

## Sphinx Club elects Jacks '24 as President, new cabinet for 2023

**SARVIK CHAUDHARY '25** | NEWS EDITOR

The Sphinx Club has this week elected new members to its cabinet, with Cooper Jacks '24 selected as the Club's President for 2023.

Jacks is the first brother of Phi Delta Theta to take over as Sphinx Club President since David Dunlap '89.

Cognizant of the recent acts of division between several fraternities and even independents in the past year, Jacks wants to spend a good amount of time educating freshmen about not just how to be a part of the historic traditions, but to also respect them.

"We've had a lot of problems this year, in particular with the bench," said Jacks. "So, I want to have a few hours of freshmen orientation dedicated to educating freshmen about our traditions, and I feel like listening to the set of standard rules will allow them to not blindly follow everything an upperclassman in their house would ask them to do."



COURTESY OF COOPER JACKS '24

**Cooper Jacks '24 will be the 2023 Sphinx Club President.**

Jacks cited his reason to run for president as being tied with the reason he came to Wabash in the first place.

"The Goodrich family—after whom the Goodrich Hall is named—is from the same town as me, and I have had a close relation with that family," said Jacks.

"They were the reason I came to Wabash. I think what ultimately made me run for President was the idea of giving back to Wabash, just like John Goodrich had. He passed over the summer, right before the semester started, so that too brought me closer to Wabash in a way."

Matthew Brooks '24, who was elected as the club's treasurer, echoed Jacks' sentiments about his reasons to run for Sphinx Club leadership.

"The community and culture here at Wabash is something I thoroughly enjoy, and I think there are several avenues with which a student can increase their involvement on campus, and I experienced that culture through the Club," said Brooks. "I thoroughly enjoyed Rhyneship, and I really believe in what the Club stands for. I also feel that the Club and the College have given me so much, and this is one way I can give back in a way I know—by working with the Club's funds and putting it in the right places to not just benefit the Club, but also the greater Wabash community."

The Sphinx Club also announced Cody Bevelhimer '24 as its new Vice President. Bevelhimer replaces outgoing VP Jack Heldt '23 and hopes to expand his impact on campus.

"I knew the ceiling for my ability to lead in our fraternity had kind of come crashing down, at least on me, sooner than I would have liked," said Bevelhimer. "I knew that [Sphinx Club leadership] was a really good avenue in which I could try and lead more...The thought of being able to impact a large group of people...drove me a lot."

The fourth and final individual in Jacks' cabinet is Joshua Manfred '24 who takes over as secretary.

"Josh is Cody's and my Rhyme brother, so we definitely have a good working relationship with him," said Brooks. "Cooper too is an extraordinary individual who I think would do great as the President, and I'm excited to be working with them."

Manfred says that he hopes to continue the traditions of the Club and ensure that future generations of Wabash men know that the Club supports their interests.

"The Sphinx Club expresses love for Wabash and its traditions," said Manfred. "We bring speakers to the Chapel to hear life advice, we bring energy to sporting events and we hold brotherhood gatherings on Fridays. I plan to ensure these events continue to happen for the sake of my fellow Wabash brothers."

Jacks and his cabinet will begin their duties in January.

## Braun '76 announces gubernatorial campaign



COURTESY OF THE HILL

**Senator Mike Braun '76 (R-IN) filed paperwork to run for Governor of Indiana in 2024, creating an opening for the 2024 Senate race.**

**JAKOB GOODWIN '23** | MANAGING EDITOR • U.S. Senator Mike Braun '76 (R-IN) filed paperwork with the Indiana Secretary of State's office in the final week of November to indicate that he is running for Indiana Governor in 2024.

While this decision was long expected, Braun removed all doubt Tuesday, filing for the gubernatorial race. While his decision to run for governor is significant in itself, potentially signifying a shift to the right at 4750 N Meridian St, it also opens up a Senate seat in 2024.

During a Zoom meeting with Wabash College Republicans and other campus leaders Wednesday, November 30, Braun discussed his campaign.

"I think this matches the fact that I was an entrepreneur for 37 years [for a] little business that turned into a national company," said Braun. "[I was] a school board member, state legislator, senator. That's a pretty good tutorial for running for governor. Plus, I'll set the agenda. I'll be leading it."

With Braun running for governor, the race for the GOP nomination to replace Braun in the Senate will heat up. No one has officially announced their candidacy yet, but many have speculated that U.S. Representative Victoria Spartz or Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita '92—yet another Wabash man—might hop into the race.

During his meeting with Wabash students Wednesday, Braun talked about his Senate campaign four years ago and his opponents, one of whom was Rokita.

"They were typical. Get out of law school, don't even practice your law degree, and pivot into appointed or elected politics," said Braun. "You don't know anything. You haven't done anything."

There is some speculation that Braun might not have the GOP nomination for governor wrapped up. He may have to contend with Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch or former Indiana

Governor and President of Purdue University Mitch Daniels.

Braun's announcement comes on the heels of his vote against the Respect for Marriage Act on Tuesday evening. The Respect for Marriage Act protects the right to marriage for interracial and gay couples. In March of 2022, Braun said that he would "be OK" with the Supreme Court leaving the issue of interracial marriage to the states. He clarified that he doesn't want the Supreme Court to overturn *Loving v. Virginia*, but supported efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which outlined the right to privacy. The Act passed a looming Senate filibuster on Tuesday, November 29, with 12 Republicans—including U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-IN), Braun's counterpart—joining Democrats.

During his event, Braun and College Republicans discussed his time at Wabash and the 2022 midterm elections, specifically the role young people splitting hard for Democrats had in blunting the "red wave" many expected.

"One of the ways that Senator Braun has proposed to win the next election is by appealing to young voters," said Wabash College Republicans President Jonas Akers '24. "Young voters came out in a swarm during the midterms, and it didn't look great for Republicans. He has reinforced that Republicans need to take a strong stance on climate and energy. One of the solutions is Senator Braun's Growing Climate Solutions Act. As a conservationist, Senator Braun has been a frontrunner for Republicans on ways to clean our air and reduce carbon emissions. These things, he believes, could be key in turning the next generation to the right side of the aisle."

With Braun's filing to run for governor, Indiana has officially started its 2024 election cycle, opening the questions about who will represent Hoosiers in the governor's mansion and the Senate.

## News Feature: Are authoritarian regimes in crisis?

**TIERNAN DORAN '26** | POLITICS WRITER

• 42,000 protesters arrested in Iran; 13,000 arrested in Russia. Twenty-three demonstrations in 16 cities across China. This last year has seen protests erupt across the globe in a number of authoritarian regimes. Are authoritarian regimes in crisis?

**"The best-case scenario would be for [Xi] to step down... Otherwise, we will see revolution in China, just like the transition dynasties of the past."**

**-Anonymous international student from China**

Iran is currently facing protests on a scale of which it hasn't seen in nearly twenty years. Protests erupted in September after a woman died while in police custody. The woman, Mahsa Amini, was arrested on September 16 after being accused by police of wearing unsuitable attire. An intersection between women's rights, personal liberties and desires for freedom from Iran's oppressive regime, Amini's death inspired protesters all throughout the country. Nearly 14,000 protestors have been arrested.

"There have been protests in the past, but the scale of this tends to make me believe there might be more to it, that they might accomplish some of their goals," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science John Valdez. "The grandmothers of the women who are protesting right now have experienced a more free society where women have political rights on par with men."

In Iran, memories of a freer time seem to be the driving force behind protests and a motivating factor for people to speak out.

"If you look back a couple of generations, you can see that it was a more cosmopolitan country... people had more rights," said Valdez. "I think that memory makes a big difference for that flavor of protests that we're seeing now."

**"Ukraine's winning as long as Russia's not winning... That's going to continue to weaken the Putin regime and might create openings for protesters and social change"**

**-Professor John Valdez**

*Continued page 2*

## Scarlet Honors Weekend brings 280 prospective students to campus

**JOHN SCHNERRE '26** | STAFF WRITER •

Students can expect to see some new faces wandering around campus Friday afternoon and Saturday morning as Scarlet Honors Weekend kicks off. Nearly 280 prospective students are visiting this year, a big jump from the 183 of last year.

"I felt like getting 250 students to attend seemed like a big goal for the office, and we were in the high 240s before Thanksgiving," said Dean for Enrollment Management Chip Timmons '96.

This year's attendees will be different in more than just their numbers. The main difference will be the group of counselors that the admissions office has invited.

"It's great to have students here, but you're making a favorable impression on a school counselor who stays in that building and talks to all of the students," said Timmons. "That can help promote Wabash to literally dozens of students."

On Friday, optional tours will kick off the morning, but the program begins with a greeting at Pioneer Chapel with President Feller and Joe Johnson '11, the founder of Obvious Shirts. Johnson will discuss how his Wabash education started a journey to finance and beyond. After, prospective students will hear from a panel of student leaders, including Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23

After the introduction, students and

parents will tour living units to gain some knowledge of how day-to-day life works. Students will then break into smaller groups for an interactive tour, eventually ending up in their respective classrooms, where they will have a special class with a professor. After class, there will be a living unit fair for students to meet students from different fraternities and residence halls. Finally, overnight prospective students will join their respective hosts.

Independent living units will be hosting more prospective students than last year in part because of the large attendance compared to last year and in accordance with the trend of more students choosing independent life on campus.

Unlike last year and many previous Scarlet Honors Weekends, Wabash has scrapped large events like the boat races at the pool. Timmons said that one of the main survey



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Wally poses with visiting students and family on the steps of Pioneer Chapel.**

results from last year was that prospective students would have liked more time to spend talking one-on-one with active students, and events that didn't involve prospective students somewhat limited this experience.

"Just be excited to see the guy," said Timmons, explaining how students can be good hosts. "Introduce them to as many people as you know. Maybe think back to what was in your mind when you were a high school senior. Not all of them are in love with Wabash yet. Answer their questions, be hospitable, and be honest."

# Peter Prengaman '98 weighs in on COP27 in Egypt

**PRESTON REYNOLDS '25** | STAFF WRITER •

This November, 35,000 representatives from 190 countries gathered in Cairo for the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). The conference raised issues including the impact of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and its monopolization of coverage in global politics.

The Associated Press's Global Climate and Environmental News Director Peter Prengaman '98 weighed in on global climate change, attributing his career interests and successes to his Wabash education.

"The liberal arts education prepared me for the career I have," said Prengaman. "I have to remake myself all the time, the stories I cover and the roles I have. I don't have a deep background in science, but Wabash prepared me through learning how to learn."

