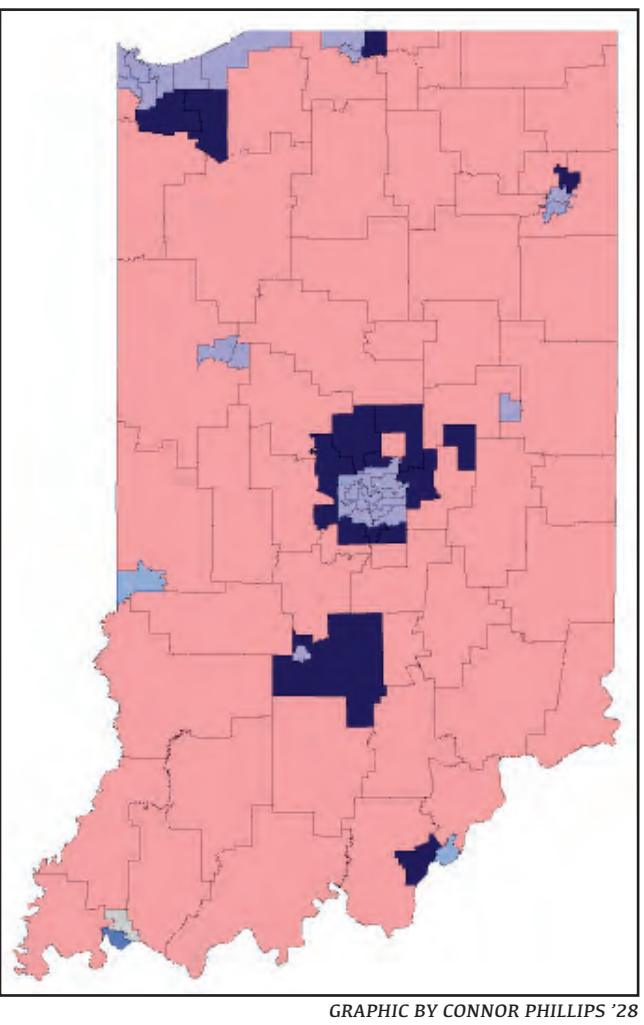
The Bachelor
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908
FEATURING THE RETURN OF The DeBAUCH
NOVEMBER 6, 2026

MIDTERM MASSACRE

The American people delivered a powerful rebuke of the Trump administration and its policies in the 2026 midterms. Democrats rode a blue tidal wave across the country and emerged victorious in some of the GOP's traditional strongholds.



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

State House results. Democrats flipped 16 seats, including speaker Todd Hudson, to bring there total up to 46.

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

This year's midterm elections were over before they even began. After a perfectly cromulent, if not slightly lackluster, performance for the Democrats in the 2024 House of Representatives election, they ran an absolute barn burner on Republicans in this year's midterm election. There are a few states that really put this dominance into perspective. One of the most damning is the Iowa elections. In 2024 all four of the house seats went red by an average margin of 14 points. This year, three of the four house seats went Democrat.

Michigan, a big battleground state over the last few years, went to the Republicans in the 2024 House election with the Republicans securing seven of the 13 House seats. This year, Democrats won nine of the 13 House seats. To continue the rust belt trend, Ohio, after being a comfortably ruby red state since 2016, Democrats ended up with eight of its 15 seats. This is the first time since Democrats held a majority of the Ohio seats since 2010.

The state that rounds us out is North Carolina. Democrats occupied only four of North Carolina's 14 seats. After elections, the democrats have completely flipped that number around taking 10 of the seats.

In the Senate elections, Democrats were cautiously optimistic that they could win enough seats in battleground states to scrape a majority. But even the boldest Democratic pollsters did not predict they'd be absolutely dominant, winning essentially every toss-up seat that has been called as of Wednesday. Here are some of the headliners.

Texas

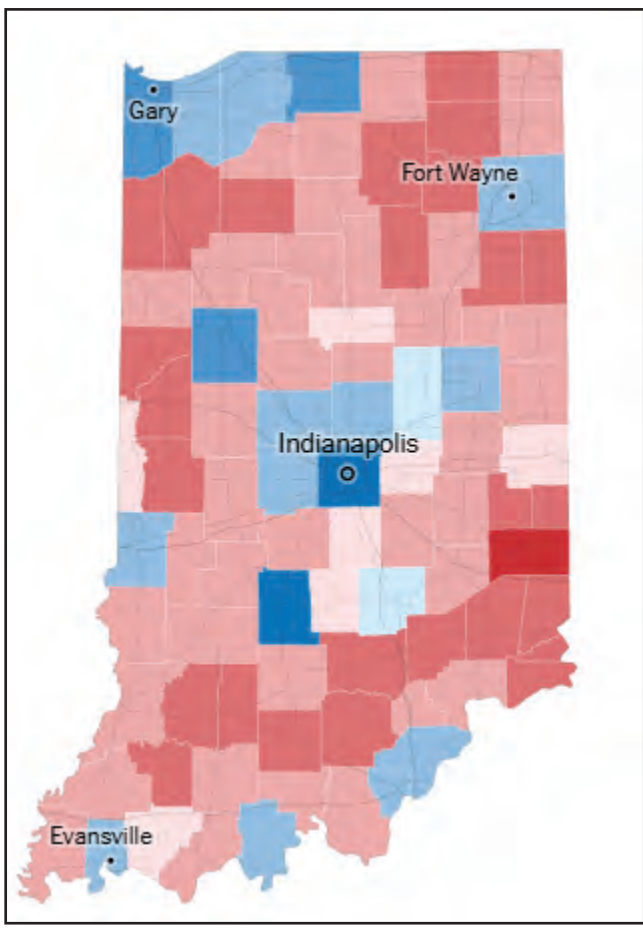
If you hadn't heard of James Talarico (D) before this week, you surely have now. The soft-spoken, "love wins"-preaching former state representative became the first Democrat to win a statewide election in the Lone Star state since 1992, and will be the state's first Democratic senator since the 1980s. He vanquished Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R). Despite defeating incumbent John Cornyn in a red-hot GOP primary and entering the matchup with Talarico as a modest favorite, Paxton never captured the same fervor his opponent did, even with $160 million in donations from Elon Musk alone. Talarico, though, fueled by small-donations and a compassionate style of politics, captured voters' frustrations with the country and turned them into hope for change. In doing so, he may have set himself up for even bigger races in 2028 and beyond.

Kansas

Few people were alive the last time a Democrat held a Kansas Senate seat, which was last the case in 1932. But despite being an underdog, Rev. Adam Hamilton (D) managed to defy the odds and win a seat for his party in a state that for decades has been written off by liberals as unwinnable. Hamilton was pitted against incumbent Roger Marshall (R), a staunch Trump ally in a state the president carried by 16 percentage points. Hamilton opted for a similar approach to Talarico, and focused on simple politics that prioritize common good over self-interest: "What we need in Washington right now is we need senators with a brain who use it, with a heart who feel with it, and who have courage and speak up because of it."

Maine

Though it's not often in the spotlight, Maine was one of the centers of attention on election night. A wild first half of 2026 included the meteoric rise of Graham Platner (D), a populist oyster farmer who captured the hearts of many working class Mainers, and his subsequent fall from grace after multiple women accused him of sexual assault and rape. When Platner was forced out of the race, it seemed unlikely that the Democratic Party would be able to muster a candidate that would have a shot against incumbent Susan Collins (R), a legendary figure in Maine politics who holds a powerful position as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, by which she's secured millions if not billions of federal dollars for her constituents. However, Troy Jackson (D) successfully flipped the seat by continuing Platner's anti-establishment message and tying Collins to Trump, essentially arguing that even though Collins had voted against the President more than any other Republican, she was not checking him effectively. It was also one of the most expensive races anywhere in the country.



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

Secretary of States race results. Beau Bayh cleared Republican Max Engling getting 51% of the vote to Engling's 42%.

South Carolina

Tell someone this time last year that South Carolina would have a Democratic senator, they'd probably have asked what century you had time-traveled in from. But after GOP stalwart Lindsey Graham's untimely death in July, the Senate foremost foreign policy hawk's sister, Darlene Graham, was handpicked by President Trump to fill his seat and run for office in his stead. But Graham never looked up to the task. Inexperienced and probably hindered more than helped by Trump's backing of her campaign, Graham failed to connect with South Carolinians

Continued page 2

Feller presents on College finances

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
OPINION EDITOR

The affordability of higher education and the transparency from colleges and universities about the actual cost of an education has come under scrutiny in the last decade, and as many institutions have continued to increase their sticker prices to absurdly high levels. They have been offering more and more institutional aid to students to maintain a student body that can afford the cost of attendance. Wabash is no different, according to President Scott Feller, who delivered a talk to students on October 29 about the College's current financial state and where Wabash is headed financially as it approaches its third century.

Feller's talk focused heavily on the discount rate, which is the percentage of tuition and fees covered by institutional aid. The discount rate sat around 50% in 2012 and has increased to nearly 80% today. That increase in the discount rate means Wabash's net tuition revenue, which is part of the revenue used to operate the College, has decreased substantially. The loss in net tuition revenue as an avenue to fund operations means Wabash has to draw more heavily from other means to operate the College.

"When we see that tuition is discounted by, for example, 80%, that means that about 80% of the cost of the College comes from outside of tuition," said Feller. "One way of thinking about it is that Fall midterms are basically 25% of the year. That means a week or so before midterms, the portion of the cost that was paid for by tuition has already passed. So, after about week six, all of the College's budget is being covered by non-tuition dollars."

Wabash is not alone in this trend. Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) schools, Wabash's academic conference, have experienced a 5.25% average annual decrease in net tuition revenue in the last decade. In Wabash terms, that's about $630,000 in purchasing power lost in net tuition revenue per year. The causes of this trend, Feller says, are a "perfect storm" of concerns about the cost and value of an education and incurring overwhelming student debt that are amplified by decreasing government support. Moreover, there isn't much hope for any exogenous improvements to support for colleges and universities.

