The Bachelor
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908
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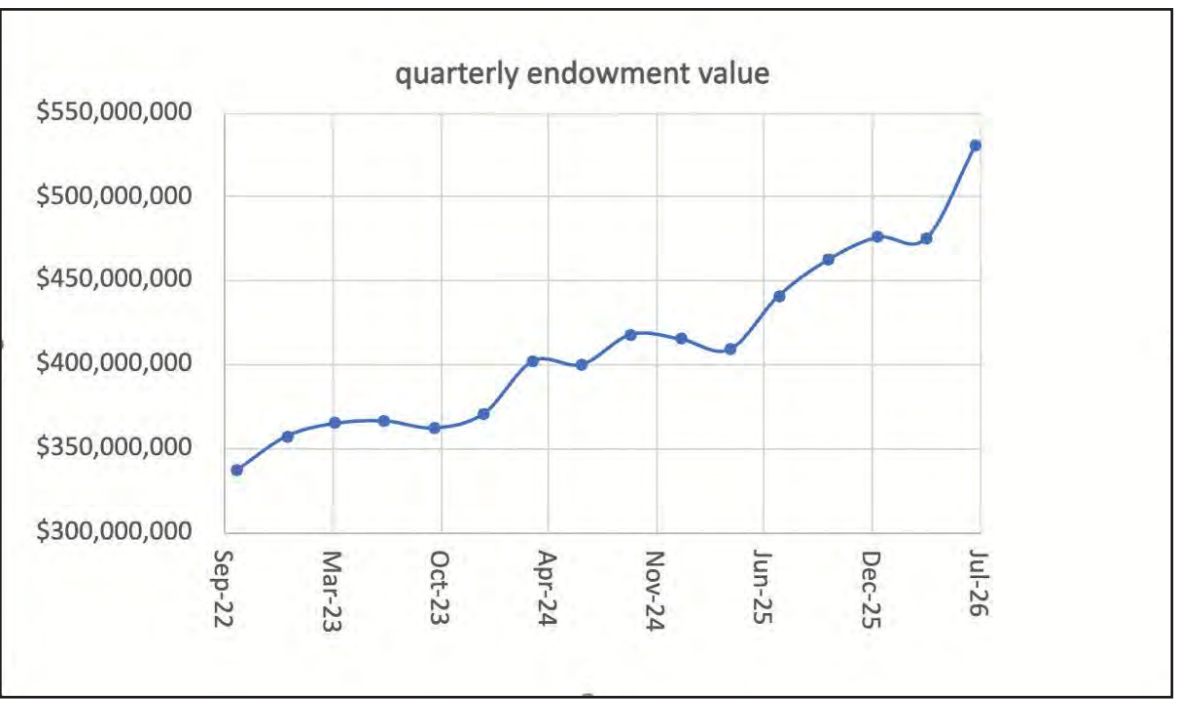
# The lost arts?

## *Cuts to higher education spending paint liberal arts colleges into a corner*




*COURTESY OF PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE SCOTT FELLER*

***Wabash's quarterly endowmenet value has been growing steadily amidst tumultuous times for higher education institutions.***

**OWEN VERMEULEN '28**
NEWS EDITOR

It's no secret that since the second Trump administration took office, higher education has been placed on the back burner. With more than $12 billion in total education grants either being disrupted or cancelled, targeting a variety of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and research initiatives, if a school only has to temporarily pause development then it probably feels like it made out like a bandit. Many schools are having to run understaffed departments and even cut programs to meet budgetary requirements. Large public state schools are obviously plagued by this as we've seen in our own backyard. Around 580 majors have been cut or merged across public universities in Indiana according to WFYI.

While hell in a handbasket for large state schools is cutting majors, that's almost a given for smaller liberal art schools. The real threat is complete closure. Many liberal art schools have hit the panic button hoping to just survive the storm. Growth in the liberal arts seems impossible, yet somehow there are pockets where it is happening. One of those pockets being an all male college out of Crawfordsville, Indiana. Not only has Wabash increased its endowment size over the last five years, it has gradually increased its enrollment numbers over the last few years to challenge its historic highs. This is in the face of multiple challenges plaguing higher education institutions.

"I think the biggest challenge is that for a decade now, slowly, students and their families have been questioning the value of higher education," said Scott Feller, President of the College. "And for those students reliant on the federal and state government to provide some subsidy. Well that subsidy is going down. So many small colleges are being squeezed at both ends. At the lower income end, we've got decreasing government funding. At the higher end of income we have people questioning the investment."

The wallet starts to hurt when you look at the federal scholarship cuts that were made. Between the value of Stafford loans not adjusting for inflation and O'Bannon grants being cut by several thousand dollars, colleges are left holding the bag making it up with institutional aid.

"It basically means a college now has to pick up an extra $2,000 or $3,000 that used to be paid for by a Stafford loan and an extra several thousand dollars from O'Bannon," said Feller. "We're talking about up to $7,000 per student that a college needs to make up with institutional aid. That's money that comes right out of our budget."

Small liberal arts colleges in the best of positions are bracing for the impact that these cuts are going to have.

"'Budget cuts,'" said editors of The Carroll News, Isabella Kierce and Anna Maxwell, in their article about John Carroll's budgetary moves. "Two words John Carroll University students dread to hear, especially when the phrase starts circulating on campus…Over the summer, university administration tasked senior leaders with evaluating expenses across departments and identifying potential reductions based on how significantly they would affect the university's priorities."

These types of cuts are more of a preventative measure than anything. Choosing to make cuts before cuts are chosen for them. A more drastic view of this picture can be seen in other schools in our conference. The College of Wooster laid off 22 staff members in February in order to meet budgetary expectations laid out by its board of trustees.

"[President of College of Wooster Anne] Mccall went on to explain how the board of trustees asked her to decrease the budget deficit that started at $8.7 million to 'reduce it as significantly as we could,'" said Gianna Hayes, Chief News Editor of The Wooster Voice in her article on the staff lay offs.

In addition to layoffs we've seen schools cut student activity budgets and implement staff hiring freezes. This includes a school that hits a little closer to home – that school down south.

"While budget requests for this semester amounted to $159,055, limited funds from the DePauw administration meant DSG [DePauw Student Government] could fulfill only half of those requests, leaving 40 out of 79 student organizations who received less than half of their requested budget, and out of those 22 who received nothing," said Evelyn Zachary the Assistant News and Sports Editor of the DePauw student newspaper in her article, "Administrative budget cuts, student government procedures leave over a quarter of student organizations without funding."

Wabash is not totally immune to the issues that plague these other institutions, but it has hit us slower out the gate. So, why has this turbulent time for higher education seem to have hit Wabash slower than our contemporaries? Once again the answer is simple – alumni ties to the rescue.

"The majority of our budget comes from alumni and friends at Wabash College," said Feller. "So at most colleges you might see $1 from alums and friends, $2 from students. At Wabash, that's flipped. $1 from students, $2 from alumni and friends. So it's not that we're immune to this. It is a challenge. It's very hard to balance the budget. But relative to our peers, its not nearly as hard."

Wabash hasn't put faith in hunkering down and waiting for the storm to pass. It is committed to making sure we are better off on the other side than we were entering.

"I think it's probably not going to be that hard to stay ahead of our peers, but I don't think that's sufficient," said Feller. "Wabash could get substantially weaker and still be ahead of its peers. What the Board of Trustees and I want to do while there are difficult times is still be advancing the College. That's why you see $100 million capital investments going into the college. We want to be prepared for when the pendulum swings. We want to be prepared for better times."

# EIC Column: Cornell should make us look in the mirror

*COURTESY OF LE MONDE*

***Rape accusations against the Chi Phi fraternity at Cornell have sparked conversations around sexual violence on college campuses.***

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Outrage and intrigue blanketed the country in the last three weeks after a Jane Doe filed a civil lawsuit accusing seven Chi Phi fraternity members at Cornell University in New York of drugging and raping her.

The incident, which occurred in 2024, was not taken up by local prosecutors at the time or presented to a grand jury, a decision which New York Gov. Kathy Hochul called "deeply disturbing" in a press conference earlier this month where she also announced she would be replacing the local prosecutor on the case with the state's attorney general Letitia James. Cornell's Title IX investigation, which wrapped up in 2025, resulted in two of the students expulsion, among other more minor penalties.

The media explosion around the case after The Cornell Daily Sun, the school's student newspaper, refused to let the story drop and published new details that sparked mass coverage this September, has been intense. Nationally, the case has rekindled conversations about sexual violence on college campuses and what institution's obligations are to root it out.

At Wabash, though, the question needs to be framed differently: what are our obligations as students to prevent sexual violence on our campus?

Why should the question be different at Wabash? It's because students hold so much sway and influence over the direction of the College. The Gentlemen's Rule, our tradition of student government, the history and structure of fraternities and the very ethos of our school call give us an outsized share in steering the ship that is Wabash. There's an equality here — among students, faculty, staff and alumni — that naturally demands more from us, that calls us to the plate more often, especially in the face of crises or in times when action is needed.

***Continued page 2***

# College Democrats return

*COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING*

***Phillip Barre Jr. '30 and Braidan Wood '30 hold the callout meeting for the returning College Democrats in Baxter 114 on October 5.***

**MANN VATS '30**
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, October 5, a group of Wabash students gathered for the first callout meeting of Wabash Democrats, a club that had been dormant for years.

Led largely by freshmen who have only recently arrived on campus, the newly reorganized club is hoping to create a place where students can talk about politics without feeling like they have to agree with one another first. The goal, its leaders said, is not simply to bring more Democrats into the room, but to make the room open to anyone willing to have a conversation.

For Phillip Barre'Jr. '30, president of the club, that was the point from the beginning.

"My initial bringing of the club was to not only raise awareness to the liberals or even the Democrats on campus, but it was to provide a safe space for other people,"said Barre. "It was to provide representation for everyone and to allow everyone to feel safe and heard within the Democrats Club."

That idea carried into the club's first meeting. Students were encouraged to bring up political issues they were seeing nationall, locally or even personally. The executive body also emphasized that attending the Democrats meeting should not mean signing up for a particular set of beliefs but should just reflect your commitment to a safe and healthy political dialogue on campus.

Barre emphasized during the meeting that local politics deserves attention, particularly because decisions made in Crawfordsville and the surrounding community can affect students more directly than events happening hundreds of miles away. The group hopes to bring attention to local issues, voting and community involvement while still discussing national politics.

The club already has a guest speaker planned. Natasha Baker, who is running for the Indiana State Senate in District 22, is expected to speak about her experience running for office, balancing campaigning with being a teacher and a mother and what it is like to navigate political life. The event is intended to give students a look into political life rather than function as a campaign speech.