The scope and scale of COP27 has ballooned in recent years, as scientists, journalists, NGOs and representatives all attempt to express their views on climate change. By the conclusion of the conference, different nations and organizations are meant to renew and revise their climate targets. This can include emissions, but also green energy and deforestation.

One of the most significant results of COP27 was the approval of the "loss and damage" fund for developing nations. The term that some use, "climate reparations" has long been contested by developed countries. The worry of many developed nations is that reparations represent an unending liability.

"The idea," said Prengaman, "is that these richer nations should compensate poorer nations in some way. This year for the first time it was put on the agenda, no one expected a decision this year. Just the recognition of this is huge. We acknowledged that our lifestyle, industrialization, has hurt other nations in some way."

Based on the criteria for loss and damage, even superpowers like China and India would benefit. The controversy is that both are also major emitters, being leading consumers of coal-based energy.

OPEC has been present in the 24-hour news stream as of late following production cuts and accusations of price gouging. Saudi Arabia notably had a massive pavilion and off-site area at the conference.

"They were pushing their idea that they were part of the green-energy transition," said Prengaman. "You might ask how? Well for one, they push that they can utilize fossil fuels more cleanly, using products to emit less. With a lot of funds, they can help in the green-energy transition."

Saudi Arabia too has raised controversy over their climate contributions, primarily surrounding the export of oil. Critics debate whether it is the responsibility of the supplier or the consumer to reduce their oil-dependency. Prengaman uses a critical lens.

"People see this in different ways. If you ask climate scientists they will say, 'no this is greenwashing' [false climate conservation]. But you have to look at each argument fairly. They're part of the conversation."

Prengaman believes that the U.S. should be able to meet its climate goals, but there are far too many unknowns.

"It's too soon to really know. Current predictions may be a little rosy... You have to pay attention to what a country does and what they say, understanding their domestic and international goals," said Prengaman.

Prengaman encourages people to "really engage in climate news" and, not to shamelessly plug, with AP news in general. "Something that has turned readers off in the past has been the main scientific focus of climate news. AP tries to consider climate change more holistically, writing about solutions and lifestyle, not just doom and gloom. Climate doesn't feel as immediate as other domestic issues in America, but it's just as important."

# Are authoritarian regimes in crisis?

Cont. page 1

Large-scale protests against an authoritarian regime do not automatically mean that any difference will be made. There does, however, seem to be a possibility for change in Iran by virtue of its relationship with the United States.

"Iran might have more of a chance of seeing changes given their ongoing negotiations with the West," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Dylan Irons.

The U.S. has negotiated with Iran in the past, and if it intends to do so in the future, it's likely going to take the optics of Iran's unrest into account.

"Negotiating with a regime that is suppressing women's rights doesn't look good for the States," said Irons. "It could certainly be a bargaining chip for the United States in further negotiation with Iran."

Iran isn't alone. Protests have also erupted in China calling for the resignation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The protests, which are nominally about COVID lockdowns, have been spurred by a recent fire in Urumqi, the capital of China's northwestern Xinjiang region. An apartment that had held people under quarantine caught fire, killing those inside. They were unable to escape as the fire escape was welded shut, a common COVID policy in China.

The protests have also been exasperated by coverage of the World Cup. China is a very strong information-control state and doesn't want its citizens to know that the rest of the world has found a way to get over COVID. And yet, there is World Cup footage showing cheering, packed and maskless crowds, images that threaten to oppose the Chinese government's narrative. Chinese censors have begun cutting shots of the crowds from state TV coverage of the World Cup in Qatar.

Unlike in Iran, memories of a brighter past don't fuel the protesters in China.

**"I don't think we'll see major changes in China... the depth of the surveillance state convinces me that something bigger has to happen for there to be any significant progress."**

**-Professor John Valdez**

"The Chinese government is very powerful and has been paranoid for decades," said Valdez. "In China, folks can look at their grandparents and see they probably had more or less political rights as they have now."

Despite no recent history of freedoms in China, protesters still imagine a vision of a future without Xi.

"With the massive protest, I hope that Xi either changes his mind to resign, or at least steps away from the powers he has," said a Wabash international student from China who wishes to remain anonymous. "The best-case scenario would be for him to step down or to give up some powers and bring in more democratic leadership. Otherwise, we will see revolution in China, just like the transition dynasties of the past."

"The political authority within China has done such a good job of melding the idea of being Chinese to the Chinese state so that to criticize the State is to criticize China," said Irons. "I have a difficult time believing that this would lead to any significant change in China's political



COURTESY OF EUROWEST

Iranians protest the murder of Mahsa Amini at a rally in Rome on October 29, 2022.



COURTESY OF THE NEWYORKER

In 16 Chinese cities and counting, protestors gather to defy the Chinese government's COVID-19 policies. Many protestors use blank pieces of paper to symbolize the governments's restrictions of speech.

institutions. Valdez agrees.

"I don't think we'll see major changes in China. I don't see that the regime is really interested in extending rights and the depth of the surveillance state convinces me that something bigger has to happen for there to be any significant progress," said Valdez.

For an authoritarian regime with less effective state surveillance, see Russia, where protestors have opposed Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Hundreds of protesters have been arrested after protesting Russia's military draft, while thousands have fled the country, including large numbers of men leaving to avoid the draft. The defeats suffered in Ukraine, followed by Putin's unpopular draft have led to significant protests.

"It's been a debacle," said Valdez. "Russia has been weakened significantly by the invasion of Ukraine which has not gone the way the Putin regime planned for it to go. All independent media has been eliminated, but even on state media for the first time, as of a couple months ago, they're starting to ask questions about how the invasion of Ukraine is going and whether there's a plan to get people out. This kind of talk, especially questioning the Putin regime, was unheard of especially on state media." "The war is incredibly unpopular within Russia," said Irons. As Ukraine continues to reclaim land there is little to suggest victory for Putin anytime soon.

"Ukraine's winning as long as Russia's not winning," said Valdez "That's going to continue to weaken the Putin regime and might create openings for protesters and social change"

But are authoritarian regimes in a time of crises? It seems unlikely.

"In all of those regimes, they consistently put effort into oppressing people and the pressure is always begging for a response," said Valdez. "I think a lot of it is the result of opportunism. There is now an opportunity for people to rise up. It's a rational choice calculation by an individual. If you think you're going to be arrested or worse, you're not going to do it. But if you think the revolution might succeed or you can participate in it without being arrested or subject to persecution then you might be more motivated to do so."

Being able to organize and gather in larger groups makes protestors feel safer. "It's a rational choice calculation by individuals," said Valdez. "If you think you're going to be arrested or worse, you're not going to do it. But if you think the revolution might succeed or you can participate in it without being arrested or subject to persecution then you might be more motivated to do so. There's an opportunity for people, they aren't alone, they can arrest all of us."

Ultimately, protesting authoritarian regimes is a tradition backed by historical precedent. What makes this moment seem so volatile is our constant and quick access to information about the protests.

"Protests are nothing new," said Irons. "It's the access to social media and smartphones that has brought more attention to them recently. In the age of 24-hour news cycles and social media we seem to have more information at our fingertips and it's easy to follow these events as they unfold in real time."

## This Week at Wabash



<b>FRI 2nd</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scarlet Honors 9:30 AM (Pioneer Chapel)</li> <li>Swimming &amp; Diving vs. Depauw 7:00 PM (Allen Center)</li> </ul>
<b>SAT 3rd</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball vs. Oberlin 2:00 PM (Chadwick Court)</li> <li>SNL 7:30 PM (Ball Theater)</li> </ul>
<b>SUN 4th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catholic Mass 5:00 PM (Newman Center)</li> <li>Chamber Orchestra Concert 7:30 PM (Salter Hall)</li> </ul>
<b>MON 5th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellowship Info Session for SENIORS 12:00 PM (Goodrich Room)</li> <li>Student Senate 7:30 PM (Goodrich Room)</li> </ul>
<b>TUE 6th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellowship Info Session for Juniors 11:00 AM (3rd Floor Seminar Room, Lilly Library)</li> <li>Derivative Bee 7:00 PM (Hays 104)</li> </ul>
<b>WED 7th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad Considerations of Drug Development Process 12:10 PM (Hays 319)</li> </ul>
<b>THUR 8th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coffee and Careers 9:00 AM (1832 Brew)</li> <li>Chapel Talk 11:15 AM (Pioneer Chapel)</li> <li>Div III Colloquium 12:10 PM (Baxter 114)</li> <li>Titration Races 7:00 PM (Hays 104)</li> </ul>
<b>FRI 9th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TGIF 4:30 PM (Mall)</li> <li>Hayden Kammer Recital 7:30 PM (Salter Hall)</li> </ul>

## Wabash Club of Indianapolis

**It's Not Just a Ranking, It's a Commitment**



**When Wabash students call, our network answers. That helps students achieve success on and off campus, with internships and job opportunities.**

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## Staff editorial: Don't fall for Qatar's sportswashing



CARTOON BY ARMAN LUTHRA '26

Hearing countless shouts of “GOAL!” echoing through the stairs of Baxter Hall solidifies the World Cup as one of the most exciting sporting events worldwide. And it certainly is a worldwide spectacle. As the opening ceremony began, FOX broadcasters were all too eager to show off the seven gorgeous, intricate, brand-new stadiums throughout the host nation of Qatar. But what the coverage didn't show was the foundation of these new stadiums: thousands of exploited, dead migrant workers—who the World Cup hosts desperately want the international community to forget. The 2022 World Cup is set to be yet another example of sportswashing. Don't fall for it.

Sportswashing refers to a form of propaganda: the act of a group (often a government) attempting to improve its image or reputation through sporting events. *The Guardian* accredits the term and its recent popularity to human rights nonprofit Amnesty International, which in 2018 defined sportswashing as a tool that oppressive governments use to gain legitimacy and distract from human rights abuses.

Qatar officials responsible for the event have claimed that between 400 and 500 migrant workers have died on World Cup-related projects. However, research published by *The Guardian* in 2021 suggests that the real number—including migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka—is closer to 6,500.

According to Human Rights Watch, Qatari employers relied on the kafala sponsorship system to abuse and exploit workers. Impoverished migrants toiled

in unsafe conditions, and employers held the power to keep employees' passports and documentation to prohibit their escape from unsafe conditions. And when the families of missing and presumed-dead workers began to demand answers, cover-ups became just another price of doing business.

Qatar is certainly not the first, nor will it be the last, regime to use sports to cover up its human rights abuses. One need only look back to the last World Cup in Russia for an example. According to Human Rights Watch, at least 110 North Korean slaves worked on the construction of the Zenit Arena in St. Petersburg. Russia also used the event to cover up its rampant anti-LGBT legislation which came under heavy fire from human rights groups in the lead up to the tournament.

