James Plans to Make a Difference

ANDREW HOFFMAN
WABASH '10

Jesse James does not relish the attention that comes with being student body president. While talking with him one realizes, however, his enthusiasm for the responsibility of the position and the prospect of making a lasting impact on campus. He is glad that people do not treat him differently despite the few changes he has made since his election. He notes other leadership positions he has given up, along with the increasing number of meetings he is expected to attend.

He gladly accepts sacrifices are gladly accepted for the prospect of truly serving the students who elected him. “By the end of the semester the ultimate goal is to say ‘Yeah, I’ve made a difference,’” James said. To that end, he is working with President White to plan a student government that functions as a voice for the students. “I would like to make it a ‘go-to’ position between the administration and students.”

Inside, Bachelor photographer Brock Johnson features the upcoming College Hall renovation in his weekly photo essay, including his stance on the renovation and Independents’ stake in housing upgrades.

Lecturer to Speak Tonight on Gender, Biology

ROYCE V. GREGERSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Wabash community is no stranger to controversial speakers, and tonight’s lecture by Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling should be no exception. Emails to the student body have described her as “one of the nation’s leading biologists of gender” and “one of the most controversial feminist scholars.” An article in The Wabash Commentary described her work as “pseudoscience,” but chairman of the Gender Issues Committee, Prof. Warren Rosenberg, describes her work in other terms. “She’s helping to find the truth about gender and biology,” he said.

Fausto-Sterling will speak at 8:00 p.m. tonight in Hays Hall room 104. She will also visit an introductory biology class and Rosenberg’s freshman tutorial, “Men and Masculinity.” The title of her lecture is “Beyond Nature versus Nurture: New Ways to Think about Sex, Gender, and the Body.”

Her visit to campus is sponsored by a plethora of organizations: the Department of Biology, the Department of Psychology, the Gender Issues Committee, the Lecture Series, and Division I. The involvement of so many groups, according to Rosenberg, was necessary to procure the necessary funds to pay for a speaker of national repute. The event has been in the works for two years.

Fausto-Sterling’s work centers on the relationship between society and biology, especially with regards to gender. This is the focus of her two books aimed at the general public, Myths of Gender and the more recent Sexing the Body. According to her website, she “has achieved recognition for works that challenge entrenched scientific beliefs while engaging with the general public. [sic]”

Lately, Fausto-Sterling has turned her scientific attentions to the relationship between culture and bone development.
Internships Pay to Know Indiana

NIC BITING
WABASH '07

February 1 marked the start of the application process for summer internship available through The Quality of Life in Indiana grant. This grant provides generous stipends for a wide variety of Indiana-based internship and research projects. Both the Know Indiana and Present Indiana components of the grant offer summer opportunities, although the specifics of each program are different.

For example, Know Indiana funds eight-week internship with non-profit and governmental organizations that promote culture within Indiana. Recent internship through Know Indiana include Brett Gann’s position as Production Directing Intern at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Ivan Acero-Choy’s involvement as a Curatorial Intern at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, and Justin Gardiner’s placement at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. These are a few highlights from a variety of Know Indiana internship from last summer. Sixteen agencies will provide forty-six internship opportunities during the 2007 summer program.

Present Indiana, on the other hand, funds summer research projects, in which students propose and research a topic of interest related to the cultural heritage of Indiana. Students enjoy a degree of freedom in choosing their topics, but are also encouraged to work with faculty and staff mentors. Each project is developed into a presentation that can be shared with the campus and local community during the following academic year. John Meara’s investigation of Indiana’s covered bridges, Aaron Spolarich’s research on Kurt Vonnegut, and the 340-mile navigation of the Wabash River completed by Homer Twigg, Clayton Craig, and Zach Webb are examples from the summer of 2006. Apply now and take advantage of the various summer opportunities provided by The Quality of Life in Indiana grant. Applications for both programs are due by March 1 and should be submitted through Wabash Works! For specifics on the Know Indiana application process, check the website www.wabash.edu/indiana/inter

James

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administration with any authority. “The biggest surprise has been people [from the administration] coming to me in the office as representing the voice of the students; that is what they should [be doing], but they expect me to have this all-mighty answer of what the student body thinks.” It is not a new concept for elected officials to represent the sentiments of their constituency, but rarely is there such enthusiasm on the part of an official for its implementation.

James hopes to one day bring such enthusiasm to the political arena outside of Wabash. He can imagine himself as a judge and does not see a national government position as out of the realm of possibility. For those with aspirations for the student body presidency, James stresses the importance of talking with students. Communication is paramount to him for progress, much as it is for President White who he describes as “a friend.” One gets the sense when speaking to James that he has a true sense for what makes Wabash special, a feeling that comes from a person who has made the effort to really get to know people. His interactions are not confined to a small circle of confidants. Rather, he makes it a point to keep his fingers on the pulse of the college.

Fausto-Sterling

From Page 1

She describes the relationship in an article in the journal SIGNS titled, “The Bare Bones of Sex.” “She has a firm grounding in science, but also a skepticism about how much we can rely on science alone,” Rosenberg said. “She takes an interdisciplinary view of biology, and doesn’t see biology as a value-free science.”

For many, Fausto-Sterling’s work is characterized by her controversial assertion that 1.7% of people are intersex. She also claimed that the scientific community should recognize five genders: merms, fems, and herms, in addition to the traditional male and female. After facing outcry from the intersex community, she recanted on the point.

“By the end of the semester the ultimate goal is to say, ‘Yeah, I’ve made a difference.’”