"We are seeing an increasing number of news stories about private liberal arts colleges in financial distress," said Feller. "We don't have a $10 or $15 million annual structural deficit the way some of those schools are, and we certainly aren't risking closing. You can be financially stressed without being financially distressed."

That leaves Wabash in a position where we must take on the burden of improving our financial situation. With the discount rate projected to continue increasing, Wabash can not grow other means of revenue faster than tuition revenue falls and there comes a tipping point where recruiting students becomes more difficult. Other institutions, both large public universities and small private liberal arts colleges, are beginning to offer various "free tuition" programs based on family income.

However, an interesting avenue Wabash is exploring is gifting tuition to all students in a pay-it-forward style model. Hope College is currently experimenting with this style of program, called Hope Forward, that currently gifts full tuition to 5% of the incoming freshman class. Students still pay for room and board, but the overall fees are only around $16,000 per academic year, which is similar to room and board costs at Wabash. The ultimate idea is that, through the gift of tuition costs, students will forge a lifelong relationship with Wabash, and an increase in alumni philanthropic giving can fund, in part, the same gift for future generations of Wabash men.

"We're starting from a big place," said Feller. "40% of our alumni are giving. The question becomes, 'can we move that number to 50% or 60%?' That's the kind of number we need to move it to to sustain this in the long run. There's no guarantee that that will happen, but I don't think it's crazy."

The benefits of a gifted tuition program are already visible from the Hope Forward cohorts. Hope Forward students have higher GPAs and higher retention rates than Hope's college-wide average. Furthermore, while Hope has only recently started graduating Hope Forward students, 100% of Hope Forward graduates have given back to the College. But for this model to be implemented for all Wabash students, the startup cost is immense and would require significant growth to the endowment.

"To cover our current tuition payments with the endowment probably requires something close to $200 million in new endowment," said Feller.

Students in attendance were concerned about a pay-it-forward model's sustainability, but were optimistic that it could work at a place like Wabash.

"I am very interested in learning more about a pay-it-forward model," said Mason Gilliam '28. "My biggest concern was the large amount of trust that is put into the students in order for this model to be successful. I think that at a school like Wabash, which is so rooted in tradition and brotherhood, it is one of the few environments where it may be beneficial."

President Feller's address to students was the same as the presentation he gave to the Board of Trustees. This means that students are given the opportunity to be looped into the College's financial well-being in the same manner as Wabash's governing body, an opportunity that opens students' eyes to why they may see changes to their costs.

"It's incredibly important that the students understand the financial state of the College," said Mark Berger '28. "Often students wonder why they have an increase in tuition or where the money we pay to the school is going. Understanding how the college is calculating its discount rate puts the real cost of our education in perspective."

"I think that overall, the students should be more cognizant before they complain and make judgments about how the school handles the tuition model," said Gilliam. "I will admit that I personally used to have frustrations with the College regarding financial aid. But after hearing a lot more about the situation, I am definitely more forgiving."

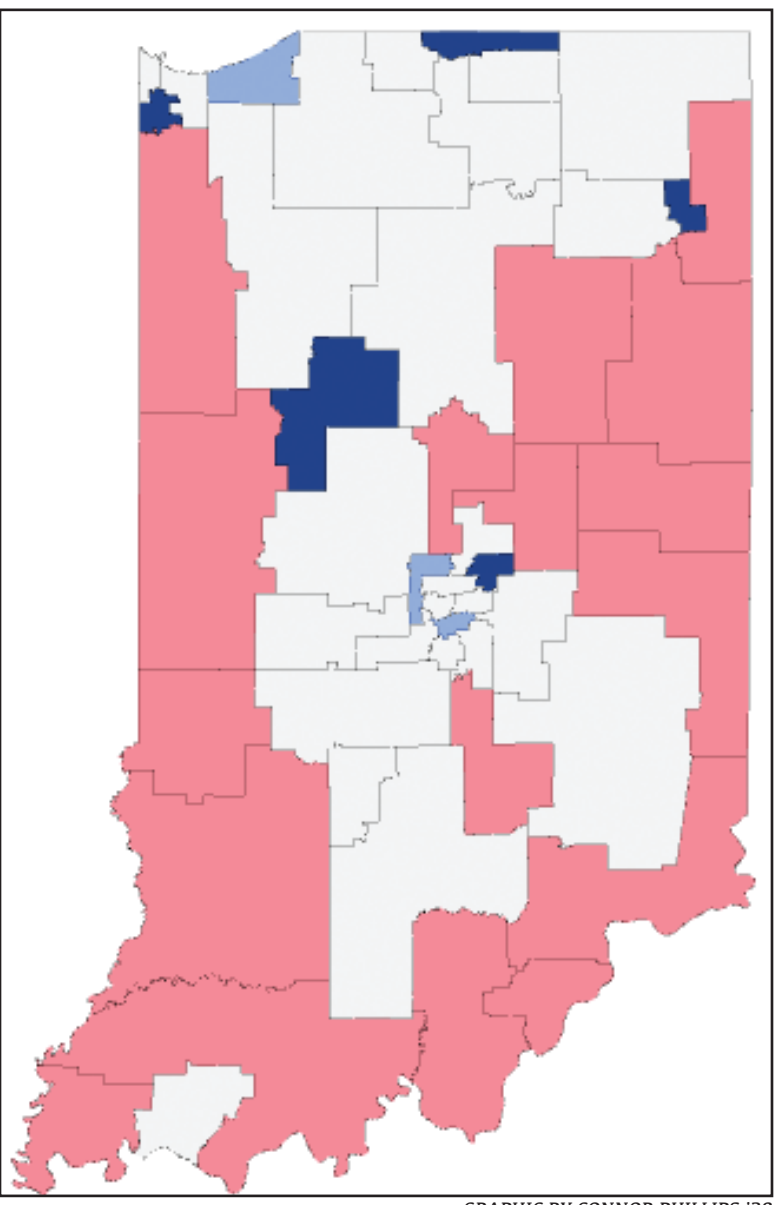
Now just six years from entering its third century, Wabash is navigating a tricky landscape in the affordability and transparency of higher education in America. While we are not in the best of times today, administration and students alike are confident the College is setting itself up well for a prosperous future.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

President Feller Ringing in the class of 2030 at Ringing Chapel on August 22 in Pioneer Chapel.

BLUE TSUNAMI



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

State Senate results. State Democrats picked up 5 seats to bring their total count up to 15.

Continued from page 1

like her brother had for so long. The Democratic challenger, Annie Andrews, took full advantage. A pediatrician and gun control advocate, Andrews will be the first Democratic senator from South Carolina this century. This race perhaps more than any other was a noticeable rebuke of Trump's GOP. In counties that Trump won just two years ago, Andrews gained 10, 20 and even 30 percentage points on Kamala Harris' totals from 2024. It's a sign that Republican voters have lost some faith in the powers that still control every aspect of their party.

The Blue Tsunami that was seen nationwide was reflected here in Indiana. For the first time in 14 years, the Democrats did the seemingly impossible: win statewide in the Hoosier State. Democrats made huge gains in the State House and State Senate. For the first time since 2006, Democrats flipped a Congressional seat in Indiana. Democrats also made several key local gains across the state.

Democrats soared to victory in two out of the three statewide races last night. Beau Bayh won the Secretary of State's race with 51.8% of the vote compared to Max Engling's 42.6%. This win far exceeded what any poll predicted for this race. Bayh's win is also notable since Bayh managed to get over 50% of the vote. Bayh won 19 out of the 92 counties statewide, 15 more than what Kamala Harris got in 2024. He will be the first Democrat to hold the Secretary of State's office since 1990

Beau Bayh was not the only Democrat to win statewide last night. Porter County Clerk Jessica Bailey, in an upset, defeated incumbent Elise Nieshalla in the comptroller race. Bailey won 49.8% of the vote compared to Nieshalla's 47.3%. Bailey is the first Democrat to hold this office since 1983.

J.D. Ford also flipped Indiana's fifth Congressional district in an upset. The district includes much of Indianapolis's suburbs and Muncie. The district went to incumbent Victoria Spartz by 18 points back in 2024. Ford won the district by nearly 3.5 points, marking the first time Indiana will have more than two Democrats in Congress since 2009. J.D. Ford also made history as the first openly gay person to be elected as a Congressman from Indiana. Ford is the first Democrat to represent that part of the state since 1958.

In the legislature, Democrats made similar gains. In the State House, Democrats flipped 16 seats. To give them a total of 46 seats in the State House. One of the seats that flipped was Speaker Todd Huston's seat in Hamilton County. In typically safe Republican District 10, Ryan Kominakis beat long-term incumbent Ed Soliday by 13 points. These are two of the many flips that came as a complete shock across the state.

Looking at the State Senate, Democrats picked up five seats across the state increasing their seat count to 15. The current Republican State Senate leader's seat is within a point and has yet to be called. Democrat Natasha Baker beat out Republican Ron Alting in his seat by 18 points after Alting resigned last month after being charged with shoplifting. Democrat Gabrianna Gratzol beat Republican Brian Schmutzler in State Senate District by 2 points.

One thing is clear. Democrats are a party to be taken seriously again in Indiana. Democrats will for the first time in several years hold power in the State and can influence policy that gets passed.



COURTESY OF WFYI

Beau Bayh won the Indiana Secretary of State race in a landslide against Republican candidate Max Engling.

Latino organizations join hands for bingo fundraiser



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

President of La Alianza Ruben Canchola speaking at Tacos and Alumni event in the Detchon Center.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

One doesn't need to look too far in order to see Wabash's philanthropic impact on the broader Crawfordsville community. La Alianza's most recent event is a shining example of that. La Alianza hosted a bingo fundraiser to raise money for La Conexion. La Conexion is an organization in the greater Montgomery County area that aims to provide language access services and resources that members of the Latino community lack. The event brought together two organizations that have dedicated themselves to ensuring every person has a safe and stable place to call home.

"We've always had some sort of connection with La Conexion in a certain way," said President of La Alianza, Ruben Canchola '28. "We know what La Conexion does. They help out the community. That just motivated me to want to help them."

The bingo fundraiser was a success on all sides. Not only did it raise money for La Conexion, aiding in their efforts of helping the latino community, it also brought people together for a night of fun and connection.

