, there are a plethora of strategies you can use to dominate your league. This year, my favorite strategy is to prioritize running backs early in the first two rounds. Unless you are getting Ja'marr Chase and Puka Nacua at pick three or four, or Amon-Ra St. Brown falls to you later in the first round, I am targeting a running back with my first pick. The drop off at the running back position is much steeper than the drop off of wide receivers, especially after the first two rounds. Obviously be smart. If something crazy like Jaxon Smith-Njigba hasn't been taken at pick twelve, don't hesitate to take him over a running back.

In the first round, I am aiming for a safe pick. You probably won't win your league in the first round, but you can definitely lose it. While he is not a running back, Amon-Ra St. Brown is one of the safest picks in the entire draft, which is why I am okay with taking him as a wide receiver in the first round especially if he falls to the back end. Another one of the safest picks you can make is running back James Cook in the Bills offense. In the second round, I love Chase Brown. When Burrow was healthy and even with Flacco playing last year, he was one of the top running backs in fantasy. With talks of him getting additional work in the receiving game, the versatile running back is a steal in the second round. Javonte Williams is one of the last safe running backs to take in your draft, probably around the third round. He is the starter with high touchdown potential in Dallas's offense. Another running back I am excited to draft with a little risk is Travis Etienne Jr. He was paid to be brought in to New Orleans with limited competition and high receiving upside, on a team that could be sneaky good offensively this year.

In the latter half of the draft, we can begin to shift our sights for upside rather than safety. Running back wise, I'm targeting players like Jonathan Brooks on the Panthers. We have already witnessed Rico Dowdle take Chuba Hubbard's role last year in the Panthers backfield, and Hubbard is already dealing with hamstring issues. Another late round running back target is Jordan Mason. Kevin O'Connell's offense has improved this year with the addition of Tyler Murray and has limited com-

petition in an aging Aaron Jones. At the very end of your draft, take quality backups of starting running backs that were drafted by other teams in your league like Tank Bigsby, Mike Washington and Brian Robinson Jr., as this increases the upside of your team if a star running back of your teammate goes down injured.

Given the wide receiver depth this year, I love grabbing them after securing your running back position. This goes for all players, but especially target players who are in new offensive situations. That could mean a new team, quarterback or offensive coordinator, for example. Guys I love this year meeting those criteria are DeVonta Smith and Ladd McConkey with new offensive coordinators in the third to fourth round, DJ Moore in the fifth round and Michael Pittman Jr. in the eighth round and Parker Washington in the sixth round, who emerged last year and continues to be Trevor Lawrence's favorite target in camp. Later shots at the end of the draft could be guys like Deebo Samuel and De'Zhaun Stribling, who both have enhanced roles as injuries plague other players in their offense.

For quarterback and tight end, I am letting the value fall to me. Don't panic and reach for a guy at this position just because a couple of your teammates took them early. Quarterbacks are deep this year, with possible starters not even being drafted. I am not spending a third round pick on Josh Allen or a fourth on Lamar Jackson unless they fall a reasonable amount in my draft. Tyler Murray is barely getting drafted at times, along with unproven but high upside guys in Tyler Schough and Malik Willis. Wait on quarterback and take a consistent guy later such as Brock Purdy or Trevor Lawrence. For tight ends, I'm drafting George Kittle, Isaiah Likely, Juwan Johnson, Chig Okonkwo or Brenton Strange later if a higher tier tight end does not slide to me earlier in my draft.

Drafting your fantasy team is exhilarating, but it is only the starting point. Don't form emotional attachments to your players and be willing to move off of them if need be. Be active on the waiver wire and send trades to your teammates. Stream



CUTOUT PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT LIONS SHOP

defenses and kickers based on their matchup. Don't panic early on rookies, especially for players where their team invested high draft capital. They can take time adjusting to the NFL and their new offense. Use helpful fantasy advice like Joel Smyth on social media and the WalterPicks app as resources to decide who to start and sit, pick up and trade. And of course, just have fun.

'Coyote vs ACME' is artistic regenesis at its most looney

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite decades of industry experience and the status of a studio icon, the self-proclaimed "genius" Wile E. Coyote stands as the triumphant underdog against a shiny-desked fat cat. You may think I am describing a scene from Dave Green's comedic legal drama "Coyote vs ACME," but in that movie, the villain is a fat bird, and in reality, it was a fat cat. This cat was Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav, who shelved the fully-complete film in 2023 for a \$30 million tax write-off.

It is ironic that "Coyote vs ACME" opens on the line "Based on a true story" when the fate of the film so closely matches its own plot. Thanks to a last-minute acquisition by Ketchup Entertainment, the film has finally seen the light of day, and audiences are loving it. The film is vibrant and hilarious, a total smile-factory so creative that it could never be contained in the WBD warehouse where it was left to rot. Much like Coyote's inventions, the film doesn't quite function as intended, but it is so elaborate and fun that it still generates laughter for all ages.

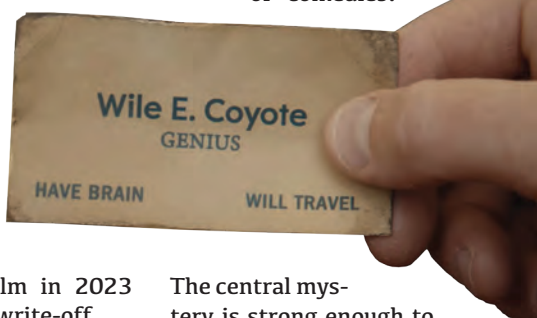
The premise is simple. After years of botched inventions and terrible luck, the persistent Wile E. Coyote enlists the lazy lawyer Kevin Avery (Will Forte) and his virtuous intern (Lana Condor) to sue the fictional ACME corporation for their defunct cartoon products. As the story progresses, shady information and mysterious leads begin to uncloak the truth:



BOTH IMAGES COURTESY OF TMDB

that ACME's crimes are far worse than negligence. Batting on defense is ACME's legal brute Buddy Crane (John Cena), who stands out with the most energetic (non-cartoon) performance of the film.

The plot is mostly just a vessel for gags, which is a common (but never essential) trait of comedies.



The central mystery is strong enough to hold the viewer's attention, but it nowhere matches the intrigue or creativity of previous cinematic cartoon-hybrid mysteries. In fact, "Coyote vs ACME's" smoking gun takes the form of limp deus-ex-machina. It could be worse, but when the script fails to match the zaniness of the humor, the film begins to feel watery.

Visually, "Coyote vs ACME" is an absolute treat. The use of what appears to be cell-shaded 3D models for the cartoon characters don't always blend into their environment, but the Tunes themselves are animated in such dynamic fashion that the film properly establishes a poppy panache. Coupled with immersive lighting and seamlessly-integrated human performances, "Coyote vs ACME" earns its place on the silver screen rather than the streaming tab.

Truthfully, there is not much more to say about "Coyote vs ACME." Sometimes a good movie is not good for complicated reasons, and likewise leaves little for a review to unpack. Such movies are also usually the movies that I can recommend the most easily, and that is certainly the case here. "Coyote vs ACME" is a very fun time at the movies, and that's all, folks!

FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS



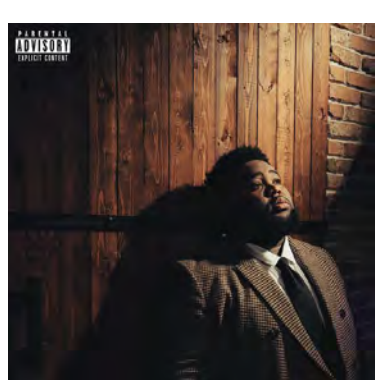
'Don't Look Down' isn't exactly looking up, either

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

When Rod Wave's "Don't Look Down" kicks off, the listener is blessed with vibrant vocals. The singer spins a gorgeous tone, and the intro leads perfectly into the first main song of the album. Fast forward to the final tune, and the listener is left with a passionate piano riff and a dynamic drum track. From introduction to conclusion, with a body of melodious music and blossoming beats, "Don't Look Down" has a meaningful message and boasts satisfying songs. While listeners who don't enjoy hip-hop or rhythm and blues will likely dislike the album, fans of the genres might enjoy it.

"Piece Of Your Love," an early track, is an upbeat tune featuring laid back vocals. The song features a relaxing electric piano, a memorable chorus and sturdy lyrical lines. "Mainstay," featuring Luv Von, is perhaps the most unique song on the track. It showcases acoustic and electric guitar riffs. The lyrics are memorable and delivered smoothly. The drums, bass and effects paired with the timing ultimately make the tune complex and intriguing. "Dope Girl," one of the final songs on the album, is perhaps the most adjacent song to the rap genre. While Wave sings many of the lyrics in "Don't Look Down," the artist raps this track. The vibe of the song is reminiscent of some of the other recent rap hits, with punchy drums, lo-fi vocals and synthesizers.

While the album is solid, there are still some critiques. Rod Wave seems to struggle with the concept of variety. Fundamentally, his vocals are too consistent across tracks. He has high-pitched compressed vocals in the background of his music that are heavily overused



COURTESY OF ROUGH TRADE

and results in some indistinguishable tracks. Additionally, he uses many of the same audio effects. The audio is dreamy and cloudy due to the reverb, space and compression on his voice and the synthesizers. To go one step further, the drum tracks are far too alike. The songs mostly use punchy kick drums, digital and soft high hats and similar snares. He failed to vary the tempo, instruments and vocals throughout this album which makes it far too repetitive. At the same time, there are still standout tracks. Aside from "Piece Of Your Love," "Mainstay" and "Dope Girl," songs like "Toast," "TP," "Feed The Streets" and "I am" are worth a listen.

All in all, fans of the modern-day hip-hop and rhythm and blues genres will likely appreciate the album. The lyrics are beyond catchy; they are personal and admirable. The music is well-constructed with many riffs, strong chord progressions and background tracks. While the album may not be perfect, it is not a failure by any means.

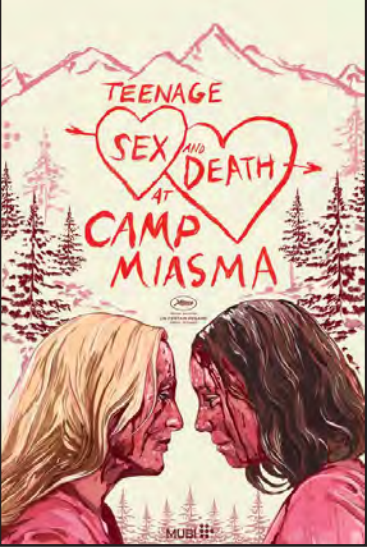
FINAL VERDICT:
2.5/5 WALLYS



Good Luck, Fall Sports!

wabashclubofindianapolis facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

'Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma' is deceptively benign



COURTESY OF TMDB

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

Sometimes a movie's title is so weird that buying tickets for it makes you feel like you're going to get put on a list somewhere. Sometimes a movie's script is simultaneously deeply profound and ridiculously heavy-handed. Sometimes a movie hits you with the most relatable scene of a Zoom call that you have ever seen in your entire life, and then follows that up with the most bizarre, abstract sequence of the summer. Sometimes that movie is Jane Schoenbrun's "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma," and the film critic has no idea how to tackle it for his review.

Based on that description, you may think that "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma" is a wild, weird and experimental avant-garde film. In a way it is, but the plot is actually rather straightforward. It follows the up and coming indie horror filmmaker Kris (Hannah Einbinder), who has been signed on to direct her biggest project yet: a reboot to the oversaturated slasher franchise "Camp Miasma." While researching the film, she visits Billy (Gillian Anderson), the reclusive actor from the orig-

inal film. As the duo introspect, reality and fiction begin to blur.

Both lead actors give phenomenal performances, perfectly selling Kris and Billy's generational divide as well as their eventual kinship. Amanda Fix also nails the role of Billy's younger self, bringing the perfect energy to some extremely difficult yet absolutely vital scenes.

The film covers a wide breadth of topics, including the relationship between institutions and artists, the male gaze, Hollywood's fetishization of women in horror and most prominently, the very essence of human desire. As the title suggests, the film dissects the connection between sex and death, how people think of them as antipodes despite their inexorable place alongside each other in the human experience. If you are versed in film studies, these topics may raise red flags. These themes, while interesting, are also far from breaking new ground.

Of course, subtextual originality is not the sole ingredient of an excellent story. In fact, many of "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma's" best moments are rather unique. The opening credits are set to a montage that perfectly summarizes the complete life cycle of a fictional horror franchise, complete with a silly villain who stabs people while wearing an air vent on his head. The film deserves points for selling the viewer on its universe, upon which the entire plot hinges, in under three minutes.

The film also looks absolutely amazing. Between this film and Schoenbrun's previous film "I

Saw the TV Glow," they demonstrate that they are a master of colorful, intentionally-framed and dynamically lit shots. They also make particularly good use of focus, which enhance the already-diagetic setpieces. The more abstract sequences get even crazier, and the most impressive moments of the film are the ones which recreate the '80's slasher aesthetic with impressive fidelity.

The best scene in the whole movie blends the creative filmmaking with writing that shows rather than tells — a painfully authentic Zoom call with Kris's lame boss that quickly escalates into something stranger. However, nearly every other scene that could rise to that level feels the need to sloppily exposit the message via dialogue. While these rapid-fire thesis statements are interesting, they engage the viewer like more of a TED talk than a movie. I couldn't help feeling like the film would be much better if it naturally guided me to these revelations, rather than just lobbing them at me.

So yes, "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma" is hard to write about. The film is redundant in some areas, while executed perfectly in others. It does less than I expected with its script, but it still validates its existence with an incredible presentation. I want to say that it is great, but so much of the film left me underwhelmed that such a label feels inaccurate. I am rarely so conflicted by such an apparently artful film, but the final product is nowhere near as ambitious as the choice to give it such a crazy name.

**FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS**



COURTESY OF TMDB

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Cory Geraths: An adventurous newcomer



COURTESY OF CORY GERATHS

Associate Professor of Rhetoric Cory Geraths lectures a class.

CHRISTIAN GEGG '30
STAFF WRITER

Professors know that inspiration for naming and identifying things can come from anywhere. In the case of naming and identifying Associate Professor of Rhetoric Cory Geraths himself, that was exactly the case. On the way to the hospital, Geraths' parents had no clue what they wanted to name their soon-to-be son. While driving on the freeway, Geraths' father saw a vanity license plate that had the name "Cory," and that stuck in his head.