Jesse James ‘07

“Fausto-Sterling is currently Professor of Biology and Gender Studies in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Bio-Chemistry at Brown University. Professors and students from other regional colleges will likely attend her lecture tonight. “She really is a fascinating person to bring in,” Rosenberg said.”
Sarah Silverman Shows “Frontal Jewdity”
Silverman’s First Solo Show Obscene, Offensive, Disgusting, and Irresistable

The opening line of comedian Sarah Silverman’s new show informs us that, “Tonight’s episode of The Sarah Silverman Program contains full frontal Jewdity.” After hearing that tasty gem of a line, I knew I was in for one wild ride.

Sarah Silverman is not your typical female comedian. She is vulgar, slightly racist, Jewish, and she is not sorry for any of those. Besides the fact that she says whatever she wants, she still tells people at her shows that she doesn’t care if they think she’s racist, she cares if they think she’s thin. This is the kind of comedian that is poised for success. Silverman has a no-holds barred view on political incorrectness. She is not afraid to say what she thinks and doesn’t care who she offends along the way. She is a female Richard Pryor, if you will.

Sarah Silverman is a rising celebrity and has reached critical acclaim. Her first stand-up film was released in theaters last year, Jesus is Magic, and it was a success for a stand-up film. The only problem with the film, and with her new television show, are the intermissions featuring Sarah singing nonsense songs. While sometimes they actually work, quite often they do not, but they express the buoyant and eccentric demeanor that she carries. The funny thing about Silverman is that she looks so sweet and innocent, yet she packs a punch that could knock out Jesse Jackson or any crazy Christian.

The Sarah Silverman Program is about her, her sister, Laura, who is actually portrayed by her real sister, and the crazy shenanigans that they get into with their two “big, orange, and gay” friends.

In the premiere episode, Sarah develops a cold and must get some medicine to help her get over her illness. She meets an elderly black woman in the medicine aisle and the woman tells Sarah she is seventy years old. Sarah doesn’t believe how young she looks for her age, until the woman moves a little closer to her, then Sarah informs the elderly woman that she does look old really close-up.

The cough medicine that Sarah buys tells her to take it at night only, and Sarah, always knowing what’s best, says that her body won’t know what time it is. She drinks the medicine while driving home and experiences an acid trip of sorts. Hilarity ensues and she ends up in jail. While detouring in a jail cell full of black prostitutes, Sarah gets her hair braided and leans her head on one of the prostitutes only to be thrown on the ground with the large-chested woman yelling, “Get your head of my titties, bitch!”

As she is picked up from the jail cell, her two gay friends end up revealing that they are “gay for one another” and the large-chested prostitute exclaims, while in tears, “Aw, what a sweet way to go to hell.”

While the show is not groundbreaking by any means, the fact that it is on Comedy Central, allows The Sarah Silverman Program to be as inappropriate as South Park, which lets the show be more obnoxious and fun than it could have ever been on a basic network. The show still needs to find some sort of direction, but that is expected with the first episode of any show, but knowing Silverman, further episodes will not disappoint. I have already bought the season pass on iTunes.

At the end of the episode, Sarah fills us in on some of the things she has learned from her experiences that day. “I learned whether you’re gay, bisexual, it doesn’t matter; because at the end of the day, they’re both gross. I also learned that elderly black women are wise beyond their years and young black women are prostitutes.” Wise advice, Sarah, very wise indeed.

The Sarah Silverman Program airs Thursday nights at 10:30PM on Comedy Central.
Chapel Talks Not Passing Muster Of Late

What ever happened to the incendiary Chapel talks we all came to know and love? It seems that lately we have been forced to suffer through a series of boring and irrelevant Chapel talks. Or rather, the 50 people who actually show up suffer them. A select few have been timely, such as Dr. Paul Harder’s talk about President White’s days in college. But many others have lacked the rigor we at one point expected from Chapel talks at Wabash.

The poor attendance at Chapel is indicative of the change in expectation on the part of the Wabash community. That such a massive portion of the community chooses not to engage in the same manner that to the law, everyone is fond of talking about. Grand conversations require grand ideas and radical directions to challenge and debate. Chapel is the perfect venue for the grand ideas of Wabash to be expressed. This sort of Chapel talks will bring the campus back on Thursday mornings, rather than sitting around anticipating their lunch.

Of course Wabash can’t permanently be a hot bed of controversy, but it is getting a little boring to be in such a drought. We believe the Sphinx Club needs to make an effort to recruit more interesting and engaging speakers to present their ideas and stir up the Wabash community. The president of the Sphinx Club should not have to ensure the community in an email that the week’s speaker will be exciting and interesting. We should all expect, based on past experience, that this is the case.

Plenty of students on campus could give engaging Chapel talks. Chapel does not need to be intellectually engaging in the same manner that a faculty colloquium is. What is important is that Chapel talks challenge the Wabash community and encourage the “grand conversation” that everyone is so fond of talking about. Grand conversations require grand ideas and radical directions to challenge and debate. Chapel is the perfect venue for the grand ideas of Wabash to be expressed. This sort of Chapel talks will bring the campus back on Thursday mornings, rather than sitting around anticipating their lunch.

Chapel Talks becoming increasingly less valuable

Our Stance:
The Thursday morning ritual threatens to become yet another Wabash tradition without meaning for College.

What happened to the controversial Chapel talks by Professors Webb, Kubiak, and Castro? There are plenty of other outspokenly controversial people on campus, so it seems impossible that the campus would be subjected to such bland oratory as is often present Thursday mornings.

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Unfortunately, at the moment there is no reason for this to be at all.