"We have a lot of appreciation for [La Alianza]," said Assistant Professor of History, Pliego Campos. "They reached out to us for this event, they had food ready for the event and provided the awards for people who won. Due to them putting on the event, we were able to raise around $200. That helps with our goal of supporting community members."

The main goal of both of these organizations is to bring people together, especially students and community members.

"It was an opportunity to be that bride between Wabash students and community members," said Canchola. "That's what one of my goals was when I became president of La Alianza. Yes, the focus is Wabash, but also bringing that to Crawfordsville Community. I think this fundraiser was just a spark of where we can go in that direction for future events."

This is not meant to be a one off event. Both parties are hoping to work with each other again in the future considering their missions and goals align so closely.

"Hopefully we can continue to pursue programming that continues to bring people together," said Pliego Campos. "Just invite anyone who is curious about the issues Latinos face. It's always good to reach out to people with as many different sources so they can get a comprehensive understanding of what's going on. We just want to live up to Wabash motto, thinking critically, living humanely and acting responsibly."



COURTESY OF HUEMOCO

La Conexion is a Montgomery County based organization that aims to provide resources to the Latino community.

News around the world



COURTESY OF INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

Benjamin Netanyahu loses his majority in parliment as he is critisized for being a Hamas collaborator.

HUTCH NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

Israel Elections

Israelis made their first trip to the polls since Israel began their campaign in Gaza and the West Bank in response to Hamas terror attacks October 7, 2023.

"This election was a referendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his party," said Associate Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander.

The Likud faced challenges from both sides of the political spectrum. On the one hand, the far-right is represented by Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir and the Otzma Yehudit party. Ben-Gvir represents voices more extreme than Netanyahu's, who claim that he is a collaborator and sympathizer with Hamas. Ben-Gvir has represented the most extreme forms of settler violence across the West Bank and Gaza.

From the less conservative side, Netanyahu faces his largest challenge from retired Israeli Lieutenant general Gadi Eisenkot, leader of the Yashar party. Although moderate within Israel, the Yashar party is still interested in maintaining a Liberal Zionist government.

The greatest performer in the October election was the Arabic parties within Israel. The Joint List and Ra'am added 9 seats collectively, nearly doubling their total in the previous Knesset. These parties represent some of the only anti-zionist opposition within Israeli politics, and their rise in 2026 represents a growing vocal minority within the country opposing the actions of Netanyahu's government.

Unfortunately for both Netanyahu and Eisenkot, neither side of this election was able to secure a 61-seat majority. Because of their parliamentary system, the parties must form a coalition in order to appoint a new Prime Minister. Each coalition has the opportunity to create a new government, and time is running out before the November 10 swearing-in of newly elected Knesset members. Because of the record gains by Arab parties, Eisenkot's coalition may collaborate with Arabs to form a government for the first time since 1995.

Serbian student demonstrations

Following the prevailing international trend, Serbian voters rejected the long standing center-right Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) in their national parliament election on October 25. Led by former President Aleksandar Vucic, the SNS lost 26 seats and government control. The SNS was rife with corruption, primarily in the contractor system where jobs were done as cheaply as possible so contractors would keep a greater profit. Because of this, people believed that a concrete canopy collapse in 2024 that killed 16 and injured 1, which sparked a vast series of protests from late 2024 leading up to this election.

Victories across the country were secured by a new political party in Serbia, the Student List. The Student list has no particular leader, instead candidates were chosen through a decentralized, private process run by students. However, no students were nominated, nominees were prominent members of communities across Serbia, primarily teachers, workers, and prominent public figures. The party did not prescribe any particular policy platform for the candidates running under their banner. Candidates were only required to have no association with the SNS or its allies, never held office before and never benefited from political connections. The party and its aims reflect the broader populist movement sweeping the globe.



COURTESY OF GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Students protest the results of the national Serbian election on October 25, as Student List emerges as a new politcal party.

DC Comics is 'Absolutely' popping off



COURTESY OF DC COMICS

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

After their decade-long chokehold on the film industry has fizzled out in recent years, superheroes might just sound like yesterday's news. While the genre's televised, cinematic and video gaming presence has waned, superheroes are actually still thriving back on their home turf: the pages of comic books. The case-study for this success is the industry-cornerstone DC comics, which has taken the genre's oversaturation as an opportunity to rejuvenate its iconic characters. Enter the absolute universe, a brand new multi-series interconnected world where DC's characters are each reworked from the ground up.

Like many other popular superhero stories of the 2020s, stories set in the absolute universe are grittier, often steeped in contemporary politics and social issues. However, what makes the absolute universe especially innovative is that each story takes care to remain faithful to the essences of each character. This elevates them from being hollow facsimiles dusted with gimmicky violence to modern vessels for timeless mythoses.

If this piques your interest, then I strongly suggest giving these stories a shot. In celebration of both the announcement of this era's first crossover event "Absolute Justice," and the recent releases of milestone issues for several "Absolute" titles, I've compiled a brief review of each series.

'Absolute Batman' perfectly showcases what this universe is all about

Everybody is familiar with the nearly-mythical world's greatest detective. Now just imagine if this billionaire-by-day and vigilante-by-night wasn't a billionaire at all. Scott Snyder's "Absolute Batman" reimagines the caped crusader as a meager construction worker fighting for justice in a city plagued by intertwining crime and economic disparity. This series changes the origins, motivations and actions of the dark knight's iconic allies and villains; pushing them into exciting new directions and adorning them with creative new designs.

"Absolute Batman" excels at retelling familiar stories in a way that recaptures their original appeal. It's surreal to read a Batman story that both meets my expectations and remains unpredictable in an era where every plotpoint is basically common knowledge. Likewise, I view "Absolute Batman" as one of the defining comics of this decade.

'Absolute Wonder Woman' returns the character to her strongest traits

Fans have long quipped that Wonder Woman's greatest villains are her male writers, as it feels like they've been running a smear campaign against her for over a decade. Thankfully, Kelly Thompson's "Absolute Wonder Woman" sets the record straight for Princess Diana. Where her mainline counterpart was raised in the paradise known as Themescira, Absolute Wonder Woman was raised by the witch Circe in hell. Luckily, she's just as compassionate as ever, even if she sports an awesome, grungier aesthetic.

"Absolute Wonder Woman" is a phenomenal fantasy tale full of magic, kaiju and charisma. The series sports innovative art and panel designs by Hayden Sherman, making every issue visually dynamic. At times, the series also manages to be emotionally compelling, rivaled in its poignancy by only one other "Absolute" series.

'Absolute Superman' walks, then runs, then soars

Instead of gracing the earth as a child like Moses, this Superman crashes onto our planet as a moody teenager who just lost his community, his family and his planet to environmental collapse. After discovering that evil corporate dynasties have set Earth on a similar trajectory, the Man of Steel becomes a reluctant savior of the oppressed. Although this story doesn't start as strongly as many other "Absolute" books, things pick up as it goes on.

By the end of the first arc, Kal-El's character arc truly starts to shape up, and it's deeply compelling. Rather than basking in the mythology of the character, Jason Aaron's "Absolute Superman" becomes a new tale of environmentalism, industry and community. By the dawn of the second arc, the series stands just as tall as any other "Absolute" book. I suppose that's an ironic way to say this, since Absolute Superman is speculated to stand at a height of 5' 8".

'Absolute Flash' is a more standard experience

Born from a lab accident and on the run from the government, this version of Wally West must navigate a more unforgiving world than his mainline counterpart. Though life is hard in Jeff Lemire's "Absolute Flash," the book also contains a disarming amount of wholesome content. Several moments of "Absolute Flash" embrace the found-family formula to good effect, which makes it stand out when compared to the rest of the "Absolute" library.

That said, "Absolute Flash" is arguably the least interesting story in this universe. That's not to say that it's bad, it's just rather non-unique in that it feels like it could just be a mainline DC story. It's still a worthwhile read that does justice to the character's lore and mythos.

'Absolute Martian Manhunter' is a masterpiece of visual storytelling

Although the "Absolute" books are subversive in many ways, most of them largely conform to comic formulas. On the other hand, Deniz Camp's "Absolute Martian Manhunter" completely reinvents a somewhat-obscure hero into a ridiculously inventive, thematically rich and emotionally stirring examination of emotion. The story follows FBI Agent John Jones as a near-death experience leaves him struggling to connect with his wife, son and sense of reality.

Javier Rodríguez's art expertly visualizes the abstract struggles of a mental health crisis. Each page pops with color, clever visual metaphors and even a few fourth-wall breaks that significantly alter the text itself. "Absolute Martian Manhunter" is absurdly creative and the undisputed best of the "Absolute" universe.

'Absolute Green Lantern' is an acquired taste

Instead of an alien ring powered by sheer will, Sojourner Mullein was bonded with an abstract energy powered by understanding. As Al Ewing's "Absolute Green Lantern" progresses, more and more information about the cosmic side of the absolute universe is drip-fed to the reader. It's pretty high-concept material, and the earlier issues struggle to ground these lofty ideas in compelling characters.

Thankfully, the second arc rectifies this issue, leaving Mullein as one of the absolute universe's most compelling protagonists. The book also takes several important "Green Lantern" characters in very unique directions, cutting deep into their philosophies, insecurities, and existential purposes. Though it may not be the most accessible "Absolute" book, "Absolute Green Lantern" is a strong addition to the universe.

'Absolute Green Arrow' keeps the reader guessing

In the mainline universe, Oliver Queen is a cocky, charismatic hero with a loud mouth and a big heart. In the absolute universe, he's dead. His ex-girlfriend Dinah Lance gets caught in the middle path of a mysterious arrow-slinging killer bent on punishing wealthy elites tied to Queen's mysterious death. Pornsak Pichetshote's "Absolute Green Arrow" centers around the mystery of who's behind the killer's mask, and what their intentions really are.