For Braidan Wood '30, vice-president of the club, reviving the College Democrats was connected to a larger question of political diversity on campus.

"When I first came to Wabash, I was very interested in reviewing the campus and promoting diversity throughout the campus," Wood said. "I wanted to make sure that there was a level of diversity and inclusion throughout campus and that people really had a safe space and quality representation to express their views."

So far, Barre said, the response has been encouraging. He said he has received many emails and messages from students asking how they can get involved. Still, bringing a club back to life is easier said than done.

Vic Lindsay, Wabash's Coordinator of Student Success and the club's faculty advisor, said the Wabash Democrats had been "reasonably inactive for a couple of years." He said that there has been previous attempts to restart the organization, but those efforts had not found enough students or the persistence needed to keep going, So he is excited to see what this new group will accomplish in the coming months.

"The most important role of the advisor is to be someone that the students trust, and that they will go and talk to when they need help," said Lindsay.

His role, he explained, is to help students understand Wabash's resources and processes, support organizations as it grows and help students work through interpersonal challenges that come with building a club.

But Lindsay also sees something larger in the club's return. In a time when political disagreement can quickly become political hostility, he hopes organizations on both sides of the political spectrum can give students a chance to practise something that can be difficult to find: talking across differences.

"We live in a society that doesn't always communicate well across our differences," said Lindsay. "So I hope all these organizations can be invested in the idea that we all care about making our country a better place to live. How can we do that potentially together, as opposed to just demonizing one side or the other?"

The club's name tells students where it comes from politically, but its leaders are asking students not to stop there. Republicans, Democrats, Independents and students who are simply curious about politics are being invited to sit down, ask questions and disagree without turning disagreement into an argument.

Whether that happens will depend on the students who choose to show up. For now, Wabash Democrats are back in action. What comes next is up to the campus.

# Regional news

*Secretary of State race, Medicaid cutbacks and NIPSCO faces pressure from state leaders*

COURTESY OF LE MONDE

***NIPSCO faces backlash for their handling of the clean up after August terrential flooding and furious storms rocked northwest Indiana.***

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
STAFF WRITER

**Secretary Of State Race:**

As we enter October, the Indiana Secretary of States race is heating up, with the race looking to be a real nail-biter. Both candidates have received large donations from people outside the state. Democrat Beau Bayh has gained more than $1 million from out-of-state donors, with some of the biggest contributors having longtime ties to his father, former U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. Connections through his father gave Bayh an early financial boost after he launched his campaign last year. For instance, Bayh's largest individual donor is Connecticut billionaire Robert Johnson, who has given Bayh $400,000 since announcing his run. Bayh's total fundraising will sit around $5 million when the campaign finance reports are due Oct. 16.

Engling has collected far less from outside the state, although one of his largest donors so far is his old boss in Washington, former U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who has given Engling $50,000 from his federal fund. Engling has also received $55,000 from a political group affiliated with GOP Sen. Todd Young. Last month Max Engling took a $50,000 contribution from Noblesville businessman Michael Sherfick, who pleaded guilty in 2010 to federal bribery charges. Engling has received flack for this but has defended keeping the money.

Outside of money, the race has produced two polls that show a very close race. A poll from Hoosier Leadership for America, a political group associated with U.S. Sen. Jim Banks for, found Engling with 38% support to Bayh's 37%. Shillings had 6% support and Ballard 5% with 14% undecided.

Engling was a top staffer to Banks before the Republican senator endorsed him in May over current Secretary of State Diego Morales for the GOP nomination.

Bayh's campaign, meanwhile, put out figures from an early September poll showing Bayh ahead of Engling 42%-36%, with Ballard and Shillings both at 5% and 12% undecided.

**NIPSCO In Hot Water:**

Northern Indiana Public Service Co.'s response to devastating storms back in August has led to calls for large reforms and investigations. Strong winds from Aug. 11 storms inflicted the worst damage in NIPSCO's history, knocking out power to 375,000 customers largely in Lake and Porter counties. Some homes and businesses didn't regain electricity for two weeks. These storms were much stronger than anticipated by NIPSCO's forecasts. Wind speeds topped 100 miles an hour. Several thousand trees were downed as a result of heavy rainfall and saturated soils. Five transmission towers and 1,500 utility poles were damaged too. The wooden distribution poles that line the average street are typically only rated for 55 mile-an-hour winds.

NIPSCO is paying for an internal after-action review that will be provided to the legislative committee. An outside contractor will also review the response, with the results published publicly. This comes after Governor Mike Bruan '76 and other state leaders have called on NIPSCO to face investigations and reforms following the devastating storm. The Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications met and approved unanimously recommendations for legislation that would require utilities to file written emergency response procedures with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and update them annually.

**Many People On Medicaid Face Being Kicked Off:**

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration shared internal estimates recently showing 58,000 Hoosiers insured through the Healthy Indiana Plan are not in compliance with federal Medicaid work rules set to take effect next year. Estimates suggest as many as 12% of current HIP members are at risk of losing coverage when the agency begins enforcement of Medicaid work requirements for new and existing members on Jan. 1, 2027.

New applicants and HIP members will need to show they are either working, attending school, volunteering or participating in an apprenticeship or work program, or some combination thereof, for at least 80 hours a month to continue receiving benefits unless they qualify for an exemption.

The plan is intended for adults ages 19 to 64 who earn a bit too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid, accounting for about 32% of all Medicaid enrollees in Indiana. Some 461,700 Hoosiers were enrolled in HIP in August. State officials in August estimated as many as 300,000 Hoosiers could be subject to HIP work requirements after exemptions are taken into account.

# EIC Column: Cornell

*Continued from page 1*

Other schools, and other student bodies, are asking for more sexual violence prevention training and for stricter policies. Each of these changes should be evaluated on its merits. But I think we at Wabash know something that a lot of people can't accept: a module, an online course, training sessions and policies will not suffice to combat the scourge that is sexual violence on college campuses.

And while self-evaluation may not be sufficient for improvement, I believe it is a necessary component if we want to make progress on this front.

And as a brief aside, don't dismiss this opportunity because you don't like how the case has been handled or maintain doubts about aspects of the timeline or situation. Given the problem of campus sexual violence extends far beyond what happened at Cornell, though, one can think whatever one wants about that instance and still accept it as an opportunity to reflect.

I won't pretend to have all, or even some, of the answers to the question of what our obligations as a student body are. I have my ideas, as I suspect you have yours, but what I will do is volunteer the starting point. What we should do — as gentlemen, fraternities and living units and as representatives of our communities — is look in the mirror and ask, "Why could what happened at Cornell not happen here?"

This question shouldn't scare, embarrass or put us on the defensive. It opens the floor for an honest examination of our practices and culture and character. It can make us attend to questions of power imbalances. Would your underclassmen feel comfortable telling a senior in a position of authority over them, "Look, man, I'm going to stop you before you go too far." It can also make us more conscious of what we say. If that same text from the screenshot in the Cornell case was sent to your groupchat, how would you react? Do we tolerate jokes or behavior with each other that we'd never imagine uttering in front of our girlfriends, parents or siblings?

We're not Cornell, and I'm not claiming that a situation like the 2024 incident is imminent or remotely imminent. But I do believe we'd be tricking ourselves into a false sense of security if we choose to veil ourselves in an air of superiority that falsely assumes situations of sexual violence or harassment are problems of other institutions, not our own.

We know that the next module or interactive lesson on prevention and intervention can only go so far. The buck stops, however, with the environment that we create, the improvement of which, I believe, demands that we pause and introspect ourselves in an honest effort to be more like the gentlemen — and college of gentlemen — that we aspire to be.

I'm indebted to conversations with several people for the ideas and structure of this article, most notably Dean of Students Scott Brown.

COURTESY OF LE MONDE

# News around the world

*Brazil elections, Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel win Nobel Prize, housing turmoil in Spain*

ISRAFIL SHUVON '30
STAFF WRITER

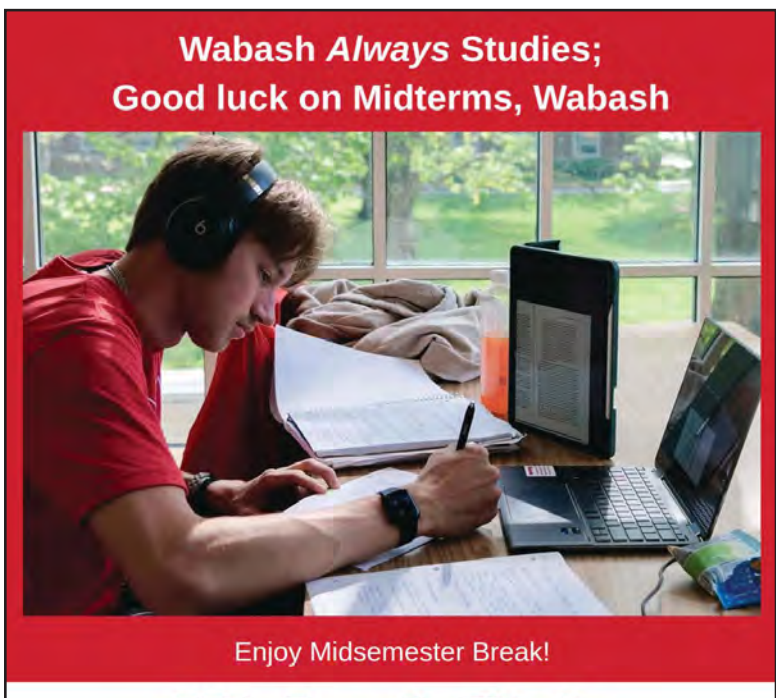
**Brazil Elections:** Brazil, the seventh most populous country in the world, holds elections in a highly digitized way, and voting is mandatory for people aged 18 to 69 and optional for 16 to 17. The vote takes place every four years in the month of October, and citizens elect the president and governors, the federal senate, and the chamber of deputies. For the president-elect, if no one can acquire over 50% of the vote in the first round, it gets split into two rounds, and a reelection occurs. The 2026 Brazil election is expected to be an interesting one, going into two rounds, where Flavio Bolsonaro from the Liberal Party stands at 47.03% of the vote from 56,104,503 voters and Inacio Lula da Silva from the Workers' Party at 45.16% from 53,879,538 voters. Flavio Bolsonaro, son of former president Jair Bolsonaro, continues his father's legacy with conservative, market-friendly, and nationalist policies. His main agendas are institutional & judiciary reform, public security, economic policy reform and foreign policy alignment. Luiz Silva is heavily focusing on reinforcing social & labor policies, economic strategy, and environment and sustainability. The second round is supposed to take place on October 25, 2026, and will decide the next four years of Brazilian citizens' lives and geopolitics.

COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

***Karl Deisseroth, Peter, Hegemann and Georg Nagel recieve the Nobel Prize for 2026 in Physiology or Medicine.***

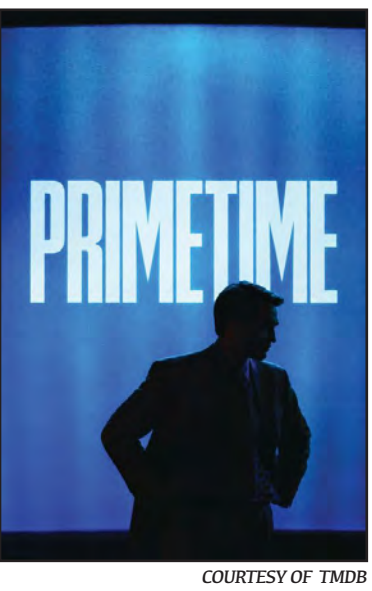
**Nobel Prize:** The Nobel Prize for 2026 in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel. Human emotions and memories are very specific and deeply integrated into neural circuits, and optogenetics explained how they can be instantly activated and deactivated using flashes of light. Peter Hegemann identified the light-sensing proteins embedded in the alga's membrane. This fundamental research laid the biological foundation for the entire field of optogenetics. George Nagel's research, together with Hegemann, discovered channelrhodopsin, a unique light-gated ion channel that, when hit with a blue light around 470 nanometers, causes the protein and the retinal pigment to instantly absorb the light energy, and this energy causes the retinal molecule to violently snap and change its physical shape, allowing the interior gate to be opened within 0.2 milliseconds. In simple words, when blue light hits, it can instantly experience that specific memory in mind. Karl Deisseroth made the logical leap. His research at Stanford successfully integrated the channelrhodopsin gene into mammalian nerve cells using genetic engineering. He demonstrated that a firing pulse at modified brain cells could trigger a nerve signal within milliseconds. He then went on to prove that it could also control specific circuits and subsequent behaviors in living mice.

**Spain:** An 87-year-old Spanish woman's eviction from her home has set off nationwide protests that have continued to rock the nation. She had lived in her home for seven decades and was evicted after the real estate company that owned it booted her in order to jack up rent prices. She died earlier this week in the hospital before she could return to her home after the company bowed to public pressure and agreed to let the woman return. The average rent in Spain has almost doubled in the last 10 years, and Spanish union leaders have scheduled a general strike for November. The socialist government, which failed to push through emergency housing reform, called an election for Nov. 29 in a bid to solidify its power with the momentum from the protests.



# FEATURES

## 'Primetime' is an inquisitive showpiece




*COURTESY OF TMDB*

**NOAH MINTIE '29**
FEATURES EDITOR

In an eager bid for America's attention, one TV program reaches deep into the internet's scummiest grotto, yanks out its nastiest inhabitants and fries them beneath the lens of a camera. These creeps stammer helplessly as Chris Hansen (Robert Pattenson) kicks their lives into an unending tailspin for a slack-jawed audience of millions. Is this exploitative? Is this virtuous? He believes the real question is: "is this episode going to be bigger than 'Lost' (2004)?"

So it's no wonder that the actual Chris Hansen displayed unenthusiasm about Lance Oppenheim's "Primetime," a cinematic autopsy of the 2004 reality show "To Catch a Predator." The film cycles between the perspectives of three characters. First is Hansen, whose fiery lifestyle begins to burn his loved ones and scorch his psyche. Second is his producer Andie Bender (Merritt Wever), whose hard work is buried under the shadows of the men around her. Third is Dan Plumb (Skyler Gisondo), a ripe actor thrown into the distressing role of a decoy child in the show.

Whether by force or temptation, the trio each spend the film with different reasons to cut free from the show. Hansen's arc mostly concerns his fixation with a performative flavor of justice, which the film cleverly visualizes in the form of a supernatural entity that he (and the camera) never fully discerns. It's a brilliant manifestation of the bizarre place that "To Catch a Predator" held in the cultural zeitgeist, and the tenuous relationship between justice and entertainment.

The subtext doesn't end with Hansen, either. Plumb's transition from an aspirational performer to a disinclined vigilante starts just like any other story detailing a young actor hoodwinked by Hollywood, but ends in a wildly different place. It's an arc that questions what it even means to "act" when reality and fiction meld, a question begged by both the script and the surreal editing.

"Primetime" also depicts Bender's stoney morality and her struggle for recognition, but these conflicts are only given the space to exist, not to develop. Compared to Hansen and Plumb's thematically rich character arcs, Bender's story is mostly static. This garners the film a meta-failure, allowing itself to address a woman's unequal treatment to lampshade the fact that she is allocated the smaller share of the script. Despite this irony, the film still gave her character depth and space in a story that isn't expressly about her perspective. Whether or not that redeems any of the film's hypocrisy is up to interpretation.

The subject matter is not just confined to the script. In fact, "Primetime's" best attribute is its presentation. The film is shot with fuzzy, polychromatic 1.50:1 aspect ratio, a suffocatingly-intimate style that floods the theater with palpable discomfort. Each shot feels tight and voyeuristic, sometimes using jarring nudity to punctuate a revolting moment. The equally-claustrophobic audio design clamps down what little coziness the film might have had left. "Primetime" undeniably earns its label as a psychological thriller, as few other movies this year can so profusely twist their audiences into a deep shiver.

The real stars of the show are director Lance Oppenheim (heretofore a documentarian) and editor Daniel Garber (a small-timer who has already earned an impressive reputation for his craft). To say that a film looks like a TV show is not usually a compliment, but the duo pulls off an aesthetic that evokes the small screen while maintaining its cinematic spectacle. This is most notably accomplished through the aforementioned aspect ratio, as well as cuts to other popular programs of the time when relevant.

The transition between the main characters' scenes reads as if the viewer is surfing three different channels, trying to catch the highlights of each story. This style pairs nicely with the film's critique of exploitation, and it all comes to a head during the climax. It's a grimy, intense sequence that ends in a macabre shock. The aftermath of this incident literally splits the screen into chunks, as if the viewer's attempts to individually follow each character have failed and now they must simultaneously give their full attention to each character. As this shot progresses, it becomes clear that such a feat isn't possible, which calls into question the very ethics of television like "To Catch a Predator."

Some have criticized "Primetime's" choice to approach the subject with this angle, but I'd argue that this choice is what makes the film so good. A movie about Chris Hansen could easily just be another lazy biopic that explores a celebrity's rise to fame. Instead, the film examines the unique space that his fame occupies in the greater media landscape. If all that the viewer wants is an exact analysis of real events, David Osit's 2025 documentary "Predators" already exists. "Primetime" has a different purpose, and I'd argue that it succeeds at fulfilling itself.

For my money, "Primetime" is one of the best movies of the year. Rarely can a film cut so deep purely via presentation, arguably outperforming its own script in the process. The film feels like a showcase of each cast and crew member's best possible work, like a carefully-crafted resume boasting their technique. It may not be perfect, but it is at least a testament to the full potential of modern filmmaking.

**FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS**

*COURTESY OF TMDB*

## Alumnus connects Indianapolis with Wabash

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Swing a cat in Indianapolis and you'll probably hit a building or street corner with some Wabash connection. You probably wouldn't know that, but chances are that Jon Pactor '71 will and can tell you about it.

Recently, the Indianapolis lawyer and fervent supporter of all things Wabash developed a walking tour that guides people through the history of some of Indianapolis' most famous and historic landmarks, highlighting their numerous connections to Wabash men across several eras.. The tours are usually intergenerational, and a group of students joined Pactor, a retired professor, and a couple of alumni and a spouse for one on a sunny Sunday morning in early October. The group spanned decades, with at least one person having been at Wabash from the 1960s through the 2020s. But all had come for the same reason: to learn a little more about Wabash's history from one of its best storytellers.

"I grew up in Indianapolis, and quite frankly, I had not spent much or any time downtown walking around the Circle and observing the different monuments," said Kevin Benefiel '81. "So to me, that was fascinating."

These tours are just the latest incarnation of Pactor's love for his alma mater. He's written several books about Wabash, a couple more about his fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon, contributed heavily to Wabash's moot court competition, served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Wabash Men, started the WABASH Day service day and created a fund for historical preservation in the College archives. All of that barely scratches the surface of his philanthropy. His is a tale of giving back — and of singing praise — in innumerable ways, but particularly where Wabash's history is involved. It's an area he thinks we should pay particular attention to.

"Our history is that we've always been connected, and I don't think we should disconnect ourselves from that history," said Pactor. "I'm sure current students have said — or if not said, then heard — that we stand on the shoulders of giants. I think if Wabash students want to say they stand on the shoulders of giants, they should derive benefit from learning about those on whose shoulders they stand."

The tour itself was a testament to Wabash's rich, deep involvement in shaping the state's capital. Wabash men have founded some of the city's top law firms — national names like Barnes and Thornburg and Faegre Drinker — and its Columbia Club, a social club that hosted virtually every Republican presidential candidate for about a century. One of Wabash's founders and original trustees, Samuel Merrill, who served as one of the state's earliest treasurers, helped name Indianapolis and its first meaningful school. And Caleb Mills, the first faculty member at the College, was instrumental in lobbying for free public education — which had been essentially nonexistent in the state — in Indiana's constitution, an inclusion which has paid untold dividends in the 175 years since.

As it turns out, it's likely — probably certain, actually — that Wabash would not look the same without its connection to the Circle City. The oldest building in Indianapolis' Monument Circle, Christ Church Cathedral, was designed by William Tinsley, who also designed our own Center Hall. And the ornate figures on the Monument's sides were done by Rudolph Schwartz, who also produced Wabash's senior bench and war memorial.

Rich in fact and detail, it was good to learn more about the city that's only an hour away from campus, and to do so among Wabash men generations apart.

"I think we should not take our intergenerational nature for granted," said Pactor. "I don't. If you're walking down the street and someone is wearing something Wabash, there's likely to be a conversation. There's this sense of belonging."

It's that sense of belonging that Pactor aims to foster through his tours and work for Wabash: to leave it a little, or maybe a lot, better than he found it.

*PHOTO BY HUTCH NORRIS '27*

***(Left to right) Sam Anderson '21, Connor Phillips '28, Owen Vermeulen '28 and Noah Mintie '29 listen to Jon Pactor '71 connect various monuments in downtown Indianapolis to Wabash alumni.***

## Beyond the political noise: Justin Grimmer '05 challenges Wabash to think differently about elections

**PHILLIP BARRE JR. '30**
STAFF WRITER

The room was full of questions Tuesday evening as Wabash students and professors gathered to hear Morris M. Doyle Centennial Professor of Public Policy and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution Justin Grimmer '05 discuss American elections, voting rights, political polarization and the way Americans understand democracy. What began as a talk about elections quickly became a much broader conversation about something that affects nearly every part of American politics: how people decide what to believe.