Sphinx Club poses a greater threat to the survival of the College. “Hazing,” defined by Indiana state law, means “forcing or requiring another person (1) with or without the consent of the other person and (2) as a condition of association with a group or organization; to perform an act that creates a substantial risk of bodily injury.” I’d like to focus on the idea of with or without the consent of the other person, because this has been the stance of the Sphinxers for some time to justify their existence: the idea that they are exempt from the law because of the participants that are in acceptance of the terms of their rhyneship, knowing full well what events lie ahead. Simply put, what this law means is that no matter what, one cannot give up their right to be hazed. And it is because of this, that not only this organization, but the very College itself, is in the highest degree of risk.

One way or another, in my opinion, the Sphinx Club is the largest liability that the College has to this day because of its public and widely-known actions. The College made a very good decision this year to make changes to the mascot (which many of you may have noticed) by taking off the stripes and Sphinx Club pot, phasing in a new Wally. What this does is change the College’s plausible deniability, which up to this point, is a smoking gun. Wally Wabash=Sphinx Club Member=Sphinx Club funded by the College=Members of the Administration (from President to Deans)=Faculty members over public display of requirements (green legs, ridiculous outfits, etc.);=Activities on W.C. property (front of any given fraternity lawn)=The Community of Wabash College’s blatant knowledge of hazing.

If someone were to sue the College because of Sphinx Club hazing (which can be on display any given day of the week by a mere passerby or prospective student), there are a number of aspects of this college that a lawyer would simply die to prosecute. For one, going back to a previous point that I’d like to elaborate on, the mascot himself wears the stripes and pot of the organization, which is to say that
Understanding the Sphinx Club: One Member’s Take

ROSS DILLARD
WABASH ’07

I happened to catch Mr. Fenoglio’s article last week “Sphinx Club Unifies, Inspires Controversy” and namely the comment “a lot of students just don’t understand what Sphinx Club is all about” and so I figured I’d devote an article this week to discussing the club a little bit from a historical perspective in an attempt to provide some insight to those who may be curious or concerned.

The role of Sphinx Club at Wabash is something that has been of personal interest to me for some time. It seems strange that such a relic in its organization and structure would not only be fully functioning all the way to 2007 but stick out as a symbol of the college itself.

Why wasn’t the group wiped out with many of our other older traditions during the V-12 era and World War II or during the late 60’s when the original Senior Council dissolved and mandatory chapel ended in a years-long wave of anti-tradition sentiment amongst the student body?

In fact it’s the only student group that has kept itself together in essentially the same form for its entire history. Sound like a bold statement? Consider this. Student government has changed forms here twice, The Bachelor didn’t publish during the final years of World War II, the yearbook has gaps in the late 90’s, the Glee Club went on a five year hiatus in the 30’s, and the IFC even went defunct in the early 70’s (that’s right, no Pan-Hel for a couple of years there). Only some of the fraternities and the academic honorary Phi Beta Kappa can boast longer unbroken tenures.

But let’s get back on point. While the form of the club (IE juniors and seniors only, self-selective, white beanie hats) has essentially not changed since the founding members returned from their initiation by the Indiana University chapter in December of 1921, the role of the club in the student life of Wabash has waxed and waned over time. The stated reason as to why club was started was to “foster a sense of community among the men of the various fraternities”.

The group was selective, but of course that was not of much concern at the time because it was just one of several honorary-type groups that existed on campus. The unique sailor-type hats worn by club members quickly became a symbol of the upperclassmen, as a Caveman from the 1920’s shows a cartoon of a miserable-looking freshman tipping his pot to an auster, athletic upperclassman wearing a Sphinx hat. Athletes have in fact composed a large fraction of the club throughout its entire history.

In its early days, the club served as like a Rotary or Kiwanis for the student body, providing assistance where needed on campus. The group would pass out programs at football games, serve as judges for lawn decorations during Homecoming, and at one point setup a trophy case for the athletic department. The club sponsored the first banquet for the football team in the 30’s and even did one for the Crawfordsville High School basketball team at one point.

As time went on, the group became a natural force for preserving tradition by trying to revive activities left undone by other groups. The club had a continuity to it that other groups like the Senior Council and IFC lacked in the way that it maintained a solid core of upperclassmen in its membership.

In the 1950’s, Sphinx Club became less active and started being referred to as an “honor” for athletes”. It partnered on a lot of activities with the W Men’s Club, which was a club consisting of all lettered athletes on campus by default. Freshman indoctrination was the big issue on campus during that time, with the Senior Council trying to manage the numerous freshman rules and administer the “W” haircuts and other freshman punishments appropriately.

The club offered its assistance to the Council in catching rule-breaking freshmen and soon Sphinx Clubbers were included among the people that freshmen had to tip their pots to. The pot-tip rule came under great debate soon after by students who felt that the club should be treated like every other student group and the Council ultimately dropped the rule.

When the Senior Council dissolved in the late 60’s and freshmen indoctrination came to an end, the only activity remaining was Freshman Sing (now called Chapel Sing). The new Student Senate elected to turn over control of that event to the Sphinx Club in 1970 and the formerly all-freshmen event became just a competition between the pledge classes of the various fraternities.

This started a trend of a student government less interested in promoting student life outside of funding the various clubs and a Sphinx Club more involved in filling that role.

In 1996, Sphinx Club revived weekly chapel. In 2000, a new Wally mascot was introduced with his own Sphinx Club pot and stripes. When I entered Wabash as a freshman, essentially everyone involved in student leadership, including the Senate, SCAC, and IFC had club memberships.