Or, to look at a more recent example, the Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf league has become synonymous with sportswashing for its dramatic entrance onto the golf scene. Human rights activists have long criticized the Saudi government for its genocide in Yemen and mistreatment of prisoners, and the murder of journalists.

For the rest of the tournament, cheer for the U.S. national team. Don your red, white and blue while blaring “God Bless America.” Call your British friends and tell them “it's called soccer now.” Enjoy this once-in-four years spectacle. But don't forget the bloody context that built the stadiums that house these games. And don't let the 2022 World Cup fulfill its dark goal: to help paint over the deaths of thousands of migrant workers. Don't fall victim to sportswashing.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## “SO IT'S LIKE A FALSE START?”

*Hi-Five to the international students among us for reluctantly explaining the offside rule 34,000 times over the past week. Cheers, mates.*

## WRAP IT BEFORE YOU TAP IT

*Hi-Five to Spotify Wrapped for giving us way more information than we need about our favorite artists and genres. If only we could get a similar yearly wrapped from the Hub.*

## BRONCOS COUNTRY, LET'S RIDE (?)

*Lo-Five to Russell Wilson... for so much. This week, let's Lo-five the fact that his wife threw a birthday party for him and only half the team showed up. You'd think Ciara could get more of a draw herself.*

## BALLS-TO-THE-WALL PERFORMANCE

*Hi-Five to Christian Pulisic for scoring the key goal to put the US ahead of Iran—even if it meant wounding the boys. Don't worry—we're sure you can replace them with the American flag truck nuts hanging from the Sig Chi pickups.*

## FOR THOSE ABOUT TO COMP, WE SALUTE YOU

*Hi-Five to every senior who looked at the comps panel email with horror. We're sorry to our fallen comrades who received their least favorite professor. Thoughts and prayers—it'll all be over soon.*

## Why Wabash men need to focus on women's rights in Iran



Quinn  
Leous '23

Reply to this opinion at qkleous23@wabash.edu

experience with this topic, I had almost no previous knowledge of these actions by the Iranian government prior to reading about them as part of my International Relations class with Dr. Irons. However, I have come to form an opinion that I hope all of you would share with me.

Like many, I believe what the Iranian government is doing is a complete violation of human rights, specifically those of Iranian women. While I do think it is important to understand that I obviously live in a more westernized country, where we do not experience these types of issues as often, it is still incredibly disheartening that women cannot choose to wear what they want in the 21st century. This just seems like a right that should be guaranteed to any human regardless of what country they live in. Additionally, regarding the deaths of protestors such as Mahsa Amina, if killing one's citizens in police custody is not a massive violation of human rights, then I'm not sure what is.

So why should Wabash men care? As students at an all-male college, it would be easy to write this off as an issue that doesn't pertain to us. However, I think this is a great example of an opportunity to stand up for those who may not be fully able to win on their own—who are voicing their opposition, but who face fierce repression. As Wabash men, we should try to better understand the Iranian citizens' suffering and educate ourselves and others further on the issue. Take some time to read the latest news. Talk to your roommate about why the plight of the Iranian women is an important issue. Find ways to support Iranian citizens' rights online. All in all, it's our duty to use the critical thinking skills we have developed here at Wabash to do good in this world, and I hope that we can use this opinion piece as a sign to make more of an effort to do this in other aspects of our lives as well.

Wabash men lead effectively. We know this. It's a part of our mission, and something that is stressed by our professors, coaches, and faculty members every day. One way to do this, however, is by making the effort to educate others on issues that we believe are important. The goal of this opinion piece is exactly that. As a Wabash man, I am advocating for us to be better educated on the women's rights issues that are currently going on in Iran, and I will make an attempt to do this briefly.

On September 13, Iranian police killed 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while she was under arrest. Her offense? Failing to correctly wear her hijab in public. The BBC has reported that officer beat her head with a baton. The police, perhaps unsurprisingly, tell a different story: she suffered a heart attack. Since Amini's funeral, many Iranian citizens, mainly women, have been protesting against their government. However, these protests have not been well-accepted (to put it far too lightly) by the Iranian theocracy. Additionally, an Iranian Human Rights group estimates that at least 300 citizens have died in the past few months, including 40 within the past week, as a result of the Iranian government cracking down on protests. Now to give a little background on my

## Wally's Wall: Advice to freshman self

### The Question:

With the benefit of hindsight, what is one piece of advice you would give to your freshman self?

### Seth Acero '25

I would tell my freshman self that the reading assignments in the syllabus are to be read before class begins. Knowing this useful piece of information is a great way not to get kicked out of Professor Rhodes' freshman tutorial on the second day of class.

### Drew Johannes '23

Stop trying to do everything at once. Although it looks super fun and comes with a ton of experience, focus more on your schoolwork. That's why we go to college in the first place.

### Austin Stockton '24

I know COVID sucks, and the political landscape is depressing, but I would try to find those to be motivating factors rather than diminishing ones. This will help you be a better man, and a wiser one too. While the past seemed like forever ago, and the present looking bleak, the future can still hold up.

### Jackson Bologna '23

Don't be afraid to reach out for help, in whatever it may be. Wabash has done a great job recently of addressing not only the academic but also the demanding mental health needs that life at college can bring for new students. Also, reach out to your peers. They have perspectives that can bring you a new and healthy understanding of life in college, especially here on our campus.

### Logan Smith '23

Be open to things that make you uncomfortable; expanding your understanding of different subjects is always good. Take time to appreciate how far you have come, and take the time to thank people who have helped you become who you are. Finally, figure out what you are good and bad at, and then surround yourself with people that help you to grow in your weak areas—whether it be professionally or within your friendships.

### Owen Runge '24

I would tell myself to participate and interact more on campus. The relationships you build here are not only important for your time at Wabash, but for after as well. Plus, participating more means that you can find friends who share similar interests.

### Seth Kirkpatrick '24

Find a balance between things you need to do and things you want to do, otherwise you'll constantly feel burnt-out. I focused too much of my time on studying when I should have been joining clubs and hitting the gym. You have an entire life of work ahead of you, so begin putting your health first; get those eight hours of sleep, get your cardio in, and life becomes a lot more enjoyable.

### Trevor McKinney '24

Never be afraid to try something new and expand your horizons. You may discover that you are passionate about something that you didn't even know you would enjoy. I took a leap of faith my freshman year and began studying philosophy, and I sit here now as a junior majoring in it.

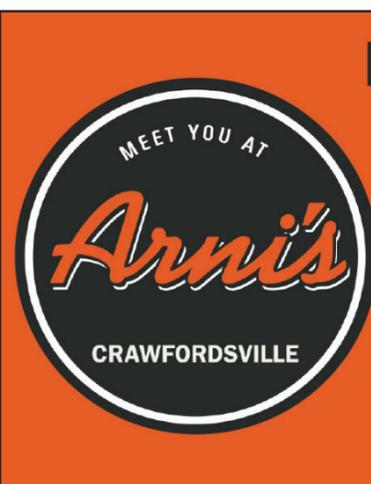
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**Review: You may want to ‘catch ‘em all’, but think carefully before picking this one**



COURTESY OF THE POKEMON COMPANY

**HAYDEN KAMMER '24** | STAFF WRITER • When Game Freak announced “Pokémon Scarlet and Violet” nine months ago, I, as well as the rest of the Pokémon community, was ecstatic. How cool would it be to study at a Pokémon Academy? And to play in Pokémon’s first-ever open-world game? But, upon loading the game for the first time, fans’ hopes were quickly dashed. It turned out that the newest additions to the Pokémon franchise were choppy, confusing and filled with bugs. If the idea sounded too good to be true, that’s because it was.

Fans had high hopes for the game—high enough to excuse the frame rate drops and memory issues in the trailers. We thought it would be fixed in development, but we were wrong. The open-world game turned out to be too much for Game Freak to handle—the processors simply couldn’t manage everything at once.

I played the game as soon as it came out on November 18, and it didn’t take long before I ran into problems. Not even five minutes in, I encountered my first glitch, making for a terribly frustrating gameplay experience.

As I continued my journey into the land of Paldea, I quickly fell in love with the art, story and new Pokémon. Pokémon like Greavard and Dachsbun stole my heart, and Arven’s story stepped on it. Traveling around and completing the gym challenge was tricky at times as the in-game map wasn’t always reliable. But the story was strong and made up for a lot of these issues.

The open-world aspect of the game provided endless hours to get lost in, a heavy emphasis on the word lost. Each area I visited felt bland and generic, without any graphics to spice the game up. It felt as if the designers placed an isolated tree in a random area and said, “this is creative.” Each area felt the same, which stifled the natural explorer in me.

These games raise many issues that Game Freak has tried to ignore for years. Each new installation in the Pokémon franchise follows the same formula—choose one of three starting Pokémon, receive your Pokédex, meet your rival, go challenge all the Pokémon Gyms and become the champion. Then, go into the post-game and encounter even more difficult challenges and get a legendary Pokémon.

Game Freak changes the formula; they add more side-quests for players to complete during the main game, but by taking away many Pokémon-classics like the Battle Tower, it just feels like they have hurt the game more than they have helped it. They throw away quality of life features established in other games for worse features, such as the arduous task of joining a Tera Raid Battle.

With all these issues, the games still aren’t irredeemable. It’s a big game of “win some and lose some,” and we certainly win in the story and design aspect, but lose heavily in the graphics and technical aspect. Nevertheless, the stories are fun and heartwarming, keeping me engaged and excited when I learn something new about Paldea, or when advancing the story.

The new Pokémon make the games easily-accessible for anyone hoping to enter the franchise. And, if you’ve been a long-time fan of the Pokémon franchise, it makes it easy to overlook the games’ messy and glitchy bugs. But if you’re a fan of seamless, smooth running games, this one isn’t for you.

**FINAL VERDICT: 2.5/5 WALLYS**



## Review: Nickelback’s new album is a 40-car pileup with no survivors

*An identity crisis masquerading as an album, ‘Get Rollin’ fails even to meet Nickelback’s very low bar*

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23** | SPORTS EDITOR • Is it heavy metal? Is it poorly executed stadium country? No—it’s... Nickelback?

Back again for a 10th studio album, Nickelback has truly outdone itself by producing an album that is somehow crippling inconsistent and yet carries all the hallmarks of the band’s signature sound. But that does not eradicate the simple fact that “Get Rollin’” is, perhaps predictably, a car wreck of preposterous scale.