In another key moment of Geraths' adventurous life, he decided to return to Wabash. Geraths originally taught from 2017 to 2021, but left seeking a more secure and long-term role in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Luckily, when a tenure-track position opened in the rhetoric department this year, Geraths swept back into the scarlet halls.

"Wabash is a place where students can really thrive," said Geraths. "Where faculty can thrive and where we can collaborate in the creation and engagement of knowledge. This is a place that I would like to spend a bulk of my career."

Hopefully many students get the opportunity to take one of Geraths' classes: Rhetoric-201, Rhetoric-320 and Senior Seminar, but what he teaches does not completely entail all of his lessons. Geraths reflects on his attention in and out of class. When he feels an urge to pick up his phone in class, he recalls his favorite book, "How

to Do Nothing" by Jenny Odell, where he finds the motivation to stay on task.

"I've read a lot of books in my life, and it is the best book I've ever read," said Geraths.

Geraths also is a strong proponent of studying abroad. While in college, Geraths spent some time abroad in London, an experience which totally transformed his college experience and opened his eyes to the world around him, a practice he hopes to replicate in his classroom.

"Wabash in particular will fund you to go abroad," said Geraths. "I don't care where it is — go to Peru, go to Europe, go to Australia; wherever it is will change you."

Geraths grew up in California, but he has never been confined to it. An avid traveller, Geraths has been all around the US and the world. During one of his most exotic ventures, Geraths took a tour of the European North. On that excursion he took the Arctic Circle Railway, and said the experience is very close to that of a casual Amtrak train.

In his free time, Geraths is also chipping away at learning to speak Swedish, and even more slowly, Hindi. He also enjoys sports, having kept his favorite teams through all of his work-related location changes: the Dodgers and Rams. Luckily, his loyalty looks to be paying off in recent years. Thankfully, Geraths is at Wabash to stay, hoping to secure a future as a permanent fixture in the Rhetoric Department.

Be Wabash's lifeblood: The Bachelor editors present ways to get involved on campus

The campus is back up and running, and in the coming weeks, student organizations and clubs will begin to host their first events and callout meetings. Here to offer guidance to curious Wabash students, The Bachelor's editorial staff are each dropping two organizations to consider.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Arguably no other club puts alumni in front of their members as consistently as the **Pre-Law Society (PLS)**. Additionally, there's a diverse representation of legal careers they showcase. It could be an appellate litigator one day and a criminal defense attorney again. And you know what they say — variety is the spice of life. It's a staple if you're curious about law school, but they have other events, like Moot Court and the Peck Lecture, which are super interesting even if you're not considering a legal career. They regularly send out emails promoting their events.

As a global health minor, the **Public Health Organization (PHO)** is one of the best clubs for people who are interested in a variety of topics. It's an interdisciplinary organization, and anyone can be a part of it: financial economics majors, people interested in business or art and aspiring lawyers like myself. The PHO is also great because they have a real impact on campus. In the past they've conducted surveys about students' health behaviors, educated students about healthy habits and organized fundraisers to help folks in Crawfordsville. They also do educational journal clubs about health issues. Keep an eye on your email to find out when they're doing their next event.

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

I would claim that the three essential criteria for clubs are culture, impact and enjoyment. One club that meets these criteria is the **Student Senate**. Whether it be voting on financial decisions or providing input on campus events, the Student Senate is a sure way to directly impact campus. You can participate by heading a committee, representing your living unit or running as a representative for your class.

Members vote weekly on changes made to the student body and work to make sure the student body is lively with events. If you are looking to be involved on campus and meet students with similar goals, then the Senate might be for you. Meetings occur every week on Monday at 7:30.

Another campus highlight, especially for those interested in finance, is the **Investing Society**. The society has a strong culture of students who boast an affinity for different financial fields like private equity, venture capital, wealth management and investment banking. The group also hosts alumni speakers and financial workshops so students can learn more about the industry. The meetings are enjoyable and intellectually stimulating, and it is the perfect environment to connect with peers with similar interests. Meeting times this semester have yet to be determined, but watch out for the alumni events and workshops!

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
OPINION EDITOR

It goes without saying that I, along with the rest of the staff, cannot recommend writing for **The Bachelor** enough. *The Bachelor* has won Division III Newspaper of the Year honors in each of the last four years and is entirely student-run, meaning no faculty or staff have the power to determine what can or cannot be published each week. Writing for *The Bachelor* is, arguably, the best way to practice and improve your writing skills, and we have writing opportunities for any journalistic interest. You can join *The Bachelor* staff by attending one of our weekly meetings at 12:10 p.m. in the basement of the Armory.

The **Rugby Club** is a great way to get active and show off your grittiness. Going 29-6 over the last year, the rugby club has the winningest record of any team at

Wabash, and has never lost the famed Monon Keg to the school down south in its history. This year, rugby is looking to push for a spot in the national tournament this spring. Off the field, the rugby club prides themselves on their team unity, hosting regular team social events, including an alumni weekend for the football game against Hampden-Sydney College. The rugby club practices weekly Monday-Thursday at 4 p.m. at Mud Hollow.

OWEN VERMUELEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

Wabash's **Glee Club**, under the instruction of its wonderful director Juan Hernandez, has been making a comeback in recent years. They take on a wide variety of great music all the while keeping things light and fun. They are more than willing to work with your schedule and experience level if you have a real passion for music. Every year they do traveling tour, recent years going to San Francisco and New York, and you're guaranteed to go international as every four years they tour out of the country. This year the Glee Club will travel to Columbia.

Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) is a job that you apply for at the start of your sophomore year. You learn a variety of facilitation skills that will help you in your day to day life. You learn how to balance competing interests and truly look at something from a neutral standpoint. More than anything, WDPD is a fun environment to work in and you learn how to build a fun office culture with the rest of the fellows. All the while you feel as though you're working toward a great goal helping different Wabash and Crawfordsville community members.

WILL DUNCAN '27
PHOTO EDITOR

Wabash Christian Men is a club where brothers of Wabash

get together to foster relationships, grow their faith and meet new people. Some of the best and kindest people I've met on campus happen to be consistent members of the club. This is a great opportunity to better yourself mentally and spiritually while also fostering brotherhood and having a great thing to look forward to each week.

Though this isn't technically a club, playing **Intramural sports** has allowed me to make some great friendships, share hilarious memories and stay in shape, all while playing sports I love. Whether it's flag football or basketball, I strongly suggest you participate, or at a minimum, attend some of these games if you're a sports fan. A very high percentage of Wabash men played high school sports, so the games are always extremely competitive and always a good way to meet people who share the love of exercising and either playing or watching sports. If playing isn't your thing, they're always looking for refs! Get out and cheer on your brothers.

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

I'd wager that involvement in the **Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies** is one of the best time investments on campus. From the punchy poetry of X-Tacy to the upbeat music and comedy of Red Velvet, the MXIBS's public-facing events bring powerful exploration of truths that our country can be otherwise eager to gloss over. Taking a step further and pursuing membership earns you a place in a deeply-interconnected community of students with each other's best interests at heart. The MXIBS's first callout meeting is on Monday, September 7th at 7:30 PM in the Malcolm X Institute building.