The Sphinx Club itself appeared as a governing force over nearly all of the campus activities from Homecoming in the fall to Pan-Hel in the spring.

Even the weekly chapels which brought the community together were presided over not by the student body president, but the Sphinx Club president. As I exit this semester as a senior, I notice that while some things remain unchanged, this Sphinx-dominance of campus is beginning to weaken.

Is this a problem for our campus? Absolutely not. What it actually means is that student life is much healthier. Despite what it may be regarded as now, the Sphinx Club is still just a club.

As I hope this brief history lesson helps you see, it is a club that has provided a valuable service to the college, particularly its student life, since its founding.

“As I hope this brief history lesson helps you see, it is a club that has provided a valuable service to the college, particularly its student life, since its founding.”
INDEPENDENTS GIFTED ANOTHER DILAPIDATED FRATERNITY HOUSE

What’s the one photograph you will not find on the College’s webpage? Independent housing. But be sure to look for that photo at the beginning of next year.

On Inauguration Saturday, the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees approved a budget of $2.4 million to be invested into the current TKE/College Hall building. The building will be entirely independent housing next year. During spring break, the TKEs will move into the old FIJI house to allow renovations to begin. There they will await completion of their new building where Crawford Hall currently stands. For many independents the new College Hall renovation is just long overdue.

The current remodeling plans and expansion of College Hall will absorb the loss of housing slots at Crawford Hall while simultaneously adding ten to fourteen slots to overall independent housing.

A $2.4 million renovation! Increased housing slots! No fraternity beneath their floors! These reasons will cause much rejoicing next year by administration and independents alike. Has a housing crunch finally opened the administration’s eyes to living conditions of independents? No. While seemingly good on the surface, the College Hall renovation is just another message to independents that they are of second-class status.

A $2.4 million renovation sounds promising to an independent in the walk-in-closet-sized rooms of Wolcott Hall, but when it comes to transforming a dilapidated fraternity house with no air conditioning, this figure does not amount to much more than a new HVAC system and a fresh coat of paint.

“I would call the Phi Psi building a remodel and College Hall a refurbishment,” Dean Raters said.

A refurbished fraternity house is exactly what the independents will get.

How is it that destroying the entire Crawford Hall building and adding one floor of the TKE house will add fourteen spaces to overall independent living? The administration answers that with one of their favorite answers to expanding independent space: turn common areas into dorm rooms. In Martindale, first floor lounges were turned into rooms more than three years ago, and if common spaces in the basement met fire codes, they probably would have been transformed as well. This practice continues with the renovation of College Hall. Current TKE common areas will be turned into rooms for additional independent space.

From the outside College Hall will change very little. Even though the TKEs will be gone, their 1960’s architectural fraternity house will remain.

“The exterior will not change monumentally, but those large dining room windows will be replaced,” Dean of Students, Tom Bambrey commented. If the administration were only as adamant about creating a new dormitory as they were about removing the dining room windows, I would tell freshmen to hope for a new dormitory. But a new dorm is still in the dream phase as of now.

“Addressing independent housing seems to be a high priority of the administration. Time will tell how high that priority is,” James Inmann ’08 said.

Of course real estate, funds, and timing are all barriers the administration must face when dealing with housing. And of course, not everyone can be pleased; Kappa Sigma probably views its housing status to be as bad as independents. But the College Hall renovation gave the administration a chance to gain rapport with independent students whose buildings have been outdated for sometime. The current plans for College Hall should gain no such rapport.

“I think guys are really going to be pleased with what they see at College Hall,” Dean Raters said.

And Dean Raters is correct. Independents will be happy to have a new building. They will be happy to have housing nicer than Martindale and Wolcott. The administration will be happy that it can check off an independent living unit as being “refurbished” and continue building new fraternities. But independents should not be happy to keep their second-class status.
Each week, Johnson '07 will record what he sees around Wabash and elsewhere. If you would like to see a topic addressed, contact him at johnsonb@wabash.edu

**ABOVE:** Christmas lights try to add a cozy feel to a small room of Wolcott Hall, but only illuminate the peeling paint on the ceiling.

**BELOW LEFT:** The current TKE basement will soon be renovated and home to independents. One of the better aspects of the College Hall renovation plans is the open floor plan of the basement. How well the College furnishes the basement will determine its allure as a hang out.

**BELOW RIGHT:** You won't find photos of independent living spaces on the webpage, but you will find faulty statistics such as the espoused 65% Greek student body. The number is actually 52.1%.
Gustav Mahler: The End of Western Music

Dear reader, it seems your author is rather the cad. While his usual gaucho makes his life worth living, this one quite transcends them all. To his colleagues, he is known as a bit of a classical music aficionado. A freshman in his dorm asked for an introduction to the world of real art music, a laudable goal, all things considered. Your author was not born in an ecstasy over Parsifal’s final monologue in the eponymous music-drama by Wagner. In any event, your author recommended Mahler’s 2nd symphony, the “Auferstehungs-Symphonie.”

To a hardened post-Romantic, Mahler’s symphonies are bread-and-butter. The three Wunderhorn symphonies (the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th) preface the brilliant explosion of the 8th and the forward-looking modernism of the 5th, 6th, and 7th in equal share. There is no idiom into which one can comfortably place the wrenching Das Lied von der Erde. By the same token, his 9th stands at a precipice, ready to plunge into the full milieu that we now see as the 20th century, but looking wistfully backwards.

Leonard Bernstein, Mahler’s great exponent in our age, put it best, “He took all (all!) the basic elements of German music, including the clichés, and drove them to their ultimate limits.”