To give Nickelback credit where it’s due, the opening five seconds of the album’s headline song “San Quentin” had me hooked. The double-sticked standard rock intro, stylistically far more of heavy metal than of Canadian dad rock, had me wondering: could Nickelback have finally evolved to a new style?

No. “San Quentin” drags on for three painful minutes, the only saving grace being that lead singer Chad Kroeger’s raspy shouting is somewhat drowned out by ear-splitting guitars and a woefully-generic drumbeat. And yet somehow, the opening number is arguably the most redeeming part of the entire album. With its heavy metal timbre and titular reference to Johnny Cash, “San Quentin” can at least pass as a harmless fluff piece.

The same, however, cannot be said for the proceeding ten songs. The album’s next two titles, “Skinny Little Missy” and “Those Days,” are almost completely forgettable, though the former does make for rather uncomfortable listening. Kroeger may feel like a “kid in a candy store,” but something about his lust for a “skinny little missy” is quite nauseating.

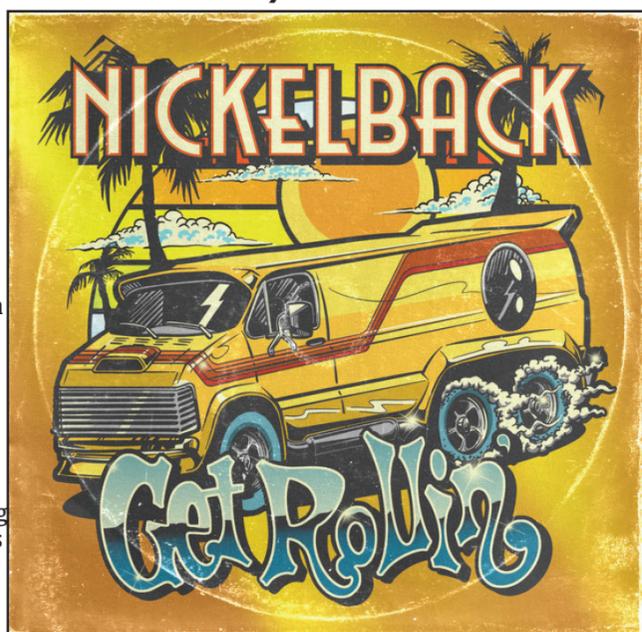
The album swings violently between genres, and the most obvious example is in the song “High Time.” Coming off the back of three

fairly standard Nickelback tunes, the album’s abrupt turn into acoustic country music falls completely flat. It sounds far more like a parody of a country song than it does a genuine attempt. Kroeger sings that “it’s high time that you and I got rolling,” but in reality, the only thing it’s high time for is Nickelback to settle into retirement.

The genre hopping continues in “Vegas Bomb” and “Tidal Wave” where the latter feels like a Beach Boys song if the Beach Boys was a 1990s emo punk band. And as for the former, the jokes write themselves, because the only bomb in Vegas will be ticket sales of Nickelback’s next tour.

Yet perhaps the greatest, by which I mean cringiest, moment of the compilation comes in the song “Does Heaven Even Know You’re Missing?” Critics of Nickelback have long accused the band of re-using the same material over and over, but never before have they straight-up plagiarized themselves in such an obvious fashion. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that the chord progression of the album’s seventh song is exactly the same as the band’s hit record “Photograph.” But hey, why be original when you can simply recycle that one song that made you a meme in the first place?

The rest of the album comes across as more of an apology than it does a musical story. The last song is



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

even titled “Just One More,” a sad admission that even the producers couldn’t stand to bear hearing another generic 2-4 rock beat. “Help me understand why I’m here,” Kroeger chants—I have to wonder if that’s meant to be a profound pontification or a desperate cry for help.

I am all too aware that making fun of Nickelback has become an easy target in recent years. In fact, I was almost prepared to give this album a somewhat positive review just to counter the online meme culture narrative. But I can wholeheartedly say that there is nothing redeemable about the sound, lyrics, creativity, or even entertainment value of this half-hearted, corporate rock. The only things I have taken from this listening experience are a ruined Spotify algorithm and an hour of my life that I will never get back.

**FINAL VERDICT: 0/5 WALLYS**

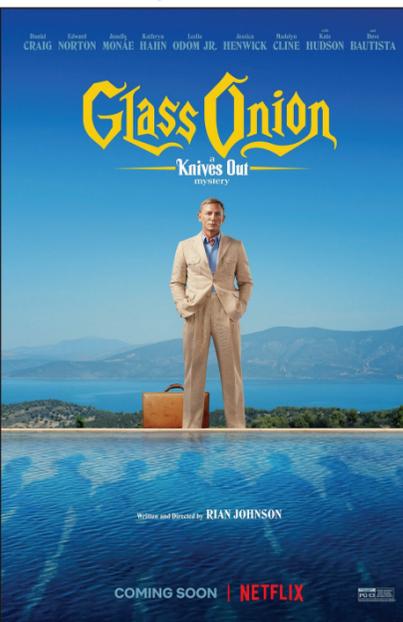


## Review: ‘Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery’ fulfills the witty, whodunnit legacy of the instant-classic original

**COOPER E. SMITH '23** | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” (2022) is a comedic cinematic Clue board—only this time, the weapons of choice include Jeremy Renner’s signature hot sauce, a semi-stolen “Mona Lisa” and rhino-based erection pills. What a game indeed.

Directed by Rian Johnson, the film follows Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) on another case following the events of “Knives Out” (2019). Blanc investigates a new cast of characters in a murder mystery on a billionaire’s Greek island, which the unwilling witnesses traveled to as an escape from COVID-19 quarantining. Like the first film, “Glass Onion” is full of twists and turns, all delivered with a dash of comedy and impeccable timing.

From his feigned confusion to



COURTESY OF AMC THEATRES

his knowing glances, Craig has perfected the aloof, disarming, but ever-so-sharp persona in his second performance as Blanc. Craig’s southern accent proves less off-putting than the earliest moments in the original (though Johnson’s original idea—to have Benoit Blanc’s accent inexplicably change each film—was a missed opportunity).

The rest of the all-star cast is similarly excellent. Janelle Monáe and Kathryn Hahn never disappoint, and Dave Bautista and Madeline Cline pull off comedic parodies of Joe Rogan and “Call Her Daddy” star Alex Cooper. “Hamilton” star Leslie Odom Jr. plays the same role he always seems to play: the quiet, mysterious, shadowy figure who maybe—but only maybe—can be trusted. Though Odom’s character and performance are almost identical to his role in “Murder on the Orient Express” (2017), he once again is memorable and convincing. Sure, he has a formula. But if it ain’t broke...

The film’s opening is a much slower burn than usual for Johnson. Where the 2019 original begins immediately with a dead body, “Glass Onion” begins with a fun yet too-long homage to audience-shared misery in the early days of the pandemic. Around the characters’ Zoom screens are brief celebrity cameos, including posthumous final performances from Stephen Sondheim and Angela Lansbury.

The biggest twist in the film comes much earlier than expected—and it packs a punch. The plot then halts, rewinds, and travels through the beginning from a completely different perspective. While the twist itself is compelling (even if somewhat unoriginal), the rewind effect means that audiences spend the middle third of the film

recapping. At some too-drawn-out moments, it feels that Johnson is over-explaining the punchline, if you will, to the point of exhaustion.

The resolution, in short, is odd. This represents the film’s greatest departure from the original, along with standard whodunnit tropes. The cinematography of the climax is outstanding, demonstrating a thematic, galaxy-brain riff on Blanc’s famous “aha” moments, where he connects the crime to the title of the film. But beyond the cinematography and the acting, the rest of the reveal just feels somewhat out of place.

At first viewing, I rolled my eyes. Really? An ending that smacks of defiant, borderline high-school-tier edginess? But it all changed the next morning as I opened my favorite decaying bird app.

As I stared incredulously at a bizarre barrage of tweets, clapbacks and bedside table images from the plutocratic “genius” of Tesla and Twitter, I couldn’t help but think about the “Glass Onion.” The bizarre ending turns on a quirky self-proclaimed genius with limitless resources whose ineptitude eventually spells his demise.

And smirking, I understood Johnson’s ending. I may not have chosen it—but scrolling through Twitter, I was ready to shatter a glass onion too.

“Glass Onion” is a fun, never-gance-at-your-watch whodunnit that lives up the legacy of the original. It’s a solid stand alone film. But unexpectedly, the film may serve best as a comedic middle finger from an audience tired of the endlessly-praised and endlessly-resourced personalities who sometimes seem too big to fail. But at least in the world of Glass Onion, we can enjoy a defiant, though bizarre, pose.

**FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS**



## Scarlet Honors and 2026 prospects shine spotlight on IFC and changing rush

**SAM BENEDICT '25** | FEATURES EDITOR • As Scarlet Honors weekend approaches, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) is staring into the eyes of their future. However, that future will be determined by them.

On December 2, prospective students will arrive at Wabash College for Scarlet Honors weekend. This group of high school seniors are a diverse collective of both accepted and undecided Wabash students, as well as students undecided on fraternity or independent life. The IFC hopes that these prospective students will elect to attend Wabash and join a fraternity. If previous trends continue, some fraternities will bear the consequences.

IFC President Brett Driscoll '24 took office less than two months ago, but has already created lofty goals for the fraternity system. "70% fraternity and 30% independent is the IFC executive board's target goal," said Driscoll. "We do recognize that that is a very lofty goal. But that's something that I'm excited about. I think that setting the bar high, provides enough growth potential. We have a mission, we have a goal and we're going to do everything in our power to achieve that goal."

Previous Scarlet Honors weekends have been plagued by poor communication, frustrating fraternity behavior and prospects leaving Crawfordsville looking for a new home. If the IFC is going to achieve their lofty goal of 70% 2026 students joining a fraternity, new initiatives will need to be enacted. Matt Lesniak '25, treasurer of the IFC, believes that the new events and standards for fraternities will positively impact the 2026 class.

"We hosted a meeting with rush chairs before Thanksgiving break in preparation for scholar honors where we all met and exchanged ideas for what worked and what didn't work," said Lesniak. "It was an open table with all rush chairs, both previous and prospective, because I think that all houses could learn from each other. This year, we were planning on doing a social mixer with all fraternities and having a table with guys from their house being at the event so they could talk to prospective students. Previous prospective students have provided feedback that students want to just talk to guys in the house and see what each house is like."

Historically, the IFC has been a passive organization that refuses to offer guidance, maturity and wisdom to houses, but this year's cabinet

believes that they hold an important, complex role within the Wabash ecosystem.