Grimmer, a political scientist whose work focuses heavily on American politics and elections, spent most of his presentation challenging the difference between political rhetoric and what evidence actually shows. He explained that Americans are often presented with very strong arguments about election policies. One party may describe a policy as necessary to protect elections, while the other may describe that same policy as a serious threat to democracy. According to Grimmer, the reality is often somewhere in between.

One his examples was voter identification laws. Grimmer explained that some academic research has found that policies such as voter ID laws and other changes to election administration often have much smaller effects than the political arguments surrounding them suggest.

"Those sorts of extreme claims are not supported by the evidence," said Grimmer.

Much of his message came down to taking these issues seriously without allowing political arguments to become more extreme than the evidence. He encouraged the audience to question claims, examine research and recognize that even good research has limitations. For Grimmer, being willing to question an argument does not mean someone does not care about democracy. Instead, he argued that careful questioning can actually make political discussions stronger.

Another interesting part of the evening came when Grimmer discussed how experts should challenge one another. He compared political research to the way experts interact in a courtroom. In a court case, one expert can make a claim, but another side has the opportunity to examine that claim and challenge it.

"If someone makes a claim, there's someone else vetting that claim," said Grimmer.

Grimmer said that this kind of back-and-forth can make experts more careful because their professional credibility is at stake. He was not arguing that courts should be responsible for making every decision about elections. Instead, he said political conversations could benefit from some of the same habits found in courtrooms: make a clear claim, support it with evidence, allow someone else to challenge it and then seriously consider the response.

The question-and-answer portion of the event pushed the conversation beyond election results and voter turnout. One audience member asked whether researchers sometimes focus too much on measurable outcomes, such as how many people vote, while overlooking how election policies affect people's feelings about democracy itself.

That question stood out to Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman. Gelbman said she enjoyed how much ground Grimmer was able to cover while still connecting the different topics to a larger discussion about American democracy.

"I really appreciated how structured the presentation was," said Gelbman.

> **"What stood out to me was how different the evidence can look from the way politics is talked about, It made me think about how often we hear something repeated and automatically assume it has to be true."**
>
> - Sergio Meza '29

Gelbman also thought the question about measuring the effects of election policies was especially important. "Are there outcomes of policies that are not simple, does it affect the way an election turns out?" she asked. She explained that researchers can look at whether a policy changes voter turnout or election results, but those numbers may not tell the entire story. A policy could also affect how people feel about government, how much they trust elections or how they view the democratic process.

For Gelbman, that is part of what made the event valuable. It gave students an opportunity to think about democracy as more than simply voting. Representation, participation, political trust and public debate can all play a role in how people experience democracy.

Sergio Meza '29 also attended the event and offered a student perspective on Grimmer's presentation. For Meza, one of the most interesting parts of the talk was hearing an argument that did not always line up with the way political issues are normally discussed in the media or in everyday conversations. Instead of simply choosing a political side, Grimmer encouraged the audience to slow down and look at what the research actually says.

"What stood out to me was how different the evidence can look from the way politics is talked about," said Meza. "It made me think about how often we hear something repeated and automatically assume it has to be true."

Meza said that the presentation also made him think about how easily political conversations can become divided. When people hear the same issue described as either completely good or completely bad, it can become difficult to have a meaningful conversation about the actual issue.

"I think the biggest takeaway for me was that you can care about democracy and still question the way people talk about it," said Meza. "You don't have to automatically accept one side just because that's how the issue is being presented."

That student perspective connected closely with the larger message of the evening. Grimmer was not asking the audience to agree with every conclusion he presented. Instead, he challenged students to think more carefully about how they form conclusions in the first place.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from Grimmer's presentation was not one specific argument about voter ID, gerrymandering, campaign spending or voting rights. Instead, it was the importance of slowing down and looking more closely at the information being presented.

American political conversations can become divided very quickly. A policy can be described as either saving democracy or destroying it, leaving little room for uncertainty, disagreement or nuance. Grimmer challenged that approach by encouraging people to look at the evidence, recognize its limits and be willing to have their conclusions questioned.

The presentation also showed why conversations about politics are not always as simple as they appear. Issues involving elections can affect millions of people, and even a small policy change can lead to larger questions about representation, participation and trust. Grimmer's approach was to focus on those questions while resisting the temptation to make the answers more dramatic than the evidence allows.

For many in the room, the event offered more than another political science discussion. It provided an opportunity to step outside the usual political arguments, ask difficult questions and think more carefully about what democracy actually means.

For a campus where students are preparing to enter a world shaped by politics, law and public debate, that may have been the most important lesson of the evening: sometimes understanding politics requires listening past the loudest argument and taking a closer look at what the evidence is actually saying.

# La Alianza celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

**GABE FINK '30**
STAFF WRITER

What does it look like to truly celebrate a culture on campus? Hispanic Heritage Month gives students the opportunity to engage with Latino culture, while also recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Americans. Several events hosted by La Alianza, an on-campus club that focuses on Hispanic culture, will allow students to connect with one another and enjoy celebrating tradition throughout the month.

"It's become this really interesting opportunity for us as a campus to really reflect on the experiences of some of our students and faculty and staff and coaches," said Julio Enríquez-Ornelas '08, Director of the Latino Community Center on Campus. "It also allows us to have these conversations about Latinos in America."

With many students on campus coming from Latino backgrounds, it is important to honor their celebrations and traditions here on campus. Hispanic Heritage was, for too long, ignored throughout American history. Hispanic Heritage month traces its origins back to the late 1960s, where it began as a week tied to the civil rights movement. Civil rights leaders made it a priority to include the importance of Hispanic contributions in their movement. Eventually, these efforts led to Hispanic Heritage receiving its own dedicated month.

"Civil rights leaders were urging for this inclusion of the contributions of Hispanic people," said Enríquez. "It was at a time when the experiences of Hispanic Americans were being erased, overlooked, or marginalized."

During the time of the civil rights movement, Hispanic Americans faced segregation and discrimination similar to that of African-Americans. They attended separate, under-funded schools. They worked for unfair wages, were denied fair voting rights and the ability to hold office. Only through grassroots campaigns, legal battles and labor unions were civil rights leaders able to give Hispanic Americans a voice.

But Hispanic Heritage Month hasn't had the opportunity to fully take form on campus in previous years, but that is changing starting this semester. With the help of La Alianza, the month will provide a way for students to learn about and experience the culture and perspectives of Latino students in a way that is fun and engaging.

"I started getting into the talks of Hispanic Heritage Month," said President of La Alianza Ruben Canchola '28. "We need to start on that now, rather than doing it at the start of next semester because it just comes at you so soon."

With Hispanic Heritage month taking place from September 15 through October 15, the cabinet has had to begin the planning work during the summer due to how early the month takes place in the semester. With the establishment of the Latino Community Center and its programming, it has really given the organization an opportunity to take a more proactive approach in helping the Latino population bring their traditions from home to campus for students to enjoy.

The cabinet of La Alianza has been intentional about planning and executing events over the course of the past few months. They hosted a screening of a film that emphasized how Latino figures can have a positive influence on people and the communities they live in. The club also reaches out to Alumni and other speakers and brings them in for events where they can share their experiences with students. This includes Thursday's chapel talk speaker Emilio G. Robles.

"Food plays a big part in sharing tradition and culture," said Canchola. "Food brings people together, and like I think that's what I would say is a pillar of what makes Hispanic heritage."

Events hosted by the club are often accompanied by Hispanic food that provides another opportunity for Hispanic culture to be brought to campus. The involvement and celebration of Hispanic culture doesn't end with the conclusion of the month though. On October 30, they will also be hosting a celebration for Dia de Los Muertos as well as a fundraiser. In December, they will be hosting Las Posadas, which is a Christmas party.

"I have no words to describe how happy it makes me to see a lot of people eating tacos or eating tamales," said Rene Ibarra-Lujan. "Their smile makes me realize how Latinos can change people."

Seeing students from all backgrounds coming together on campus makes all of the planning and hard work worth it. He urges more students to come out to the events and meet people where they're at, because that is what Hispanic Heritage month is all about.

# "Life 1" is full of life

**WYATT EMERSON '30**
STAFF WRITER

How often is it that an internet personality can go from making FIFA videos to being one of the most ambitious and exciting music artists out right now? Benjamin Lasky, better known by stage name "Quadeca," has yet again delivered an exciting and experimental record to lead us into the upcoming Winter season at Wabash.

Quadeca initially grew into popularity through his youtube videos that were released around 2012. He covered things like FIFA and other video games before taking a more musical approach. Although he performed in a smaller scene, he emerged as one of the most prominent figures in the "YouTube rap" scene at the time. The music he made in these years was not particularly special, but looking back and comparing the quality to where it is now, his journey is definitely inspiring. Quadeca's first notable musical project was 2022's "I Didn't Mean to Haunt You," which is a cinematic album with an extremely dense concept behind it (and an album I personally love). He moved on to the Scrapyard EP in 2024, which was an artistic release that proved he is not a dull youtube musician and drew many new fans. Quadeca then reached his musical peak with 2025's "Vanisher." There are so many insane string compositions and electronic spots of production here that all work together to create a mind bending experience. I couldn't even recommend a specific song from this album because when paired with the full-length music video this album is a magical experience. Quadeca has been consistently mapping this project out for years, and he completely delivered. Coming into his most recent album rollout, he had advertised that it would be a far less dark and conceptual album and that he would be "having fun" a lot more. This scared me at first, but I am absolutely pleased to say that "Life 1" exceeded my expectations tenfold.

The album starts with "Life 1 (where did the time go)," which is a bass and piano driven song that builds as it goes on. The song starts with some odd bass and electronic patterns until Quadeca's gorgeously mixed vocals come in, and from this point on the vocals and piano flourish together to make an amazing listening experience. We see hints of stringed instruments here too, which is rare to see on an electronic track like this. I will take this opportunity right now to praise his vocal layering, which absolutely shines on nearly every song on this album and is some of the best I have heard. The way he is able to stack his own voice on top of itself so many times and create such fascinating and gorgeous vocal compositions blows my mind. The single "Dark Magic" comes next, which is a song I have liked since its release. This song is extremely odd at the beginning, as not much of its production or melodies make sense, but everything comes together midway through the song to create a very entertaining earworm of a song.

Following this song is "The Hero Never Dies," which features frankly pretty annoying vocals. There is a fake filter over his voice that does not sit well with me, but beneath this there is a fantastically produced song with amazing vocal layering and a really great instrumentally driven final segment. The next song, "It Goes Like This," is a really dreamy and fun love song with some nice piano licks throughout the whole thing. I think the synthesizers and digital keyboard sounds also work together to make this song wildly enjoyable.