Gustav Mahler, like Wagner before him, took on a massive goal and succeeded massively. By the time that Mahler finished writing four Lieder cycles, a cantata, nine symphonies, and a symphonic song-cycle (Das Lied), he had summed up everything that came before him. After Mahler, there is nothing to say because there is nothing left to say. From the classical perfection of his 4th, almost Haydnesque in its poise and balance, to the Wagnerian eroticism of the second half of his 8th, Mahler took everything in and returned innovations.

In his justifiably famous essay, “Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler’s Ninth Symphony,” the physician Lewis Thomas summed up the grim undercurrent in all of Mahler’s work. “I cannot listen to the last movement of the Mahler Ninth without the door-smashing intrusion of a huge new thought: death everywhere, the dying of everything, the end of humanity.”

The finality that one finds at the end of the codas in Beethoven’s Ninth (“The Ninth,” after all these years) is found throughout Mahler. The Resurrection depicted at the end of the 2nd, the terminal trump in the 6th, the coming of dawn in the 7th, and the transfiguration in the 8th all seem absolute, perfect, and final. This is to say nothing of the haunting repetition of “Ewig...” in Das Lied von der Erde. Mahler was a composer for whom each phrase seemed like the end of everything. Lewis’ “door-smashing intrusion” is not so much the death of everything, it is a summing-up; a peroration. He combined the Germanic tradition with the fin de siècle anxiety that defined the first generation of the twentieth century. This is not to say that Mahler’s music is unabashedly positive: it isn’t. Far from it, indeed. The tragedies in his life turned the 6th, Kindertotenlieder, and the 9th into some unremittingly bleak music. Even, as is the case of the 6th, when Mahler was at the peak of his influence and power, music startling in its depth and abyss-like qualities poured from his pen. The utter depths of Mahler, “Der Abschied,” return a music that has never been seriously challenged in its profundity.

It was not the best idea to recommend Mahler to a neophyte. However, through Mahler, one can find a window stretching back to Monteverdi or Bach, and a door opening onto Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern. Mahler is daunting; both in his musical idiom and in the emotional range he requires and imposes from and upon the listener. Your author will admit that he probably was demanding too much from a newcomer to the genre by blithely suggesting that the young man sit down and listen to the 2nd in its entirety. However, it cannot be overstated that Mahler is, if not the Alpha, then the Omega of the German tradition. In Franz Schmidt’s oratorio, Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln, the voice of God intones that alarming passage from the Apocalypse of John.

Mahler is that voice, deep and powerful, for his tradition. Perhaps it’s time to return to Bernstein. “Mahler was granted the honor of having the last word, uttering the final sigh, letting fall the last living tear, saying the final good-by.”

An Open Letter to Royce V. Gregerson

N IC BITTIN G W A BASH ’07

As a self-proclaimed environmentalist and an attendee of the recent Michael Richards talk I am motivated to address the concerns raised by Royce Gregerson in his opinion article “An Open Letter to Environmentalists.”

First, I would like to point out that Mr. Gregerson purports “not to condemn the environmentalist movement,” yet he goes on to say that “Christianity, not obscure earth-worshipping and self-sufficiency has the potential to be the new global value that will lead us into proper stewardship of the earth’s natural resources.” This statement is a cheap shot — clearly a remark of condemnation.

Mr. Gregerson claims that to solve our environmental problems cooperation and community are necessities. I couldn’t agree more, but condescension toward community members who are already making gains in the realm of environmental stewardship is contrary to the spirit of cooperation.

Mr. Gregerson proposed that Christianity will lead the way toward proper stewardship of the earth’s natural resources, yet he freely admits that “the church’s mandate to be a good steward of the earth... didn’t turn out so well.”

I look forward to changes in the actions of the Church which will reverse previous trends; however, it is clear that such transformations have yet to occur on a widespread scale. Thus, the necessity for alternate avenues towards healthier treatment of our home planet are needed.

Given the widespread acceptance of Christianity it seems certain that the Church will be involved in the move toward a more environmentally conscious society.

However, Christianity will not be the main vehicle for such changes. It will be one facet among many social forces which contribute to the remediation of environmental problems created throughout human history.

The empirical data is in and it is clear that humans have had a devastating affect upon the earth, however it is not too late to remedy the situation.

The transformation which both Royce and I seem to hope for is one in which human society will learn to live in a more ecologically sensitive one through cooperation, individual action, and local solutions.

There is certainly room for Christian belief within such a movement, likewise there is also room for other forms of spirituality and even secular belief.

Attempting to impose Christian belief on this movement, and hierarchically subsuming such progress under the banner of Christianity is an unnecessary and critical flaw.
The New Definition of Cowardice

P. CAMPBELL ROBBIN
WABASH '09

Over the last few months, Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) has very publicly separated himself from his party’s general stance on the War in Iraq. Hagel vehemently opposes a troop surge, and has even collaborated with Democratic senators on new and alternative strategies for conducting the conflict. Not surprisingly, Hagel has come under extreme fire from fellow members of his party. He has become, for many conservatives, their party’s Benedict Arnold.

Hagel, thanks to his stance on Iraq, has been attacked by conservatives in everything from television interviews to political cartoons. Vice-President Dick Cheney, in an interview with CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, said that he tries not to publicly criticize fellow Republicans (calling it Ronald Reagan’s rule), but that it is very hard to stay mute regarding Senator Hagel and his controversial position. Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah accused Hagel of just playing around with resolutions and ignoring the task at hand in Iraq. More criticisms from other prominent members of the Republican party are seemingly arising each day.