"We are fighting an uphill battle, but I think that we are progressing and some progress is important," said Driscoll. "From an organizational structure, we have taken a role of planning and overseeing what truly makes this successful, while using the successes from some houses as an example. We're facing significant issues that have been prevalent for a while, but I do think that the houses that are in trouble know that and they're doing all that they can to combat their current state. From an IFC point of view, we have definitely taken more of an active supporting role of each of the chapters. I don't think that we have been too involved, but I do think that we have done a very good job at making sure that the houses are aware of our current state of where we are in the world, given the notions of fraternities as well"

While the IFC has an obvious goal of bringing as many students into the fraternity system as possible, the cabinet recognizes that the decisions they make are more complex than what it seems. Student leaders recognize that Scarlet Honors weekend is an opportunity for Wabash students to talk with undecided prospective students and convince them to commit to Wabash. In the spirit of Wabash unity, the IFC's social mixer for Scarlet Honors weekend will include the Independent Men's Association (IMA) and Malcolm X Institution (MXI).

"The IFC has extended an invitation for the IMA and the MXI to host tables at this social mixer," said Driscoll. "I don't know if they are going to take advantage of that but they have been extended invitations. At the end of the day, the main goal of this weekend is to sell prospects on Wabash. That is the main goal. It is our responsibility as an IFC executive board to take those prospective students and sell them on Wabash."

While the IFC can promote rush, as well as Wabash, it is up to the individual fraternity rush chairs to seal the deal. Beta Theta Pi Rush Chair Robbie Manuzzi '25 is experiencing the process for the first time.

"This year we're looking for some number above 20 new members," said Manuzzi. "Recently, house numbers have been down so we want a big rush class. We are looking for good guys that we think would fit within our house dynamic and guys that display characteristics that we

### Rush



### Chairs

#### Beta Theta Pi



Robbie Manuzzi '25:  
317.448.5460  
Luka DiFilippo '25:  
773.551.6020

#### Phi Delta Theta



Jaron Bradford '24:  
765.376.9665  
Noah Pendleton '25:  
317.443.0472

#### Delta Tau Delta



Liam Grennon '24:  
603.290.1455  
Briggs McGill '24:  
765.716.8193

#### Phi Gamma Delta



Sam Benedict '25:  
317.694.5229  
Matthew Hendrick '25:  
317.270.4322

#### Kappa Sigma



Joe Styers '24:  
574.780.9072

#### Phi Kappa Psi



Chris Royal '26:  
812.381.7050  
Ethan Gonzalez '26:  
801.637.2259

#### Lambda Chi Alpha



Ethan Johns '25:  
317.519.2364

#### Tau Kappa Epsilon



Jake Lawson '24:  
317.518.6950

#### Sigma Chi



Sam Long '25:  
219.501.1249  
Lewis Dellinger '25:  
574.870.8005

#### Theta Delta Chi



Jared Araiza '25:  
956.460.8272  
Ethan Hill '26:  
317.617.0464

want to see. Lastly, we want guys that are willing to take the initiative to be involved across campus."

Fraternities have recently experienced a decline in rush numbers when compared to decades past. "Back to the 1980s and 1990s, fraternities expected to have most students be apart of Greek Life," said Driscoll. "From a couple of my conversations with alums, my understanding is that Wabash used to consistently be 85% greek. It's important to maintain this proportion because 86% of all alumni donations come from fraternity members. There's a reason why the College works the way it does, and that is through the bonds

of the fraternity system. If we can do our job and utilize our platform, to put kids in this position to succeed and to have brothers around them that are supported by the fraternity system, we will all be able to reap the benefits."

Scarlet Honors weekend will prove to be an important indication of what the 2026 Wabash College class will look like. The IFC has enacted new initiatives to build upon last year's rush class, such as cleanliness checks, the social mixer, roundtable discussions, and collaboration with administration, but the effort will only be recognized following the results of this weekend.

## Ramsay archive: Honor Scholars, March 1982

Page 4

THE BACHELOR

Friday, March 19, 1982

### "Honor Scholars" A Renowned Tradition For Academic Excellence

by Glenn Carter  
Feature Editor

This weekend over 250 high school seniors will be on campus in order to participate in the renowned Honor Scholarship competition.

After various planned activities on Friday afternoon, including an address by President Salter, the visiting students will take two tests, in English, history, foreign language and mathematics or science on Saturday. The top 20 students will receive 4-year

endowments of either \$5,200, or \$3,900 (full tuition or 3/4 tuition) which increase with tuition, the only stipulation being that the student must maintain a 3.00 (B) grade average.

Not only is Honor Scholar's weekend an important one for admissions, traditionally over 70% of those who take the tests enroll at Wabash, but it is also an important time for the fraternities. According to one fraternity rush chairman "Honor Scholar's weekend is very important for rush, as prospective students have a chance to visit all the fraternities and meet some of their members. Most of the people we pledge visited the house sometime during Honor Scholar's weekend."

All of the living units will be having open house this Friday night, and most will have parties Saturday night, so there will be ample opportunity for visiting seniors to see the different residences.

The entire staff of The Bachelor and the College would like to wish those participating in the competition good luck and a warm welcome to Wabash.

**A Tradition Older Than We Thought**

Believe it or not, Honor Scholarships at Wabash College are almost 100 years old. The first Honor Scholarships were given in 1885 by the President of the College to three students who had displayed unusual merit in their secondary careers.

This program was continued, with several outstanding students being selected each year to receive full-tuition scholarships, until 1952, when the school was given \$80,000 by the Volker Foundation to support an Honor Scholarship-type program. Five students were to be chosen to receive \$1,000 per year, and five to be given \$500 yearly grants, with preference given to those intending to go into education or the ministry.

When the Volker grant was exhausted in 1957, the school decided to continue the program out of its own financial aid budget.

In 1968 it was decided to grant 20 scholarships on a merit, as well as financial need basis. The purpose of the Honor Scholarships was deemed twofold: 1) to give outstanding men a chance to earn handsome stipends and 2) to give the candidates a better insight and exposure to Wabash College. This remains the fundamental purpose of the scholarships.

According to Dean Moore, "Honor Scholars provide the scholarly core of the student body." Indeed this seems to be the case as Honor Scholars as a whole have traditionally had well above the required B average. This year ten full tuition (\$5,200) and ten 3/4 tuition (\$3,900) scholarships will be given. Again, good luck to all candidates.

**McKinney Announces Faculty Appointments**

Dean Paul C. McKinney announced the appointment of four professors to the Wabash College faculty. The new professors are Dennis Lobstein, Timothy Sipe, Ira Smolensky, and Clark Williamson. The temporary appointments are positions left open by faculty members currently on sabbatical.

Lobstein is serving as a visiting instructor of psychology for the spring semester. A graduate of Purdue University in 1976, Lobstein hopes to receive a Ph.D. degree in exercise psychology from his alma mater.

A David Ross Research Fellow while teaching at Purdue last fall, Lobstein won the Sigma Xi Award for Noteworthy Research. A member of several professional organizations, Lobstein is the author of three published articles. His interests include Asian fitness

#### Divisions

Continued from Page 1

professor like George Davis. You can look at it really as the library being the laboratory for a pre-law or history student.

"A lot of people forget, too," he noted. "That psychology students have to spend time in labs, and have to develop many of the quantitative skills demanded of a Division I student."

"It's not that we don't like the arts, humanities or social sciences," said Dave Buckles, a senior pre-med. "It's just that with our lab and course requirements, we don't always have the time to take a lot of Div. II or III courses."

"I'm sure that at times Division I students feel put upon," said Div. I Chairman Dr. Austin Brooks, "and on very rare occasions you hear some complaints, but they know it has to be done. Yet you can see that science students develop a certain 'mentality' for labs, as if lab sessions become a sort of social gathering for them."

"I remember after Friday afternoon labs," recalled Brooks, a '61 Wabash grad, "the trips we'd make to Tommy's downtown for a brew and enjoy a good time."

Giving Division II equal "hardship" time, Matthews, who scored a distinction on comprehensive exams last month, cited the lack of objective tests as the biggest burden for students of the arts or humanities.

"I think the amount of subjective essays you're asked to do on exams is enormous compared to Division I or III."

**Double Indemnity?**

Jim Davis, a junior, is one of a handful of Wabash undergrads who has chosen to take on two divisions at once. But whereas most double majors cross between Division II and III, Davis is a pre-med who also majors in philosophy.

Conflicts in scheduling were his chief lamentation, with

or III areas of study before college.

Said junior Brent Rosenbower, a former bi-major who is now an economics convert, "I found out that my aptitudes lie more in Division III. Though Economics may not be as competitive as a pre-med program, I think the degree of difficulty is still definitely there. I chose science as a freshman because I guess I was a little naive about other fields in high school."

**Either One. The Best Of All Three**

"Our Division I record speaks for itself," said Brooks. "And he's right. Last year Division I sent 21 of 24 students who applied to medical school, and some 85 percent were accepted to post-graduate science or health programs, such as engineering or biology. Looking beyond the statistics, however, Brooks feels that Division I students provide useful technical expertise in helping students or professionals in Div. II or III-related fields make the right decisions for society."

"Whether we like it or not, almost every aspect of society today is grounded in some sort of technological area. Div. I students will help people deal with and relate to this fact."

And in rebuttle to current feelings on campus, Brooks emphasized that Div I students are, in fact, well represented in campus participation.

Frederick finds equal excellence in what Division III has to offer students. According to him, the Wabash pre-law committee has reported for the last two years close to 100 percent acceptance to law school.

"And our Econ department obviously gives students a leg up in the business world. Looking at Wabash alumni, I think that's pretty self-evident," he said. Social science students also help other students address the ever-present social context of their other studies and classes, he felt.



History Professor Peter Frederick discusses the life of Dr. Jack

54<sup>th</sup> Christmas Festival of Music & Readings

Wednesday, 7 December 2022  
Pioneer Chapel 8:00pm

Wabash College  
Glee Club ~ Wamidan ~ Carols  
Prelude at 7:30pm  
Livestream available at [wabash.edu/live](http://wabash.edu/live)

# FEATURES

## Wabash students work to revive campus culture



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25

Hank Ruff performs outside of Delta Tau Delta during a TGIF event organized by the Student Events committee

**JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER**  
The Wabash Mafia is a presence around campus and across the country. However, the camaraderie and brotherhood that create this powerful group have been missing in previous years.

Coming off of the COVID-19 pandemic, student events at Wabash College saw a significant decrease in attendance. To many, campus felt isolated, depressed and lonely.