The next two songs, "Make you my what" and "Regular guy," are two of my least favorite songs that I think definitely throw off the momentum slightly. These both are made extremely well. I just can't get behind several of the melodies and lyrics and I think they both come across as filler a little bit. "The Gambler" initially sounds like a skit, with a very satirical skit about AI starting the short song, but suddenly a straggling electronic outro comes in, marking some of my favorite production on the whole project. "Like you always do" through "Good Grief" is a consistently enjoyable run. "Baby Steps" and "Hell of a Time" are lead singles and I consider the second of the two to be among Quadeca's best work since I first heard it.

A highlight for me, "Illusion of Choice," is a very emotional outlook on suicidal thoughts and how hereditary mental issues can shape a person's outlook on life. It also discusses the pressures of not being mentally alright but still being romantically involved with another. The repeated lyric "Wish I could be alone and you could still have me" hits very hard. "Good Grief" is my personal favorite on the whole album. It's a beautiful, expansive, climactic penultimate track. The song starts with a slow cello and transitions into an acoustic verse, building great momentum for the absolutely crushing final drop, with many instrumental layers making for my favorite moment on the whole album. The lyrical themes of this song are crushing as well, with Quadeca discussing how the death of a seemingly one sided friendship has affected him negatively, but ultimately he is able to process this "grief" and turn it into a positive life lesson.

Through and through Quadeca continues to cement himself as one of the most exciting and genre bending artists making music today. His artistic growth is a story like no other, and he just continues to show that being dedicated to your craft can allow for immense change in artistic quality. While imperfect, I am incredibly satisfied with the quality that this album has brought and I am so excited to see where Benjamin Lasky goes from here.

**FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS**

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

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# Building for our sons

**Paul Hawksworth '28**

*Opinion Editor*

Reply to this opinion at pdhawksw28@wabash.edu

Campus construction becomes an even hotter topic with every new project that starts, and right now we are at the crossroads of two projects that are absolutely campus-altering. The Community Center project and, now, the construction on the Mall as part of the new cooling plant project are inarguably damaging to the student experience on campus, and with some of these projects forecasted not to be completed until over half of the current student body graduates, many are understandably upset that they have to suffer through the restrictions of construction without being able to enjoy the fruits of the finished products. However, I have seen and heard a lot of misguided and misdirected frustration about campus construction in the past year. I'm not here to say nobody should be upset about the construction and how much longer it is taking than expected — I am part of the group that will graduate before these projects are completed — but rather eliminate some of the misdirected frustrations the campus construction has caused.

The most common misconception I have heard about campus construction is about the resources Wabash College has to pay for major campus improvements. Too often I hear students say, "Wabash has a $450 million endowment, why do they have to raise my tuition?" or, "We pay so much money to go here, why can the College not provide XYZ?" My simplest answer to these complaints is Wabash does not have the vast wealth of money and resources many people think it does. Last year, President Feller gave a State of the College talk to students and said Wabash needs to increase its endowment $100 million above baseline growth by 2032 just to meet its needs and any additional improvements would require even more endowment growth. Included in those needs are faculty and staff salaries, which have declined in real value over the last seven years, deferred campus maintenance, updating online infrastructure and reducing endowment draw to achieve more sustainable growth.

Students have been very vocal about the amount of broken, defunct or not-up-to-standard features of our campus. Those problems are very real, but many students don't realize how quickly everything adds up. I serve as the student representative on the Ad Hoc Committee for Campaign Planning for Wabash's next proposed capital campaign, and the aforementioned needs of the College are a central part of the campaign. Without even putting in much thought, Campus Services and administration found over $60 million in deferred maintenance around campus that Wabash simply does not have right now. The next time you see something broken around campus or an old part of a building that desperately needs renovation, keep in mind that the College knows about it and wants to fix it, but there are tens of millions of dollars in other things around campus that need the same amount of updating. The College can't do everything all at once.

Another misconception I've heard, albeit much less common, is that administration has no consideration for how students' lives will be affected by construction. This argument is both very shallow and has no logical base. The administration wants construction to be done quickly just as much as you do. When campus looks complete, recruiting new students becomes easier and more people are likely to give to Wabash. Furthermore, on a more human level, they want us as students to enjoy our Wabash experience and they are aware that half of the campus being under construction is not the best way of achieving that. Don't believe me? Go ask any of the administrators. Talk to them face-to-face rather than screaming into the void or hateposting on YikYak.

President Feller said in his State of the College talk last year that Wabash is building for our sons, and he meant that literally. A lot of the facilities we enjoy on campus now were not around when our parents were in college, and the facilities our sons will get to enjoy are on the way. Many of us students now may not be around to see the completion of the construction projects going on around campus, but we can still be proud of the campus we are leaving behind and happy that the next generation of Wabash men can enjoy a College with even better facilities than we are enjoying now.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### PRIVATE INVESTIGATING

*Hi-Five to Rockstar Games for sending their game engineers to "research" for GTA 6 at a strip club. In unrelated news,* The Bachelor *staff will be doing an investigative story over fall break, armed with a Senate P-card.*

### \/\/H@T &R3 `/()U 5@Y!NG ?

*Lo-Five to Alex Schmidt '27 for a series of emails no one knew how to read... or cared to read. Hi-Five for the creativity though.*

### SHE'S GOT POTENTIAL

*Lo-Five to the 67-year-old Indiana woman that was arrested for doing donuts on a courthouse lawn while drunk. Too bad no one will employ her now...*

### BANG! BANG!

*Hi-Five to Tyrese Haliburton for making his long awaited return to the Pacers. We're ready to watch a competent professional sports team in Indiana again.*

### "DON'T POINT AT ME!"

*Lo-Five to the two refs suspended by the NFL for "contentious interactions with players." Instead of suspending them, just make them ref a WNBA game.*

# Be bored more

**RJ Morrison '28**

Reply to this opinion at rjmorris28@wabash.edu

Technology has made boredom extremely convenient to escape. Every time we stand in line, have 10 minutes before class or ride in the car, our first instinct is to reach for our phones. We use TikTok, Instagram, games or anything we can find on our phone to escape the dreadful possibility that we might be bored for a couple of seconds. In today's world where our phones can constantly keep us entertained, boredom may seem like something that you should avoid. Our approach to boredom should be quite the opposite. Allowing ourselves to be bored can improve our creativity, self-reflection and our ability to appreciate everyday life. All can lead to improvement as a person and your overall happiness.

When we're constantly consuming information, our minds have less ability to wander. Our minds are told what to think and what not to think; there is less freedom of thought; and our minds are overwhelmed with information. If we set down our phones and allow our minds to rest, it will allow us to daydream, connect our ideas, think creatively, solve problems and come up with new ideas for ourselves. When we're bored and we allow our minds to wander, none of these benefits are forced. Some of our most creative thoughts come not when we are desperately searching for them, but when we finally give our minds nothing else to do. The mind will naturally go there when we're bored for short periods of time while eating, walking, lying in bed or in any scenario where we would otherwise rot on our phone. All these activities aren't providing constant entertainment, which gives our mind the space to wander.

Similar to allowing our minds to wander, being bored gives you the opportunity of self-reflection. Constant stimulation can prevent us from simply thinking. Boredom would instead give you the opportunity to ask yourself, "Am I happy?" "What should I change?" "What do I value?" or "What do I truly want?" As college students, this is especially important while living busy lives. We constantly go from class to a lunch talk, to more classes, then practice, then do homework and then sleep. Repeat this Monday through Friday and the little free time we have is filled with our phones. There isn't much time to stop and reflect on how you're doing. Taking your free time to stop and do nothing once in a while will allow you to process everything you've been doing.

Lastly, boredom can simply make ordinary day-to-day life more interesting. If we're constantly entertained, ordinary life can start to feel boring. If we allow ourselves to be bored, the simple things we take for granted can become more enjoyable. You'd enjoy the simple conversations with your friends more. You'd be more entertained by reading. You'd enjoy working out more. You'd enjoy the entertainment of playing a sport or being outside. When our minds are always entertained, we become blind to the enjoyment of entertainment. If we allow ourselves to be bored, entertainment becomes more enjoyable. When entertainment isn't available every second, we become better at entertaining ourselves and appreciating what is around us.

Ultimately, the benefits of boredom can extend beyond creativity and reflection and contribute to a happier and more well-rounded life. Creativity allows us to find new solutions to problems and discover interests that we may not have otherwise explored. Self-reflection gives us the opportunity to understand ourselves better, recognize what is important to us and consider areas where we could improve. Appreciating everyday experiences can also make life feel more meaningful. Instead of constantly searching for the next source of entertainment, we can learn to enjoy simple moments, whether that is having a conversation with a friend, taking a walk or simply sitting outside.

These habits can gradually improve our overall happiness because they help us become more comfortable with ourselves and more aware of the life we are already living. Personal growth does not always come from major accomplishments or dramatic changes. Sometimes it comes from slowing down enough to recognize what makes us happy, what needs to change, and what we should be grateful for. Boredom gives us the space to do exactly that. By occasionally resisting the urge to fill every quiet moment, we may become more creative, thoughtful and appreciative people. Ultimately, you will find greater satisfaction in your life.

Now by knowing the benefits of boredom and that technology has eliminated boredom, I challenge you to put down your phone every once in a while and allow yourself to be bored. Boredom is not a waste of time. It can be time spent thinking, being creative and reflecting. In a culture that constantly tells us to fill every moment, perhaps one of the most valuable things we can learn is how to leave some moments empty.

# Driving blind: The fatal flaw in modern headlights

**Benjamin Anaclerio '30**

Reply to this opinion at bmanacle30@wabash.edu

Have you ever been driving down a country road at night and suddenly lost all sight due to headlights as bright as the sun barreling down the road at you? Modern day drivers, especially in sedans and coupes, are subjected to unannounced optical assault anytime they drive at night. Cold-blue LED lights are so intense that they obliterate your sight and prevents you from seeing anything ahead of you besides the headlights themselves. Instinctively, you squint your eyes, your pupils contract and you are driving entirely based on memory and faith. Automotive lighting was engineered to help drivers see, but modern engineers have decided that blinding everybody else for your sake is the only solution.

This issue started with the introduction of the modern LED lighting technology. On paper, LED lights are 1000 times better than halogen lights in terms of brightness, efficiency and duration. Not to mention they are much smaller than halogen lights, allowing automotive designers to save money and pack everything into a tighter headlight housing. But in the real world, where they are being used on human eyes, which are not all equal and not test sensors, this efficiency comes at a cost. Part of this cost is biological. Halogen lights emit a warm and yellowish light around 3,000 Kelvin, while modern LED lights run from 5,000 to 6,500 Kelvin. To add on, the blue light used within the LED lights reacts violently with human eyes and creates a scattering effect known as "disability glare," which temporarily blinds the victim.