For over three decades, 'shOUT has provided Wabash's LGBTQIA+ population with one of the most important things that anyone

could ever have: a place where they can be themselves. Hence the name, which is itself an artful abbreviation of "Wabash OUT." 'shOUT exists to create a safe space for anyone to be themselves. Likewise, the environment of each 'shOUT meeting and campus event is supportive, comfortable, and inclusive. 'shOUT meets every Tuesday at 9:00 PM in the Pioneer Chapel basement.

CARTER MCCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

Intramural sports are perfect for anyone who misses the intensity and competitive fire of playing organized sports. Whether you played varsity sports in high school or just enjoy competing with your friends, intramurals give you the chance to get back on the field or court and compete. Games can get surprisingly intense, and that competitive atmosphere makes winning feel rewarding while creating plenty of memories along the way. More importantly, intramurals are a great way to meet people outside your usual circle and build stronger connections with your brothers. Intramurals take place in the fall with flag football and in the spring with Basketball. Games take place once a week.

The **Cigar and Pipe Club** offers a completely different kind of experience. It is a relaxed environment where you can slow down, have a conversation and meet people you might not otherwise interact with on campus. You don't have to be an expert or a longtime cigar or pipe smoker to enjoy the club. The focus is on community, conversation and spending time with other Wabash men in a chill setting. Meetings happen once a week. Look out for an all campus email for their next meeting.



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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.

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in the *Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

The Bachelor is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

The case for greasy hands: Why young men need to reclaim the driveway



Benjamin
Anacleiro '30

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Open the hood of a 1977 Camaro, and the mechanical world welcomes you with open arms. All you see is some basic parts such as an alternator, throttle cable and the engine block, with almost enough room around it to fit another entire engine. Pop the hood of nearly anything built within the last five years, and you are greeted with enough black plastic to cover the entire Amazon Rainforest. That isn't an engine bay, it's an engine maze.

Many automakers will tell you that modern vehicle architecture with jam-packed engine bays, electronic steering and a computer attached to everything represents the pinnacle of refinement. This overcomplication of modern automobiles is not just an inevitable byproduct of progress, but an anti-consumer philosophy. By locking basic problems such as oil changes and spark plug replacements behind dealership software and exclusive techniques, it traps consumers into a money pit, especially for a cash-strapped college student. Fighting back against the dealerships to have the ability to do these basic items yourself can save you up to \$30,000 over your lifetime.

Auto manufacturers insist on the opposite being true. Like Ford, who wants to restrict customers' right to repair their own vehicles, after a new statistic came out that owners are keeping their cars for longer and increasingly going to independent shops or caring for their vehicles themselves, up from 266,000 independent shops servicing Ford products to 300,000. Ford's greed is targeted at first time new-car buyers who, for the most part, don't know any better and end up paying \$200-\$400 for a diagnostic that could be solved at home with a \$30 on-board diagnostics scanner. This is a major part of the problem as when these owners do decide to buy a new car, they will automatically have to come back to the dealer for any service or upgrade. Alongside this, subscription based services are also infiltrating their way into modern cars. Many new GM product cars such as the Cadillac lineup, no longer offer Apple Carplay, and require you to pay ranging from \$10 to \$65 a month for features that were once free such as navigation, wifi and cruise control.

For decades, the driveway has always been an informal trade school. Working on a cheap beater that you love more than anything else in the world was how generations learned

mechanical techniques and advanced troubleshooting. Most importantly though, you would feel the ultimate satisfaction of your engine starting after that impossible bolt finally tightened. Today, that entire rite of passage is on life support. The modern car has become a rolling computer appliance — silent, sealed and communicative only through cryptic dash lights and chime warnings. When a simple repair demands a dealership software license, younger drivers aren't just priced out; they are taught to fear their own machines.

If you made it this far in the article you may be wondering, "how does this affect me as a college student?" Well, the answer is much more elaborate than you would think. Higher education costs billions on making a great education for its students within their specific major. However, they do not teach life skills and basic self-reliance. Figuring out why a car won't start, taking tire pressure and checking oil levels is real world diagnostic logic and engineering. Learning these tasks helps make us students less likely to fall for predatory dealership scams and save us money. In fact, the college campus is one of the most fertile grounds to stage a revival of the driveway garage mechanic. Reviving this culture doesn't mean every student needs to rebuild a transmission between midterms — believe me, nobody wants to do that. How it really starts is by establishing student-led cooperative parking spaces dedicated to automotive work and educating students on where to take their cars if they cannot do it on their own.

Our generation, Gen Z, has already spearheaded cultural pushbacks against fast fashion, screen time and corruption so why not apply those same aspects to this as well and explore the next frontier. And the best part is the appetite is already there. The car community on Youtube is thriving with a growing number of college students watching amateur driveway restoration or build channels and trying to avoid expensive diagnostic fees. The economic case is immediate. Facing a \$220 dealer invoice for a basic synthetic oil change, I turned to my grandpa, who I had gained all my previous automotive knowledge from, picked up some tools and learned to do it myself. What once cost a drive to the dealership and two weeks worth of groceries, now takes \$65, an hour on ramps and a skill I can pass on to classmates. If we want a generation that is strong enough to stand up to these greedy dealerships and outrageous prices, we need them to get their hands greasy again. Please buy that \$50 socket set. Find a set of ramps and a wedge. Just look around your car and see what makes it a car. Find others that feel the same way as you and want to learn and grow in the automotive community. The automotive scene is dying. Do not be afraid to be proud of your automotive enthusiasm and always want to learn more.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

"KID'S A STICKSHIFT"

Lo-Five to Tiger Woods for getting his drivers license suspended for 5 years after yet another DUI. For a guy who's good with a driver, he really sucks at driving.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Hi-Five to construction finally starting on the Community Center again. The class of 2076 is rejoicing, as it might be open after they take Comps.

THIS FEELS FAMILIAR...

Lo-Five to the Los Angeles Clippers for being found guilty of tampering to sign Kawhi Leonard. Somehow the league's punishment still looks better than the Paul George trade.

MITCH MCCONNELL'S REPLACEMENT

Hi-Five to Dale "Gray Beard" Sanders, the 91-year-old who just became the oldest person to complete the Appalachian Trail. He may be a bit too young to be a US Senator, though.

PLEASE DON'T GOOGLE ME

Lo-Five to Daejon Love for impersonating a 49ers player in attempt to scam people out of their money on social media. And no one thought to ask Chat if he was telling the truth? Clearly they don't think like Dannies.

A good bit of fun that ruins lives



Owen Vermeulen
'28

News Editor

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Limited time offer! For the next 5 minutes and 5 minutes only, you can put up your chances at a happy life and family for the chance to win 35 bucks. All that needs to happen is for Wendell Carter Jr. to get four three-pointers in one game, Junior Caminero needs to not hit into a double play for a week, Santino Ferrucci needs to become a good driver and Purdue's new Athletic Director needs to not be embarrassed by Curt Cignetti this season.

Now, this is obviously hyperbole, but this is the kind of choice users of sports betting apps are presented with every single day. Sports betting has become

embedded in our society. You go to an NBA game, BOOM! DraftKings ad. You're watching an episode of "Tellatubbies" with your boys, BANG! FanDuel slop. It's a show and a way of life.

The fact of the matter is that Indiana does not regulate sports betting nearly enough. Personally, I believe online sports betting should be illegal nationwide. We ban online casino games in Indiana and yet, somehow, sports betting is viewed differently. But I understand that we've opened pandora's box and if I am forced to live in a world where online sports betting is legal, then I would rather it be regulated better than not at all.