Admittedly, though, my real inspiration for this article was a political cartoon featured on many online news agencies and conservative blogs. Looking at a Daryl Cagle cartoon online, I clicked on a link to more cartoons where I soon came across one that disgusted me. This particular cartoon responds to Hagel’s comments that the war has become “a ping-pong game with American lives” by inferring that the Nebraska senator is a spineless coward who had any courage. “Senator Hagel, ping pong and war both involve something you seem to have lost, namely, balls.”

I know I’m probably overreacting. After all, this is only a small cartoon that the majority of people will never see. Still, I am fed up with how people against the Bush administration’s Iraq policy are at times branded as unpatriotic cowards. A great example was last year, when Ohio congresswoman Jean Schmidt addressed Rep. John Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat and Marine veteran who served in Vietnam, in session with a message attributed to fellow Republican congressman Danny Bubp, saying, “Mr. Murtha…cowards cut and run. Marines never do.”

My grandfather fought bravely at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in WWII to help protect our great country and all it stands for, and I’m sure the majority of readers know family members or friends who likewise put their life on the line to serve our country in battle. For this reason, I strongly believe that any person who serves our country in war has earned the right NOT to be called a coward. Many veterans become pacifists after seeing the horrors of battle firsthand and, like Hagel, are highly cautious and skeptical about sending young men and women into war. However, a pacifist is not synonymous with a coward. Anyone who dares to think so would be insulting millions of veterans who fought to protect our great nation who happen to hold anti-war stances.

I most likely will never be member of any branch of the U.S. Armed Services. I admit that I myself am a coward, and I would be a battlefield lieutenant’s worse nightmare, as I would inevitably show about as much courage as Charles Nelson Riley would in the ring facing Muhammad Ali in his prime.

Therefore, I would hate to think what condition our country would be in today if we’d never had valiant men like purple-hearted Chuck Hagel. It’s why I try to never forget the sacrifice troops are making for us even today. Senator Hagel may oppose the Bush troop surge plan. Hagel holds many conservative views that I, a moderate, completely disagree with. But for someone to infer he is a coward, especially if they themselves have never worn the uniform in battle, is beyond disgusting to me. It’s utterly repulsive and nauseating, and they should take a look in the mirror to ponder on who is the real coward. I don’t care if you’re a tree-hugging, Che-adoring, Chomsky reading pinko-commie, nor if you are a misogynistic, totalitarian Fascist. If you’ve served our country in war, you are NO coward.

John Kerry? I hated his politics. Yet he volunteer to serve in Vietnam, even when his family’s affluence could have easily bailed him out like it did so many other upper-class young Americans. Charles Rangel? It’s scary to think of him as chairman of the Ways and Means committee. Yet he bravely led young men into Korea, representing a nation that had segregated him and fellow African-Americans for over a century. He only earned a purple heart and bronze star for his courage. John McCain? More of an opportunist than a maverick in my opinion. Yet flying for the Air Force, and staying alive for several years as a Vietcong prisoner after being shot down is nothing short of remarkable. And Duncan Hunter, the ultra-conservative congressman and presidential hopeful from California, did a valiant tour of duty in Vietnam. None of these four men, representing both sides of the aisle, hold the same basic political views as I do. But I’ll be damned if I even thought about question- ing their courage and loyalty to their country.

If Chuck Hagel is a coward, then I pray that I too may be a coward someday as well.

Letter: Smith Wrong, On Vendetta

Regarding last week’s “Wabash Commentary Deserves A Fair Break in Senate,” I would like to bring attention to the fact that opinion editor/Senator Senior Council Secretary Smith’s article misrepresented me. I would like to address his inaccurate implications.

As Constitution, Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Chairman, I am concerned with good policymaking/precedent-setting. Acquiescing to clubs that, in affect, spend money before asking for it is bad precedent. If, at the time, I was aware that the Newman Club had also contracted speakers without receiving permission, then I would have included them in that budget cut proposal.

I hope that the new student administration will investigate the best way of ensuring that one club cannot commit $8,000.00 of student money before Senators, our representatives, have the opportunity to review the case.

I would like to note that this Senator, as do others, feels that Mr. Smith is lashing out because some voted against his nomination for Senate representative to the Board of Publications. That position was established to give the Senate an unbiased voice on the BOP and to ensure that Senate concerns are heard. The opinion editor of the Bachelor can hardly be relied upon to provide solely the Senate’s opinion; he is naturally biased with the concerns of the Bachelor editorial staff, who are already represented by Mr. Barre. We were voting against bad precedent.

On a different note, I would like to express my gratitude to the Bachelor for sending a reporter to the first Senate meeting. I am disappointed, however, that this practice has not continued. An objective account of our Senate meetings, written by a reporter who is not a Senator or Councilman, is the most economical way of providing students with an unbiased account. This provides context for opinion articles.

Brett T. Gann, Jr. ‘07
Former Vice-President of the Student Body
gannb@wabash.edu
2-D: Still Killing The Radio Star in 2007

I’ve always been a fan of the 2D shooter genre. There’s something about the frenetic pace of the 2D shooter that cannot be matched in three dimensions; at any one point the screen may be filled with a thousand spiraling patterns of death, and usually it only takes one bullet to take out your ship.

It puts you into a trance; your eyes trace bullet patterns, your fingers move the ship without needing your attention, and you somehow manage to defeat a few hundred enemies with just your dinky little ship.