Yet, this is only part of the problem. The other half is the massive SUV boom that has occurred within the last 20 years. Over the last decade, family sedans and wagons have been terminated from production lines in favor of crossovers and full-sized SUVs. To make matters worse, the federal government allows headlights to be placed as high as 54 inches off the ground, which puts many of the headlights in these cars right at eye level for sedans, wagons and motorcycles. When you sit at a traffic light with a SUV behind you, their headlights should be pointing at your bumper, but instead they are pointing right at your mirrors and firing straight into your eyes. It becomes even worse when on bumpy or hilly roads, every little bump tilts the front of the oncoming vehicle upwards, pushing its headlights even straighter into your windshield like a ray of sunlight. This SUV shift has created a headlight race where the only defense against it is to purchase an even taller vehicle.

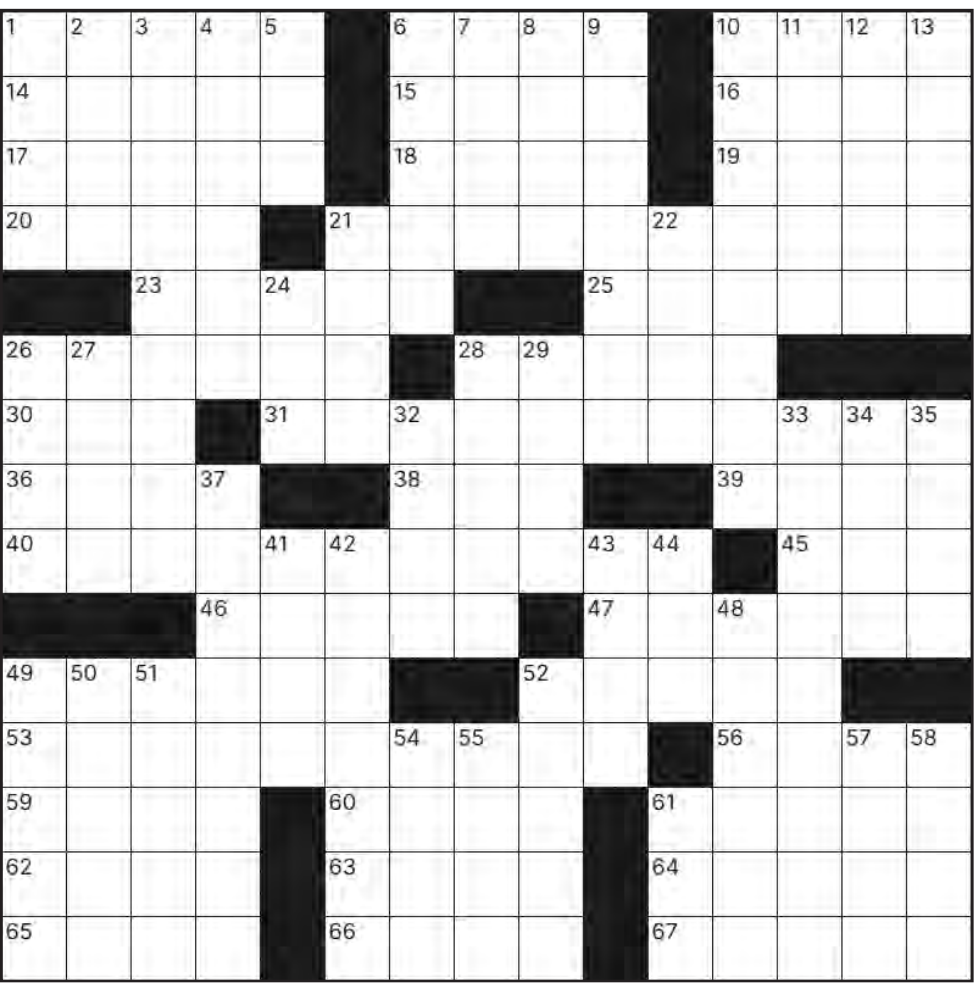
The real world consequences become even worse when you look at the data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), who say that roughly half of all fatal accidents occur at night, despite nighttime driving making up for only about a quarter of aggregate driving time. Pedestrians are hit even harder as 75% of fatal pedestrian accidents occur at night. A AAA survey revealed that 60% of American drivers also identify headlights glare as a hazard that compromises their safety at night. This consumer frustration has reached its peak, as the NHTSA receives the most complaints from drivers regarding blinding headlights over any other car component/feature. Faced with this, some drivers take matters into their own hands, most commonly using ceramic window or windshield tint in order to dim the outside lights. Even a subtle 70% or 50% film across the vehicle, which acts like polarized sunglasses, can dim some of the bright blue lights penetrating the window. Yet, in almost every jurisdiction, they have extensive tint laws and regulations that keep consumers from trying to protect themselves in order to make it easier for the police to spot drivers inside the car. So while the state allows an oncoming truck to blind you, they penalize you with a citation for trying to preserve your own vision.

Automakers often argue that active safety features such as automatic high beams help to mitigate these problems. However, anybody who spends time with these features knows that unless they are used in a high end luxury car where they were engineered correctly, it is just a gimmick that serves no purpose. They frequently fail to register and end up making you look like the bad person for leaving your brights on.

Safety on public roads is inherently cooperative. It relies on trusting others, mutual visibility and basic courtesy in order to all arrive at their destinations safely. Federal regulators need to catch up to the modern times and listen to the consumers to restrict headlight brightness and angles. They must mandate the mounting heights, color temperature and better self-leveling hardware as well as loosen window tint laws in order to protect us. Until illumination is treated as a public safety issue and not just a styling contest, night driving will remain a visual battlefield.

# ‘Themeless #2’

*Crossword by Paul Hawksworth ’28*



**Across**

1. Edison rival
6. America’s Puppet Master Tony
10. Austin Powers’ power
14. Criticize harshly
15. Miscellaneous collection
16. Washington’s bills
17. Scent
18. Karate training facility
19. Egg spot
20. Actress Suvari
21. Chuck Norris’ kick
23. Star of a bachelor party
25. Lady Liberty’s skin
26. Himalayan native
28. Instant replay feature
30. Scientist’s office
31. Key chain?
36. Me as well
38. Link, of a sort
39. Beijing currency
40. California spot that has hosted six U.S. Opens
45. Fox trait
46. More than liked
47. Butcher’s cleaver
49. Professional copyist
52. One who is doomed
53. Obi-Wan Kenobi’s master
56. Tampa Bay MLBers
59. Food safety org.
60. But, in Spanish
61. First episode
62. Rapper on “Law & Order: SVU”
63. Type of bomb
64. Siberian forest
65. 10cc, perhaps
66. Philosopher Descartes
67. Dead, as a dragon

**Down**

1. Miner’s car
2. Cork’s isle
3. Krusty Krab fry cook
4. ‘40s actress in the Inventors Hall of Fame
5. ___ snail’s pace
6. City destroyed in Genesis
7. 1966 N.L. batting champ Matty
8. Rembrandt van ___
9. Criminal’s pretend friend
10. Game with Park Ave. and Water Works
11. Slightly beat out
12. Olympic gold medalist Owens
13. Kitchen appliance brand
21. 2013 Katy Perry hit
22. Abode
24. Dad’s dad, in German
26. Freudian flub
27. “10 Things I ___ About You” (1999 film)
28. Rock hard on guitar
29. Country singer McCann
32. Bouillon unit
33. Land down under
34. Apple variety
35. Black gemstone
37. Bind legally
41. “I’d Love You to Want Me” singer
42. 72, at 40-Across
43. “Are you kidding me?”
44. Mother chicken
48. Like drone footage
49. Ink producer
50. Inca capital
51. Carnival attractions
52. Bearded garden dwarf
54. Ballerina’s jump
55. ___ Maiden (heavy metal band)
57. Berra of the Yankees
58. Comic book writer Lee
61. NBA scoring stat, abbr.

*Scan for solution!*

# In defense of beer foam

**Ondrej Rous ’28**

Reply to this opinion at orous28@gmail.com

I know what you’re thinking. If a bartender pours you a beer and a quarter of the glass is foam, you shake your head and start thinking about how much beer you have lost to the giant head. In America, foam is something a good tapmaster should avoid. He holds the glass at a specific angle, fills it slowly and suppresses as much foam as he can. And honestly, I understand why. I am not here to tell you you’re wrong. I am here to tell you that you most likely never had the type of foam we serve in the Czech Republic.

I’m from the Czech Republic, where beer is a source of national pride, so I work as a tapmaster at “U Kalendu,” a pub. I pour beer most days when I am home, and foam is the most sophisticated part of delivering a good beer to customers. As someone who knows the principles of Czech beer, I’ll admit the foam on most American lagers really doesn’t taste that good, and if you get too much of it, you lose a good amount of beer volume. Take Bud Light, Coors or Miller. The foam consists of large bubbles that disappear within a minute. After a while, the foam is gone, and the beer starts losing its hoppy smell and taste. It also loses that cutting feeling on your tongue that a fresh beer has. If this is all you’ve ever known as foam, it makes sense that you see beer foam as something that just takes up space in your glass.

But judging foam by that standard is like judging coffee by instant powder. After all, foam is only as good as the beer it comes from. It holds together thanks to the proteins from malt, substances from hops and carbon dioxide. Many American lagers are brewed with a high share of rice or corn, which have less protein than malt and create lighter, less dense beer. It’s no surprise the foam has nothing to hold it up. Czech lagers are full of malt, have a hoppy smell and have foam that’s thick, fine and creamy. It doesn’t disappear in a minute. It protects the beer until the last sip, and it leaves regular rings on the glass.

After all, you probably already love beer foam, but you might just not realize it. Think about Guinness. Nobody gets upset about its thick head. The head is essential to “splitting the G.” Whoever loves well-poured Guinness already understands the principle. Foam is an essential part of the beer. Now you just need to apply similar logic to pilsner lagers.

And now let’s look at what a beer head is for: first of all, the scent. Most of what we sense as taste is, in reality, scent, and foam brings it to your nose with every tilt of the glass. Drinking beer without foam is like listening to music without bass. Second, the smooth, creamy foam rounds out the bitterness and makes the first sip soft and rich. Third, the foam layer works as a lid for the good stuff beneath. It protects the beer from oxygen and helps it keep that “first sip” taste and temperature all the way to the bottom of the glass.