First, some statistics. 52% of men ages 18-49 say they have an active sports betting account according to the Siena Research Institute. According to Common Sense Media, more than a third of teenage boys 11-17 have admitted to gambling. 60% have reported seeing ads on YouTube and social media. Online sports betting is legal in 39 states in the US. Of those 39 states, Indiana ranks fourth lowest in terms of tax rates for sports betting apps at 9.5%. Every

other state has a taxation of at least 10% with most being in the 20% and a few even hitting 50%. It's okay though because Indiana ranks ninth in terms of sports betting per capita. So, we're really raking in the big bucks.

Now, what do these numbers even mean? Who cares if guys blow a little cash every now and then. It's just a good bit of fun. That good bit of fun has caused reports of child maltreatment to increase by 5-7% in states that have legalized it, according to Child Protective Services. Also, states that have legalized sports betting have seen a 28% increase in bankruptcy rates. The American Institute for Boys and Men has estimated that every dollar spent on sports betting has reduced investment contributions by 99 cents, indicating that people are draining their savings and retirement accounts to fund their sports betting. So yeah, it's just a good bit of fun.

Okay, I don't like to complain without making suggestions to fix it, so let's fix it. First of all, let's tax these companies! They are raking in billions of dollars a year and doing it on the backs of the

health and financial security of regular people. They don't need any incentive to be here, so let's stop giving it to them. Let's implement safer platform design for these apps. There are apps that you can make direct withdrawals from savings accounts to put towards sports betting. People managing their futures and bets in the same place. Stop that! Mandate withdrawals must take one business day so we can limit impulsive behavior. While we're at it, let's ban push notifications for apps with predatory limited time deals. They're not limited time deals if you're going to do one every day. You're just creating urgency.

Finally, regulate marketing for sports betting. We don't need to see DraftKings ads during live sporting events. We talk about integrity, but the image of professional athletes next to these logos is just gross. I'm tired of seeing these ads everywhere I go, haunting me with the fact that corporate America has bought our country and we're not doing anything about it.

Three pillars of my three years at Wabash



Antonio
Grandinetti '28

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I know we hear this sentence quite a lot around here, but there is a ton of advice for freshmen going around. My goal is not to repeat the exact same exact ones but if they sound familiar then there might be some truth to it. The three pillars of my three years at Wabash have been these: expand your horizons, don't take yourself too seriously and prioritize your people.

The first one being to expand your horizons, I don't care if you come from Indianapolis or, like me, from a country

far far away. The goal of this part is to join a club you have a spark of interest in, have a conversation about a topic you know nothing about or try out a class that sounds interesting from the title. The point of this is to make yourself more interesting and a complete version of the gentleman who will walk under the arch at commencement. Expanding your horizons is important for your first year here because you might meet your best friend in a class you took to fulfill a requirement, Econ 101 in my case. The more stuff you do and the more interesting you become, the more people you can meet and form new meaningful connections. This can sound exhausting but is worth the stretch of your time in this place. The worst regret you can have is to graduate and not have tried anything that interested you.

The second point was very heavily emphasized in my circle; guys at Wabash are very ambitious and they will put in the work. This constant pressure can lead to burnout so, on occasions,

play video games, call your mom (Who's definitely worried sick) and do something that might not be super productive. This is some advice I struggle with as the guy who's writing this. This doesn't need to be a super big change in your life, but rather a small trip to Walmart with your friends where you play around and be a little childish, for example.

Finally, the third point is simple: prioritize your people. This can be your fraternity brothers, teammates or just your friends. What I mean is that everybody can get busy for a while and this can make our schedule act as an excuse for you not to text your boy and hang out. This is the smallest change that can make a huge impact. Sometimes your friend is waiting to hear from you and whenever you catch up your life can feel a little lighter. After all we are all doing this hard thing and nobody be alone on it. This gets incredibly easier when you also lose the phone around people you care about and fuel yourself with the warmth of people and the

laughs of friends.

Call your friends, joke around and be curious, exploiting everything Wabash has to offer. People at Wabash will always extend a hand on and off campus. Enjoy this time, as I can't believe I'm starting my third year. You will have busy weeks, bad weeks and probably some moments where you question why you decided to come here in the first place. That is part of the experience, and it is also part of what makes the good moments so much better.

Looking back, the most important thing is not trying to have the perfect Wabash experience. You are going to make mistakes, change your mind, lose friends, make new ones and discover things about yourself that you did not expect. That is okay. The point is to keep moving, keep trying things and not let the pressure of doing everything right stop you from actually enjoying the place. This place is special and it's mainly because of the people that make our community.

How Stephen A. Smith ruined journalism



Carter McCall '29

Sports Editor

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Watch Stephen A. Smith closely for thirty minutes and a pattern emerges that no true sports fan can ignore. When a conversation turns genuinely technical, when someone brings up defensive rotations, shot selection tendencies or the mechanics of why a team is struggling, Smith does not engage. He pivots. He raises his voice. He makes the conversation about a narrative he already prepared, a take he already decided on, a villain he already chose. He does this because he is not actually interested in the game. He is interested in the argument the game provides cover for. That distinction, seemingly small, metastasized into one of the most destructive forces in modern American media.

Smith built one of the most lucrative careers in sports media history without demonstrating any serious love for the sports themselves. He does not speak about games the way someone speaks about something they cherish. He speaks about them instrumentally, strategically, with an eye toward winning the room. Real fans remember specific plays. They recall moments that broke their hearts or made them scream. Smith recalls storylines, feuds and moments that give him permission to perform outrage. The sport is never the subject. It is the stage — and a very profitable stage at that. Smith earns a reported \$40 million per year

from ESPN, a salary that has nothing to do with scoops broken or stories investigated and everything to do with the size of the audience his arguments attract. That is not a coincidence. It is a business model, and the entire industry has since adopted it as gospel.

ESPN's First Take codified this into a repeatable format. Two hosts, opposed positions, no resolution required, clock runs out, everyone goes home. The format does not reward knowledge. It rewards the appearance of certainty. Crucially, it was also extraordinarily cheap to produce. There are no travel budgets, source cultivation and months-long investigations. All they need is a desk, two microphones and two people willing to be loud. The profit margins on argument-based programming dwarfed those of traditional sports journalism, and once executives saw those numbers, the editorial decisions made themselves.

When Smith is wrong, (and he is wrong constantly, on injuries, trades and game outcomes he predicted with thundering conviction) he does not reckon with it. He moves on. A person who genuinely cared about the subject would feel the sting of a bad take, would wonder what they missed. Smith treats corrections like a minor interruption to the main event, which is always himself. And why wouldn't he? Being wrong has never cost him a dollar. If anything, the more outrageous the wrong take, the more clicks it generates, the more the algorithm rewards it, the more ESPN's engagement numbers climb. Accuracy, in this economy, is not an asset. It is a drag on performance.

Cable news executives noticed all of this around 2012, when First Take's ratings were climbing and the media industry was deep in an identity crisis. The internet had gutted advertising revenue. Newsrooms were hemorrhaging reporters. The traditional model of patient, expensive, source-

dependent journalism was not generating the engagement numbers that survival required. And here was ESPN demonstrating, in plain sight, that you did not need reporters. You needed arguers. The format was cheap to produce and addictive to watch. The implications were obvious, and the financial incentive to follow them was overwhelming.