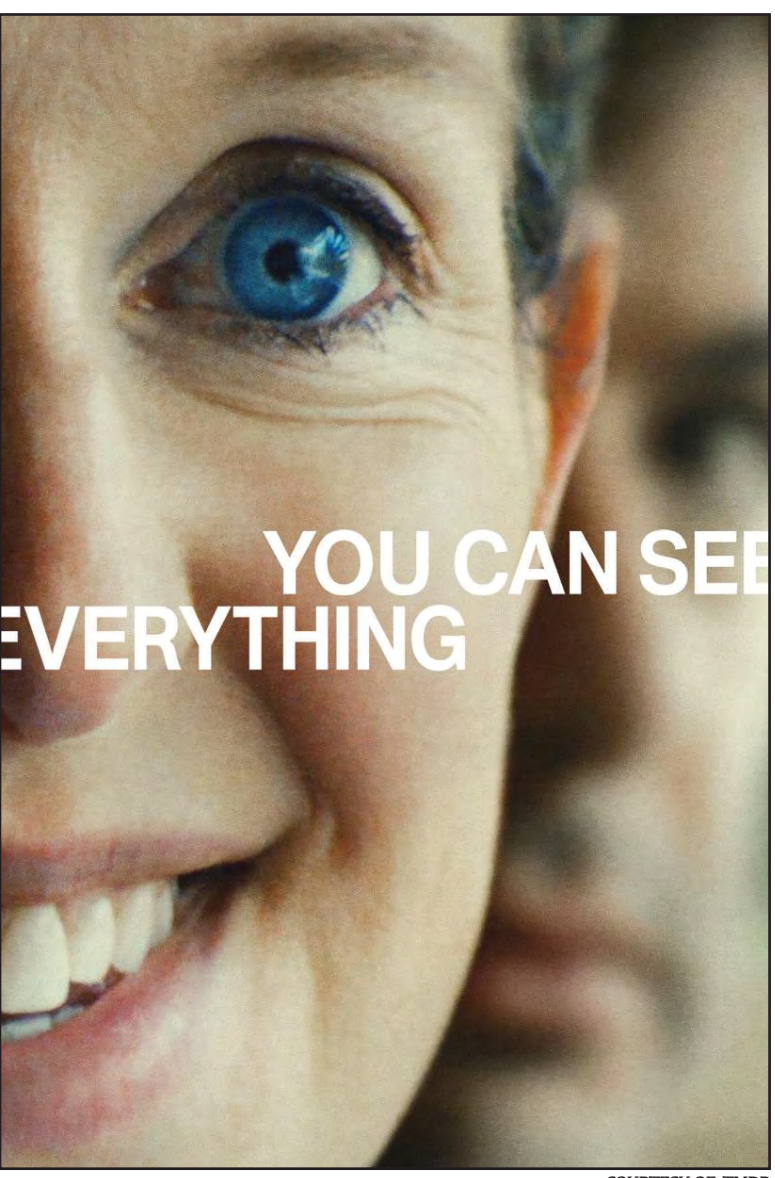
Though there isn't much to "Absolute Green Arrow" besides the central mystery, there is enough in the way of misdirection and plot twists to effectively disarm the reader on numerous occasions. This keeps the series engaging throughout its first arc. The book's most recent issue wrapped up the mystery, so it's unclear how well the story will keep momentum from here on. Nonetheless, it's still another great addition to the twisted world of the absolute universe.

'Absolute Catwoman' is a work in progress

Only four issues in at the time of this article, Che Grayson and Scott Snyder's "Absolute Catwoman" is still taking shape. As a globe-trotting adventure/heist story, this version of Selina Kyle is more similar to her mainline counterpart than any other "Absolute" character. That said, the story appears to be on the right track, with compelling characters and an intriguing premise. It may not be the most glamorous title on shelves right now, but even a weaker "Absolute" book is still leagues ahead of the competition.

The absolute universe has made it an exciting time to be a superhero fan. For so many beautifully-drawn and tightly-written stories to coexist in one shared universe is exciting enough, and the prospect of an incoming crossover is even more thrilling. If you're curious to see how superheroes are adapting alongside the world, definitely check out DC's "Absolute" titles.

'You Can See Everything' isn't a lie



COURTESY OF TMDB

FINAL VERDICT: 5/5 WALLYS

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

When the average viewer watches a documentary film, they seldom leave it with more questions than answers. In fact, one bane of the medium is that the average specimen opts to merely present the world rather than depict it in any particular way. One of the worst things that a documentary can be is nothing more than a feature-length newscast: impartial, uninspired and reluctant to leverage the power of filmmaking. Whenever documentaries actually break into mainstream discourse, it's usually just because of how interesting their subjects are, not the caliber of the filmmaking. However, Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim's critical and commercial hit "You Can See Everything" dodges every bullet and stands as one of the greatest films of the 21st century.

Perhaps you think that I'm being too impetuous with my praise. After all, I applied a similar description to Paul-Thomas Anderson's thriller "One Battle After Another" last year. I still stand by that claim, but "One Battle" felt like an old Hollywood masterpiece, one that had to beat the odds to even be released in the modern era. On the other hand, "You Can See Everything" embodies the modern era. If the pessimists are correct and truth really is a relic of the past, then "You Can See Everything" is a manifesto of the future. The film investigates the essence of the human soul to make sense of a volatile world that, more often than documentarians like to admit, can feel more like fiction than fact.

In its first ten minutes, "You Can See Everything" is an exceptionally shot yet substantively standard documentary about the notorious Silicon Valley swindler Elizabeth Holmes and her family in the weeks leading up to her prison sentence. After all of the background information is out of the way, the focus both literally and figuratively shifts. The remainder of the first act becomes an examination of Holmes through Fielder's eyes. Apparently this was not always the plan, but Holmes and her husband, Billy Evans, peppered Fielder with so many questions that he became another subject of the documentary.

And so the film catalogs Fielder's numerous attempts to understand how Holmes thinks. She constantly insists that her fraudulent company Theranos is wholly legitimate, and that she never lied to any investors. Though she first appears to be a delusional-yet-dedicated pathological liar, several of her actions begin to demonstrate that her fascinating worldview is so distinct that she's telling the truth. At least, her perception of the truth.

The entire film hinges on this discrepancy, and the directors establish it perfectly in several scenes across various contexts. Fielder separately interviews Evans and Holmes about their relationship, showcasing that the two are nowhere near being on the same page, yet they also share a unique understanding of each other. Through Fielders' relentless questioning and Oppenheim's use of extreme close-ups, the directors extract gripping significance from even their subjects' most mundane interactions.

Thanks to this presentation, both the viewer and Fielder eventually settle into the strange-yet-loving Holmes household. But "You Can See Everything" refuses to grant the viewer a predictable outcome, and just as soon as things start to feel normal, the film radically shifts its focus again. A lesser documentary may have the guts to start off in such an ambitious way, but would never iterate on itself, even if there are facets of the subject that have yet to be explored. Such a move may alienate the audience, and if the film has already captured a serviceable amount of the subject, it won't take that risk.

"You Can See Everything" stands out by gleefully changing its structure whenever its subject necessitates it. In doing so, the film encompasses a wider breadth and deeper depth of themes. Its evolution from an examination of one woman to an interrogation of patriarchy, the public eye, and much more pushes the documentary medium from the dreaded newscast to a masterpiece of filmmaking.

The film's first-class execution entirely evades the risk of alienating the audience. Through clever editing, the film has emotional and humorous moments that keep the viewer on its wavelength. It renders them too enthralled by Holmes' life to be bothered by a subversion of their structural expectations. As far as they're concerned, the film should change its form because the situation changes its form, and whatever they might usually want from a documentary is irrelevant.

Unfortunately, this review can't spoil exactly what "You Can See Everything" becomes in its latter half (besides my prior list of themes). I will restate that the film tackles a slew of traits that are all too common in the modern world. It begs the question of whether the world is empowering a return to sophistic thought, and whether or not societally-enforced conceptions of the truth are truly fair. The film also explores the role of art in public perception, leading to an incredible guest performance and the emergence of a metanarrative.

"You Can See Everything" is dense, elegant and engrossing, doing more with its medium than one could possibly conceive of. Likewise, I can confidently say that it's among the greatest films of the year, the decade and perhaps even the 21st century.

'Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven' at 25 years: One of the greatest rock releases of all time



COURTESY OF HEADPHONE COMMUTE

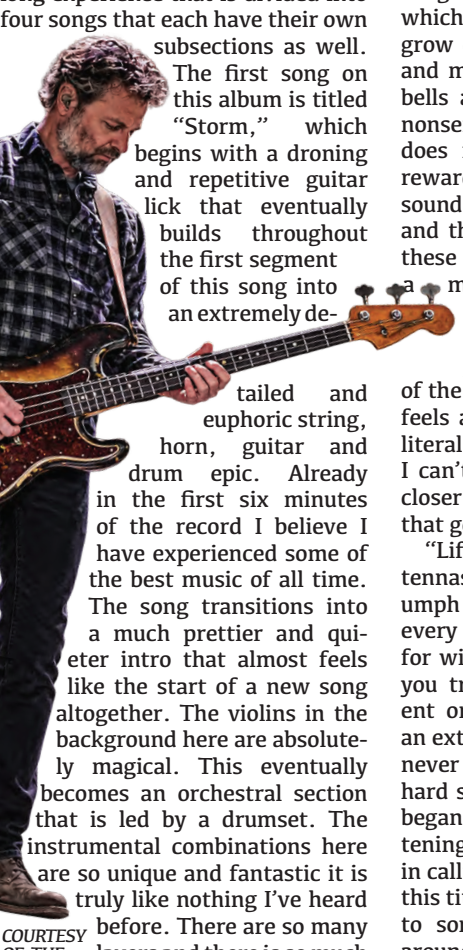
WYATT EMERSON '30
STAFF WRITER

This week marks the 25th anniversary week of the release of Godspeed You! Black Emperor's legendary post rock masterpiece "Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven," or as I like to call it: the best album ever made.

Godspeed You! has always been a staple of the "post-rock" subgenre, and this genre is usually marked by the use of rock instruments such as heavy guitars, drums and other string instruments, but instead of being used for "rock" purposes they are used for long instrumental passages that create specific atmospheres. The band consists of around fifteen on-and-off members and an endless list of instruments. Their albums are mostly made up of crushing instrumentals, but through the use of news clips and other dialogues, they are able to make very intense religious and political commentaries. Their album "F#A#Infinity" is also among my favorites, but it is a much more intense and less structured album than the one I am reviewing today.