One more thing isn’t talked about enough: the temperature. In the USA, it is common to drink the beer freezing cold, often from a frozen glass. However, the extreme cold dulls both the taste and the scent, so even if the beer has a lot to offer, you won’t taste it. Czech pubs pour beer cold, not freezing, into a glass chilled to 36°F, rinsed with water so that the head forms properly.

Beer in the Czech Republic isn’t just a drink; it is part of the culture. Czechia consumes the most beer per capita in the world, and the modern pale lager, pilsner lager, was first brewed in Pilsen in 1842; to this day, beers worldwide are named after the city of Pilsen. So, it’s no wonder pouring beer is considered a craft. A good bartender doesn’t just pour the beer fast. There are three different pour styles: “hladinka,” the most common one, has three fingers of foam, poured all the way to the top; “snyt,” which is two fingers of beer and three fingers of foam; and “mliko,” which is just foam poured all the way to the top. When both “snyt” and “mliko” foam settles, it becomes a small beer and costs the same. “Mliko” is popular among women because it doesn’t taste bitter and almost tastes like champagne. “Snyt” is known as the beer you have at the end of the night to say goodbye to your tapmaster.

So I am not asking you to trust me blindly, but to give the foam another chance on a beer that deserves it. If you see Pilsner Urquell or Czechvar on tap in the USA, which is very rare, give it a shot and let me know how it was. Don’t be upset at the bartender if it has a lot of foam; it is supposed to. You will thank me once you try it.

# Wally’s Wall

**The Prompt**

What are your thoughts on the fences on campus and other campus construction?

**Tobin Seiple ’29**

While the construction on campus is not ideal, I do not think it is as tragic as some make it out to be. The fence on the mall adds maybe three minutes to my day.

**Noah Mintie ’29**

I think that 100 extra steps will do you more good than harm.

**Brady Reeves ’29**

I don’t mind some construction but having three projects going at once really limits campus walking.

**Isaac Barajas ’30**

I feel like the situation with the fence is honestly bad for the culture of the College. It is something we cross every day to get to our classes or to get anywhere. I feel like I’ll graduate with Wabash still under construction.

**Logan Payton ’30**

While it is annoying to walk more of a distance, I love seeing the spirit of taking an opportunity to crack jokes about it. It’s a small thing but it really shows me how connected the campus is.

# ‘The fellowship of the rhynes’

*by Noah Mintie ’29*

# Turnovers fracture Wabash's chances in 24-23 loss against Denison

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

For three quarters Saturday, Wabash College looked like the better football team. For the final 15 minutes, Denison University looked like the team that knew how to finish.

The Big Red scored twice in the fourth quarter, the second on a 3-yard touchdown pass with 47 seconds remaining, to erase a 13-point deficit and hand the Little Giants their first loss of the season, 24-23, in North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play at Deeds Field-Piper Stadium. Wabash (4-1, 3-1 NCAC) outgained Denison (4-1, 4-0 NCAC) by 29 yards, averaged more yards per play and produced the two longest plays of the afternoon. None of it mattered against a ledger that read three Wabash turnovers, zero Denison turnovers and one blocked extra point.

The game opened like a tennis match: both teams sending quick shots back and forth. Denison went 85 yards in nine plays, finishing with Blayton Reid's 14-yard touchdown run. Wabash returned serve with a 66-yard drive on which Brand Campbell '27 completed all seven of his first-quarter passes and Cole Dickerson '28 did the heavy lifting, carrying three times for 36 yards and scoring from 8 yards out. Dickerson scored again early in the second quarter, this time from 7 yards, after Denison helped the cause with two pass-interference penalties. At 14-7, the Little Giants looked comfortable.

The first warning sign came next. After a Sean Brechbill field goal made it 14-10, Jackson Gilbert '28 came on and completed third-down throws of 22 yards to Luke Adams '28 and 21 yards to Nick Witte '28. Wabash ran its way to the Denison 13 and was in position to make it a two-score game. Instead, Denison's Rory Ralston knocked the ball loose and Nick Pellicciotta fell on it. It was the first of three possessions in which Wabash reached Denison territory and came away with nothing, and that pattern ended up deciding the game more than any single play.

> "We have to be very critical in looking for opportunities to learn from our mistakes. You can always learn a lot from a loss. Hopefully this really helps us get where we need to be..."
>
> -Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

Wabash took its punches well in the meantime. Cole Williams '27 recorded an 11-yard sack late in the half, and Carac Johnson '27 chased Denison quarterback Brian Rager on the final snap to preserve the 14-10 lead.

Then came the play that should have been the story. On the first snap of the second half, Campbell found Keith Jackson '29 behind the defense for a 65-yard touchdown, Jackson's first scoring catch of the year. Ten seconds into the third quarter, Wabash had the momentum and a 20-10 lead. It did not have 21 points, because Denison's Cole Davis blocked Tyler Church's '28 extra-point try. In the moment, it registered as a minor annoyance. By the end of the day, it was the single most important point.

The Little Giants then wasted another trip into Denison territory, turning the ball over on downs at the Big Red 24. The defense bailed them out when Tanner Crouch '28 pressured Rager into a fourth-down incompletion at the Wabash 26, and the offense finally cashed in: Campbell hit Witte for 27 yards, Dickerson ripped off 22 more and Church kicked a 23-yard field goal. At 23-10 with 3:50 left in the third quarter, Wabash had every reason to feel in control.

Denison had other plans, and they were not flashy ones. The Big Red simply kept the ball. Their next drive covered 79 yards in 13 plays and took 7:55, a possession that bridged two quarters and seemed designed to test the patience of everyone in the stands. William Harris '28 and Solomon Massela '29 combined for a third-down sack that should have ended it, but Rager converted on fourth-and-five with a 24-yard strike to Graham Tonkonogy and later scored on a two-yard keeper. It was 23-17 with 10:48 to play.

That drive revealed the larger truth of the afternoon. Wabash's offense moved in bursts. Denison's moved like a glacier, and glaciers tend to win long contests. The Big Red held the ball for 35:32, converted seven of 13 third downs and went a perfect four-for-four in the red zone. A Wabash defense that spent much of the second half on the field had made plenty of plays, but it could only make so many.

The offense had a chance to ease the burden. Dickerson runs of seven and three yards and a 24-yard completion to Adams moved Wabash into Denison territory yet again. Then a false start set the offense back, and Denison's Cole Harris intercepted Campbell at the Big Red 23 with 7:16 left.

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH RUNGE '28

***Luke Adams '27 attempts to catch a ball thrown his way during a game against The College of Wooster on September 26 at Little Giant Stadium.***

That made three trips past midfield that produced zero points, and the bill was coming due.

Denison went 77 yards in 11 plays and burned 6:29 doing it. The Wabash defense did not go quietly. William Harris recorded another sack, Camden Singer '28 stopped Reid for a 1-yard loss and Carson Foxen '28 and Gage Gulley '28 dropped Kade Koroneos for another. For a moment, it looked like the defense might force a field goal and protect the lead. On third-and-goal from the three, Rager instead found Luke Reed for the touchdown, and Brechbill's extra point made it 24-23 with 47 seconds left. Denison's kicker had made every kick that mattered. Wabash's had the one that mattered most blocked.

The final possession summed up the afternoon. Wabash took over at its own 25, then a delay-of-game penalty pushed it back to the 20 before a play was run. After an incompletion, Pellicciotta intercepted Campbell at the Wabash 27 for his second takeaway of the day, and Denison knelt out the clock.

Wabash's best player once again did nearly everything asked of him. Dickerson ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries and added a 27-yard catch for 142 all-purpose yards, his second straight game with at least 115 rushing yards and two scores. He has 563 rushing yards, 10 rushing touchdowns and 11 total touchdowns on the season. Campbell completed 11 of 19 passes for 188 yards and a touchdown, Gilbert went 3-for-4 for 47 yards and Adams caught seven passes for 82 yards. Dickerson is able to beat teams like Wooster and Oberlin on his own, but in this tough stretch coming up against John Carrol and Wash U, we will need to see more from the passing game.

Foxen led the defense with eight tackles, Harris added seven tackles and 1.5 sacks, and Singer and Massela made six stops apiece. Wabash recorded at least three sacks for the fifth consecutive game, a streak that speaks to a front seven that has been the most consistent unit on the roster.

"I believe the reason we got so many sacks on Saturday was because of our effort and speed upfront to be able to get to the QB in time to get the sack," said Poriah.

The uncomfortable takeaway is that Denison did not outplay Wabash so much as out-execute them. The Big Red committed no turnovers and wasted no red-zone trips. Wabash beat itself in small, avoidable ways. They had a fumble, a blocked kick, a false start, a delay of game, two interceptions and lost to a team that made none of those mistakes. That was the difference between 4-1 and 5-0.

"I do believe we can grow from this," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert. "We choked and need to learn from it. That was a good football team that beat us, but I still think we should've won the game. We have to be very critical in looking for opportunities to learn from our mistakes. You can always learn a lot from a loss. Hopefully this really helps us get where we need to be..."

Wabash will need to clean it up at John Carroll University on Saturday, Oct. 17. Kickoff is set for noon.

# Cross Country competes at the Greater Louisville Cross Country Classic

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

Sam Vaught '29 spent Saturday morning proving he belonged near the front of a 228-runner field. The rest of the Wabash College cross country team spent it learning what that kind of race demands.

Vaught placed 11th in the 8,000-meter Blue Race at the Greater Louisville Cross Country Classic, covering the course at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park in 25:31.1. His 5:08-per-mile pace put him just 25.4 seconds behind race winner Ander Vera Moleres of Converse, who finished in 25:05.7. In a race that size, that margin amounts to a few strides over the closing stretch rather than a different tier of competition.

As a team, Wabash scored 438 points to place 18th among 23 scoring squads. Trine took the title with 108 points, ahead of Indianapolis at 140 and Converse at 167. The team result was modest, but it came with context: three of the five Little Giants who scored were freshmen, and the meet was as much a measuring stick as a target.

COURTESY OF COMMS AND MARKETING

***Samuel Vaught '29 grunts through the middle of the Gill Dodds Invitational on September 20, 2025.***

Vaught's performance was the clearest bright spot. An 11th-place finish at a meet built to test programs against deep regional fields is the kind of result that tends to get noticed later in the fall. He ran close enough to the leaders to make them think about him, a meaningful step for a sophomore who now looks like the program's front-runner.

Behind him, the picture was less tidy. Johnathan Loney '28 was the second Wabash finisher, placing 71st in 26:43.5 at a 5:22 pace. Loney ran one of his best races, but the 1:12.4 gap between Wabash's top two runners explained much of the team score. In cross country, a strong front-runner earns respect, while a tight pack earns points. On Saturday, Wabash had more of the former than the latter.