This is where the money problem becomes impossible to separate from the journalism problem. Investigative reporting is expensive. A single long-form investigation can consume months of a reporter's time, require legal review and yield a story that generates one day of traffic before the internet moves on. A panel of four pundits arguing about the same topic for forty-five minutes costs a fraction of that, generates shareable clips, drives social media engagement and can be repeated tomorrow with a fresh provocation. From a purely financial standpoint, the argument format does not just compete with real journalism — it annihilates it. Media companies are businesses, and businesses cut what does not perform. Across the last fifteen years, Washington bureaus shrank, foreign correspondents were recalled and local newsrooms closed by the hundreds. What grew was opinion programming, because opinion programming made money.

CNN moved first and most visibly, expanding its panel-debate programming and populating it with political commentators selected less for expertise than for combativeness. Fox News, already operating on a similar principle, accelerated. MSNBC followed. The architecture was identical to First Take: two sides, pre-assigned positions, performance of certainty, no resolution. The only thing that changed was the subject matter. Instead of LeBron versus Jordan, it was Democrat versus Republican. The stakes became incomparably higher. The format did not change at all. Nor did the underlying

logic: outrage retains viewers, retained viewers attract advertisers and advertisers do not ask whether the content is true.

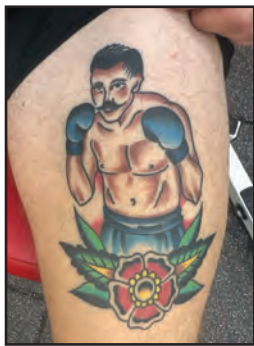
What the format does to political journalism is specifically dangerous in ways it is not for sports. When Smith is wrong about the NBA Finals, the consequence is an embarrassing clip on social media. When political media adopts the same model — when nuance is penalized, when admitting complexity gets you replaced by someone who won't — the consequences are not embarrassing clips. They are a misinformed electorate. The specific shows that emerged from this template made the consequences concrete. CNN's Crossfire, revived in 2013, reduced legislation and foreign policy to the same win-or-lose frame as a sports debate. Fox News' The Five seats hosts with assigned political identities and lets them fight through headlines with no expectation of resolution. MSNBC's prime time lineup hardened into a mirror image — different tribe, identical structure. Studies on political polarization consistently show that Americans who consume high volumes of cable news opinion programming hold more extreme views, are less likely to accurately understand opposing positions and are more likely to believe misinformation that confirms their priors. The format does not just reflect division. It manufactures it, nightly, and profits from doing so.

Stephen A. Smith loves Stephen A. Smith — that much has always been obvious. Sports, for him, were simply the first available vehicle for a man whose real passion was his own voice. The tragedy is that the rest of the media landscape looked at his bank account and decided it was a blueprint. They built the same machine and aimed it at things that actually matter. The noise it makes is louder now. The silence where journalism used to be is louder still.

Wally's Wall: Campus tattoo showcase

Silas Mills '27

My grandpa was a wrestler back in his prime, rocking his famed handlebar mustache from age 20 until he passed away in 2024. This guy repping his boxing gloves and handlebar mustache will always be in my corner ready to put the dukes up. His name is big John (after my grandpa).



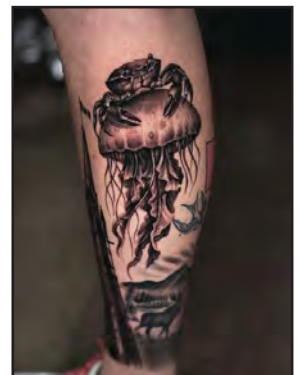
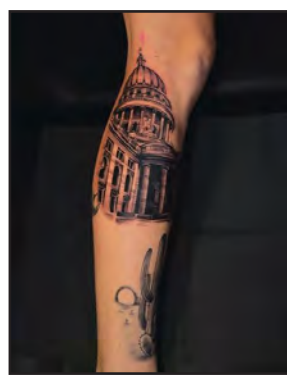
Zev Wolverton '27

My tattoo is actually cave art, more specifically the oldest cave art ever found. It was found in a Neanderthal cave, and it represents the beginning of intentional motion and art. To me, it means the beginning of imagination.



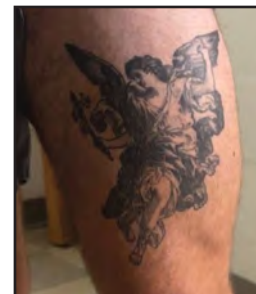
Nick Sommers '27

My tattoos are a story of my life. They follow my Ironman progression and give little reminders to do hard things. I love them as they express who I am and show my biggest accomplishments in art form.



Nate Powell '27

My tattoo is of the Angel Gabriel from the Annunciation, specifically from Luca Giordano's 1672 painting. It's an homage to my passed grandmother.



‘We will rock you!’

Crossword by Paul Hawksworth '28

Across

1. McGwire's opponent in the 1998 home run race
5. "Time in a Bottle" artist
10. Course for some immigrants, abbr.
13. Primary metal used in steel
14. Pertaining to the ear
15. Jeanne d'Arc's title, abbr.
16. What a butcher works with
17. flavored vodka brand, familiarly
18. Phishing or a pyramid scheme, for example
19. Hasbro games that test reflexes
21. 1871 great fire location
23. Highest female position in royalty
26. American major tournament in golf and tennis
27. Intentionally sinks a boat
30. Primate
31. Fair skin
32. "How many licks does it take to get to the center?" candy
36. ___ Maria
37. Wager
38. "___ be great if..."
39. High arcing throw
40. Race starting phrase
43. Disparities in a story
44. Brain___
45. Longest running American animated show
47. Emerges
50. Fertile area in a desert
52. Starts with "In the beginning"
54. Large Chevrolet sedan
57. ___ behind
58. Luke Skywalker's starfighter
61. World's richest man Musk
62. Flightless bird
63. Former Utah Jazz center Mark
64. Quantity of laundry
65. Third of a tsp.
66. 1952 film "The ___ of Kilimanjaro"
67. Phoenix NBA team

Down

1. "Lion King" son
2. Nabisco cookie
3. Forms suds when mixed with water
4. Vintage artifact
5. Video tapes
6. Bad place to be stuck
7. Au element, en Español
8. Slang for a math device
9. 1910s Senator Root
10. 2013 film starring Stallone and Schwarzenegger
11. Where a play is performed
12. Car with several manufacturing defects, say
18. Aim aid
20. Famous Egyptian pharaoh, familiarly
22. "Because ___ so!"
24. Mexican street corn, pl.
25. Keanu Reeves' character in "The Matrix"
27. Closing pitcher's statistic
28. "It finally stopped raining!"
29. Negative stereotype
31. ___ for the course
33. Four of them are at an "All Way"
34. "___! I did it again!"
35. "Sesame Street" network
37. Computer memory units
41. Prescribed amount of medicines
42. Padre's brother
43. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, collectively
46. Cell phone card allowing it to connect to cellular networks
47. Plastic on the end of a shoelace
48. large bundles of paper
49. Roll two to get box cars
51. Made of rubber, or what 21-, 23-, 50- and 52-across are
53. Graceful aquatic bird
55. Baseball brothers Felipe, Matty and Jesús
56. What a bank lends
59. Figure skater Midori
60. "Not Later!"