The Japanese freeware community has latched onto the 2D shooter genre. Search “Japanese SHUMP” (2D shooters’ genre) and you’ll find a plethora of games both old and new. Here are three games from Kenta Cho that might wet your whistle for 2D shooter games.

They all feature a futuristic, minimal art style, with lots of squares and polygons to fill in the background. They also have very short game times – a game of Torus Trooper, for example, lasts about five minutes – which means they make great study distractions for college minds:

Torus Trooper

By and far the most interesting and unique game on this list, Torus Trooper is a frenetic shooter that takes place in a gigantic tube. The arrow keys accelerate and decelerate the ship, z fires, and x launches a charge shot.

The idea is to fly through the tube shooting lots of consequential ships while avoiding a hail of bullets. Occasionally, a larger boss enemy will appear; shooting down this character gives you extra time.

Torus Trooper has a great sense of speed. From the moment you start the game you’re sucked into this never ending tube; the ship speed, twisting of the tube, and constant dodging make the game feel like it’s right on the brink of falling apart at every moment.

If this were any other game, I’d call it too much speed, but Torus Trooper’s simple art style keeps the game from getting overwhelming.

There are no lives in Torus Trooper. Instead, players are aiming to keep time on their clock. Destroying a large boss gives 30 or 45 seconds, while losing a ship costs 15 seconds.

When the time runs out, the game is over. This leads to great last-minute efforts to keep time on the clock, and definitely keeps the player coming back for more.

Titanitron

Titanitron is much like my all-time favorite arcade game Galaga; a wave of enemies fly down from the top of the screen and you shoot them. Simple enough, but the pace quickens in a hurry. The bullets rain down pretty heavy as the levels continue to get more difficult.

Titanitron’s big gameplay mechanic is the capture beam. A player can nab enemies to act as extra turrets on his side of the field. What makes this difficult, however, is that any shot that lands on your converted enemies removes them from play. Titanitron plays like a mad dash to collect extra guns as the enemy shoots them down; difficult, but definitely a fun game.

Parsec 47

Parsec 47 is a rather uneventful shooter; you face a bunch of random enemies before facing a larger boss monster. What makes this game unique, however, is the use of a pixellated, “retro” art style that mimics what older arcade shooters were like. The result is a frenetic game that never lets players master it to the very end.

The strongest part of Parsec 47 is its treatment of “bullet fields,” or enemy firing patterns. While the enemies fire in predictable patterns, these patterns actually make the game frighteningly difficult to play well.

At the same time it is very possible to duck and dive through a hail of bullets simply because you know where the next open space is going to be.

Hopefully these three shooters will keep everyone busy while I find a better game you’ve never played.

AUSTIN CROWDER

GAMES
Track Shows Good Individual Performance

ASHLEY STEPHEN
WABASH ‘07

A week after heading east to Denison to win the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Relays, the Wabash track team headed the other direction this weekend to compete in the Titan Open at Illinois Wesleyan. Facing some stiff competition and playing without a full squad, the Little Giants could only manage a 10th-place finish.

Monmouth College won the meet with 101 points, followed by Wisconsin-Whitewater with 68 points. Ohio Northern, Illinois Wesleyan, and Central College rounded out the top five teams.

While they did not score a lot of points, the Little Giants had several individuals perform well. And, for the first time this season, the field events provided very positive results.

In the 60-meter dash, junior Bart Banach managed to qualify for the finals, finishing in the top 14 of the 65-person field. Then, in a finals consisting of two sections, he managed to earn eighth place in a time of 8.53 seconds.

The only distance runner to make the trip was sophomore Hugh Jackson. After waiting around for several hours, he completed the 3000-meter run in a time of 9:18.56, which was good enough for twelfth-place.

The high jump was the brightest spot of the day for the Little Giants. Junior Mike Russell, competing in the event for the first time this season, tied for third with a jump of 6’2.75”. Joining him with success in the event was freshman Chris Schweigel who tied for fifth with a jump of 6’0.75”.

Another positive result in the field events came from junior Nelson Barre. Though he finished in a tie for twelfth-place, Barre vaulted a personal best 13’4.25”.

In the final event of the day, the 4x400-meter relay team of Bart Banach, Emmanuel Aouad, Mike Russell, and Nathan Bates ran a season-best time of 3:25.49 en route to a fourth-place finish. The Wabash ‘B’ relay team, which was composed of sophomore Wade Heiny, junior Tim Rickard, and freshmen Bill Kneapler and Chris Schweigel, also performed well, finishing second in their section.

The track team travels to DePauw this weekend before returning home for the Wabash Indoor Open, which will be the final tune-up meet before the NCAC Championships.

Tennis Wants Record

ANDREW PARRISH
WABASH ‘10

The Wabash tennis team is looking to reach new heights this season. This year’s team has six seniors on the roster. “Experience is on our side,” said Coach Hutchison.

Every year the tennis team sets goals for itself. This year there are two main goals the team would like to accomplish. “We want to finish in the upper half of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), and we would like to set a school record for team wins,” said Hutchison. Along with accumulating team wins, Hutchison would like the seniors’ last season at Wabash to be a memorable one. “I would like for our six seniors to go out on a high note.”

Along with the new season, comes a new scoring format. Effective this year, all three doubles matches will count individually (three points). In past years, the three doubles spots would only count for a single point. In order to win a team match this year, a team will have to win at least five points instead of four. The scoring has increased from seven total points to nine.

The new rule change brings new opportunity for Coach Hutchison. “Our goal is to start every match with a 3-0 lead by sweeping the doubles matches every time.”