However, revitalized efforts from multiple members of the Wabash community have challenged this trend and begun to turn it around. The Student Events Committee within the Student Senate has faced this semester with the sole goal of improving event attendance and finding the spirit that has been missing in years past.

"Historically, I think Wabash has a strong culture in general," said member of the Student Events Committee Lewis Dellinger '25. "We're very tradition based, and I think that plays an important role in the continuity of the culture we expect."

Although most events between the Student Events Committee, Student Life Committee, IFC, IMA and other organizations have been well attended, challenges have arisen.

Scheduling conflicts across campus that have divided the student body is the main detriment. By forcing students to pick between multiple events at the same time, attendance is often average or below average for all of those events.

These issues are common for students that are managing a brand-new sphere of influence, but it isn't something that will prevent future success.

"It takes each Wabash man individually, to walk around with pride, with their heads up, everyone together, because we all understand the difficulty it takes to go through here," said Dellinger. "Our goal when planning an event is to bring people together with the outcome being that students feel supported by each other and that they have someone in their corner that can be counted on."

When asked about how Wabash culture compared to his first year, IFC president Brett Driscoll '24 noted that campus is accepting the pride of being a Wabash man that has been seen for decades. Driscoll experienced his first year at Wabash when COVID stopped the normalcy of the campus.

"The strides in which we have made since the COVID year have been incredible," said Driscoll. He

also noted that some of these efforts include the IFC hosting more events and streamlining communication with all of the fraternities on campus. Driscoll specifically pointed to Megagate, the campus wide tailgate that took place for the Monon Bell game, as an example of Wabash coming together in unity.

"Megagate was a huge success, there were guys from every single living unit, not only to attend but in support to make it happen," said Driscoll. "Whether it be a fraternity man or an independent, there was a collection of Wabash men demonstrating their passion for this campus," said Driscoll.

Dellinger also agrees that campus culture has been on the rise, describing it as "significantly better than last year." He noted that the Student Events Committee has been focused on reaching goals for events, such as getting 400 to 500 students at TGIF by implementing live musical acts, which have been key in improving campus unity.

While both the IFC and Student Events Committee have been doing all they can to host events throughout campus, there have been some setbacks that will need to be resolved. Dellinger noted that communication between committees, the student body and administration is key to an event going without a hitch.

"I think another part would be just bringing in help from Vic Lindsay and Campus Security, that way we can be open with them, and they can mark it on their calendars," said Dellinger. "By bringing attention to the various stakeholders involved, we can eliminate any last second scrambles that needlessly create exorbitant amounts of stress."

However, while these challenges are being addressed, Driscoll reminds us of the importance of these organizations on campus.

"I think all we need to do is keep bringing the guys together," said Driscoll. "The effect of unity on students as well as something that we can all look forward to has impacts on our academics, relationships, and mental health. Celebrate unity – and celebrate Wabash."

## Guest essay: IFC's take on Scarlet Honors weekend

BRETT DRISCOLL '24 | IFC PRESIDENT

Fraternities at Wabash have historically been the hallmark of what it means to be a Wabash man. For this tradition to continue, we need as many guys as possible to go Greek. Fraternities across the nation are infamous for their subpar standard of living and their constant childish behavior—but at Wabash, this isn't the case.

Fraternities at Wabash provide every brother an equal chance and opportunity to learn, grow and become the very best version of themselves. Our members pride themselves with involvement on various sports teams, achieving excellence in the classroom and lending a hand to the community as a whole. Everyone knows Wabash is different from other schools, and it's because we do things right.

With Scarlet Honors here, fraternities need to come together to share the greater experience some prospects may completely dismiss: Greek life. While getting kids into the Greek system is our ultimate goal, it requires all of us to do a few key things.

First things first, we need to recognize the sheer importance of this weekend. The future of Wabash will be on campus, and even though the prospects may not know it yet, we know they are best fit to join our fraternal brotherhood. Without Greek life on campus, Wabash wouldn't be the same as we know and love.

Secondly, we must bring each other up. Tearing houses down and dirty rushing is not a way to do this. Here, we are all bound by the Gentleman's rule, and this toxic form of rushing is not how a true gentleman acts. Prospects should be rushed by highlighting the successes of each and every individual house, not by tearing others down.

If a prospect doesn't appear to be the best fit for your house, encourage them to rush another! One of the main characteristics our College prides itself on is its access to a diverse set of cultures, beliefs and ideals. Every prospect has a story to share and a place to call home on campus; it's our job to facilitate this connection.

As a collective body, we need to focus on the growth of not just our own houses, but the Greek community as a whole. Scarlet Honors Weekend is the biggest rush event we have at Wabash, and we need to make the most of it.

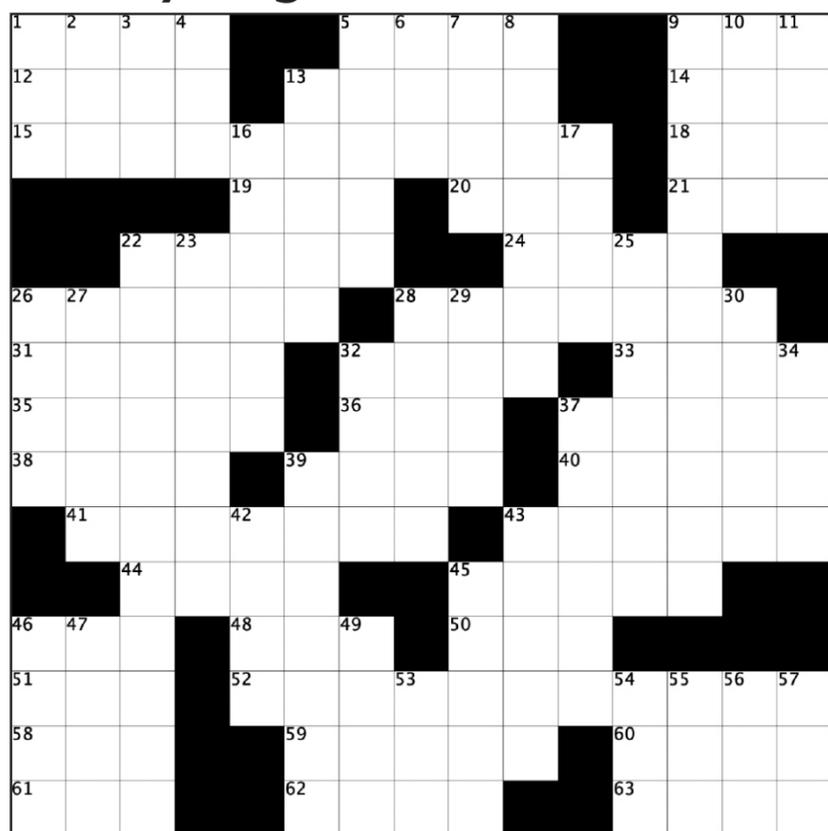
# GAMES

## Sudoku

1							2	9
9			6				5	8
		2		9	8		7	4
			2	6		4	3	
	6	7			5			
2	3				4		8	
		6	4			7		
5		9	7			2		3
		4	3	1	9			

## 'Live from Washington, D.C.!' Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

- Across**
- Inhalation, casually
  - \_\_\_\_\_ bag
  - Yammer
  - Not just willing
  - Disney character 'we don't talk about'
  - Jewelry, in slang
  - \*Phil Hartman, Michael McKean, Darrell Hammond
  - Doubtfire's title
  - Horse's morsel
  - '50s campaign nickname
  - Encountered
  - Ties
  - Woman of the knight?
  - Word that Eminem rhymed with 'door hinge'
  - The A of 55-Down
  - (mass)(acceleration)
  - Ω or N
  - Winterize, in a way



- Panache
- \*Late-night show popular for its presidential parodies, shown in each of the starred clues
- Country legend Haggard
- Sunni, e.g.
- Started a round of golf
- Hall's pop music partner
- Kebab holders
- Say yes
- Employee safety org.
- Kitchen gadget
- Urban transport
- Under the weather
- 'If you ask me,' in texts
- Carte preceder
- \*Will Ferrell, Chris Parnell, Darrell Hammond, Will Forte, Jason Sudeikis
- Alley denizen
- Dodge
- "South Pacific" setting
- Mer, en anglais
- Stocking stuffers?
- Dog \_\_\_\_\_
- Touch lightly
- Baseball stat.
- The whole shebang
- Coagulate
- South side?
- Campaign
- Against
- Instruction manual, perhaps
- \*Dan Aykroyd, Joe Piscopo
- Farm unit
- Needle point?
- Cutting edge
- Large eel
- Not far off
- \*Fred Armisen, Jay Pharoah
- Stirs up, as an insurrection
- Bug
- Gets rid of, Mafia-style
- Biff Loman and Blanche DuBois
- Boleyn and Hathaway
- PG
- Filmmaker Woody
- 'Surfer,' so to speak
- Try
- Russian city that lends its name to a cocktail
- What a tasseographer reads
- Fillmore's party
- Zeroed in
- One, for one
- Mr. Mistoffelees musical
- Medicinal plant
- Word spelled out by Nat King Cole in a 1964 tune
- Caviar, e.g.
- Fraternity offering
- Netherlands opponent: Abbr.
- As a fox
- '\_\_\_\_\_ A Pirate' (Klaus Badelt track)



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## This week in sports



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Ahmoni Jones '24 drives toward the basket against Maryville University on November 19, 2022, at Chadwick Court.**

**ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR** • As the fall semester winds down, so do most sports here at Wabash. The swimming and wrestling teams are both preparing for their final meets of the fall semester while basketball charges head-first into the conference portion of its season.

### Basketball: Buccilla's big day

Over the break, the Wabash College basketball team held on to defeat Anderson University 87-85 in a tightly contested intra-state showdown. Despite trailing by six points at the half and being down by as much as eight in the second, the resilient Little Giants

remarkably clawed their way back into the game.

Shooting over 50% from three, combined with increasing ball movement allowed the Little Giants offense to flow and produce more easily down the stretch, resulting in Wabash taking a two-point lead into the final minute of the game. In the dying seconds, Anderson's buzzer-beating attempt missed the basket which allowed Wabash to escape with a much-coveted road win.

Vinny Buccilla '25 led the Little Giants with a career-high 25 points, including seven three-pointers, while Champ McCorkle

'24 added 16 points. The Little Giants offensive efficiency could be seen by the fact that they had 21 assists to only five turnovers on the night, allowing them to maximize their possessions, especially in the second half.

However, on Wednesday, November 30, the Little Giants fell to a 57-65 defeat at the hands of Earlham College. Earlham held Wabash to 17.4% from beyond the arc, making for a long night at Chadwick Court.