Around a year ago, Godspeed You! Black Emperor took all of their music off of streaming services as an act of protest and have yet to add the music back. It is available on YouTube and available for purchase on bandcamp now, and I think the fact that a lesser-known band would take their music off of streaming services really serves as a testament to their dedication to strictly making art for the sake of art rather than pleasing people. While this album does have its prominent political themes, finding one concrete meaning for this album would be impossible. In my personal opinion, it just does the best it can to create feelings of beauty and otherworldliness. There is so much to digest with the record; I myself only listen about once a month front to back but I truly believe it is a divine piece of art.

This album is an hour and a half long experience that is divided into four songs that each have their own subsections as well. The first song on this album is titled "Storm," which begins with a droning and repetitive guitar lick that eventually builds throughout the first segment of this song into an extremely detailed and euphoric string, horn, guitar and drum epic. Already in the first six minutes of the record I believe I have experienced some of the best music of all time. The song transitions into a much prettier and quieter intro that almost feels like the start of a new song altogether. The violins in the background here are absolutely magical. This eventually becomes an orchestral section that is led by a drumset. The instrumental combinations here are so unique and fantastic it is truly like nothing I've heard before. There are so many layers and there is so much going on to create such a cinematic experience that it is a genuine feast for the ears.



COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Band member Efrim Menuck described creating these songs as, "15 people and a drunken mess at its peak," which I think is a quote that really highlights the beautiful chaos that this album encapsulates. "Storm" ends with a gorgeous piano segment that drastically juxtaposes what came before. The second chapter titled "Static" comes next, starting off with some more droning instrumentals, almost feeling like a "Godzilla" movie soundtrack or something of the sort.

This intro goes on much longer, using very atmospheric and eerie sounds. This song is definitely one of the more despair-induced tracks, seemingly representing an unwillingness for humanity to change and a great sense of doom. There is a vocal passage with an automated doomsday clock counting down present in the song as well. The "World Police and Friendly Fire" section of this song starts with a simple string riff that eventually collapses into this mesmerizing guitar and composition, with guitarist Mike Moya using a famous technique in which he strums his guitar with a screwdriver to create a specific feeling. This section is so intense and well put together that I feel as if I am ascending into a higher plane of existence every time I hear it.

The third chapter of this album, titled "Sleep," is maybe the single greatest composition I have heard from humankind. This is the kind of song that is full of so much beauty, emotion and feeling that it makes me proud to be a human. It is a 22 minute journey full of the darkest and most uplifting strings; it is a masterpiece of the combination of melancholy and joy. It is rare that art this special exists and it took so much luck for this song to even come into fruition so the most I am going to say is to listen to it. Take time out of your day and direct your full focus to this song, you will not regret it. The album ends with the song "Like Antennas to Heaven," which definitely took a long time to grow on me. This song has a long and meandering intro with church bells and a southern man singing nonsense chants. Once the song does finally drop it is extremely rewarding. We get a huge wall of sound consisting of guitars, drums and the usual violin and cello that these all have. The second half has a much smoother section than any of the other sons on this album, but you feel so much passion through each pluck of the guitar or drum hit. This song feels as if I could run through the literal bounds of space and time. I can't describe the beauty in this closer to the album, it simply is just that good.

"Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven" is a damn triumph from start to finish. Each and every second of the record is cared for with so much detail and spirit; you truly feel the humanity present on every song. This album is an extremely rare output that could never be replicated no matter how hard somebody was to try. When I began writing this review while listening to the album I was hesitant in calling it the best of all time, and this title was especially hard to give to something I can only process around once a month. After this latest relisten I can't hesitate at all. It is that good.

FINAL VERDICT: 5/5 WALLYS





COURTESY OF WILL DUNCAN '27





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

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

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

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Democrats have the momentum: Now they have to do something with it



Phillip Barre Jr. '30

President of Wabash College Democrats

Reply to this opinion at
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The 2026 midterm elections gave Democrats a lot to celebrate, and now the question is what comes next. Winning control of Congress is a major accomplishment. Keeping the trust of the voters who helped make it happen will be the real test.

Democrats came out of this year's midterms in a much stronger position, winning control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Democrats also made gains in state government, including here in Indiana, where they broke the Republican supermajority in the statehouse. Those results matter because elections determine who has a voice when laws are debated and which issues receive attention.

I do not think Democrats should look at these results and assume that voters have suddenly agreed with everything the party stands for. People vote for different reasons, and frustration with one party does not always mean full support for the other. Democrats have an opportunity now, but they also have to show that they understand why people wanted change in the first place.

The national results make the shift hard to overlook. According to the Associated Press, Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress, gaining at least seven Senate seats and more than two dozen House districts. With those majorities, Democrats will have more power to challenge Republican policies, investigate issues involving the administration and put forward their own priorities. They will also have a stronger position when it comes to providing oversight of President Donald Trump's administration.

That influence could make a real difference, but only if Democrats use it wisely. It is easy for politicians to talk about the economy or promise to make life better. Families want to afford groceries, pay bills, find good jobs and plan for the future without every expense becoming harder to manage. Students are also concerned about college costs and whether future opportunities will be within reach. If Democrats want voters to continue supporting them, they need to focus on these everyday issues instead of treating their election victory as the finish line.

The results in Indiana are especially worth paying attention to for students at Wabash. Indiana Democrats broke the Republicans' 14-year supermajority in the state House, giving Democrats more influence in a legislature where Republicans have held a strong advantage. Democrats also gained a congressional seat after defeating a Republican incumbent in the 5th District. That changed Indiana's congressional delegation from a 7–2 Republican advantage to 6–3, according to Indiana Capital Chronicle.

Indiana has not suddenly turned into a Democratic state. Republicans still hold more seats in the state's congressional delegation, and many Hoosiers still support conservative candidates. But breaking the supermajority changes the conversation at the Statehouse. It gives Democrats more of a chance to challenge proposals, raise concerns and make sure their constituents are heard. Lawmakers make decisions about schools, health care, jobs and other issues that affect people across Indiana.

The results also offer a lesson for Democrats. The party made gains in areas that have often supported Republican candidates. That shows political support is not something either party should take for granted. Voters can change their minds when they feel ignored or believe their concerns are not being addressed. Democrats should not assume everyone who voted for them did so for the same reason. Some voters may have been motivated by the economy, others by personal rights and others by wanting a different direction from the current administration.

That is also why the work cannot stop after the votes are counted. Democrats will need to keep talking with people who do not always agree with them, including voters in smaller towns and communities where the party has struggled. Listening should not just happen during campaign season. If elected officials want people to believe they are being represented, they have to stay present, explain their decisions, and be willing to hear criticism when they fall short.

As a Democrat, I see this election as a chance for the party to prove that it can do more than oppose the other side. Control of Congress gives Democrats a louder voice and more responsibility. They should use that power to work on making life more affordable, protecting people's rights and making the government more accountable. They should also be willing to work with Republicans when doing so can lead to something useful for the people they represent. Voters do not benefit when elected officials care more about winning arguments than solving problems.

The 2026 midterms did not fix everything, and they were not a sign that every American now agrees with the Democratic Party, But they did change the balance of power and give Democrats a bigger role in deciding what happens next. That is why I believe Democrats emerged stronger. Now comes the harder part: showing voters that their support led to something meaningful. Winning an election gets a party into a position of power. What it does with that power is what people will remember.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

OUR VERY OWN STEVE KORNACKI

Hi-Five to Connor Phillips '28 for shouldering a Herculean load of election coverage the past three weeks. We're lucky to have you (back off NBC)!

IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Lo-Five to Rockstar Games for announcing that GTA VI will be over 200GB; guess it's time to invest in a hard drive.

WE LIKE OUR GUYS

Lo-Five to the Colts for continuing to allow Daniel Jones to play football. The amount of incompletions we see on the field remind us of every construction project on campus.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: WE GOT 'EM

Hi-Five to Jidion for finally getting EDP445 arrested; cupcake bakeries' stocks are soon to plummet.

DOES HE 'KNOW?'

Lo-Five to Coach Peeples for misspelling Knowling Fieldhouse in his email; however, props to him for knowing it exists... there are probably freshmen who don't.

Wallies in the wild: Read a book



Jake Vermeulen '21

While I was a student at Wabash, I read a ton. I'm sure you do too. It's unavoidable if you want to pass your classes. Wabash professors (rightly!) love a reading assignment with a spirited discussion to follow.

However, one of the consequences of reading so much while studying and preparing for classes was that I rarely read outside of my obligations for school. There are only so many hours in a day, and there are only so many of those hours a Wabash man can spend with his nose in a book. At some point, a Wabash man has to eat, sleep, go to Chapel and do his part to Beat DePauw. So, reading for pleasure generally gets triaged out. There's nothing wrong with this. It's a perfectly rational way to allocate your time and energy, but after graduation, consider reallocating some of your newfound time back into reading.

Reading rates are staggeringly low in this country. According to a YouGov poll published at the end of 2025, 40% of Americans read zero books last year. The same poll found the median number of books read by an American last year was two. All it takes to read more books than half of all Americans is to read a third book.

The statistics are even grimmer for men. YouGov found men were more likely than women to have read no books in the past year (44% for men vs. 37% for women). Only 14% of men read at least 10 books in the past year, compared with 25% of women.

So what do we do about it? We pick up a book. It can be about anything. Fiction or nonfiction; short or long; audiobook, e-book or physical copy; purchased or rented from the library; take notes in the margin or don't; highlight or don't. Read all sorts of things, and read them in any and all formats that work for you and your schedule. The right way to read is whatever way gets you reading, regardless of anything anyone else says. It's probably been a while since you read for fun, so read broadly and figure out what kinds of books you enjoy.

You can do this very cheaply if you want to. In fact, you can read a ton of books for a grand total of $0. Library cards are still free. If you don't want to schlepp into the library to physically check out books every couple of weeks, most libraries also provide you free access to audiobooks and e-books through the Libby app.