This year’s line-up consists of all familiar faces. “Everybody who is in the line-up this year was part of last year’s roster,” says Hutchison. This year’s team looks very promising with the experience it has.

Coach Hutchison has a few matches that he is looking forward to, especially the matches against teams Wabash lost to in close matches last year including Wittenberg and Oberlin (who is not on the schedule but could be an opponent in a tournament). Along with the key matches, Coach Hutchison is looking forward to the spring trip the team will take to Hilton Head over spring break.

The team’s next home match is against Earlham, Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at Collett Tennis Center. Coach Hutchison and the team encourage everyone to come out and support their Little Giant tennis team in a winning effort.

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men says

Good Luck to Basketball against Wooster
Good Luck to Track at DePauw
Good Luck to Wrestling at Tri-State
Good Luck to Swimming at Championships

Wabash Always Fights
Sports

February 8, 2007

Wrestling
Rolling into Conference

CHUCK SUMMERS
WABASH '10

After a very successful weekend at the Monon Bell Duals, the Little Giants wrestling team looks to fine tune everything for a final run at the most critical juncture of the wrestling season: Regionals. This year’s Regional stand as, for some, the last chance to earn a berth in Nationals. First, the team will try to use this weekend’s Midstates Conference Championship at Tri-State to prepare for the all-important Regionals next weekend.

“This weekend is basically a tune-up for the Regional,” said head coach Brian Anderson. “Most teams are resting guys, so you will have some weight classes with really good wrestlers and then other classes with practically nobody.” Since the Regional individuals are seen as much more important than this weekend’s Midstates, many of the top individuals will not be competing for opposing schools. Anderson, however, refuses to relax the team’s competitive edge. “It’s very hard for me to sit someone out,” said Anderson. “When we go to every tournament, we go to win. I guess I’m not like other coaches. I won’t rest someone and watch us get killed in a weight class. We won’t hold anyone back unless we have to.”

The team looks as poised and ready as ever after a dominant performance at home this past weekend. “The guys really wrestled well,” said Anderson. “They stayed on people. The Guys were excited about wrestling at home, and that really showed through.” The top performances this weekend came from 4-0 results from seniors Garrett Pino, Will Clarke, Keith Garrard and sophomore Stephen Mosier. Pino, Clarke and Garrard are all expected to make runs at Nationals, and will use this last weekend to make final preparations for their last run at a National berth.

“The guys gearing to get into Nationals are all there mindset wise and physical wise,” said Anderson, who said practices have shifted to focus on the individuals. “We’re fine-tuning, watching tape,” said Anderson. “We’re trying to keep them as injury free as we can. At this stage in the game, though, everyone has little bumps and bruises. The key for these guys is breaking down tape and preparing for those one or two big matches to get into Nationals.”

Basketball Splits with Earlham

AARON PARRISH
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash came into last night’s game trying to take sole possession of fourth place if Wooster could beat Hiram. To hold up their end of the bargain, though, the Little Giants had to travel to Richmond, Indiana, to take on the Quakers of Earlham. It was only a few weeks ago that Wabash beat Earlham here in Crawfordsville 73-57.

Early on the first half, it looked like it could be a long day. It took Wabash two minutes before they found a basket, while the Quakers took almost four minutes to do so. Wabash spent most of the half up by seven points, sometimes stretching the lead to nine, before a late push by Earlham, helped by a last second three from Tristan Gregory, put the Quakers within two going into the locker room, 32-30.

Wabash’s scoring was consistent, scoring 16 points in the first ten minutes and 16 points in the second ten. Earlham found their stride to end the half, scoring only nine to begin with before scoring 21 in the final ten minutes of the half. The Little Giant defense, though, was superb once again. Earlham’s big three had only 15 points between them for the half, and ten of those belonged to Gregory. LaRon Henry managed only two points, while Markous Jewett only hit an early three. For Wabash, Andrew Zimmer had 13 points in the first half. Chase Haltom added two three-pointers, very nearly three. Andy Root added five, and Aaron Brock had four points in limited time due to early fouls.

Free throws were also one-sided in the first half. Wabash shot only two, both by Zimmer on drives to the basket. He would hit one of the two. Earlham, on the other hand, shot seven free throws, but only managed to connect on three.

To start the second half, Wabash was going to have to rebuild their momentum. To begin the half, though, neither team could get much of anything going. Jewett found his shot, but Zimmer also stayed hot. Zimmer was also drew an intentional foul by Nick Welsh, but Wabash only got one point out of the possession. Wabash called a time-out at the 11-minute mark, only up by two, 44-42.

Earlham would tie the game at 50 at the 8:45-mark on two Gregory free-throws. The real importance of this, though, was Zimmer picked up his fourth foul, which mean the Little Giants would have to look elsewhere for important points down the homestretch. Coach Petty would call a time-out a minute later with the score tied at 52 to talk over a new strategy.

The foul situation would only get worse, though, as Brock would pick up his fourth and allow Jewett to tie the game again at 59 with a little more than five minutes to go. Earlham’s big three, but it was too little too late. The game ended with the Quakers on top, 72-70.

With this loss and Wooster 90-73 win over Hiram, the battle for fourth is on again. All the teams are tied with three to go. Wabash and Hiram, though have to play both Wittenberg yet, and Wabash has a date with Wooster this Saturday. Earlham’s schedule looks easier with dates left at OWU, Denison, and Oberlin. We will see in the next few games if Wabash can pull out an upset and host an NCAC tournament game this year. Their next game is this Saturday against Wooster at 2 p.m. Come out and support your Little Giants in what could be a monumental game for their season.