On Saturday, December 3, the Little Giants begin conference play by facing off against Oberlin at 2 p.m. at Chadwick. Then, on Tuesday, December 6, the team will travel to Louisville, Kentucky, to face off against Division I newcomer Bellarmine University in an exhibition game. Bellarmine knocked off perennial powerhouse Louisville in its first game of the season.

### Swimming: Bouncing back

The Wabash College swimming and diving team finished third in the 2022 Gail Moll Pebworth Invitational on November 18-20 at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatics Center. Only Birmingham-Southern and Centre College accumulated more points over the three-day competition.

The Little Giants produced balanced results across the board, with dozens of swimmers placing in the finals of their respective events. Barret Smith '26 returned a 1:57.38 time to earn a fifth-place finish in the final of

200-yard backstroke while Jacob Penrose '23 captured sixth place in the 1650 freestyle with a time of 16:55.15.

Additionally, Justice Wenz '25 earned a fifth-place finish in the 200 backstroke with a 2:11.30 effort, while Dane Market '26 finished eighth in the same event.

The team returns to action for a huge clash against DePauw on Friday, December 2. The meet will begin at 7 p.m. at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

### Wrestling: Heldt '23 conquers Concordia Open

At the beginning of Thanksgiving Break, the Little Giants wrestling team participated in the Concordia Open in Mequon, Wisconsin. Wabash produced an extremely impressive showing, with seven wrestlers earning top-five finishes in their respective contests.

Unsurprisingly, Jack Heldt '23 produced several impressive results to claim the heavyweight championship with a pin of his opponent in the final round. Teammates James Day '26 and Blake McGee '25 supplemented Heldt's performance with third place finishes at 125 pounds and 133 pounds respectively. Four other Wabash wrestlers would follow these performances to claim top five placings.

The Little Giants return to the mat on December 3 at 10 a.m. in the Indiana Little State Tournament at Manchester University.

## Swimming prepares for arrival of Dannies



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**Keane Albright '25 prepares to compete in the 200-yard backstroke against Albion College on October 29, 2022, at the Class of 1950 Natatorium in Crawfordsville.**

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR** • The Wabash College swimming and diving team goes up against its fiercest rivals on Friday, December 2, as the team takes on the DePauw Tigers. This will be the final meet of the team's fall season, and they hope to go out with a splash.

The Little Giants go into the contest with DePauw having finished third out of 10 teams at the Gail Moll Pebworth Invitational on November 18-20. Wabash scored 1,683 points to clinch third place, just 9.5 points above fourth-place Franklin College.

Jacob Penrose '23 emerged as Wabash's highest scorer at the Gail Pebworth, accumulating 107 points to finish 16th overall. Penrose secured sixth place in both the 1650-yard freestyle and 400-yard individual medley events. He also captured a ninth-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:59.99.

"I was extremely happy with how I swam and how we swam as a team at our past invite," said Penrose. "A lot of the guys are hitting times they haven't been able to throw down earlier this season, so we're extremely excited for the upcoming DePauw meet."

The team's previous competition was also a chance for some freshmen to show off their skills. One standout performer was Barret Smith '26. The rookie from Richardson, Texas, put up 85 points over the three days, including a fifth-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke, to finish 33rd overall. Xander Straw '26, a native of Mooresville, Indiana, also had a strong display, finishing third in the 500-yard freestyle.

**"A lot of the guys are hitting times they haven't been able to throw down earlier this season, so we're extremely excited for the upcoming DePauw meet."**

- Jacob Penrose '23

"We've got a really good freshmen class, and we know we can do well this season," said Straw. "The message is just to get better every day. As long as we keep a mindset of improving and working on something new each day, it will be a really good year."

The Wabash team will complete the fall portion of its season with the home meet against DePauw. The Tigers and the Little Giants are virtually neck-and-neck in the NCAC and DIII standings with just two points separating the two teams. And, as with any athletic event against DePauw, the team is excited at the prospect of a bumper crowd.

"We match up really well in a lot of the events on Friday," said Penrose. "It should be pretty close. They notoriously swim really well at this meet, so we'll need all the support we can get."

The freshmen on the team, who will experience their first Wabash-DePauw meet, echoed similar sentiments.

"I'm excited, there's going to be a lot of hype," said Straw. "Especially with it being Scarlet Honors weekend, I hope the stands are going to be packed."

The meet begins at 7 p.m. in the Class of 1950 Natatorium and will be broadcast live on the Wabash College Video Network.

## Senior wrestlers look to make history

### Profiling the four individual leaders driving Wabash success

#### TYSON NISLEY '25 | SPORTS

**WRITER** • In a sport that demands such meticulous dieting, grueling workouts and emotionally-charged dogfights, wrestling is arguably the one sport at Wabash that requires fierce individual leadership.

The Wabash wrestling team expects absolute commitment and unwavering toughness; that's what makes this program one of the best in the country. And as the team looks to cement its place among the all-time greats of this College, four seniors are leading the charge.

Each of these individuals are hard-working, determined Wabash men, but each also provides a unique challenge to their opponents and play a valuable role in the success of the team as a whole.

#### Evan Burge '23

There might not be a single wrestler currently on the roster that is more exciting to watch than Evan Burge '23. It is simply impossible to count him out of any match due to his explosive style and ability to go big and plant people straight from their feet to their back.

"I like to try and be exciting by throwing people or getting big lifts if possible," said Burge. "But I'm also the type of person who comes ready for seven minutes every match."

Outside of his physical wrestling ability, Burge is also notorious for being one of the loudest individuals in the wrestling room. He uses his humor and positivity to boost team morale during practice and spends a majority of his down time during tournaments matside, cheering for his teammates in tough matches.

"I wrestle today because I relate with and like the people involved with the sport, and I enjoy it," said Evan.

Now, at the pinnacle of his wrestling career, Burge is looking to put an exclamation mark at the end of this season with an All-American finish at the NCAA tournament. And so far, he is looking extremely promising to do so, with third and fourth place finishes respectively at the Adrian Invite and the Concordia Open. The latter competition included an upset victory over nationally ranked Ethan Renager of Wheaton College with a beautiful side headlock that ended the match soon after.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Jack Heldt '23 finished as the national runner-up in the 2021-22 season, earning him All-America honors.**

#### Austin Johnson '23

Few wrestlers enjoy being in deep waters, where your lungs feel full of lava, your arms and legs feel like pool noodles and your face is cut and bruised by the aftermath of a seven minute war. But for Austin Johnson '23, that is exactly where he wants his opponents to be.

As one of the hardest workers on the team, Johnson is no stranger to being uncomfortable, and is constantly pushing his teammates to work to his level.

Though his career has been plagued by injuries that have kept him off of the mat for extended periods of time, he consistently strives to improve his wrestling and mental toughness, and brings a mental fortitude into the wrestling room that most wrestlers could only dream of having.

Despite Johnson's familiarity with the uncomfortable, and his passion to work as hard as he can, he cannot stress enough the key aspect of wrestling that has kept him going all of these years: fun. Through the 6:30 morning lifts, the exhausting practices that don't seem to ever end and the emotional rollercoasters of wrestling tournaments, Johnson enjoys his time on the mat and tries to enjoy everything he does.

"I just want to have fun and enjoy the sport," said Johnson. "I also want to beat last year's national placing."

Beating last year's national placing is a lofty task, especially given the success of last year's team where the only improvement

is a national championship.

However, Johnson is looking to play an instrumental role in the success of this year's team, with a fourth place finish in a tough weight class at the Adrian Invite.

#### Grant Johnson '23

In an environment where your practice partner's objective is to beat on your head with heavy clubs, take you down in a manner that is anything but friendly and smother you on the mat with painful holds and constant pressure, it's hard for anybody to imagine that wrestling could be a source of stress relief and a peace of mind.

Grant Johnson '23, in that sense, is an anomaly as he uses wrestling as a place to get away from the harsh discipline of a Wabash education.

"It has helped me develop the resiliency and discipline necessary for me to obtain my goals off the mat as well," said Johnson. "Also, it is a great stress reliever for me and it's exciting to push myself to the limit against other competitors."

Currently making the descent to 197 lbs, Johnson most certainly has an argument to be one of the strongest 197 lb wrestlers in Division III. His commitment to his strength and physique in the off-season is rivaled by almost no one on the team, surpassing the expectations of the coaches with additional workouts on his own, including a weekly lift last off-season that he had titled "Deadlift Friday."

Expectations for Johnson's senior campaign are high. He scored a

## McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

**NOAH McROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER** • When Wabash hosted the Great Lakes Invitational on November 18-19, each of the participants received shirts featuring the phrase, “basketball is better in Indiana.” They may just have been right. The Little Giants cracked the Division III top 25 for the first time this year ahead of the opening week of North Coast Athletic Conference matchups. With these contests ahead of us, how does Wabash compare to its NCAC rivals?

**1. DePauw Tigers (7-1)**  
The Dannies have put on a solid showing this season. Owning the NCAC lead in team free throw percentage, DePauw is led by off-brand Jack Davidson '22, otherwise known as Elijah Hales. He leads their team with over 20 points per game entering conference play. Does he have the magic to propel his team skyward?

**2. OWU Battling Bishops (3-2)**  
Following a string of hyper competitive contests, Ohio Wesleyan is the home of the most recent NCAC player of the week in Jack Clement. He is shooting a stunning 49% from three point land this year, so if OWU finds anyone else in Ohio that knows how to play basketball, this could be a tough team to beat.

**3. Wabash Little Giants (5-2)**  
Looking to find their identity in the wake of last season's Final Four run, questions surrounded Crawfordsville coming into the season. With a 5-2 record heading into conference play, some of those questions still remain. Wabash has the ability to challenge ranked opponents, but the team has struggled against some weaker opposition.

**4. Wooster Fighting Scots (3-1)**  
The Scots finished a disappointing 2021 season at Chadwick Court this past February, and with a light November schedule, we haven't seen much from them so far this year. However, having challenged #2 ranked University of Mount Union, they seem prepped and ready to make a run to reclaim their NCAC title.

**5. Denison Big Red (3-4)**  
Don't let their record fool you. The Big Red have confronted a tough opening schedule, including a narrow loss in their opener to #18 Case Western Reserve University. What has made for a disappointing opening stretch might end up bringing about the toughness they need as they enter conference play against DePauw.

**6. Kenyon Owls (5-1)**  
Kenyon may have found some athletes that know how to dribble a ball with their hands instead of with their feet. Despite a lack of obvious size, the Owls average a whopping 44 rebounds per game on their way to five wins. They have some holes in their game, but if they can iron out those issues Kenyon might make some noise in the conference.