I want to be clear that I'm not saying you have to read 100 books per year. You really don't have to do that. Reading just one book per month would put you among the top 20% of American readers, but the number of books you read is beside the point. Research shows attention spans have been shrinking for decades. This trend has only accelerated over the last few years with the rise of AI chatbots and endless scrolls of algorithmically-curated vertical videos. Reading a book trains your attention span and critical thinking skills to overcome these cognitive headwinds. Speaking from personal experience, it has been better for my own mental health to replace (some of) the doom-scrolling with reading a good book. Once you've graduated and have a little more room in your schedule, I hope you will give it a shot too.

Champions in the making



Owen Vermeulen '28

News Editor

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Most racing fans will know, but this week, Formula 1 (F1) crowned a new World Champion. Andrea Kimi Antonelli not only won the F1 championship in dominant fashion, clinching the title with four rounds to spare, but he also broke a record. At just 20 years and 68 days, Antonelli became the youngest World Champion in F1 history, beating Sebastian Vettel's previous record by more than three years. That is remarkable in and of itself, but the truly remarkable thing to me is that Antonelli was born on August 25, 2006. I was born June 1, 2006, just shy of three months older than Kimi. Not only does this almost certainly mean my dreams of becoming a professional race car driver are over, it officially marks the beginning of tomorrow.

Growing up, we were constantly told that we were the leaders of tomorrow. We were never told when tomorrow was supposed to be here, just that it wasn't today.

I know we're still in school and it's easy to think we still have time before we're ready, but I have some evidence that you're wrong. Grant Brewer '28, over the last three years in addition to keeping high levels of campus involvement, including an insane wrestling schedule and being RA of Rogge, he's also worked as a certified nurses assistant and volunteered at his church in his free time. Connor Phillips '28, Chief Justice of Student Senate and knower of all things congressional district map related, has already helped multiple political campaigns, served as a page for the Democratic National Convention and been an active proponent of his local YMCAs. Francisco Bibian '27, not only shows promise with his advanced understanding of biochemistry, he also works with the Boys and Girls Club and volunteers for his local 4-H Fair. For many people indecision comes down to not knowing where they want to go for dinner, for Elijah Wetzel '27, it's not knowing if he wants to go to divinity school or law school when he graduates. He also helps countless of his fellow students become better writers as a writing fellow at the Writing Center and as Editor-In-Chief of The Bachelor.

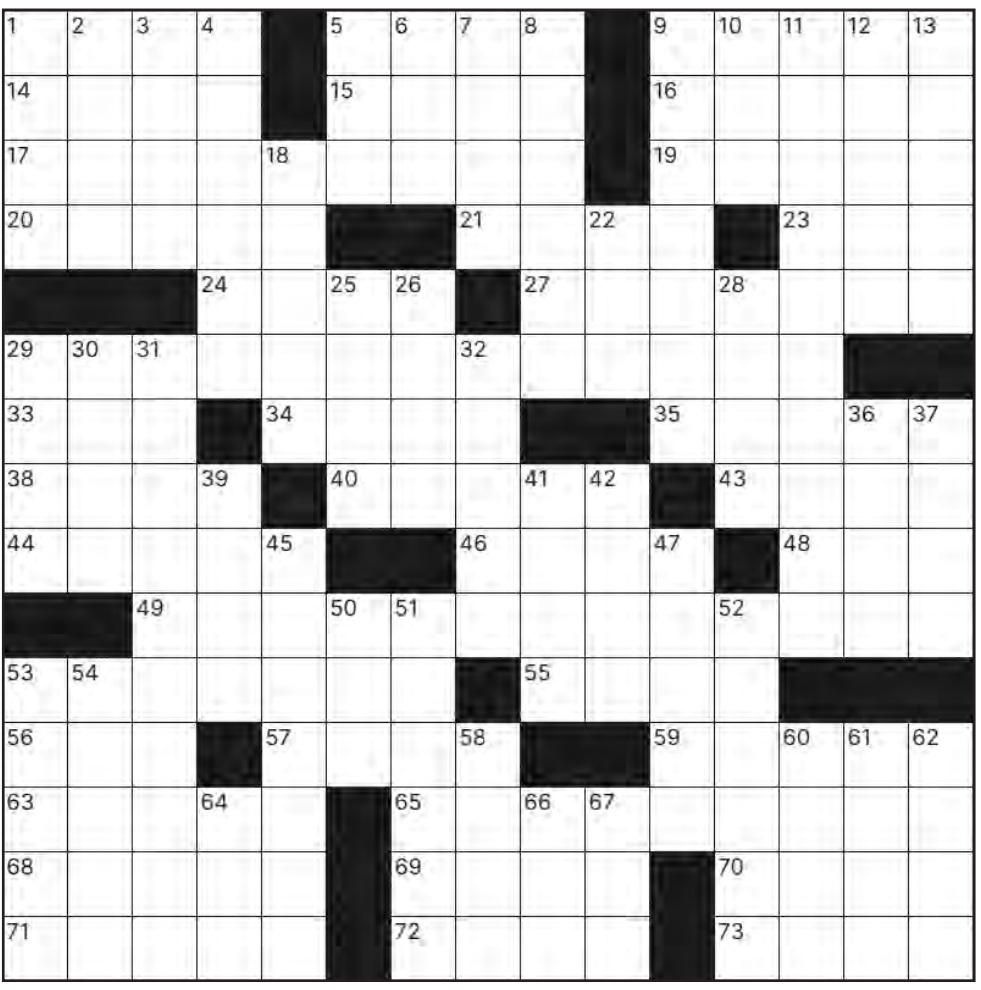
These are just a few of the numerous examples of people that make an impact that resonates far beyond these classic halls. We take for granted that this campus, this time and these moments are meant to be a training ground for the future, but that preparation for the future doesn't mean forfeiture of today. As the election cycle wraps up and the next wave of our nation's leadership is chosen, we've seen behavior worthy of emulation, sure. But more often than not we've seen bickering, we've seen merciless attacks and we've seen pointing at what's wrong with no sense of direction of what's right. Hoping for a new wave to carry us in the right direction.

We can be that new wave. We can get out of this pit we're in. Not by burying our heads and pretending we don't care, but by giving a shit. All of the people I mentioned above, have one thing in common. They give a damn.

One of my mentors used to say that you have the choice of being the beginning of an era or the end of one. I've been seeing headline after headline these last few weeks and I don't know about you, but I'm ready for a new era. Get involved with your local government or volunteer groups, help those who can't help themselves, donate to a food pantry, collect trash, coach a kids soccer team, instill values in your community. If you're old enough to be a world champion, you're old enough to contribute to your community.

‘Themeless #3’

Crossword by Paul Hawksworth ’28



Across

1. Dear, in Rome
5. “Mad Men” star John
9. Tavern basic
14. Snarky retort
15. Indy 500 winner Luyendyk
16. Sleep affliction
17. Concertmaster, e.g.
19. Dons, as clothing
20. Biblical adversary
21. Kitchen master
23. Engraved letters?
24. Apple computers
27. Baltimore MLBers
29. Boy Scout’s favorite race?
33. ___ z (comprehensive)
34. Actor Idris
35. Like some verbs
38. Jeans pioneer Strauss
40. Wartime vehicles
43. Capital of Italy
44. Intelligent
46. Big name in fragrances
48. Telegrapher’s tap
49. Furry wildfire opposer
53. Mayan region
55. Walkman maker
56. Eclectic musician Brian
57. Slanted text, for short
59. 11th-century Spanish hero
63. Sean of “Stranger Things”
65. Purple lightsaber wielder
68. Citizen competitor
69. 2008 AL Rookie of the Year Longoria
70. Scholarship factor
71. Drops of sorrow
72. Puts (down)
73. Getting there figs.

Down

1. 2016 NBA champs, familiarly
2. Gobi desert’s continent
3. Violent protest
4. On fire
5. Chinese dynasty after the Qin
6. Actress Meyers
7. Uncategorized, abbr.
8. Procedure
9. Partners against crime?
10. Bonobo, for one
11. “Sick wave, bro!”
12. Creepy
13. Speaks with a gravelly voice
18. Amazed by (with “of”)
22. Before, in poems
25. Blood blocker
26. Japanese noodle
28. Clarinet kin
29. Buds
30. Agenda element
31. Halifax’s home
32. Fine companion?
36. “Aida” solo
37. Popular fantasy film franchise, for short
39. 2017 Category 5 hurricane
41. Baby foxes
42. Central London district
45. Rectangular frozen pizza maker
47. Extend a library checkout
50. Kit’s partner
51. Tooth protector
52. Journalist’s credit
53. Ingredient in 9-across
54. “I wish I could ___ that”
58. Magma
60. Tech review website
61. Lightbulb moment causer
62. Failed bombs
64. Texter’s concurred astonishment
66. Coral island
67. 40% of ninety-nine?

Scan for solution!

Cars are becoming appliances, not experiences



Andrew Duffy ’28

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The year is 2014, and you are going to get groceries with your mother. At a stoplight, your car begins to shake, and noise fills the air as the brand-new Dodge Challenger Scat Pack pulls up in the lane alongside your car. You are filled with awe before the light turns green, and with a screech of tires, the 458-horsepower 6.4-liter Hemi V8 rips away down the road, thus affirming that it is, in fact, badass. Fast forward to today, you are in the Walmart parking lot, and suddenly the air is filled with what sounds like a JBL speaker playing car noises. You look around, expecting to see, for whatever reason, someone playing car noises on a speaker, and are instead met with the brand-new 2026 Dodge Challenger Scat Pack, playing engine noises from speakers to negate the fact that it has the same electric motors propelling it as a Jeep Wagoneer.

We are moving towards a future where this is commonplace, a future where larping engine sounds is not uncommon from car manufacturers and a future where buying a new car is more like buying a new refrigerator than buying an expression piece with identifying factors separating it from anything else. The growing homogenization of the automobile industry, particularly through electrification and technology, threatens the individuality, character and emotional connection that have historically made automobiles special.