Cooper Knoblauch '30 was the next Little Giant across the line, finishing 106th in 27:15.8 at a 5:28 pace. Knoblauch closed to within 32.3 seconds of Loney, the tightest link in the top three, and showed composure in what was one of the largest fields of his young college career.

Austin Baugh '30 finished 153rd in 28:07.2, and fellow freshman Raul Delgado rounded out the scoring five in 161st at 28:17.0. The pair finished less than 10 seconds apart, a sign that the back of the lineup is already learning to run together even if it has not yet closed the distance to the front.

> "Loney is such a reliable veteran for us and I know what he will give us at conference. The next group of guys are all freshmen. Theyre handling the transition phenomenally."
>
> - Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary

"The big takeaways I took from this weekend is  I need to prepare better leading up to the race," said Baugh. "I need to make sure I'm getting in the right amount of food and electrolytes. I also just need to race more relaxed and just go out and compete."

The numbers told a straightforward story. Wabash's scoring five spanned 2:45.9 from Vaught to Delgado. Trine did not win by putting a runner at the front of the race. It won by placing its scorers close together, the area where Wabash has the most room to grow. The good news for the Little Giants is that this is the kind of problem time tends to solve. Freshmen get stronger as the season goes on, and races like Louisville teach young runners how to handle the push and shove of a crowded start and the fatigue of the final kilometer.

"We're really looked for our 2-6 to make some growth collectively in terms of how fast they're covering 8k," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "Loney is such a reliable veteran for us and I know what he will give us at conference. The next group of guys are all freshmen. They're handling the transition phenomenally. Especially considering being thrown into crucial roles this early. The key for them will be to drop a little time but for that group to run in a tighter pack come championship time."

There was also value in the experience itself. Louisville is a big meet with a big field and little room to settle in early. For the three freshmen in Wabash's scoring five, the race offered a clear look at the pace and physicality that championship-season meets will bring. That lesson is hard to replicate in a smaller dual or invitational field.

For Vaught, Saturday was confirmation. For the rest of the lineup, it was a benchmark. The challenge for Wabash over the coming weeks will be pulling the pack forward toward its leader, closing the gap behind Vaught so his front-running effort translates into a team score that reflects it.

If the freshmen continue to develop and Loney can tighten the distance between himself and Vaught, the Little Giants have the pieces to look much different by season's end.

# Swim and Dive hopes to grow on last season's success

**TY MURPHY '27**
MANAGING EDITOR

All-American, all-conference and Academic All-District honors helped define Wabash swimming and diving last season. As a new season approaches, the Little Giants are looking to build on those accomplishments.

Last season, the team finished fifth at the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships, highlighted by Ryan West '28 winning the conference title in the 200-yard backstroke. West advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship, where he finished eighth in the event to earn All-American honors.

But for the team it's not about what they did in the past, but what they know they can do in the season ahead.

"We are really looking to build on the success that we had last year, but we also need to understand that it's a brand new year and everyone kind of starts from ground zero," said Head Swim and Dive Coach William Bernhardt. "Right now we're just trying to build everybody up."

The Little Giants will open up their season on October 17, when they travel to Terre Haute, Indiana to take on the Indiana Division III Invitational hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. And with no pressure to start off the year, this meet will really show the team where they are at in their development.

"It's a really good, competitive meet that allows us to swim a full event lineup," said Bernhardt. "That allows us especially to see where our freshmen are and see where our divers are at. They're learning new dives every single day, so it's a really good meet that is a little more low stakes. It's not that we're not trying to win it. We're just trying to see where the temperature gauge is and where we're at."

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

***Brody Page '27 competes in a butterfly event during a duel meet against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on October 26, 2025 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.***

> **"We're shooting for our same goals as last year, where we are top in the conference and have personal bests all around. We hold ourseleves to high standards in all aspects of collegiate life."**
>
> -Ryan West '28

Helping guide the team in development are senior captains Quinn Sweeney '27, Michael Cruzado '27 and Nick Plumb '27. For these seniors, leadership means being able to foster connections on the team, and also prepare the younger athletes to carry the program forward after they graduate.

"Yes our outcome goals are important, but we're focused on developing and building character, discipline and other other things that we can take with us after we leave the sport of swimming," said Sweeney. "I want to leave a good legacy behind when I leave this program. I want to leave this place better than I found it and I think this senior class has been doing a good job of that."

But it is not just the seniors to look out for on this team. After earning All-American honors last season, West will look to return to the NCAA Division III Championships and repeat that success. But he will not be looking to do it alone, hoping to help his other teammates reach the national stage. Thomas Jankowski '30 will look to make a splash with a time in the 100-yard butterfly already rivaling the school record. Along with these two, the team will look at the possibility of getting one of their relay teams into a national qualifying position. But the Little Giants know they have to earn it first.

"Swimming's not a ranking-based sport, it's time-based," said Bernhardt. "We have to just keep on focusing on what we can do in the pool, in the weight room and on dry land on our boards for our divers just to get us a little bit better each and every day, so that way it kind of compounds, and at the end of the season we can let all that hard work shine through."

Fans will have several opportunities to see the Little Giants compete at home. Wabash will host the Gail Pebworth Invitational at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatic Center beginning November 20 before welcoming rival DePauw on December 4 in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

With experienced captains and returning national talent, the Little Giants hope their daily improvement will translate into stronger performances at the conference championships in February.

"We're shooting for our same goals as last year, where we are top in the conference and have personal bests all around," said West. "We hold ourselves to high standards in all aspects of collegiate life. We expect people to take notice of that."

# Golf hosts top talents at home tournament

**MARK BERGER '28**
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giants golf team faced their toughest test of the season during the Wabash College Invitational on October 5–6. Some of the top golf teams in Division III traveled to Indianapolis to compete at Broadmore Country Club and there was certainly no shortage of talent on the course. Wabash "A" finished 12th out of 16 teams. The team composed of Mason Pierle '28, Finn Carteaux '29, Leo Dellinger '29, Tyler Morton '29 and Charlie Seaburg '29 posted a three-round shot total of 910 to finish 46-over-par.

Wabash golf opened their home tournament competing in groups with some of the top ranked DIII golfers. Pierle began the day in the first group paired up alongside defending champion and 2nd ranked Kevin Mu of Emory University and 9th ranked Pablo Castro of Illinois Wesleyan University. Dellinger found himself paired up with 66th ranked Ryan Andrews, also from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Day one of the tournament brought 36 holes of golf split up into two rounds. Carteaux and Dellinger both led the way, individually placing T-21 after shooting 73 and Wabash tallied a team total of 303. Round two of the day featured more consistent golf, made up of mostly pars, a few bogeys and six birdies. Wabash tallied a team total of 300 and finished the day at 603 strokes and in ninth place. Carteaux had a strong second round and his consistency slotted him to T-19 individually with a score of 147.

Emory University senior Kevin Mu shot a spectacular 62 to finish the first round ten under and tied the Broadmoor Country Club course record. The defending champ didn't slow down as he shot 68 in the second round and led by six shots at the end of day one. 6th ranked Joshua Wang, a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon University, slotted in second as Saturday ended, with Pablo Castro of IWU rounding out the top three.

"Knowing the course has its advantages but also gives you some high expectations," said Carteaux. "Having those expectations leads to unnecessary pressure on yourself. This just led to us pressing a little too hard to play well."

Wabash struggled on the final day. Shooting a team total 307, they finished the tournament in 12th place. Carteaux and Dellinger finished individually in T-43rd with totals of 225. Mu repeated his win from a year ago ahead of Wang and Castro, with Kenyon taking the team crown as the sun set on Sunday. The Wabash "B" team finished in 14th and shot a final round 306, led by Alex Schenkel '28 finishing individually at T67.

"Our B team played well. The depth of our program is showing it has improved a lot," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "We didn't hang our heads and instead we fought. A lot of us felt like the score we shot didn't reflect how we played."

The Little Giants still have another tournament before the fall slate comes to an end. They'll fly down to Miramar Beach in Florida to take part in the Golfweek Fall Challenge on October 17–20.

PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

***Mason Pierle '28 hits a touchy wedge shot at the DePauw Invitational at Pebble Brook Golf Club on April 26.***

PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

***Leo Dellinger '29 watches his approach shot at the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Club on April 12.***

# Soccer opens up NCAC play at 1–1

**TY MURPHY '27**
MANAGING EDITOR

Wabash soccer opened up their first two North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) games in the face of stiff competition, starting their campaign for a playoff bid at 1-1. The Little Giants dominated Oberlin College on the road before traveling to face Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) in a competitive 1-0 loss.

It was a pure defensive bout against The Battling Bishops on October 7 in Delaware, Ohio. The two teams ended the first half scoreless with the Little Giants outshooting OWU. The Battling Bishops came out aggressive in the second half, peppering Wabash with a barrage of shots. At the minute 47 mark, OWU's Nick High caught the Little Giants off guard finding the net to take a 1-0 lead. Wabash tried to come back with aggressive play, but as the clock winded down the team was unable to score leading to a Little Giants 1-0 loss for their second NCAC game of the season.

"We are really focused on competing," said Danny Tkachuk '29. "We practice like we are competing. The guys train against each other with that intensity and having that desire and passion to play. OWU is a good team and we knew it would be a battle."

The Little Giants traveled to Oberlin College on October 3 in their first NCAC matchup taking on the Yeomen. And following the trend of the season up to this point, it was not close. At just the minute three mark Ethan Simmons '29 took an assist from Alfredo Campos '27 to send the ball into the net for a 1-0 lead. And the team did not let up from there. After keeping Oberlin scoreless, thanks to a save in minute 24 by goalkeeper Rafael Cordova '30, the Little Giants came out of the half on fire. At just the minute 52 mark Zane Biggerstaff '28 took a Johan Arroyo '30 to beat the goal keeper. And in just two minutes Bryce Kinnaman '27 would drive to the net off a Danny Tkachuk '29 assist to fire the ball into the net for a Wabash 3-0 lead. The Yeomen tried to fight back, but thanks to a strong Wabash defense, could not get anything going, leading to a 3-0 Little Giants victory.

"We scored early, and scoring early gives us a big advantage because then we don't have to chase a game," said Simmons. "We were able to pull two pretty quick ones in the second half and kind of keep that lead, and really were just able to control the game from there."

The Little Giants will return home on October 10 to continue their conference campaign against Kenyon University in Fischer Field. As the team continues to fight for its spot in the conference playoffs, they will search for every opportunity they can to take a victory in a tough schedule of matchups.

"I am proud of how resilient this team is, our overall team chemistry and depth is really starting to show, but the job is far from done," said Biggerstaff.

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH RUNGE '29

***Carson Prather '29 throws the ball back into the attacking play on a set piece to set up a scoring opportunity during a game against Alma College at Fischer Field on September 12.***