**7. Wittenberg Tigers (3-1)**  
Though the Tigers have enjoyed some success on the outset, it hasn't been pretty. These Tigers are allergic to the three point arc, as they have barely made over a fourth of those attempts so far. Wittenberg fans better hope that they have some midrange money on their side if they hope to pick up more wins this year.

**8. Oberlin Yeomen (3-4)**  
The mighty Yeomen are an interesting team this year. With solid defense and a lot of height, they might have enough ability to put some numbers up in the L categories for some teams this year. However, they are still Oberlin, so odds of them making a conference push is likely to remain the stuff of fairytales.

**9. Hiram Terriers (3-4)**  
The Terriers round out the inaugural NCAC power rankings in a blaze of glory. They have put on a firework show to this point, scoring 90+ points three times already this year. However, when they encountered #17 Calvin College, they quickly caved. It is most likely that the Terriers remain at the bottom of the barrel for the majority of the season.

## Analysis: Where does basketball stand?

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | BASKETBALL WRITER** • Entering the 2022-23 basketball season, there could be no doubt that the Little Giants had a lot of talent, but many questioned if they could recover from the loss of their 2022 seniors. The answer so far: yes, but there's more to be done. Despite a few unnecessary close calls and a tough loss against Earlham College, the team has gone 5-2 to start the season. Wabash was also ranked 25th in the nation on the D3Hoops.com list released November 29.

While Wabash is the only NCAC team ranked in the top 25 nationally, their loss to Earlham and inability to secure stronger victories over Mount St. Joseph and Anderson has put them in a precarious position. Wabash has missed the leadership and experience of its historic 2022 class, but the current team does not lack talent.

“We lost our three most impactful players from last year,” said Sam Comer '24. “But all of the returning players knew that we could not let that be a reason to lose games. We came into the season with the mindset to continue the winning tradition that they left us with. We are off to a good start this year, but we are not satisfied.”

Several of the returning players have stepped up this year to fill empty rolls. Champ McCorkle '24 has made the biggest strides for the team. After appearing in only half the games last season, he has jumped into the starting lineup and is the fourth leading scorer. Similarly, Comer averaged 2.4 ppg in 16 minutes per game last season and is now leading the team in assists as well as rebounds and is averaging 11.3 ppg in 33 minutes per game.

Vinny Buccilla '25 contributes to the team in a variety of ways. He is second in scoring with 14.7 ppg, second in assists and third in rebounding. He also puts in the most minutes for the team and his tough defensive pressure adds

more than the stats can show. His improvement over last season looks to be one of the key piece to this team performing so well.

“I am striving to be the person the team can count on to be consistent every day and always put their best effort out there,” Buccilla said. “I'm learning day by day how to be a better leader, player and teammate. One thing that is so special about the group we have is no one cares who gets the glory. We all want to win basketball games for Wabash.”

The two returning starters have both met expectations thus far and both are extremely reliable in the final minutes of a game. Ahmoni Jones '24 has stepped comfortably into the role of lead scorer. Jones leads the team at 14.9 ppg and is second in rebounding. Edreece Redmond '24 is third in scoring for the Little Giants with 13.1 ppg. His characteristic high pressure defensive effort plays a key role in the strong Wabash defense. However Redmond has struggled with falling into foul trouble, and his absence in the last 10 minutes of the Earlham game may have sealed the loss for the team.

As a team, Wabash creates a formidable defense. On average the Little Giants hold other teams to just 75 ppg. And no team has scored more than 90 points against them. The team also has significantly outperformed opponents in assists with a more than double average.

The team has a healthy distribution from where they pick up points. The Little Giants earn 35% percent of their points from three point shooting, which they do with an adequate 36% three point percentage. Eighteen percent of the team's scoring comes from the line, and with the team's 74% free-throw shooting there are a few extra points that could be capitalized on. The remaining 48% of the team's points come from the field with a 49% shooting percentage.

The team draws the majority



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23  
**Sam Comer '24 leans into a defender as he looks to score against Earlham College on November 30, 2022, at Chadwick Court.**



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23  
**Champ McCorkle '24 looks to score emphatically over his Earlham defender underneath the basket.**

of its points from the starting five who combine for 84% of all points scored for the team. All five starters average between 11 and 15 points per game. So far the Little Giants have struggled to tap a large number of points from the bench, which combines for only 11.7 ppg.

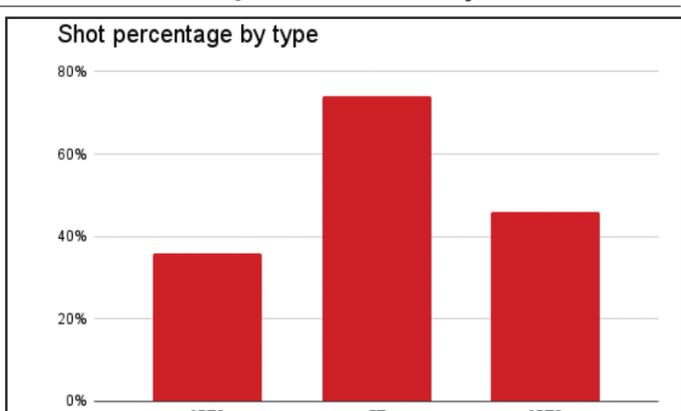
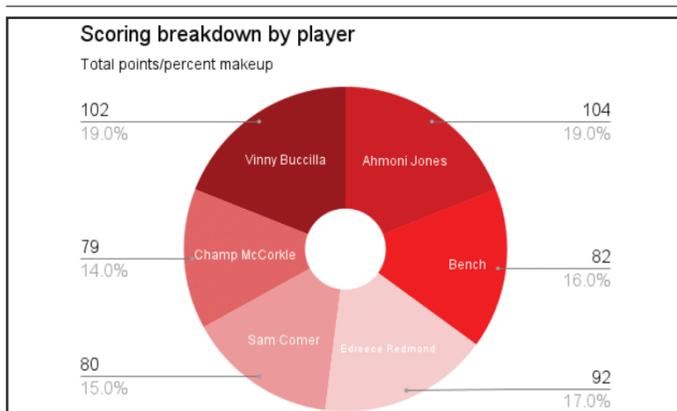
“I believe that huge improvement has come from obviously hard work, but also our growing confidence with each other and ourselves,” said Buccilla. “We all trust one another and it shows in each and every practice/game. It impacts our overall team as well because it shows the younger guys we all care for each other.”

Currently the Little Giants are capable of finishing at the top of the conference. However, the team has had some concerning underperformances. Wooster, DePauw and Ohio Wesleyan are

the other teams predicted to lead the conference. The Little Giants have failed to show a definitive edge over all of these teams, and defeating them is far from guaranteed. If the team maintains its current level the conference will continue to be hotly contested.

Increases in shooting percentage or three-point percentage could push the team into the discussion for favorite for the NCAC title this season. Other improvements the team should look to make are getting more points from the bench and gathering more rebounds. Due to the lack of size on the team, rebounding has been an issue for the Little Giants. Wabash currently has a 24 rebound deficit across all games.

The Little Giants will open their conference season against Oberlin on Saturday, December 3.



## Greene: Lingering questions about potential

**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST** • Wabash basketball fans, it's time to re-address some lingering questions: this Little Giants team undoubtedly has the potential to be excellent, but can they be consistent enough to make a run in the NCAC?

Sitting at 5-2 to start the season, Wabash has gone toe-to-toe with some of the best teams in Division III and has also taken a shocking loss to then-winless Earlham College. Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett's new group of superstars have yet to solidify their place as firm contenders to repeat as NCAC conference champions this season.

Through the first seven games, Wabash has played almost perfectly to the level of their competition, with every game being close regardless of their opponent's skill level. On November 18, Wabash played Marietta College in the 2022 Great Lakes Classic at Chadwick Court. Marietta, a team that made the DIII Final Four in its own right last season, was met with an iron intensity and unbreakable spirit from this Wabash squad. In a game that was brutally physical, Wabash countered every punch that Marietta threw in both halves of the contest.

However, in their recent loss to Earlham, the Little Giants struggled in almost every aspect. Their defense was sloppy, they had poor shot selection and generally let Earlham control the pace of the game. Wabash was also heavily out-hustled, a

strength of this team in their games against Marietta and Maryville University. It was clear to me that their intensity of past games had fizzled out.

The bench play is also a toss-up. With some guards being in foul trouble during the invitational, freshman Josh Whack '26 was called upon to step up and defend the opposing team's point guard almost full-court, and defend he did. Whack made an immediate impact, not by making any highlight-reel plays, but by defending just as well as the starting guards, if not better.

But it's not all sunny skies in regards to the substitutes. When the bench was called in against Earlham, the seemingly stunned underclassmen showed a

complete inability to score points and barely kept up defensively with the fast-paced offense of Earlham.

And, since the three of the top four scorers from last season have graduated, one question still lingers in the back of fans' minds: “who is going to score all the points for Wabash?” The answer: everyone.

What once was an onslaught of deep threes and crafty layups from Jack Davidson '22 and bullying two in the paint from Kellen Schreiber '22 is now exceptional team shooting by both guards and bigs alike, with a different player having standout performances almost every game.

One coup for the team has been the highly-anticipated return

of Ahmoni Jones '24. Jones, who was selected to the All-Invitational team at the recent 2022 Great Lakes Invitational, has picked up right where he left off last season, shooting jaw-dropping turnaround jumpers and hitting clutch three-pointers.

But to my surprise, Jones has not been the story of this team so far this season. He fits remarkably well into a team dynamic that could have easily been him trying to create shots on almost every possession. The likes of Edreece Redmond II '24, who had a career-high 22 points against Maryville University in the Invitational, and Vinny Buccilla '25, who had 25 against Anderson University on November 22, prove to me that it does not matter which Wabash player the opposing defense tries to stifle. Each player is capable of scoring on any given night.

Just this week, D3Hoops released its first DIII men's basketball power rankings list, with Wabash sitting at #25 in the country. This ranking is likely to change after the loss to Earlham, but don't fear Wabash fans. This team is still capable of greatness, they just have to find their rhythm and stick to it, without letting their opponents' skill level influence their play.

There is still plenty of season left for Brumett's boys to figure out how to get back to playing the excellent team basketball that they have shown they are capable of playing.



PHOTO JAKE PAIGE '23  
**Turner Royal '24 fades away from the basket as he tries to score when Wabash was down double-digit points in the first half against Earlham College.**