This issue is by no means confined to just Dodge Scat Packs. It is widespread in the automobile industry, with nearly every large global or domestic legacy brand offering some form of EV in their current or recent lineups. Gas cars are predicted to enter a steady decline beginning in 2029, although I would argue this decline has already begun.

My complaint lies in the cultural value of gasoline cars. I do not intend to disagree with the fact that a reduction in gasoline-powered cars would be very beneficial for the environment or that it may be cheaper for the consumer. These are both very likely true. However, I find it disheartening that children will grow up without that sense of awe brought on by the new Scat Pack or Corvette at a stoplight. The individuality of the automobile industry and the care and intention going into cars will be lost should gas cars be made completely obsolete, and they will rather be a simple means to an end, disguised as individualized by their cosmetic features and carrying capacity. They will be no different than a refrigerator. You will not go out and buy a car for thrill or for its historical and cultural significance, but rather for its utility and aesthetic appeal. The focus will shift from the journey to the destination, and driving will be at risk of becoming something people do simply to get from A to B rather than something they genuinely enjoy.

Could this title be any shorter?



Benjamin Anaclerio ’30

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With the recent three year anniversary of the passing of “Friends” star Mattew Perry, often referred to as the “Sarcasm King,” I wanted to talk about why sarcasm is the best form of comedy. In a world where comedy is constantly getting sterilized and altered, sarcasm stands out as the true form of comedy that cannot be cancelled or shut down. Sarcasm is a cognitive exercise, a social filter and the ultimate defense mechanism against the world that takes itself entirely too seriously.

Sarcasm is an art form, and we have learned it from the best whether that be on television or through real life practice. The Mount Rushmore of sarcasm features Mattew Perry, Chevy Chase, Seth MacFarlane and Ricky Gervais. These are the guys that taught us that earnest anger is exhausting and the best way to disarm and downplay a bad or absurd situation is to lean into the bad with a perfectly detached deadpan delivery.

Seth MacFarlane proved to us that you can create fun chaos by developing a hyperarticulated, patronizing breakdown of a situation. This is usually delivered with a pristine and arrogant diction of characters like Peter Griffin, Brain Griffin or Ted. Chevy Chase built his entire career on smug sarcasm and deflection. Ricky Gervais taught us that the most devastating weapon in a room isn’t an insult, but a sarcastic observation followed by a silence that forces everybody to sit in silence. And then there’s Mattew Perry. His “Friends” character, Chandler Bing, didn’t just give us the punchlines. He completely rewired how an entire generation and those who watch him think. When watching him, you download his exact neurotically stressed inflection to deploy whenever life goes crazy.

This brings us to why sarcasm is the highest form of comedy. Most comedy relies on a transaction between two people. One says something funny and the other laughs. Sarcasm, however, demands active participation from all involved. When you perfectly deliver a sarcastic comment, saying the opposite of what you actually think, it completely destroys the traditional verbal cues that signal a joke. When you do sarcasm, you strip away the safety net of the joke. It’s also intellectually stimulating. For example, when you tell somebody at the poker table, “nice call, you’re so good at this game” after they call and lose, you are betting that that person possesses the mental ability to interpret your literal words. When it works, it’s funny and when it fails you can be seen as a jerk. That’s what makes the joke landing so satisfying.

Sarcasm has evolved even more with the media consumption being accelerated. This is where the comedic vocal stim really has its time to shine, especially when it’s in the form of a sticker in a group chat. We use audio cues of our favorite characters when we are too exhausted to speak and it’s another form of sarcasm. Any of my friends can tell you how I have 500 stickers saved on my phone, one for every situation. Together, verbal sarcasm and these cinematic vocal stims serve as the ultimate sorting hat for human connection. If I am standing in line for hours and I say “wow this line is moving at lightspeed” and the person next to me says “what do you mean we have been here for two hours,” I immediately know we are not on the same wavelength. But if they fire back with “yeah times flying by” then I know we are connected. We live in an era where everything is only taken at face value. A perfectly calibrated sarcastic remark or bizarrely accurate vocal stim pulled from drama is a quiet rebellion. We must pay attention to context, tone, and the unsaid spaces between words. It is the highest form of comedy because it doesn’t just ask us to laugh but think.

Wally’s Wall

The Prompt

What are the pros and cons of receiving an all-male education? Do you feel like you are missing out? Why or why not.

Carac Johnson ’27

The pros tremendously outweigh the cons. An all-male education emphasizes hard work, commitment, and dedication from students towards not only their studies, but also to bettering themselves in all aspects of life. At Wabash we say it isn’t just four years, it’s for life. Wabash builds us up as gentlemen and responsible citizens as soon as we step foot on campus. An all-male education is something irreplicable and cannot be found anywhere else in the nation.

Logan Payton ’30

I feel that an all-male education limits the interaction students have with different groups and viewpoints, while additionally increasing present biases present in some students. While Wabash has always been my first choice for a school, I do feel that an all-male curriculum is outdated in our modern age.

Matt Coffey ’29

The biggest advantage of a small all-male education is that there are fewer external factors competing for our attention. With less going on around us, it’s easier to lock in on the things we need to do, whether that’s school, work or the goals we came here to chase. Wabash makes it hard to hide from our own priorities, and I think that’s a great thing.

And, of course we are missing out. We as students of a small, all-male campus will miss out on the perspectives women would bring to our classrooms, or the fun they bring to campus events. But students miss out on something at every college because every campus is different. A student at a big state school misses out on the small classes and close relationships with professors. A student at a coed school will never know the brotherhood we have here or the traditions that are uniquely offered at a campus like Wabash.

“Break a leg”



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Vaught takes NCAC Newcomer of the Year in conference championship



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To start the postseason of what has been a roller coaster of a regular season for the Wabash College cross country team, the Redpack entered the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship with only one thought on their mind: leaving it all out on the course. And thanks to a Sam Vaught '29 All-Conference finish, the young team left with some much needed experience.

Travelling to Oberlin, Ohio, the team came in ranked sixth overall in the NCAC pre-championship poll. But the focus was not on where they would finish, rather, what they could learn with such a young roster.

"It's what we expected," said Head Coach Tyler McCreary. "On paper we expected to be sixth. On a bad day, we might get displaced to seventh. But I also felt like we could displace Oberlin at five on a great day. In the end, we closed a great gap throughout the race. Just ran out of real estate to catch Oberlin, but felt really good about the team performance."

Despite the finish, they still needed to prove something to themselves. And prove something they did with every runner finishing the 8,000-meter race in a career best time. Vaught led the team in a time of 25:31.11, finishing fourth overall. Vaught, who was a transfer during last spring semester, completed his first NCAC Championship with an impressive resume. The first-time NCAC Championship runner lowered his season best by 20.8 seconds to be the top finisher for the team and take fourth place overall. But it was more than just the time to celebrate. With it also came First Team All-NCAC honors as well as a NCAC Newcomer of the Year recognition as the highest finishing first year conference competitor.

"Sam's immensely talented," said McCreary. "He's just a very gifted runner up front. The other part of it too is that Sam does everything right all the time from a preparation and mental perspective. He's very grounded and also very aggressive in his approach to being as good as he can be."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NCAC

The cross country team and their coaches gather for a final team meeting before the NCAC Championship.

Jonathan Loney '28 and Cooper Knoblauch '30 were the next two scoring finishes, crossing the finish line in less than a second apart. Knoblauch was 30th overall in a time of 26:31.6 while Loney was 31st in a time of 26:32.5. Raul Delgado '30 and Austin Baugh '30 rounded off the Little Giant's scoring positions with Delgado coming in at 27:51.6 and Baugh in 28:07.2 to put the little giants at sixth overall with 161 points in total.

"We overcame a tremendous amount of injuries this year, and just got decimated there," said McCreary. "And so we counted on a lot of freshmen, and they weren't expected to fill those roles so early in their career, but they ran phenomenally well all season."

And injuries were a huge factor this season. With several runners being sidelined at one point during the season there became a huge emphasis on trusting the team.

"This team was super supportive this year," said Loney. "We had several guys out with injuries this season, but they didn't give up on themselves or those racing. They showed up frequently to practice and races to support us. We did the same for them, asking about their progress with recovery and supporting them through their alternative exercises."

The Redpack looks to take seven runners to East Lansing, Michigan on November 14 to compete in the NCAA DIII Great Lakes Regional Championship. With a chance at qualifying for the NCAA DIII National Championship for Vaught, there is a lot on the line as the Redpack looks to make a final push in what has been a rocky season for the young team.

"When you have a season like this, that's defined by the injuries and overcoming those as a program, you get an opportunity to really focus on what are some things that we need to to grow on as a program in terms of culture and professionalism and how we operate," said McCreary. "We've really done a great job establishing those things and with such a young group getting experience for the next season we'll be ready to go."

Basketball drops exhibition game to D1 competition

WILL DUNCAN '27
PHOTO EDITOR

Wabash traveled to Evansville, IN, on October 29 to take on the University of Evansville Purple Aces at the Ford Center. In what was already steep competition heading into the game, the Little Giants showed that they came in ready to fight early, jumping to a quick 8-2 lead less than three minutes in. However, shooting struggles and a hefty amount of turnovers had Wabash down at halftime 22-35.

In what would be best described as a team effort, the Little Giants had eight different scorers, led by Colton Stowers '29 with eight points, two steals and a block, shooting 2-8 from the field and 4-6 from the line.

Nate Matelic '27 and Keegan Manowitz '27 each chipped in 6 points. Manowitz is expected to be the team's starting point guard, and led Wabash in total minutes played with 24.

The team struggled to score against a taller and much more physical Evansville team, shooting a lackluster 14-56 from the field and 5-26 from the three point line. The Little Giants also had 12 team turnovers compared to 10 team assists, as it seems like the chemistry of the team is still in the works.

University of Evansville transfers, Dakota Candler '28 and Wes Aigner '28, wore the opposing teams uniform in the Ford Center. Familiarity to both their former gym and team was unfortunately not a recipe for success. Aigner finished 1-8 from the field in 19 minutes, chipping in three points and three rebounds. Candler provided four points and two rebounds, going 1-2 from the field and 2-2 at the free throw line.