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Scan for solution!



Little Giants, Gentlemen’s Classic return: A look back before kickoff

NASH OCHS-WALD ’29
STAFF WRITER

Put the burgers on the grill and park the cars for the tailgate because college football is back in town. And Wabash College football is ready to hit the ground running. After losing the Monon Bell game against DePauw University last year, they were left with a sour taste in their mouth that led them to the beginning of this season as they hunt for their revenge.

But fans will not have to wait long to get a sight of rivalry. Since 2014, Wabash College has been battling a foe who happens to share one prominent trait. On September 5 in Little Giant Stadium, Hampden Sydney College, one of the last remaining all male colleges, will make the trek from Virginia to battle it out with the Little Giants.

It was a defensive battle in 2014 21th what would become known as the Gentlemen’s Classic. Hampden-Sydney, who had just been in the NCAA playoffs the year prior, came out firing first with their star quarterback Nash Nance slinging it downfield to standout wide receiver Holton Walker. But their momentum did not last long thanks to sophomore Ethan Buresh ’16 came up big, stepping in front of a screen pass for the interception.

From then on it was all Wabash, never letting the Tigers lead the game again. The game ended in a 34-21 win for the Little Giants against an impressive opponent, but it would not be the last they saw of the Tigers.

On September 5, 2015, the team travelled down to Prince Edward County, Virginia in a rematch of the Gentleman’s Classic. This one did not promise the same battle as the last matchup did.

After a field goal yielding drive, the Tigers were shut down by the Little Giants defense. In a masterclass, the team held Hampden-Sydney to just 86 yards of total offense compared to Wabash’s 406. Four interceptions helped the offense stay out on the field and

secure 35 points worth of touchdowns. The rematch ended 35-3 in another Wabash College victory.

From there on, the Gentlemen’s Classic had taken a break, with neither team playing against each other for the next seven years. That all changed

in 2022. With the release of the schedule, it was announced that the Tigers would return to Crawfordsville to take on the Little Giants again in Little Giant Stadium on September 3. And this time, Hampden-Sydney had a win in their sights.

In a back and forth where Liam Thompson ’24 recorded a career high of 380 yards through the air, the Tigers appeared to win it. All they needed was a strong defensive stop. But senior running back Donovan Snyder ’22 had other plans. Down by three points at 45-48, Snyder exploded for a 15- yard run for the go-ahead touchdown with 46 seconds left in the game. It was too little time for the Tigers to make a play, leading to a 52-48 Little Giants victory and third Gentlemen’s Classic title.

Before the beginning of the 2023 season, head coach of the Tigers Marty Favret made a big announcement. Right after announcing his retirement, he revealed that Hampden-Sydney would open up its campaign at home in Prince Edward County, Virginia, facing Wabash College in the fourth Gentleman’s Classic.

With 3:11 left on the clock, it looked like the Tigers would finally win their first matchup against the Little Giants, leading 28-21. But a forced fumble by Jake Pasch ’25 turned the tide of the game. Thompson marched the team down the field delivering a touchdown pass to Derek Allen Jr. ’24. Instead of tying the game, the Little Giants attempted the two-point conversion. The play was a reverse to Jacob Riddle ’24 who pulled up in the backfield and hit Thompson with a pass in the endzone to seal the game. The Little Giants won

their most recent bout with the Tigers 29-28.

This year the Gentleman’s Classic is back. Although Wabash remains undefeated in the series, an admirable Hampden-Sydney team makes their way from Virginia. Hampden-Sydney ran the rock very well last season with their number one running, Terry Hicks back rushing for over a thousand yards and fourteen touchdowns. With him and their entire offensive line returning, the Little Giants defense is expecting more of the same. On the other side of the ball, the Tigers have a variety of weapons on defense, most notably Parks Cromwell, who was named to D3football.coms D3 All-American team.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, the combination of opening week and senior day will make the environment in Little Giant Stadium electric and a fire will be lit under the players with it meaning so much to the seniors and everyone else on the team.

“Season openers are not much different other than we have more time to prepare,” said head coach Jake Gilbert ’98. “It is senior day, so we want to take the opportunity to play and get a win. That makes it different.”

Gilbert plans to make a statement to start the season and get the seniors a win.

“This senior class means a lot to us as a team, so a win for them in this game is huge,” said Nick Witte ’28, “We’ve put together a week of physical preparation to be sharp and execute under pressure against HSC.”

The Little Giants seem to be on the same page going into the 2026-27 season, and Wabash students and alumni alike are ready for a phenomenal season opener. Wabash prepares its 139th season after a great showing last year going 9-2; they prepare to improve what they built last season. The Little Giants and Hampden-Sydney Tigers are ready to kick off On September 5 at 12 p.m..

CUTOUT PHOTO BY JACK MILLER ’28

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- Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert ’98

Little Giant tennis team look to rely on senior anchors and young support to find success

BLAKE HORN ’29
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College tennis enters this fall under seventh-year head coach Daniel Bickett looking fifth consecutive winning season with a roster poised to step up to lead the charge.

The tennis team is coming off a strong 2025-26 season, finishing fifth in a very strong North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) with a 4-4 record against conference opponents. The team was anchored by returners Edmon Neto ’29 and Faustino Dimuro ’28, with singles play records of 13-5 and 10-2, respectively. With a strong returning group, the tennis team looks to build upon their successes from last season.

Three seniors anchor the group: Vittorio Bono, Rafael Rin and Eric Tien. While smaller than the class of ’26, this is a class that has experienced the NCAC Tournament every year and understands what it takes to reach the pinnacle of the conference. These seniors are poised to lead a young core and instill the culture that has made this program successful in years past.

“My philosophy has always been leading by example and giving max effort in every practice, no matter what is going on off the court,” said Tien. “I

“My philosophy has always been leading by example and giving max effort in every practice no matter what is going on off the court. I hope to be able to set a strong example for the team and also get the to balance doing the work and having fun.”

-Eric Tien ’27

hope to be able to set a strong example for the team and also get the team to balance doing the work while also enjoying the sport and having fun since the season is so long.”

The junior class includes Faustino Dimuro, Murilo Guarniari and Samuel Soto Garcia. This group of players bridge the gap between a senior class ready to lead and a sophomore class ready to step up. The sophomore class includes Mathew Haas, William McArdle and



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANEULOS ’27

Vittoria Bona ’27 unleashes a serve in a duel match against the University of Saint Francis on February 21.

Edmon Neto. These sophomores played meaningful matches in the previous season and with a summer of work, they are ready to help push this team farther than previous seasons.

Freshmen make up a third of this year’s roster with additions such as Bernardo Furtado, Haven Stockamp, Ettore Bona and Charlie Fairchild.

“While freshmen can be a problem, the new tennis recruits have put those fears to rest,” said McArdle. “Their dedication to self-improvement and relentless, gritty attitude proves that the team is in good hands.”

With the tennis season lasting all year, focus and strength through adversity will be key to the team’s success. Wabash competes in a competitive conference, with three teams being ranked in the top 25 nationally last season. As will happen with a sizable freshman class, mistakes will be made along the way. However, this returning group can bring the experience to help control the chaos and channel it to build a strong, dynamic group to challenge on

all fronts.