Head Coach Kyle Brumett acknowledged how "new" the team is, with five freshmen and the transfers.

"Our freshmen and transfers are all going to get better, but they're all new (to the program)," said Brumett. "We really need to be committed to being better in February than we were last year.

Former Little Giant Luke Ellspermann, the newest Purple Ace, scored 3 points in 19 minutes.

Four of Wabash's five freshmen, with center Cooper Bock '30 out with injury, combined for eight points, nine rebounds, and shot a combined 3-12 from the field and 0-5 from beyond the arc.

"We're going to be different week to week," Brumett said. "I'm hoping the team early on can display some of the 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality."

Wabash will have their first opportunity to display that mindset later this week. The Little Giants begin their regular season on the road, taking on the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Fightin' Engineers on Saturday, November 7 at 2pm.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Colton Stowers '29 drives the lane in a scrimmage against North Central College on November 1 at Chadwick Court in Crawfordsville, IN.

Wabash Rugby wins "Back in Bash" tournament

PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH RUNGE '29

A legacy of success

Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett



PHOTO BY JAKE PAGE '23

WILL DUNCAN '27
PHOTO EDITOR

Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett has built his coaching foundation on turning his teams into contenders anywhere he goes. Entering his 13th season as head coach of the Little Giants, Brumett's career record sits at 199-113 (63.8%) and 355-192 (63.6%) across all 20 years of his time as a head coach.

Hailing from Jeffersonville, IN, Brumett has emphasized an unwavering resiliency and determination to show his dedication to any team he was a part of. That resiliency was displayed throughout his high school and college days, with Hanover College making it all the way to the Elite Eight in his sophomore year of college.

Brumett graduated from Hanover College in 1998 with a degree in physical education. He later earned a master's degree in recreation and sports management from Indiana State University in 2004.

When asked what led him to becoming a head coach, Brumett cited his love for the game, along with his desire to impact that game in any facet that he could.

"I grew up in the Southern Indiana hotbed of basketball," said Brumett. "The more I played, the more I realized there were ways to contribute that might not have been scoring."

Before his time as a head coach, Brumett was an assistant coach at DePauw University for seven years, where the Tigers made multiple NCAA tournament appearances.

In the 2006-07 season, Brumett had his first stint as Head Coach of Lakeland College, where he went 33-22 in two seasons, including a Northern Athletics Conference title in 2008.

Brumett then left Lakeland to become the Head Coach of the Defiance College Yellow Jackets for six seasons. In his first year as Head Coach at Defiance, Brumett led his team to an 18-9 season, followed up by a 23-6 season in 2009-10. The Yellow Jackets also secured an NCAA tournament berth, along with winning a Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship. Brumett's record at Defiance sits at an impressive 103-57 (64.4%).

Yet, team success was not the only thing Brumett sought as a head coach.

"I knew I wanted to be at a small college," Brumett said. "Academics became more and more important to me [as I got into coaching], so Division III always made sense to me."

Brumett said his upbringing and his wife, Steffanie, helped make Wabash the right fit.

"The way I was raised, along with my college coaches, showed me how to keep grinding when things got tough," said Brumett. "That's just the daily life here at Wabash, so I knew it was a really good fit for me."

Brumett also credits his connection with former head coach Mac Petty H'82, the winningest coach in Wabash basketball history, and his early introduction of Wabash both as a player at Hanover and as an assistant coach at Depauw.

"My college coach had a really high opinion of Coach Petty," Brumett explained. "At the time, I didn't know that Wabash would be a good landing spot, but as it continued to be right in front of me, both as a player and coach, I knew Wabash was the right choice."

Since arriving at Wabash in 2014, Brumett has implemented the success he had at his previous colleges here at Wabash.

In his first season, Brumett led the Little Giants to a 18-9 record, including a 11-3 record at home and a first-round NCAC conference championship win.

When asked how Brumett implements team success regardless of where he coaches, he broke it down into two simple factors: recruiting enough talent and making sure his players are dedicated to the work being put in.

And it is clear that those two factors have been working hand-in-hand since arriving in Crawfordsville. In one of the more notable year-to-year turnarounds, Brumett led a 12-14 team in the 2017-18 season, to a staggering 21-6 record in the following season.

That turnaround was in large part due to the emergence of one of the greatest players in Wabash College basketball history, guard Jack Davidson '22. In his sophomore campaign, Davidson averaged 25.1 points per game, while shooting 43.4% from three. Davidson, alongside many of his teammates, would continue to grow into one of the most impressive teams Wabash basketball ever had to offer.

In the 2021-2022 season, Brumett and Davidson led Wabash to a 28-4 overall record and a 16-1 conference record that resulted in a Final Four appearance in the NCAA tournament.

This included a 42 point game for Davidson against 12th ranked Emory University. Other wins in the tournament included knocking off 21st ranked Barry College, 22nd ranked Williams College, and 7th Illinois Wesleyan University before ultimately falling to 16th Elmhurst University.

Wabash was ranked as high as #5 during the season.

Davidson averaged 25.5 points per game, 5.9 rebounds per game while shooting 48.2% from three and 91% from the free throw line in his senior season.

"I tell our starters now that they have no idea how much time Davidson spent after hours in Chadwick (Court), said Brumett. "You like to have enough of that in your program."

Since the miraculous Final Four run, Wabash has posted winning records in every season, including a NCAC conference championship win and NCAA tournament berth in the 2023-24 season, finishing the season 20-9, and 13-3 in conference play.

"Winning is good for not only the team, but for the whole campus," said Brumett.

And he has continued to do just that.

"He has helped me be a better Wabash man both on and off the court," said center Tyler Horton '27.

When talking about the upcoming season, Brumett acknowledged the new landscape of the team. With five incoming freshmen and junior transfers Wes Aigner '28 and Dakota Candler '28, Brumett described the team as "evolving."

"Everyone wants an immediate return on investment," said Brumett. "We sell the future here, and we've got to have guys that are willing to stay the course."

With the senior class being the last of the 2023-24 NCAC Conference Championship team, the Little Giants hope that success, and how to get to that success can be passed along.

"Coach Brum wants the best for you," said guard Deric Cannady '29. "Him demanding nothing but the best out of the team is going to help us in the long run, whether that's on or off the court."

As Brumett looks ahead to his now 13th year at the helm of the Little Giants basketball team, his legacy of success, team-building, and mentorship continues to impact the lives of not only his players and coaches, but every Little Giant that has gotten the pleasure of watching him coach.

Football drops fourth straight for first time since 1975

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash spent the first month of the season looking like a conference contender. It has spent the last month learning how to lose close games.

Ohio Wesleyan's 35-28 win Saturday at Selby Stadium extended the Little Giants' losing streak to four games, the first time a Wabash football team has dropped four in a row since 1975. A team that started 4-0 and was picked to finish third in the preseason NCAC coaches' poll is now 4-4 overall and 3-4 in the conference.

None of the losses have been blowouts. Wabash fell 24-23 at Denison, came within two yards of forcing overtime in a 24-17 loss at John Carroll, and lost 27-17 at home to eighth-ranked Washington University in St. Louis, which scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns after Wabash carried a four-point lead into the final quarter. Then came Saturday. Four games, decided by a combined 25 points.

The margins suggest a team that still has the talent to win. How those games slipped away points to three problems.

The first is that opponents have figured out what Wabash wants to do. Through the first six games, the Little Giants ran for 1,012 yards, and Cole Dickerson '28 was averaging 113 yards per game. That production made the offense predictable. Teams now know the Little Giants want to establish the run and are willing to load the box and commit to stopping Dickerson, betting that Wabash can't beat them through the air. That bet has paid off. In the last two weeks, Wabash managed 74 rushing yards on 45 carries against WashU and 71 against Ohio Wesleyan. Dickerson extended his scoring streak to eight games Saturday and tied for ninth on Wabash's career rushing touchdown list, but needed 21 carries to gain 69 yards. Until the passing game makes defenses pay for crowding the line, Wabash will keep seeing the same look. That pressure on the passing game has led to the second problem.

Mistakes have taken away points the Little Giants can't afford to lose. Saturday's four interceptions, two of them in the Ohio Wesleyan end zone, turned into 21 Battling Bishops' points and cost Wabash at least two more scoring chances. A 23-yard field goal attempt hit the upright. At John Carroll, a blocked Wabash punt late in the first quarter set up the Blue Streaks at the Little Giants 29-yard line. Defensive miscommunication on the last drive also hurt the Little Giants in their John Carroll loss. In a stretch decided by 25 points, those plays are the difference.

"Defensively we have to maintain confidence and continue to improve," said William Harris '28. "The biggest thing for us is that we have not been taking the ball away on a level that we should be, so it's something that we will continue to emphasize in practice."

The third problem is finishing. Through six games, opponents have scored 28 fourth-quarter points, more than in any other quarter, and both the John Carroll and WashU games got away late. Saturday was the reverse: the defense held Ohio Wesleyan scoreless in the fourth while the offense scored three straight touchdowns. The problem was that it started from 35-7.

"We have played really good teams," said Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We know how well we are capable of playing. We just have to capture that for the entire game and finish."

"Defensively we have to maintain confidence and continue to improve. The biggest thing for us is that we have not been taking the ball away on a level we should be."

-William Harris '28

That comeback also raised a question at quarterback. Jackson Gilbert '28 started, but Brand Campbell '27 took over in the third quarter and went 12-for-26 for 218 yards with a touchdown pass and a touchdown run. Campbell moved into seventh in program history in career passing yards (5,103) and tied Dave Broecker '83 for seventh with 45 touchdown passes. Who starts against Kenyon will be worth watching.

There were positives to salvage. Carson Foxen '28 had a career-high 10 tackles, Keith Jackson '29 set career highs with eight catches for 104 yards and Luke Adams '28 caught seven passes for 120 yards. Wabash outgained Ohio Wesleyan 408-394 and converted nine of 17 third downs.

The Little Giants have two games left to change how this season is remembered. Kenyon visits Little Giant Stadium Saturday at 1 p.m. before Wabash closes the regular season against DePauw in the 132nd Monon Bell Classic.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27