The Little Giants tennis team opened their season at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawk fall invite. These early matches will prove crucial to the development of the team culture and these incoming freshmen as Bickett and Assistant Coach Petar Petrovic can assess the strengths of the squad and room for improvement so they can be fixed come conference tournament time. How quickly these newcomers adjust to the pace of the game in college will prove to decide how far this team will go.

With matches approaching, the Little Giants have the experience, team culture and hunger to learn and build a strong team this fall.



HELP WANTED

BASKETBALL MANAGERS

BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Email Sizemore@wabash.edu

Muggy weather brings hot start to season for Wabash soccer

MANAGING EDITOR

New teams and new expectations brought a hot start for Wabash College soccer, who won their season opener 3-2 in a thriller against Franklin College on Sept. 1 in Franklin, Indiana. With a much-needed win to start the season, the Little Giants will go into a packed schedule with a level of confidence that was missing last year.

The team faced the Grizzlies in the hot and humid Faught Stadium looking to make a statement. Their aggressive play and movement of the ball put pressure on the Grizzlies early. It all started with a simple message from head coach Chris Keller.

“We need to go out and play our game,” said Keller. “We need to start strong and keep them on their heels.”

Alfredo Campos '27 did just that, scoring off an assist from Danny Tkachuk '29 after 38 seconds of play. With a 1-0 lead, Campos then assisted Bryce Kinnaman '27 15 minutes into the match to give Wabash a 2-0 advantage.

“It was my chance to take the ball and try and put the ball in the box,” said Tkachuk. “And that’s exactly what I did. And then Freddy [Campos] scored the goal immediately after. As soon as we scored that goal, a lot of weight got lifted off our shoulders, and we knew what we had to do for the rest of the game in order to come out on top.”

Franklin answered in the 23rd minute when Russell Bilohlavek scored to cut Wabash’s lead to 2-1. Ulises Rivera then scored in the 70th minute to tie the match at 2-2.

“We knew we had to get up and press as much as we could,” said Kinnaman. “To be

“We knew we had to get up and press as much as we could. To be tied 2-2 after being up 2-0 and having the resilience to really push through and not put our heads down was what really stood out to me.”

-Bryce Kinnaman '27

tied 2-2 after being up 2-0 and having the resilience to really push through and not put our heads down was what really stood out to me.”

The match became more physical in the second half, with Ty Freedman '27 and Danny Escobedo '29 receiving yellow cards at 48:54 and 58:37. Despite multiple shots on goal and several defensive stops, the Little Giants entered the 80th minute in a stalemate.

Not long after, Kinnaman gave Wabash the lead in the 81st minute, scoring a diving header at the back post off an assist from Campos to make it 3-2. The Little Giants held the lead through the final moments of play to secure their first win of the season.

“I saw the center back took a little bit bigger of a touch than he should have, so I went and pressed it,” said Kinnaman. “Danny got it in middle, switched out to Simmons [Ethan Simmons '29], Simmons to Freddy and then Freddy played a wonderful ball across the goal. Then I was just lucky to be in that position, headed down and the ball found the back of the net. The elation of scoring one those goals is always just great to me, so that was super fun.”

The Little Giants will make their home debut on Thursday against Bluffton University in Fischer Field at 5:30 p.m. With a new turf and a strong start to the season, the Little Giants will look to carry their momentum into Thursday’s home opener.

“This week is going to be fun,” said Keller. “We have solid team depth to be able to spread the minutes out and the level stay where it’s at. It’s a good opportunity to see how everyone performs on game day when it matters.”



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bryce Kinnaman '27 takes on a defender in a game against Franklin College on August 29, 2025.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Alfredo Campos '27 and Ethan Simmons '29 high-five in a game against Franklin College on August 29, 2025.

Little Giant golfers look to succeed with a young but experienced roster

MARK BERGER '28

STAFF WRITER

Wabash golf begins this season coming off a seventh-place finish at the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Men’s Golf Championship in May. Led by a young core, the team carried that momentum into the summer with a trip to Scotland to build team culture and prepare for the upcoming season. This year, the team features a young group looking to leave its mark on the course.

“I think some of my expectations this year are just continuing to grow our team culture and dive into the leadership,” said Mason Pierle '28. “Really trying to dive into being better leaders as a team will help us grow as a group on the golf course and outside of that as well.”

The Wabash golf roster will feature no seniors with five juniors leading the team. These veterans will look to carry the experience they’ve gained over the previous two years into this season. They won’t be alone as Leo Dellinger '29 will look to build on an impressive freshman season where he earned NCAC Men’s Golf Newcomer of the Year. Charlie Seaburg '29 and Finn Carteaux '29 will also look to improve off of last year where they were valuable to the Little Giants seventh place campaign.

“We’re expecting to build off what we did last season and take another step forward as a team,” said Dellinger. “Consistency is a big focus, and we are going to put ourselves in contention no matter who’s playing. We have the talent to go up against anyone in Division III.”

Dellinger finished tied for 11th at the 2026 NCAC Men’s Golf Tournament, but he does not plan on being complacent with that finish. As he prepares for this coming season, he has set high expectations for

himself.

“Personally, I want to cut down on the mental mistakes and small errors that cost me strokes,” said Dellinger. “I also want to help lead by example for the newcomers.”

New faces on the block will also look to make an impact. Jackson Mahan '30 from Noblesville, Indiana and incoming transfer from Hendrix College Tyler

“We’re expecting to build off what we did last season and take another step forward as a team. Consistency is a big focus, and we are going to put ourselves in contention no matter who’s playing. We have the talent to go up against anyone in Division III.”

-Leo Dellinger '29

Morton '29 will both begin their first seasons as the Little Giants prepare to tee off this weekend in Granville, Ohio for the Ted Barclay Invitational.

“After the first few weeks of the season, it’s clear that several of the underclassmen have taken steps forward and we have a few newcomers who will be able to contribute right away,” said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. “We have a group that really likes being together and really cares about one another and that’s very special because while it’s an individual sport, the team culture and camaraderie can have a great impact on



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Charlie Seaburg '29 prepares to launch one down the fairway at the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Club on April 12.

each player’s performance.”

The Little Giant golf team may not be the largest team, but they certainly are one of the tightest knit groups. They’ve begun to create a culture of excellence through competition and brotherhood.

“I think with us being the smallest team on campus, it allows us to get really close together as a group and get to know each other on a deeper level,” said Pierle. “We’re able to hold any individual on the golf team accountable, it doesn’t matter what position you play on the team or how old you are.”

The team looks to convert a summer of hard work into success on and off the course. This weekend’s invitational is the Little Giant’s first chance to see how they stack up this year against the competition.

“We have a very good fall schedule

this year,” said Kopp. “The tournament that we host, The Wabash Invitational, has turned into one of the best Division III golf tournaments in the country. We will have five teams in the top 15 in the country there, so it will be exciting to compete with them.”

The Little Giants host the Wabash College Invitational in Indianapolis at the Broadmoor Country Club. They’ll look to improve on their 8th place finish from last year that was led by a T-23 finish by Dellinger.

The Little Giants will wrap up their fall stretch by catching a flight to Destin, Florida where they’ll compete in The Golfweek Fall Challenge, a prestigious Division III golf tournament.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Mason Pierle '28 lines up his putt at the DePauw Invitational last season on April 26 at Pebblebrook Golf Club.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Leo Dellinger '29 sets up for his approach shot into the green at the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Club on April 12.